



# UCJCI UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 19

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



SMILES ALL AROUND AS GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY MEET. YOUNG AJANI SPENCER RECEIVES A GRANT FOR EDUCATION COURTESY OF THE GILBERT MCKENZIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. THE GRANT IS PRESENTED BY REV. DR. MCKENZIE'S WIDOW, MRS. DIANNE MCKENZIE. MRS. JANET HENRY (AT THE PODIUM) PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESENTATION.

## ON THE INSIDE

- \$100,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS - HELLSHIRE UNITED
- LUCEA UNITED CELEBRATES GRAND PARENTS
- 10 YEARS DISCIPLING STUDENTS IN CAYMAN
- TRAINING LAY LEADERS - A NEW BEGINNING
- FOR YOUR HEALTH
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

## 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 BIBLE STUDY, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

THERE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EDUCATIONAL NEEDS LIVING IN COMMUNITIES WHERE UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONS ARE LOCATED. THERE ARE EFFORTS BY INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS TO JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED HELP. READ ABOUT A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HELLSHIRE UNITED CHURCH AND THE FAMILY OF A FORMER MINISTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH TO COME ALONGSIDE FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR EDUCATIONAL PROSPECTS. MORE EFFORTS SUCH AS THESE ARE NECESSARY SO THAT EDUCATION IS ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL YOUTH. (PAGES 5 AND 6)



IS/IVCF EVANGELISES AND DISCIPLES STUDENTS IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS P. 5

# NEWS FROM NERMC

## \$100,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS PRESENTED AT HELLSHIRE UNITED - LAUNCH OF GILBERT MCKENZIE SCHOLARSHIP

Contributed by Mrs. Dona Stewart Sykes.



2023 Gilbert McKenzie Scholarship recipients with Mrs Dianne McKenzie. L-R: Mrs Dianne McKenzie, Britthany Atkinson, Malia McKenzie, Alexander Edwards, Elyssa Samuels, Ajani Spencer.

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, the Hellshire United Church launched the Gilbert McKenzie Scholarship, in a ceremony in its morning worship service. At the launch, five (5) students, chosen from the secondary level, received scholarships. Each scholarship was valued at Twenty Thousand Dollars (J\$20,000.00) for a total of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

The launch was attended by Chair of NERMC Mrs Jennifer Martin who brought greetings on behalf of Council while giving her own reflection on the man who was the late Rev Dr Gilbert McKenzie. The sermon for the morning was preached by retired Minister Rev. J. Oliver Daley who was also a long-

-time colleague and friend of Rev Dr McKenzie. Further reflections were given by another long-time friend, Mrs Dorothy Francis and also from Mrs Dianne McKenzie, widow of the late Rev Dr Gilbert McKenzie. The Gilbert McKenzie Scholarship was established as a collaboration between the Hellshire United Church and Mrs Dianne McKenzie to honour his passion for the education and development of young people. The Scholarship was funded from a generous donation from Mrs. McKenzie...cont'd on p. 3



Ajani Spencer receives a grant from the Gilbert McKenzie Scholarship. The presentation was done by Mrs. Dianne McKenzie, widow of Rev. Dr. Gilbert McKenzie (3rd from left) in honour of his passion for education and the development of youth. Mrs. Dona Stewart Sykes (left) and Mrs. Janet Henry (at the podium), elders at Hellshire United, participated in the presentation.

# NEWS FROM NERMC cont'd



Brithany Atkinson (2nd left) receives a grant from Mrs. Dianne McKenzie (3rd from left).

The Scholarship is intended to assist students with the payment of tuition and other fees, at the secondary and tertiary educational levels. Students who are active, contributing members of the Hellshire United Church, will be eligible to apply for the Scholarship.

Widow of the late Rev Dr McKenzie, Mrs. Dianne McKenzie, presented the scholarships to the students after a symbolic cutting of a ribbon, signalling the launch. One of the scholarship recipients, Elyssa Samuels, responded in song.

A presentation was made to Mrs McKenzie as a token of Hellshire United Church's appreciation for the collaboration.

The launch was presided over by Rev Carlington Keen, Minister at the Hellshire United Church, led by Congregational Secretary, Elder Janet Henry and supported by Elder Dona Stewart Sykes, Church School Superintendent, Mrs. Debbie Ann McKenzie-Cookes, Elder Fay Kerr and Deputy Board Chair, Elder Kimberley Wray.

Rev Dr McKenzie was born in Islington, St Mary, Jamaica. He studied at the United Theological College of the West Indies as well as the Jamaica Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1970 by Middlesex Presbytery, Jamaica. During his early years in ministry, Rev McKenzie served as pastor of several congregations including Islington, Belfast, Port Maria, and Northern Ireland and in numerous places in the United States of America.

When he retired in 2011, he moved to Denver where he attended Montview Boulevard from which he contributed to the development of the Hellshire United church by arranging for a Youth Group to participate in service projects there.

