



# UCJCI UPDATE

**JUNE 28, 2023** VOL. 10 NO. 20

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



REV. GLENROY CLARKE, MINISTER OF LUCEA UNITED CHURCH WHICH HOSTED MEN FROM THE COMMUNITY ON FATHERS' DAY

## ON THE INSIDE

- 100 MEN IN CHURCH AT LUCEA UNITED
- CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE UNITED CHURCH ORDAINING WOMEN
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES
- UPCOMING EVENTS

## UCJCI UPDATE

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

## FEATURE ARTICLE

MANY CONGREGATIONS RECORD DATA WHICH REFLECT HIGHER NUMBERS OF WOMEN THAN MEN IN ATTENDANCE AND IN MEMBERSHIP. MEN'S MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED BY THE ABSENCE OF MEN. LUCEA UNITED CHURCH TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF FATHERS' DAY TO HOST MEN FROM THE COMMUNITY AND WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GATHERING 100 MEN. **READ ABOUT IT ON PAGES 2 AND 3**





# GATHERING

# 100 MEN IN CHURCH

On Fathers' Day, Lucea United Church took seriously the charge to reach out to men by tailoring ministry to them. The congregation held their Annual 100 Men in Church Service. This initiative was their expression of THE BIG DAY where congregations identify an area of ministry or target a particular group and plan specifically to engage them on a Sunday morning.

They achieved their objective as the church sanctuary was populated with more men than women.



## THE BIG DAY AT LUCEA UNITED

The BIG DAY began with a worship service during which an all male choir ministered and the General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens, preached the sermon titled: Real Men are Difference Makers.



Ministry to Men has been high on the agenda of the United Church as congregations are encouraged to make it a priority to reach out to men.

This has been named as a Synodical Priority for congregations in the area of WITNESS and WORSHIP.



## **Greetings from the Municipality**

During the rousing worship and reflective prayer, the worshippers received a word of support from the Deputy Mayor of Lucea, Andria Dehaney Grant who paid tribute to the men.



## **Networking and Corporate Giveaways**

After the service, the men were invited to the lawns of the manse for a Networking Cocktail. Working collaboratively with the wider community, Lucea United garnered sponsorship from GV Service Stations, RK Laboratories and Digicel. So the men were treated with giveaways from the sponsoring companies.

## **Health Check-in with Prostate Tests**

Twenty men received PSA tests courtesy of RK Laboratory

## **Brunch and Refreshments**

The men were treated to brunch courtesy of RK Laboratories.



**Elder Garth Grant was the liturgist at the service.**

**Minister, Rev. Glenroy Clarke (left) and Rev. Norbert Stephens during the parting blessing after the service.**



# 50 YEARS OF ORDAINING WOMEN

**June 17 marked 50 years since the first female was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the then United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman, later The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands as it is named today. The late Rev Dr Adlyn White was that first female.**

Since the ordination of Rev Dr White, thirty women have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and are serving in church and community in Jamaica, Cayman and other parts of the world.

Rev. Dr. White also made history as the first woman to be elected Moderator of the Synod from 1991 to 1993. In 2013, the UCJCI called a second woman as Moderator of Synod, the Rev Dr Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, and is currently the Regional Deputy General Secretary of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council.



**Rev. Sharon Johnson - 1984**

## THE EARLY YEARS

### FEMALE MINISTERS ORDAINED BY UCJCI AND ITS ANTECEDENTS

- 1973 - Rev. Dr. Adlyn White (deceased)
- 1975 - Rev. Marjorie (Madge) Saunders (deceased)
- 1980 - Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis
- 1981 - Rev. Hyacinth Edwards
- 1984 - Rev. Sharon Johnson
- 1984 - Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield
- 1984 - Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler (deceased)
- 1987 - Rev. Dorothy Grant
- 1991 - Rev. Verna Cassells
- 1992 - Rev. Ellen Thomas
- 1994 - Rev. Delia Picart Hibbert
- 1995 - Rev. Alice Blair
- 1995 - Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke
- 1996 - Rev. Jacqueline Chin
- 1999 - Rev. Icylyn Parkinson

- 2001 - Rev. Margaret Downer- Messias
- 2002 - Rev. Tamara Smith Coleman
- 2003 - Rev. Dr. Lorna Letts Jones
- 2004 - Rev. Tara Tyme
- 2005 - Rev. Khereen Wilson Bailey
- 2008 - Rev. Dawn Bryan
- 2009 - Rev. Valerie Reynolds
- 2011 - Rev. Novlyn Hanson
- 2011 - Rev. Kimberly Hines
- 2011 - Rev. Norlene Jackson
- 2012 - Rev. Carlene Walford
- 2016 - Rev. Karlene Thomas Barnes
- 2019 - Rev. Laddia Young
- 2021 - Rev. Anna Kay Henry McGregor
- 2021 - Rev. Sandra Collins

## TWO WOMEN HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO THE POSITION OF MODERATOR



Rev. Dr. Adlyn White served as Moderator 1991-1993 and Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield 2013 -2015.

In affirming the ordination of women, the UCJCI has received for ministry, a number of women ordained in partner churches of UCJCI from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Zambia, Ireland and Canada.

We celebrate the Rev Dr Marjorie Lewis who served as the first female President of the United Theological College of the West Indies, (UTCWI) (2010-2015) and the Rev Verna Cassells who served as a lecturer in Christian Education and Associate Warden at UTCWI for many years.

Our ordained women have served as Chair of Councils, Chair of Synodical Committees, and Director of the Kelly Lawson Centre, and the Madge Saunders Conference Centre. We salute the women who have earnestly responded to the Call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and thank God for the work, ministry and mission they have done in the UCJCI.

We remember specially those who are deceased - Madge Saunders, Adlyn White and Margaret Fowler.

