



UCJCI UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 18

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



THE MODERATOR WITH MRS. THELMA RANGE, THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE WILLIAM POUCHIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH. MRS. RANGE, A RETIRED TEACHER WHO TAUGHT IN BOTH CAYMAN AND THE UNITED STATES, CELEBRATED HER 103RD BIRTHDAY ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2023.

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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

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS AND MINISTER IN CONGREGATIONAL PURSUIT OF MINISTRY AND MISSION IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. THE CALL TO A MINISTER TO LEAD A CONGREGATION OR CHARGE PLACES TRUST AND HOPE IN ALL PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION OF GOD. IN THIS ISSUE, NERMC CELEBRATED WITH THE UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATION LOCATED AT LOCKETT AVENUE IN NERMC AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP. PRAYERS AND SUPPORT ARE NEEDED FOR ALL SUCH RELATIONSHIPS. READ ABOUT THE EVENT ON (PAGES 5 AND 6)



MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL LOCKETT AVENUE PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT OF INDUCTION. SEE PAGES 5 AND 6

UCJCI MODERATOR VISITS EAST END/GUNBAY CHARGE IN CAYMAN

On September 8, 2023, at the invitation of the former East End-Gun Bay Charge of the CIRMC, the Moderator of the UCJCI, the Right Rev. Gary Harriott, arrived in Grand Cayman for a week-long unofficial visit.

Unofficial it may have been, yet it was no ordinary visit, for it was an opportunity for the Moderator to reconnect with old friends and reunite with the congregants of his former Charge. The Moderator served as Minister of the East End-Gun Bay Charge between 1993 and 1997. (Note: Since 2021, the East End and Gun Bay Congregations, along with the William Pouchie Memorial United Church in North Side, constitute the current North-East Charge of the CIRMC).



Rev. Rohan Forrester, Minister of the Charge (left) and the Moderator 2nd from right) with members of the East End and Gun Bay United Churches.



Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of the Synod of UCJCI, preached at William Pouchie United Church on Sunday September 10, 2023 on the theme: 'Hydrating the Soul'.

In addition to visiting his former congregants in their homes, the Moderator also served as guest preacher and as the Celebrant of the Sacrament of the Holy Communion on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church and the East End United Church.

The Moderator's sermon focused on "Hydrating the Soul" from Isaiah 55 and charged the congregations to look at where they are now and where they need to be. He said that a dehydrated soul manifests itself in several ways, such as staying away from the church, a lack of participation in the ministry, lacking spiritual growth, anger with themselves and others, and ignoring the leading of the spirit. *(Cont'd on p.3)*



VISITING SCHOOLS

Edna M. Moyle Primary School

On Monday, September 11, 2023, the Moderator participated in the Annual Convocation of the Edna M. Moyle Primary School, North Side, held at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church.

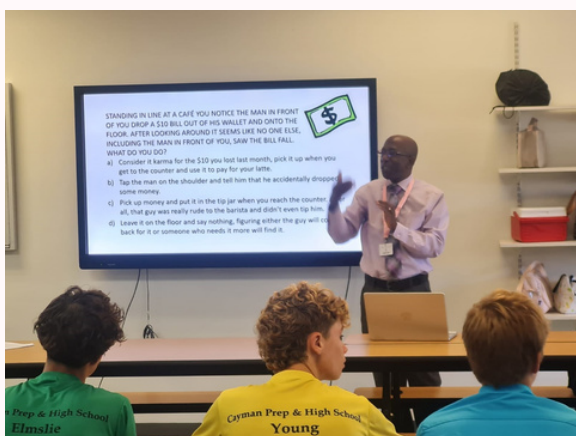
Chaplain of the school, Rev. Rohan Forrester, gave the main address to students, staff, parents, and other members of the community, including the Hon. J. Ebanks, the Member of Parliament. The theme of the Convocation was "New Beginnings". Rev. Forrester, based on Genesis ch. 1:1 said that "New Beginnings" often feel great, as they give a sense of hope and joy and are filled with excitement and relief.

We must seize the opportunity whenever we leave the past behind and enter a new season with hope, promise, and a new vision. Before there can be a new year with new beginnings, the old, with its challenges, must be left behind. However, what's new soon becomes old, and we sometimes feel no reason offering praise or even taking notice of what God is doing. God started a new thing at the beginning of creation, and to date, God is still doing a new 'thing' in the lives of our children and school staff. Rev. Forrester also encouraged the children to look at what they did last year and what they need to improve in this new school year.



Ms. Dairdie Tingle, Principal of the school, shared with students and parents the expectations of the new school year.

Cayman Prep and High Schools



Rev. Harriot shared in an Ethics class at Cayman Prep and High School with the senior students.