Rev McKenzie was a true friend of the Hellshire United Church and when in Jamaica, he always thought it a huge honour to be asked to deliver a message to us in Sunday Worship Service or to engage us in Bible Studies on a Tuesday evening. We were held in awe of his extensive knowledge of biblical history.



Elyssa Samuels responds on behalf of the beneficiaries.

# NEWS FROM WRMC



## Recipients of PSA Test Vouchers

## A GRAND PARENTS' DAY AND SENIOR CITIZENS' WEEK AT LUCEA UNITED

Nine men who are grand fathers received Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test vouchers during the Lucea United Church Grand Parents' Day and Senior Citizens' Week Church Service on Sunday September 24, 2023.

The vouchers were presented courtesy of the Family Life Ministry of Lucea United Church working in partnership with Microlabs. September is Prostate Awareness Month.

Coordinator, Sis Mervia Kerr was commended by Rev. Glenroy Clarke, Minister of Lucea United, for her work on that venture.

# NEWS FROM CIRMC

## 10 YEARS OF DISCIPLING STUDENTS IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

## The Inter-School/Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship



Church Tour stop at the Savannah United Church.

The Interschool/Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IS/IVCF) is celebrating its 10th anniversary of spreading the Gospel and discipling students in the Cayman Islands.

Over the years, we have had active groups at Triple C, John Gray High, Clifton Hunter, CIFEC, Cayman Prep and High, Layman Scott, and UCCI. We hope to establish groups in the other private institutions on the island. At the start of each academic year, we promote the club in the schools and invite students to sign up to join.

The ministry is student-led but facilitated by Christian teachers in each school; this provides students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills while growing in their faith. They are also challenged to share their faith with their peers.

IS/IVCF is also having a 10th Anniversary Church Tour. We hope to visit as many churches as possible to thank our partners for supporting our non-profit ministry, spread awareness about our work to parents/guardians, and invite individuals to partner with us with their time, talent, and treasure.



IS/IVCF Club sign up Day at UCCI (University College of the Cayman Islands)

# NEWS FROM CIRMC cont'd



IS/IVCF Club sign up Day at CPHS (Cayman Prep and High School)

As a para-church organization, our vision is to see students transformed by the Gospel and then impact their schools, their churches, and their communities. Many students choose whether or not they attend a church regularly, but they spend several years in the schools, so we believe that our campuses provide one of the greatest platforms for ministry. The harvest is indeed ripe, and invitations are out for labourers. IS/IVCF will also have a 10th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at Ristorante Pappagallo.

## WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAY



This is one way of demonstrating your stance against violence, especially against women and girls. Take the opportunity to explain to someone why you are wearing black.

**TAKE A STAND**



**MODULES  
2 AND 3  
BEGIN IN  
NOVEMBER**

## **TRAINING LAY LEADERS - A NEW BEGINNING**

### **UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE - MODULES 2 AND 3 COMING**

**The Training of Lay Leaders for specialised ministries in the United Church will be advanced through the addition of Modules 2 and 3 to the offerings of UCJCI Lay Training Institute in November 2023.**

Modules 2 and 3 will begin in November 2023. It is planned that both will run concurrently with the early topics in Module 3 being those without a corresponding pre-requisite in Module 2.

Topics will include Ministry with Children, Evangelism and Discipleship; Ministry with Youth and Communication. Both modules will include periods of practicum.

Module 2 will end in March 2023 and Module 3 will end November 2024.

**For more information**

**Email:**

**[ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com)**

# MINISTERS AND LAY PASTORS LET'S SHARE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



United Church congregations engage in vibrant and thought-provoking BIBLE STUDIES on a variety of topics each week.

Some congregations do not have those regular studies but their members would like to join in such a study.

Can we work together to bring the Word to those who are thirsting for it?

Let's reach beyond our communities by sharing the links to our online bible studies, with DATE, TOPIC, TIME, LINK Ministers and Lay Pastors, if you want to participate, please send information to [ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com)

## MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



### FOCUS: THE BOOK OF ACTS

6:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 882 3148 7638

PASSCODE: 028540

OR VIA MUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL



## RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC:

THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN

5:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 894 9305 3068

PASSCODE: RIDGEMOUNT



# Birthdlay Celebrations

## Belated Greetings



Dr. Norma Smellie  
SEPTEMBER 20



Rev. Henley Bernard  
SEPTEMBER 20



Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick  
SEPTEMBER 21

## Birthdlay Greetings in the coming week...



Mrs. Pauline Bryan  
OCTOBER 3



Rev. Trevor Hylton  
OCTOBER 4

*God's blessings on you all.*

# Our Homes are Places of Worship



## SEPTEMBER – REALIGN THE FAITH AND WIDER COMMUNITY

To realign the faith and wider community requires an encounter with God. The community depends on the Church to show the example of commitment and peace.

