



UCJCI UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 16

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



GRADUATES OF THE FIRST COHORT OF THE RE-DESIGNED TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS IN 2021.

ON THE INSIDE

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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 CALL TO SERVE IN VARIOUS AREAS OF MINISTRY IS ONE WHICH FOLLOWS THE CALL TO RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. UCJCI IS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONS IN THE PEWS TO FULFILL THEIR CALL TO SERVICE THROUGH CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES. IN SO DOING, TRAINING IS AVAILABLE SO THAT SUCH PERSONS MAY PREPARE TO SERVE. UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE IS OFFERED IN THREE MODULES. WITH MODULE 1 CONCLUDING FOR 2023, READ ABOUT PLANS FOR MODULES 2 AND 3 ON **(PAGES 2 AND 3)**



DR. PATRICK STERLING (LEFT), CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND DR. CAROL BLANCHARD, PRINCIPAL, ST. ANDREW PREPARATORY. P.7

TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS – MODULE 1 CONCLUDES...MODULES 2 AND 3 LOADING

Registration Opens in October

On March 11, 2023 UCJCI, through its Lay Training Institute, began a third round of Module 1 in the UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course. On August 30 the 2023 training concluded. As assignments are being marked and graduation planned, the long-awaited Modules 2 and 3 loom on the horizon.

Module 1 provides the foundation for preparation for service as a leader in UCJCI with introductory topics that offer vital skills and knowledge for leadership. Those who have been selected to serve as elders are required to do Module 1, however the training may also be pursued by persons who want to serve in other ways.

Module 2 builds on the foundation skills and knowledge of Module 1. It will prepare persons for service in specific ministries.

What will Module 2 Include?

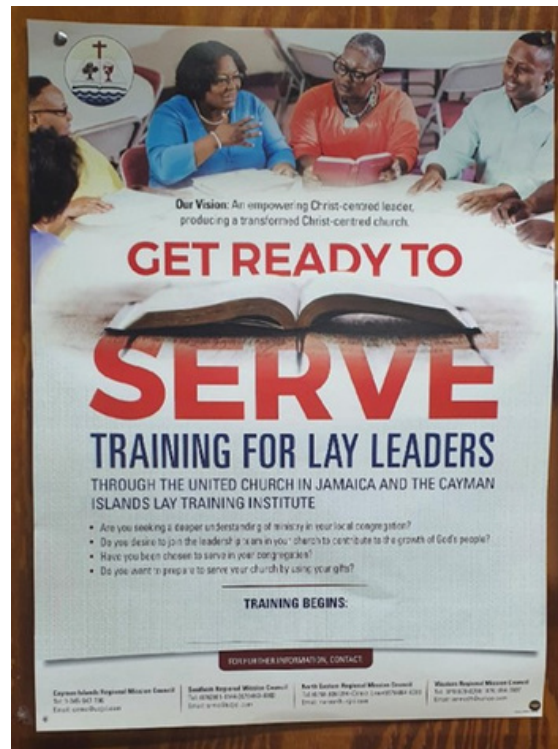
Areas to be covered in Module 2 will include

- Ministry with Children
- Evangelism and Discipleship
- Pioneer Ministry with specialised groups (e.g. men, persons with disabilities)
- Ministry with Youth
- Communication

The module will involve practical exposure.

Who may register for Module 2?

Persons who have completed Module 1, may register for Module 2. Such a person interested in serving as a leader in the specialised areas identified, may build on the training in Module 1 by deepening their skills and knowledge in these special areas in Module 2.



What will Module 3 include?

Module 3 prepares persons who want to serve as Lay Pastors. Consequently, the module will include detailed preparation of participants to carry out the duties of a Lay Pastor. This will include preaching, administering the sacraments and exegesis.

Who may register for Module 3?

Persons who have completed Module 1, and have registered for Module 2 may also begin Module 3. It is important to note that persons who intend to offer themselves for service as a Lay Pastor in UCJCI will need to complete all three modules of the UCJCI Certificate Course.

When will Module 3 begin?

Modules 2 and 3 will be run at the same time.



Training begins November 2023

For more information
Email: ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com

Would you register for Module 2 of UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE?

We are assessing interest in order to plan for Module 2.