We pray for Revds. Laddia Young, Anna Kay Henry McGregor and Sandra Collins who were ordained in the last five years.



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis - first female President of The United Theological College of the West Indies of which UCJCI is a participating communion.

**Women who have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the UCJCI, thank God for the opportunity afforded by the church for us to fulfil our calling in Christ Jesus our Lord. We pray for our sisters in other denominations for whom this opportunity to serve is not a reality.**

*A resolution passed at the 43rd Synod calls for work related to gender issues and specifically women in ordained ministry.*

## WOMEN ORDAINED BY UCJCI IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS



Rev. Laddia Young  
2019

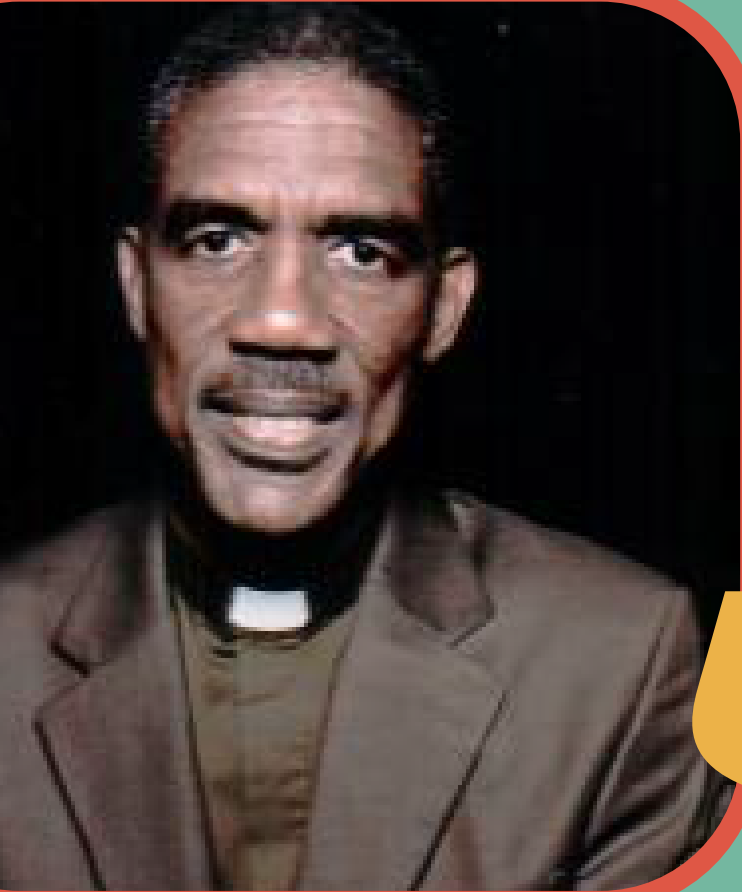


Rev. Sandra Collins  
2021



Rev. AnnaKay Henry McGregor  
2021

# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



**REV. DR. GORDON COWANS**

**JULY 1, 2023**

**MR. BRYAN BOTHWELL**

**JULY 4, 2023**



Add a little bit of body text

# Worship at Home



**As a natural response to the Synod's mandate, Rooted and Resilient: Reignited by the Spirit, the call to realign rouses us to renew our spiritual commitment. This realignment invites us to foster deeper intimacy with God, to be intentional with our personal evangelism, and practical in our nurturing of disciples. It impacts our worship, witness, and work. As people of God, we are rooted and resilient; we are (and have been) reignited by the Holy Spirit to REALIGN for the glory of God.**

## JULY - REALIGN THE HEART

It is when our hearts are realigned by the Holy Spirit that we can truly discern God's will and purpose for our lives.

### Theme this Week:

**The Realigned Heart is Obedient and Faithful**

### Suggested Scriptures: Genesis 22:1-14

The reading from Genesis offers the difficult story of Abraham's understanding of God as being in need of the sacrifice of the most loved thing in his life- his son Isaac. Yet in this text, we can see Abraham's heart. Previously, Abraham was disobedient and went ahead of God's plan, but in this text, we see Abraham returning to God with his heart realigned by God's Spirit. Such a heart, realigned by the Spirit, is obedient, faithful, and fearless. God does not need our plastic words or our self-seeking ways. God requires the truth from our hearts, in our words and in how we conduct our lives.

Paul continues this theme of obedience in the pericope to the saints in Rome. Do not let sin cause you to be disobedient; present yourselves as God's instruments of righteousness.

## Let us pray for

- Rev. Donald Williams who lost a brother
- Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan who lost a brother.
- Camp ministry in the United Church which begins on Saturday July 8
- Vacation Bible School and other special activities planned for children for the summer that many will receive salvation and all will be safe from harm.
- 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.
- Our preparedness and safety during the current hurricane season.

# 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**



**30<sup>th</sup>**   
**CHURCHES'  
EMANCIPATION  
LECTURE 2023**

**Emancipation:**  
The Lesson and The Legacy

# **Human Trafficking**

## **A Recent Chapter of an Old Story**

Presenter

**Elizabeth Thomas-Hope**

Professor Emerita, The University of the West Indies



**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**6 Hope Road, Kingston 10**  
**Sunday, July 30, 2023 at 4:00pm**

Savanna-La-Mar United Church  
Presents

SUNDAY  
JULY  
30  
2023  
4pm

An evening of

# ELEGANCE

With The Jamaica Constabulary Force Band  
in Concert

*Proceeds are in aid of the church's outreach programs*

Featuring

Robert Ewart (Digicel Rising Star 2nd Place Winner)  
Joan Dixon & Pete Manbode: Cabaret Singer & Musician

**Admission: Adults \$2,500 | Children \$1,000 (at the gate)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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



**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)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.  
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)

**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**