**THEME THIS WEEK: THE REALIGNED CHURCH IS ORGANIZED BY GOD'S SPIRIT AND UNDERSTANDS GOD'S PRESENCE, PROVISION AND GOD'S PEACE.**

### SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

● Structural realignment of the RMC is critical but must be discerned and contemplated through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

● When the Israelites complained, Moses turned to God for instruction in order to realign the community. God's presence and provision became evident in the context.

"It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat." Exodus 16:15

The parable in Matthew is always a difficult parable for the Church, but the Church, realigned by the Holy Spirit, understands the deep meaning of this parable. Whom do we welcome into the Church? How are they welcomed? How do we deploy those who are called by the Holy Spirit? The missional and ecumenical characteristics of our Reformed faith will help us to function with equity in the society.

Let us pray for:

- Ministers of the United Church who have lost loved ones.
- Communities impacted by crime in Jamaica
- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards and Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson both of whom are unwell.
- The preparedness and safety of the people of the Cayman Islands and Jamaica during the hurricane season.

# For Your Health

## Prostate Cancer Awareness

### DID YOU KNOW?

The prostate is a small, rubbery gland about the size of a ping-pong ball. It sits under the bladder and in front of the rectum.

Prostate cancer occurs when a normal prostate cell becomes altered and starts growing in an uncontrolled way.

Prostate Cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Jamaica adult males.

304 per 100,000 men in Jamaica will be diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

4 out of 5 cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed in men over 65 years old.

Most prostate cancers grow slowly, and if caught early, are considered highly treatable. However, some tumours grow rapidly, spreading to other body parts, such as the bones. Once this occurs, successful treatment is difficult.



**For the Month of September 2023**  
(Prostate Cancer Awareness Month)

**Prostate Cancer Screening will be done:**

- **Thursdays at the St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital (Room 4) 9:00 am-11:30 am**
- **Tuesdays at The Jamaica Cancer Society Office, Ocean Village Shopping Centre Ocho Rios 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm**

# EVENTS PAGES



## SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND PRESENCE

The following pages carry notification of events. Please send your posters and flyers in pdf, j-peg or png format to [citc@gmail.com](mailto:citc@gmail.com) for promotion in UCJCI Update.

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# Should AI get a failing grade?



## USING AI IN TEACHING AND LEARNING UCJCI UTC DENOM SEMINAR

**JOIN THE UCJCI UNITED THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Presenter:  
Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick  
former UCJCI Communication and Technical  
Support Officer

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 28,  
2023  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN VIA ZOOM**

**Meeting ID: 811 3789 6747**

**Passcode: 574014**

For more information contact  
UCJCI Warden, Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle 876 7920871 or  
Associate Warden, Mrs. Karen Francis 876 4327057





WEBSTER MEMORIAL  
UNITED CHURCH



# CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM FORUM

## A FAITH-BASED PERSPECTIVE



**B. St. Michael Hylton, OJ, KC**



**Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan**



**Ms. Carlene Larmond, KC  
(Moderator)**



**Pastor David Henry**



**Ms. Linnette Vassell**

**Thursday, September 28, 2023  
6 pm**

**Webster Memorial United Church  
53 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10  
Jamaica**

**YOU MAY ALSO JOIN  
VIA ZOOM  
Meeting ID  
87492736892  
Passcode  
663922**



# YOUTH NEWS

Lincoln Kirk United Church Youth Fellowship Presents

**YOUTH CONVENTION 2023**

Under the theme

**"TEK IT TO DEM"**

**October 22, 2023 9am - 9pm**

**3 Sessions for the Day**

**Morning Worship Midday Praise Evening Gospel Service**

Refreshments and Lunch will be on sale

For More Details

**1-876-468-7143 - 1-876-848-5209**



*United Theological College of the West Indies*

invites you to register for the Short Course

# **Issues in Gender and Preventing Gender-based Violence**

## **Topics**

Bible & Gender  
Understanding Gender  
Women Taking Their Place  
Gender, Leadership & Power  
Church, Gender & Human Rights



**Cost:**

USD 99

JMD 15,500

*September 30 -  
October 28, 2023  
Saturdays ONLY  
9:00 A.M. -  
12:00 P.M.*

Contact us at:

Tel: 876-927-1724/ 2868

WhatAspp: 876-585-5488

Email: [jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm](mailto:jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm)

***Register Here***

<https://forms.gle/Sie4uKW36YvRr8o66>





**REGISTRATION FOR  
STREET, SCHOOL AND  
PRAYER PASTORS  
TRAINING BEGINS  
SOON**

**COURSE RUNS OCT 07 TO NOV 11, 2023**



**REGISTER TODAY**

**Join our  
TEAM!**  
WE ARE HIRING!

**APPLY HERE:**

**<https://forms.gle/Uc28NWbyFmeoHMA70>**

APPLY HERE:

**OR WHATS APP 876-909-0470**

**STREET PASTORS JAMAICA  
HELPING, CARING, LISTENING**



**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**