If you are preparing or involved in leadership in:

- Children's Ministry
- Evangelism and Discipleship
- Youth Ministry
- Ministry with Community

Module 2 may be for you!

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Pastor, Modules 1, 2 and 3 are all requirements for your preparation.

If any of these descriptions relate to you, send us your name, congregation and mobile number using the contacts below.

**We want to
hear
from you**



COUNCIL NEWS – CIRMC

Camp Leadership Team Members Reach Out to Fire Victim



Last Update, requested prayer for an East End family whose house burned down due to a lightning strike. A family member, Jazaiah Zenel Martinez Christian, attended the Teen's Camp this summer and was selected as the 2023 Teen's Camp Girl.



On Sunday, August 27, 2023, members of the Camp Leadership Team with Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Savannah United Church, visited her and her family to offer their support and to deliver some much-needed assistance.

Council News – WRMC

Blauwearie United Church hosts 65 children at Vacation Bible School



Blauwearie Primary and Infant School in partnership with Blauwearie United Church hosted VBS 2023 from August 14 – 18.

This initiative from the Board of Governors, was aimed at strengthening the ties between the church and school, improve the spiritual awareness of the students within the community and impact discipline in a positive way.

The VBS was held under the theme "Click for Christ, Click for life" with an average daily attendance of 50 students and an overall attendance of 65.

The students were divided into three classes "God Kids" taught by the school's PTA President – Ms. Shantel Gordon, "Creative Kids" taught By Sav United Youth Evangelism and Discipleship Coordinator – Niangelique Brissett and the "Golden Kids" were taught by Sis Aryl Pennicook – delegate from Sav-la-mar United Church.



Council News – WRMC cont'd



The catering was undertaken by Sisters Ikalee Grant- Blauwearie Coleen Clarke- Blauwearie, Darrian(Pat) Buchanan- Sav United, and Sis Barbara Wallace Sav United. Clerical Assistant from Blauwearie Primary Ms. Shandon assisted with the registration proces. Present were memebtrs from the PTA, Chairman of the School Board, Acting Principal of the School and Rev Everton Brissett; interim Minister.

**UCJCI congregation
working in
partnership with
school and
community.**



Financial assistance was received from Mr. Terron Dewar, the School Board, and Rev. Everton Brissett. Donations of art supplies were also received from Mr. Rayon Simpson.



Council News – NERMC

Foundation Values Under Attack – Prayer Breakfast at St. Andrew Preparatory School



(L-R) DR PATRICK STERLING, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF ST. ANDREW PREPARATORY, REV. DR. WESLEY BOYNES, PRESIDENT OF JAMAICA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (JISA) AND GUEST SPEAKER; BISHOP THE REV. CHRISTINE GOODEN BENGUCHE, PRESIDENT OF JAMAICA METHODIST DISTRICT AND REV. DWIGHT KELLY, MINISTER OF THE GREENDALE UNITED CHURCH.

St. Andrew Preparatory School, hosted a Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday August 29, 2023 under the theme “Together We Rise” to start off the academic year. The guest speaker for the occasion was Rev. Dr. Wesley Boynes, President of the Jamaica Independent Schools’ Association (JISA).

In his address to the gathering Rev. Dr. Boynes noted that there were “dark forces” at work against the foundational values on which church-affiliated private educational institutions were built.

Rev Boynes noted that faith-based educational institutions were ideally positioned and structured to address the shifting of our core values and in producing God-fearing students of Christian values. He encouraged staff, parents and members of the church to be guardians of the foundational values, noting that the vision behind faith-based educational institutions “was about producing God-fearing students

The vision behind faith-based educational institutions “was about producing God-fearing students of pristine values and character” and not just about passing exams.

REV. DR. WESLEY BOYNES

of pristine values and character” and not just about passing exams. He challenged the churches to be more intentional about ensuring that the operations of their schools were in keeping with the values of their Church, observing that some schools were not as focused as they should be in this regard.

In keeping with the theme of the prayer breakfast, ‘Together We Rise’, Rev Boynes lifted up the following for consideration by all stakeholders:

- **Rise up together and pray** for the school and also pray for other private schools and the wider education system as the devil’s priority is the children
- **Rise up together and revisit** the original mission of the school
- **Rise up together and protect** the foundational values, culture, and spiritual values of the school.

v.

Foundation values...