FELLOWSHIP WITH COLLEAGUES



The same day, the Moderator took time to meet with members of the Clergy for a simple but heartfelt lunchtime fellowship at the Savannah United Church Hall. The gathering provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and discuss the challenges and joys of serving in a rapidly changing world

• Rev. Rohan Forrester and Rev. Otto Menko

BIBLE STUDY AND RADIO MINISTRY

The Moderator also took on the responsibility to lead a Bible Study Meeting at the East End United Church on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, and to do a radio recording for the 'Worship the Lord' radio program of the CIRMC, aired on every Sunday at 7:45 am.

WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAY



TAKE A STAND

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.

NEWS FROM NERMC

INDUCTION SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED

NERMC region comprised of ministers and delegates, members from sister congregations, youth from regions of UCJCI, members of the Synod Administration and UCJCI student ministers turned out to show support for St. Paul's United Church, Rev. Kraig De Leon Diedrick and family at the Service of Induction on Sunday September 17, 2023.



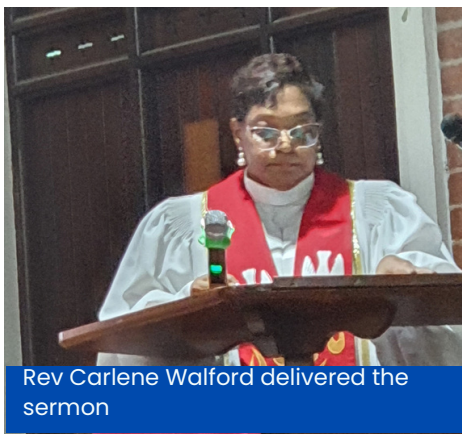
The Minister and his family – wife, Shadee and daughter Elyse.



Rev DeLeon Diedrick addresses the congregation.

'Stand Firm and See'

The sermon was delivered by Rev. Carlene Walford, minister with responsibility for the Goshen United Church charge in NERMC. Sprinkling her charge with words of advice from a 'senior student' to the 'student', Rev. Walford's delivered a fiery challenge framed with the words 'Stand' and 'See'. Rev. Walford drew on the lessons of Exodus 14 where the children of Israel, in the face of challenge, stood their ground and as a result witnessed (saw) the miracles of God in delivering them. Standing in the face of difficulty also requires the armour of God which the preacher referenced in Ephesians 5. The St. Paul's congregation and the new minister were encouraged to be rooted and grounded in the faith, anchored in Jesus Christ and trusting in the help of the Spirit. In so doing they will be able to withstand in the day of trouble.



Rev Carlene Walford delivered the sermon

“ God has given you skills and talents, use them, use the knowledge and the wisdom He has endowed upon you as He directs you what to do to lead His people here at St. Paul's.” - Rev. Carlene Walford to Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick

'Then Forward Still...Tis Jehovah's Will'

The Prayer of Intercession was led by Rev. Nigel Pusey, minister of the Boulevard Charge of Churches. It was preceded by rousing singing of the hymn: Roll the Sea Away, prompted by Rev. Pusey. The focus of the hymn, was consistent with the reference to God's miraculous work in the passage from Exodus which was central to the sermon. (cont'd on p. 7)



Rev Nigel Pusey led the Prayer of Intercession.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE INDUCTION SERVICE



Warm greetings



Presentations



A beautiful moment with Daddy and daughter



A plant was among the presentations to Rev. DeLeon Diedrick. The gift from the Synod was presented by Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, Regional Deputy General Secretary for NERMC. Focussing on the importance of deep roots, the RDGS said, "It is our prayer that under your leadership the people who hear God's message will develop deep healthy roots that go deep down that will allow the production of a fruitful harvest".



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS – NOVEMBER 2023

UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE - MODULES 2 AND 3 COMING

The Training of Lay Leaders continues in the conclusion of another cohort of Module 1 on August 30 with anticipated Graduation on Sunday November 12, 2023. Assessments are now being done towards the completion of the list of graduands.

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 be including 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

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.

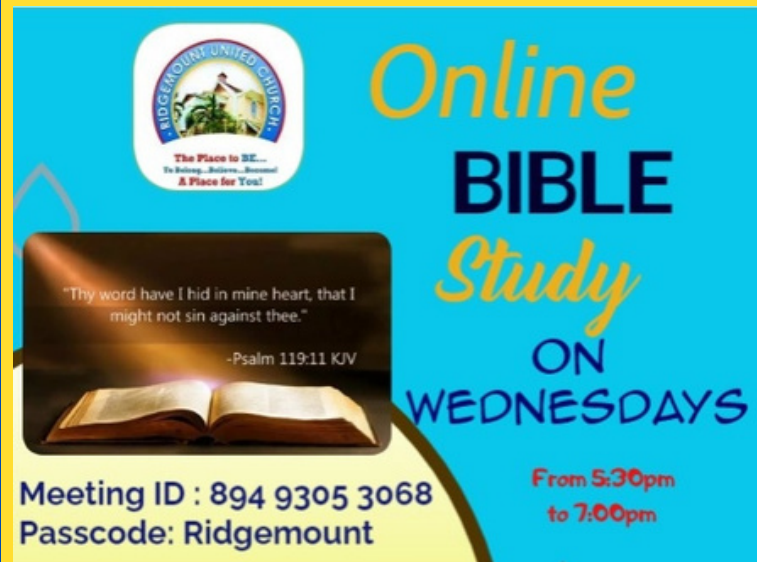
Can we work together to bring the Word to those who are thirsting for it?

