



# UCJCI UPDATE

JUNE 21, 2023 VOL. 10 ISSUE 19

THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



HURRICANE IVAN WREAKED HAVOC IN CAYMAN IN 2004  
(CAYMAN NEWS SERVICE.COM)

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- UCJCI DOING THE WORK OF MINISTRY
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## UCJCI UPDATE

UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN REGIONS AND LOCAL CONGREGATIONS, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND STUDY OF THE BIBLE, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

### FEATURE ARTICLE - PREPARING FOR DISASTERS

FOR MANY CARIBBEAN NATIONALS 1ST JUNE BEGINS AN ANXIOUS TIME OF WAITING TO SEE IF OUR NATIONS WILL BE HIT BY A MAJOR HURRICANE. MANY STORIES CAN BE TOLD OF DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES. OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED INCLUDING EARTHQUAKES. CANACOM, OF WHICH UCJCI IS A PART, WAS PROACTIVE IN PREPARING CHURCH LEADERS TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AT THOSE DIFFICULT TIMES. READ ABOUT IT ON **PAGES 3 AND 4.**



## CANACOM MEMBER CHURCHES

- United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
- United Church in Canada
- Presbyterian Church of Guyana
- Guyana Presbyterian Church
- Presbyterian Church, USA
- Reformed Church of Suriname
- Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
- Presbyterian Church in Grenada
- Guyana Congregational Union
- Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana
- Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba
- Church of Scotland in Trinidad and Tobago



Training in progress.



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING SPONSORED BY CANACOM



A Disaster Preparedness Training Programme was organised by the the Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) on May 16 and 17, 2023 in Grenada following CANACOM's Council meeting. The purpose of the intended training was to deepen the capacity of church leaders to respond appropriately to natural disasters.

Training was delivered by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) arm of the Presbyterian Church of USA - a member church of CANACOM.

Discussions about staging this training had begun in 2019 between CANACOM'S Administrative Committee and the PDA. All necessary plans were made and then COVID 19 came. As soon as face to face meetings became the norm once more, the plans were activated.

20 participants were trained, drawn from CANACOM member churches from 14 countries in the Caribbean and North America as well as guests from Haiti and Nicaragua. They were exposed to training which, in both content and methodology, was well suited for the goal of

**(Cont'd next page)**

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING SPONSORED BY CANACOM (cont'd)



**Mrs. Rosa Matamoros delivers training.**

preparedness for disaster. The 'Train the Trainer' methodology was selected so that church leaders would be equipped to cascade the training to church and wider community.

The content on the first day of training focussed on the leaders themselves. They were given the basic tools for building resilience through stress management and self-care. The underlying philosophy expounded, was that in order for leaders to be in a position to care for others and provide leadership in a situation of disaster they must be psychologically ready and prepared.

The content also helped participants to identify stress signals and, in doing so, they will be able to take the necessary steps to be proactive in their response to those stressors.

On the second day training focussed on defining crises, facts and figures were given, and participants were helped to understand what to expect. Facilitators stressed the importance of knowing which agencies in each country could provide necessary help and how to contact them. Moreover church leaders should be aware of existing plans in congregations and



communities. They were encouraged to design their own responses e.g. identifying or providing shelters and making them ready in the event they are needed. Most importantly they should be ready to act collaboratively and to think on their feet. Facilitators also spoke about the components of emergency plans and the integrated disaster risk management approach.

The facilitators were Rev. Edwin Gonzalez, current Director of PDA, and Mrs. Rosa Matamoros. They provided materials to enable the participants to establish a disaster response committee within their local context.

CANACOM and the participants are now tasked to take the new skills further; CANACOM through follow-up and encouragement, and the participants by delivering training in their contexts.

CANACOM and PDA are thankful to God that we were finally able to achieve our goal of presenting this programme.

# UCJCI DOING THE WORK OF MINISTRY

## GET READY FOR ACTION -

## UCJCI MOVES TO IMPLEMENT SYNOD RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL PASTORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

At the 43rd Synod of UCJCI, a resolution was passed for work with schools which includes introducing school pastors. The following is an excerpt of that resolution:

*Be it resolved that UCJCI*

- *Endorses the ecumenical initiative, which will introduce school pastors to all secondary schools in Jamaica by September 2023*
- *Affirms across the church membership this missional response to be urgently implemented at the congregational level.*
- *Confidently encourages members, whether clergy or laity, to offer themselves to be trained by the organizers of this initiative*

UCJCI has seized the opportunity to work collaboratively in implementing this resolution through Street Pastors Jamaica (SPJ). This organisation is preparing to launch School Pastors in September 2023; in association with Principals and Guidance Counsellors. SPJ has resolved to train persons who will serve our schools offering listening, helping and caring to students in times of need.