For consideration... cont'd:

- **Rise up together and support** the efforts of the school to ensure that the leadership and teachers are well compensated.
- **Rise up together and give** full support to the efforts of the principal
- **Rise up together and support** the effort of St Andrew Preparatory School in building the character of our children.

A time of prayer for the school and relevant issues to both school and church was observed. Persons present prayed in groups at their tables. Rev. Dwight Kelly offered prayers of adoration and thanksgiving and Rev Wayneford McFarlane, school chaplain, led the Intercessory prayer.

The Chairman of the St Andrew Prep. School Board, Dr. Patrick Sterling, brought greetings at the prayer breakfast.



Dr. Sterling is a member of the Meadowbrook United Church and was appointed by Synod in April 2023. Dr. Sterling is a Human Resource and Industrial Relations practitioner who has held senior HR Leadership roles in a number of corporate entities. He is also an educator.

Greetings were also brought by Bishop the Rev. Christine Gooden Benguche, President Jamaica Methodist District, and Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, Deputy General Secretary in the North Eastern Regional Mission Council. The school is jointly operated by the United Church and the Methodist Church.

Send to UCJCI Update news of your congregation, region and auxiliary via email to citc@ucjci.com

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.

Birthday Greetings



Mrs. Sheila Arscot Smith
SEPTEMBER 8



Rev. Delia Picart-Hibbert
SEPTEMBER 8



Rev. Verha Cassells
SEPTEMBER 8



Rev. Dr. Colin Cowan
SEPTEMBER 9



Rev. Otto Menko
SEPTEMBER 11



Mrs. Shernett Smith
SEPTEMBER 9

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: BACK TO CHURCH MEANS REALIGNING OUR WORSHIP TO BRING GLORY TO GOD AND TO FOSTER OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 12:1-14
- Psalms 149
- Romans 13:8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

● **Worship fosters fellowship with God. We are called into worship by the Holy Spirit and our worship is led and enabled by the Spirit.**

Let us pray for

● **The quality of our worship springs from the depth of our desire for God and the things of God.**

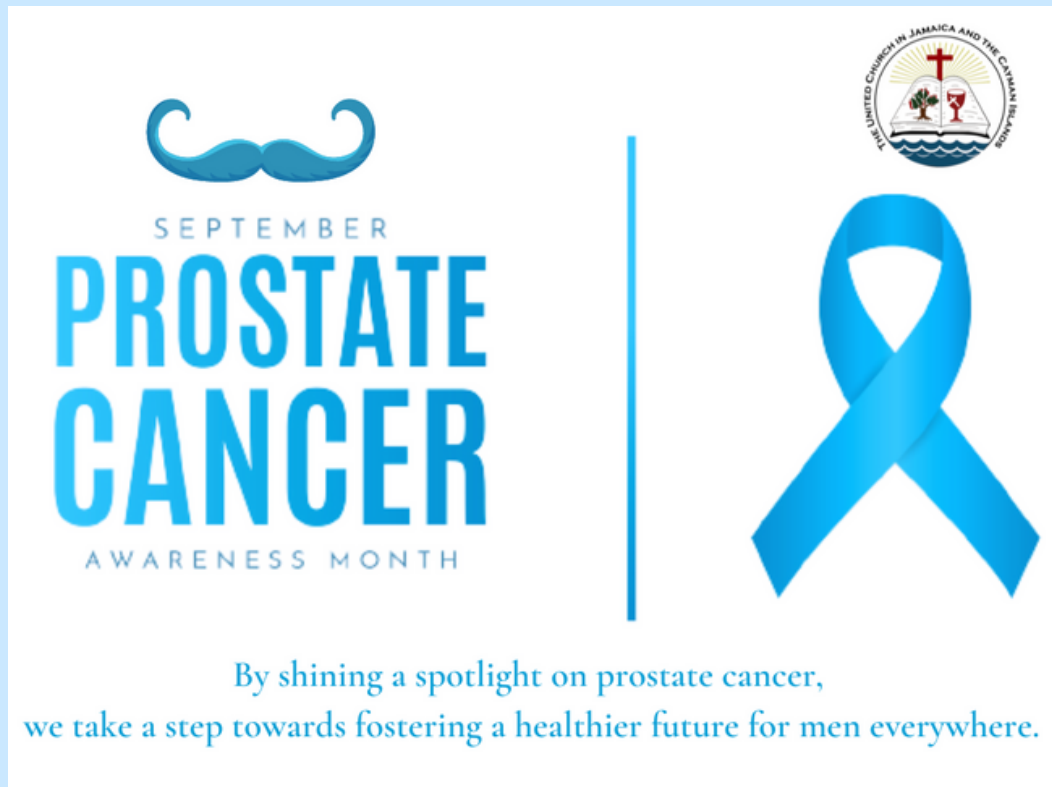
● **The desire to worship God in spirit and in truth is made manifest not only in our treatment of God but in our relationship with others.**

