



UCJCI UPDATE

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 24

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

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COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION'S TRAINING IN MISSION PROGRAMME OF MISSION TRAINING FOR YOUTH HAS RETURNED TO JAMAICA. READ ABOUT IT ON PAGES 2 AND 3.

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 TRAINING IN MISSION PROGRAMME IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UNITED CHURCH. OVER ITS 42 YEARS' EXISTENCE, TIM HAS NURTURED AND CHALLENGED MANY FROM OUR CHURCH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION OF GOD ACROSS THE WORLD AND ON THEIR DOORSTEPS. AFTER A HIATUS FROM THE CARIBBEAN REGION, TIM HAS RETURNED. THE UNITED CHURCH GIVES THANKS FOR MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY WHO HAVE SERVED IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES, CONGREGATIONS, AND PLACES OF BUSINESS HAVING ENCOUNTERED THE TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES OF GOD'S SPIRIT THROUGH ENGAGEMENT IN MISSION. (PAGES 2 AND 3)



'EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES' IS THE THEME FOR THE CAMPAIGN BY THE LIONS CLUB IN CAYMAN - PAGE 4

THE TRAINING IN MISSION PROGRAMME IS BACK IN JAMAICA



The 2023 TIM participants are from India, Singapore, Myanmar, Madagascar, South Africa, Bangladesh, Samoa, Taiwan and French Polynesia. They are seen here in orientation with Mrs. Jennifer Martin (4th from left), Education in Mission Secretary, Caribbean and North American Council for Mission.

Council for World Mission's premier youth mission training programme is back in Jamaica after some 28 years. A group of seven young adults arrived in Jamaica for six weeks as part of their programme towards the award of a Diploma in Mission Studies.

CWM equips young people for ministry and mission through a 6-month long programme of exposure and engagement in mission in a variety of ways. The programme involves intensive mission training including an action-reflection model of learning. So far over 350 young people from CWM member churches and mission partners have participated over the 42 years of TIM.

Placing emphasis on 'a new practical and radical understanding of what witnessing to Christ means', the programme hinges on the self-understanding of the young people as

"envoys" of the whole CWM fellowship of churches through one member church to another.

THE PROGRAMME

TIM enables exposure and involvement in risk areas of mission in the community. To a great extent, this is the heartbeat of TIM. It is here that all the different elements are drawn together and given concrete expression. The academic element of the programme will focus on Peace-building, Resiliency and Wellness offered through the International University of the Caribbean.

CWM states that, "We are helped to bring about the birth of 'new eyes' and 'new ears', new ways of understanding and of demonstrating solidarity with the joys and sorrows of people. By immersing into the daily struggles of people, we learn about the costliness of mission action. The curriculum design assumes that it is better to risk failure than non-involvement in the daily struggles of people seeking justice, peace and fullness of life".



TIM participants in an orientation session with Mrs. Jennifer Martin (left), Education in Mission Secretary of CWM's sister organisation, Caribbean and North American Council for Mission.

While in Jamaica, the TIM participants will also be exposed to the contexts of ministry of the United Church through the regions in Jamaica. They have spent time in the Western Region and are currently in the North Eastern Region.

THREE MAIN DIMENSIONS TO THE TRAINING IN MISSION LEARNING FRAMEWORK:

- **Study and reflection:** aimed at increasing participants' capacity to identify and understand current mission issues.
- **Work in placements:** aimed at enabling participants to involve themselves with the joys and sorrows of people in local communities and develop action-oriented skills.
- **Group dynamics:** aimed at promoting growth in understanding others and oneself, by living and working with people of other cultures.

WHO CAN BE A PART OF TIM?

TIM is open to young adults with Christian maturity and a sense of adventure and discovery. TIMs are usually emerging leaders, recognised by their denominational churches as having particular potential for serving in mission settings in or on behalf of their home church. TIM is designed to nurture and form missional leaders who will live a mission-oriented life, serving in a variety of capacities in the decades ahead of them. Many TIMs go on to have varied careers in church and mission work or in global development settings.

NEWS FROM CIRMC

“EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES”

This message continues from last week's Update as the issue of Breast Cancer Awareness was tackled by Rev. Rohan Forrester in his message at William Pouchie Memorial United Church on October 15, 2023.

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR STATUS

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years (Mark 5:25 NIV)

This woman's condition meant that she was considered religiously unclean and anyone who touched her would be considered unclean. Her condition meant she could not bear children. Therefore, she lost a lot of the status and respect women had in that society. Some things should not be, but sometimes breast cancer brings a stigma.

Maybe it is the physical toll of chemo and radiation. Maybe it is the appearance of the cancer itself. Some breast cancer patients feel as if folks treat them as if their condition is contagious. Extraordinarily sad are those who would say that your cancer is the result of some kind of sin in your life for which you are being punished or the number of sexual partners we've had or that, if you just had enough faith God would heal you. Breast cancer really brings out some ugly aspects of societal perception of those with breast cancer. These things often challenge and seek to redefine the status and image we portray in society before and after a diagnosis.

One of the products of cancer is the love of relationships. Helping hurting people brings out the best in us. It shakes up our priorities, reminds us that the greatest things in life are not things, but those who are integral to our life and living in community.