SPJ operates under the auspices of Operation Save Jamaica, is engaged with Ascension Trust UK, and began operating in Jamaica in 2014. According to the organisation, "Street Pastors Jamaica offers a practical way for the Church to encourage, serve and love people right where they are in their community." The training will help to prepare persons to work with schools which is the desired outcome of the UCJCI. Trained volunteers would then work through their regional mission councils.

Training began on June 3, but spaces are still available for volunteers.

## BE TRAINED AS A SCHOOL PASTOR

TRAINING  
DATES  
JUNE 3 - JULY  
8, 2023

### FOR INFORMATION

Contact us at  
[streetpastorsja@gmail.com](mailto:streetpastorsja@gmail.com)

or call:

(876) 521-9461

(876) 332-1759

(WhatsApp)

*Spaces  
Available*

**STREET  
PASTORS**

**JAMAICA**

# COUNCIL NEWS FROM CAYMAN



## CAPACITY BUILDING MINISTERS' RETREAT

Ministers in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council took time out to reflect and share perspectives on Synod priorities determined at the 43rd Synod recently held in Cayman as well as other pertinent matters.

On June 20, the group gathered at North Side United Church guided by the Synodical theme: Rooted, Resilient: Reignited by the Spirit. The day's programme included discussing responsibilities of congregations in pursuing the priorities of Evangelism, Discipleship, Stewardship and Mission; best practices and potential for collaboration within the region and progress on charge realignment. The members of the group facilitated the sessions - Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Rev. Rohan Forrester, Rev. Euthman Wray, and Rev. Donovan Myers. Pastor Ormond Williams led the leaders to reflect on Ephesians 3: 14-21

## CIRMC PEACE INITIATIVE PROJECT

The CIRMC faithfully continues to engage (CICC) as its Peace Initiative Project. The Cayman Island Crisis Centre can accommodate twenty-seven persons with an average of four adults and six children per week.

The relationship that began in October 2022 has already yielded generous contributions toward the Peace Initiative Project. In response to the Christmas and Easter Drive, through our collective efforts, we offered significant financial donations and essential supplies to assist the CICC in its mission. With our contributions, besides providing practical assistance, we also convey a message of love, empathy, and solidarity to those experiencing crisis.

The Mission MAT of the Council is now organizing a Back-to-School Drive and invites the Congregations and individual members to support this worthy cause.

## **CAYMAN ISLANDS GIRLS' BRIGADE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**



The Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade International Day of Prayer Service was held at 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the John Gray Memorial Church (JGMC), under the theme: 'Rise in Strength for such a time as this', based on the story of Esther.

Rev. Donovan Myers, Minister of the host congregation, pointed out that remarkable tales of courage and resilience often emerge from the most unexpected places. Such is the story of Esther.

Like Esther, girls, and young women can discover their hidden strengths, rise above their circumstances, and make a lasting impact on the world around them.

The girls from various companies across the island displayed their art and craft in the Church Hall.



Company displays (above)  
and girls enjoying fellowship (below)



# UCJCI MANFEST

## "REAL MEN...REAL VIBZ"

TALK UP THE TING (DISCUSSION)  
SEX AFTER 50...PROSTATE...  
UNDERSTANDING OUR WOMEN



SATURDAY JULY 1, 2023 | STARTS 9AM

**Knox College High School  
Spalding, Clarendon**

Come for electrifying **music, fun** (outdoor and indoor),  
**Food (Jerk chicken & pork, fish), Food Market and Bread-shop**  
and **Fellowship**

**NO MAN SHOULD MISS THIS!  
A BLESSING AWAITS EVERY MAN**

Towards a world  
without rape and violence

## THURSDAYS IN BLACK



Wearing black on Thursdays is one way of taking a stand against violence, especially towards women and girls. The incidents of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of young girls in Jamaica are indicators that the work of activism must go on.

### **WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAY**

and take the opportunity to let someone you encounter know why you are wearing black.

Black represents mourning.

We lament the senseless loss of life  
and the injury to our children.

We feel deeply.

Black represents strength and resilience.

We will not back down from challenging the norm of abuse.

