



UCJCI UPDATE

AUGUST 30, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 15

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



REV NICQI ASHWOOD, A UNITED CHURCH MINISTER, IS THE PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE FOR JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN WITH WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. THIS UNIT PROMOTES 'THURSDAYS IN BLACK'.

ON THE INSIDE

- WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
 - CELEBRATING 75 YEARS
 - RECOGNISING BLACK CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITS HISTORY
- COUNCIL NEWS
 - CIRMC - PEACE INITIATIVE
 - NERMC AND SRMC - INDUCTION OF MINISTERS
- 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

UCJCI PARTICIPATES IN THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. AMONG THEM IS MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH EMBRACE A VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS IN CAYMAN AND JAMAICA AND ACROSS COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS. UCJCI BECAME A MEMBER OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN 1967 AND HAS PURSUED NUMEROUS ENDEAVOURS THROUGH THE ORGANISATION. AS WCC CELEBRATES THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY, ONE OF THE EVENTS PLANNED IS A PANEL DISCUSSION TO FOCUS ON THE RACIST EXCLUSION OF THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK PERSONS TO THE ORGANISATION. READ ABOUT WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR CELEBRATIONS. **(PAGES 2 AND 3)**



PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH GIVING (P. 4)



**World Council
of Churches**

CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Between June and December 2023, the World Council of Churches (WCC) is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

This anniversary is "a stepping stone toward the future, representing an opportunity to share what the WCC offers spiritually as an organization for future generations."

"In the larger picture, the 75th-anniversary commemoration will help the world see the WCC as a platform that brings Christians together even in very difficult times, helping Christians in different situations to see the world from the perspective of others, to show compassion for one another, and to build trust as a vital part of the ecumenical journey."

As a member of the WCC, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands joins in the celebration and remains committed to the ecumenical ideals of unity, respect, and cooperation among different Christian denominations and traditions, and to the cause of interreligious dialogue.

The WCC is a fellowship of 350 member churches in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches.

AUGUST 31 CELEBRATORY EVENT – BLACK LEADERS' CONTRIBUTIONS IN WCC'S HISTORY

'They too were Gathered'

A public online celebration and panel discussion on 31 August, "They too were Gathered: Paying homage to Black people's contributions to 75 years of World Council of Churches (WCC)," will uncover the contributions of Black people from different parts of the world in the formation and growth of the WCC.

While the participation of white Europeans and possibly North Americans has never been questioned in the history of the formation of the WCC, questions have been asked as to the role played by Black people, as well as people from Africa or in the diaspora in the history of the WCC.

In 1948, the WCC was already acknowledging that there was a "race problem" in the world, including in churches in which the white supremacist ideology was impacting the Christian ideals of a healthy community. The WCC's commitment to the humanity, dignity, and rights of Black people was further highlighted and strengthened in the launch of the Programme to Combat Racism in 1969 following the WCC 4th Assembly of 1968.



**World Council
of Churches**

As the WCC celebrates its 75th anniversary, one question and observation demands an answer: what has been the contribution of Black people to the rise and continued existence, even thriving of the WCC? Due to the influence and persistence of colonial ideology and culture, part of the history of the WCC has not escaped from the whitewashing of positive contributions with blackness reduced in visibility and significance.

Among the questions that will guide the conversation and celebration are "What was the contribution of Black people to the formation and launch of the WCC and who were some of the leading individuals?" and "Who have been some of the Black stalwarts of the WCC from 1948 to the present?"

The event will aim to recover the legacy of Black contributions and to reimagine future Black contributions to the health and wellbeing of the WCC.

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.

Council News

PEACE INITIATIVE IN CAYMAN

As part of the ongoing Peace Initiative of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council, the Council's Mission MAT has continued donating to the Crisis Centre, this time Back to School supplies.



(Left to right) are Bernard McGrath (Elmslie Memorial), Ania Milanowska (Executive Director of the Crisis Center), Melody McLean (East End United), and Debra Humphreys (John Gray Memorial).

The supplies were backpacks, lunch kits, water bottles, pencil cases and gift vouchers for the students supported by the Crisis Centre.

These gifts were made possible by donations from members of the nine (9) United Church Congregations in Grand Cayman, coordinated by the MAT member in each congregation.


At the 42nd Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, held in April 2021, the Peace Initiative was introduced. Each Regional Mission Council was asked to identify a project. The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC), at its October 8, 2022, meeting chose the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre as its Peace Initiative project.

“Lord, when

was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” *And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

*Matthew 25: 38-41,
NRSV*

Council News




The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL
invites you to the

INDUCTION SERVICE FOR

Rev. Clement Reid
as Minister for the Davyton
Charge of United Churches

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 AT 4PM
Davyton United Church
Davyton, Manchester



Please support with prayer and presence



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

INDUCTION SERVICE FOR

Rev. Kraig De Leon Diedrick
to the St. Paul's United Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 AT 4:00 PM

St. Paul's United Church
3 Lockett Avenue
Kingston 4



HAPPY

Birthday Greetings



Rev. Roderick Hewitt

AUGUST 30



Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

AUGUST 31



Mrs. Karen Francis

SEPTEMBER 2

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 HOLY SPIRIT CAN GUIDE US AS WE SEEK TO REALIGN OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE OF OUR FAMILY CIRCLE.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Using Faith to transform lives

● Moses' journey as a leader of the transformation intensified when he had the burning bush experience. He was startled by the pronounced call on his life to lead the change. God called Moses into a participatory relationship which is a hallmark of our Reformed Faith. If we are to lead the community, we must participate in God's vision and mission to transform the lives of those entrusted to us.

● The text from Matthew offers us new values – 'For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? Good character is a critical definition of who we are as a Reformed people. In the midst of the chaos in the society, we need to call people to- live righteously.

● What changes can faith and values bring to the education system? How can the Church influence the moral choices students, teachers and parents make? We celebrate our long history of offering a high standard of education to students, but we have an obligation to ensure that the academic process is accompanied by spiritual and moral development.

Let us pray for:

- Pastor Donald West whose mother has recently died.

- A family at East End United which lost their home in a fire recently.

- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards

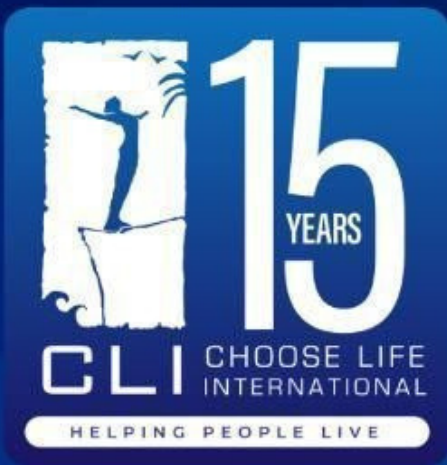
- Rev. Kevin Calvert who has recently lost both grandparents.

- Students who return to institutions of learning in September

- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson

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

- Our preparedness and safety during the hurricane season.



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, M.P.
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



Promoting Research & Development

**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





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

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