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

RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



TOPIC: THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN



RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH
The Place to BE...
To Belong...Believe...Belong!
& Place for You!

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
-Psalm 119:11 KJV

Online BIBLE Study
ON WEDNESDAYS

Meeting ID : 894 9305 3068
Passcode: Ridgemount

From 5:30pm
to 7:00pm

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

Let us pray for

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:

- Rev. Rohan Kong who lost his grandmother last month.

Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte and Mrs. Carol Hoyte on the passing of Mrs. Hoyte's mother Mrs. Ena Campbell.

- Impactful ministry in our congregations

- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards

- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson

- Pastor Donald West whose mother has recently died.

- Mrs. Shernett Smith whose brother died and whose brother-in-law is sick.

- On-going challenges of drought in Jamaica

- Our preparedness and safety during the hurricane season.

For Your Health

Prostate Cancer Awareness

SOME OF THE SIGNS/SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:



Sudden decrease in the volume and force of the urinary stream.



Painful or Frequent urination, especially at night.



Erectile Dysfunction



Blood or pus in the urine or semen



Pain in the back, hips, thighs or shoulders.



The Jamaica Cancer Society
 in collaboration with
**CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL
 CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**



presents

Men's Health Fair

Calling Men 40 years & Older

**FRIDAY
 SEPTEMBER
 22 2023
 7AM-3PM**

at the
**St. James
 Parish Church**
 Church Street,
 Montego Bay



HEALTH SERVICES:

**KNOW YOUR
 NUMBERS**

- Blood Pressure Test
- Blood sugar Test
- HIV Testing
- Health information & education sessions

**CALL 876-312-8417
 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Free
 PROSTATE
 CANCER
 Screening**





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

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>

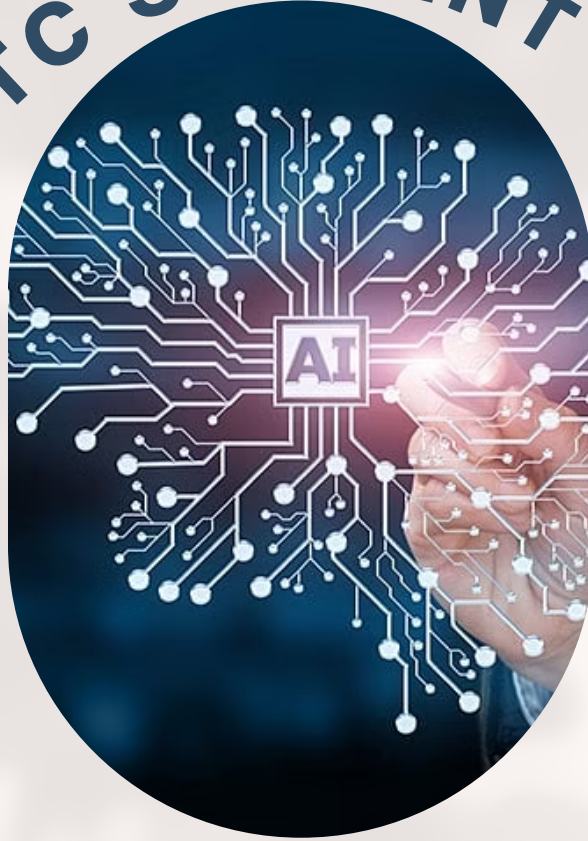
APPLY HERE:

OR WHATS APP 876-909-0470

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



UCJCI UTC STUDENT SEMINAR



Should AI Get a Failing Grade? Should AI be eliminated from educational use?

JOIN THE UCJCI UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
STUDENTS FOR A DENOMINATIONAL SEMINAR

Thursday September 28, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 pm

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 811 3789 6747

Passcode: 574014

Presenter:

Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick

former UCJCI Communication and Technical Support Officer

For more information contact

UCJCI Warden Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle 876 7920871

or Associate Warden Mrs. Karen Francis 8764327057



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 ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

MODERATOR

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. Norbert Stephens

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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