# MT. OLIVET CHARGE OF UNITED CHURCHES

*Presents*

## CRUSADE & CONVENTION 2023

**Under the theme: SET US ON FIRE LORD! St. Luke 12:49**

JULY 9-16, 2023

MT. OLIVET UNITED CHURCH

**CRUSADE-JULY 9-14 @ 6:30 PM NIGHTLY**



Rev. M. Knight  
July 9



Rev. K. Davis  
July 10



Rev. R. Bryan  
July 11



Rev. K. Montaque  
July 12 & 13



Rev. T. Phiri  
July 14

**CONVENTION-JULY 16 @ 10AM**



Morning Session: Rev. R. A. Kong  
Host Minister



Evening Session: Rev. D. McPherson  
Eltham United





# SUMMER SHORT COURSE



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
OF THE WEST INDIES

## TARGET AUDIENCES

*All levels of congregational  
leaders (including clergy)*

*Information Technology  
specialists within the  
congregation.*

*General church membership  
interested in exploring the  
possibilities of digital media  
as a tool for discipleship.*

   @UTCWICconnect

Call us at 876-927-1724 / 2868

## *Certificate in* **DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to offer participants opportunities to learn about the vast potential of social media as a teaching and instructional tool for influencing a digital audience with appropriately designed social media content amidst the continuous changes in teaching and learning globally.

### COURSE GOAL:

Participants will become familiar with the concept of digital discipleship, be able to assess the advantages and disadvantages of various social media platforms with respect to their intended audience, and successfully implement a programme of nurturing disciples digitally.

**June 24 - July 29, 2023**

(Saturdays Only)

**9AM - 12PM**

**Duration: 6 Weeks**

**Delivery: Online**

**Registration:**

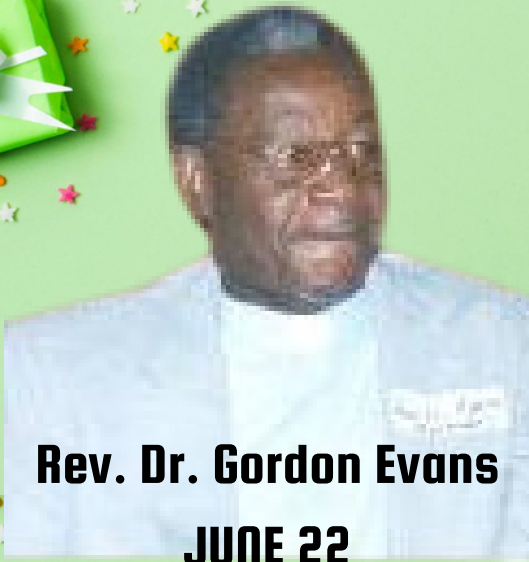
Early Bird (ends June 2)

JMD 15,000

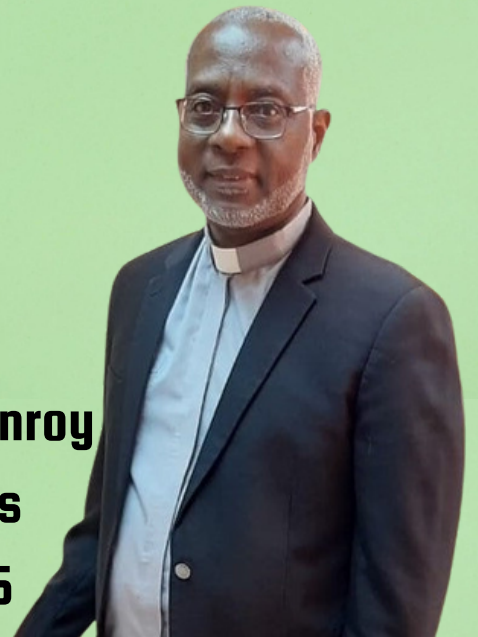
Regular:

JMD 17,000

# **Birthday Greetings**



**Rev. Dr. Gordon Evans**  
**JUNE 22**



**Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels**  
**JUNE 25**



**Rev. Anthony Chung**  
**JUNE 25**



**Miss Janice Bailey**  
**JUNE 26**

# THEME FOR WORSHIP AT HOME



## Reconnect with Humility

Suggested Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39

It is said that humility begins with a sense of subordination to God, because we are not above the rule and reign of God. Humility acknowledges that as followers of Christ, we cannot expect to get a better treatment than Jesus got, therefore, humility does not return evil for evil. It is not a life based on selfish motives. Instead, humility depends solely on God, and is an important element in reconnecting with Him, because it allows us to accept and confess that we are flawed, sinful beings who need His unmerited grace to survive. With humility, we consistently ask Him to *create in us clean hearts and purify us.*

## LET US PRAY FOR ...

- A re-discovery of the value of human life which will positively impact relationships.
- Wisdom, discernment and understanding in the face of changing technologies.
- That all who choose to take time away from work during the summer will experience restful and refreshing times.
- For our preparedness and safety during the current hurricane season.
- Camp ministry in the United Church.
- Efforts in reaching men for Christ especially the Man-Fest planned for July 1.



## SYNODICAL THEME:

# Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit

(Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

## OUR VISION

*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation  
through Christ*

# The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

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### MODERATOR

**Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**

### GENERAL SECRETARY

**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

### REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES

Cayman Regional Mission Council  
**Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield**

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

Southern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Janet McConnell**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Mauleen Henry**