● **The Gospel and the Epistle readings provide rich and extensive guidelines for how the Church needs to function.**

Let us pray for:

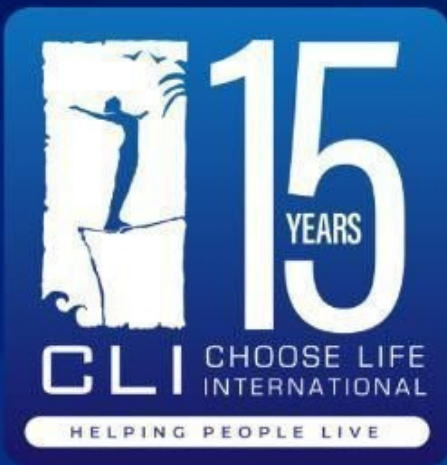
- Impactful ministry in and by our congregations
- Pastor Donald West whose mother has recently died.
- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
- Rev. Kevin Calvert who has recently lost both grandparents.
- Mrs. Shernett Smith whose brother died and whose brother-in-law is sick.
- On-going challenges of drought in Jamaica
- Our preparedness and safety during the hurricane season.

For Your Health



Prostate Cancer Awareness

Prostate cancer awareness is a vital campaign that highlights the importance of knowledge, early detection, and support. It's a reminder that amidst our busy lives, taking a moment to understand the risks, symptoms, and available screenings can make a significant difference in men's health. This awareness prompts us to break down taboos, encourage open conversations, and ultimately, empower individuals to prioritize their well-being. By shining a spotlight on prostate cancer, we take a step towards fostering a healthier future for men everywhere. Prostate cancer awareness month serves as a platform for educating the public about treatment options and support resources for those with prostate cancer. This awareness initiative emphasizes the importance of year-round awareness and is a reminder that raising awareness goes beyond wearing a ribbon or sharing a post on social media. It's about empowering individuals with accurate information. As we reflect on this observance, we should strive to continue the dialogue year-round, advocating for the importance of early detection, fostering research, and supporting those affected by prostate cancer.



15TH ANNUAL WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY SEMINAR 2023



**CREATING HOPE THROUGH ACTION:
TOGETHER WE SAVE MORE LIVES!**



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2023 8:30AM - 3:45PM (GMT5)

Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP
Minister of Health and Wellness



Dr. Donovan and Mrs. Faith Thomas
Founders
Choose Life International



Dr. Terrence Bernard
Consultant Psychiatrist



Dr. Pearnell Bell
Clinical Psychologist



Dr. Ganesh Shetty
Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist



Mrs. Allison Solomon
Senior Director for Teacher Development
Jamaica Teaching Council



Dr. Maureen Irons-Morgan
Consultant Psychiatrist



Mrs. Sherrie Lynn Lilley
Founder
Pneuma Counseling and Consulting



**REGISTRATION FEE: JM \$7,000 / US 45 ONLINE TICKET 10% GROUP DISCOUNT (FOR 10 PERSONS OR MORE)
JM \$14,000 / US 90 IN - PERSON AT THE TERRA NOVA HOTEL**

REGISTER AT: <https://www.spurroopen.com/wspd2023>

Call Us! (876) 920-7924 or (876) 856-2966 WhatsApp: (876) 802-7074 clispecialprojects@gmail.com





HOPE UNITED CHURCH
INVITES ALL TERTIARY STUDENTS TO

BIG DAY

THE TERTIARY EDITION!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 | 8:00 A.M.

WELCOME! | WORSHIP! | FELLOWSHIP

221 OLD HOPE ROAD, KINGSTON 6
(876) 977-6134 | hopeunited@cwjamaica.com



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

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GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. Norbert Stephens

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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