Members of the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens in Grand Cayman at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church on October 15, 2023.

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR FINANCES

She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. (Mark 5:26 (NIV))

This verse should not be seen as an indictment against first century doctors. Instead, we should imagine for a moment that they were doing the best they could with what they had and understood various illnesses.

The truth is, medical treatments are expensive, especially cancer. Even if you have good insurance, the out-of-pocket expenses are formidable. Many are not able to mammogram that aids in early detection, because of cost.

NEWS FROM CIRMC CONT'D

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR STRENGTH

She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. (Mark 5:26 NIV)

We should never miss the phrase..." she grew worse." Breast cancer can take away all your physical abilities. It can do a lot of terrible things to us physically. In addition, breast cancer patients know well that in facing their disease they can get worse before they get better.

The effects of chemotherapy and radiation can, at times, seem worse than the disease itself. They would never choose that battle. But they face it daily. It is the greatest physical challenge and stands above other physical, financial, emotional accomplishments of a life.

BREAST CANCER CANNOT TOUCH OUR FAITH

When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." (Mark 5:27-28 NIV) Remember that Jesus affirmed that it was the woman's faith that made her well.

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6a). Let us not get the idea that sickness is due to a lack of faith. The truth is, faith is not the utopia of the mountain top. Faith is moving forward in the grind. It is often in the battle that our faith strengthens.

Eventually this lady died of something. We can cheat death. However, we can only beat death through Christ. It is about maintaining a steadfast faith and trust in God, even when answers to our prayers seem to be delayed. It is about understanding that God's timing is perfect, even when it does not align with our own. The woman in the story exemplifies this kind of steadfast faith and trust in God in Christ.

Despite the delay in her healing, she never lost faith. She continued to believe in the possibility of her healing, and when she heard about Jesus, she saw an opportunity and seized it.

Today, I encourage anyone who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and wondering what to do or begin treatment, do not lose faith. Like the woman in the story, just touch Jesus with your faith.

PARTICIPATE IN THURSDAYS IN BLACK

TAKE A STAND



Wear black on Thursday signifying your stance against violence. Take the opportunity to start a conversation on the topic with someone by explaining why you are wearing black

NEWS FROM CIRMC

LIONS CLUB BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



As the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens continued their Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign, it was time for the East End and Gun Bay United Churches to host the group. The group visited the East End United Church for a joint worship service with Gun Bay United on October 22, 2023.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING 2023



The Women's Fellowship Council team held the Women's Gathering 2023 event at Savannah United Church on October 21, 2023. The theme for the event was: 'Let's Realign Our Worship'. The presenters for the event were WF Chair - Programme & Literature, Ms. Katherine Jackson and the United Church ministers, Rev. Rohan Forrester (Chair of Council), Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Rev. Donovan Myers, and Rev. Euthman Wray.

NEWS FROM CIRMC

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING 2023

The event was open to both men and women, and, in particular, individuals who lead or participate in worship. A total of 40 people attended.

Rev. Wray led the devotion on the topic, 'This is my Worth-ship,' accompanied by the Praise Team and music from Mr. Noel Wallace. Rev. Wray challenged the audience to take a step back and reflect on the basics of our faith and the importance of worshipping God as the One who is worthy.

The Keynote Speaker, Rev. Myers introduced 1 Corinthians 14: 15-16 and summarized worship as 'Action-Reaction-Revelation-Response'. This simple framework helped the audience better understand the dynamic relationship between us and God.

Rev. Mason's training session focused on the role of the 'Liturgist'. He reminded the audience that when given the task of leading the worship, they are not emceeding a concert.

Rev. Forrester conducted the Launching of the Women's Fellowship Devotional Booklets and the training session on 'Leading Prayers.' In summary, we were reminded of the importance of waiting on the Lord and listening to His Spirit in times of silence. He also quoted Ecclesiastic 5:2. We were also reminded of the effectiveness, length, and things to avoid when praying. Most importantly, he encouraged us to be up to date with the news.



Ms. Jackson's training session was on 'Reading The Word.' She reminded us that, as readers of the Word, we are communicators of God and representing the Most High God. Ms. Jackson said that 'Reading the Word' is a profound responsibility and a great privilege.

The audience much appreciated the knowledge shared clearly and engagingly. All the presentations were informative and inspiring. The event was a huge success because all the contributions were immeasurable. The positive feedback from the attendees confirmed they are looking forward to Training Session II.

In summary, the Gathering 2023 was a successful event that provided valuable training and insights to those who conduct or participate in worship. The keynote speech, training sessions, and devotion were informative and inspiring. The event was well received by the attendees, who are looking forward to Training Session II.

REMEMBERING REV. HYACINTH EDWARDS



Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them."

Revelations 14:13 (NRSV)

Thanksgiving Service

**Tuesday
November 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

**Let us gather
in person at Webster
Memorial United Church
53 Half Way Tree Road.
We welcome those who
wish to join online via
the UCJCI YouTube channel**

A Virtual Memorial

**Tuesday
November 7,
2023
6 - 8 p.m.**

**Let us gather online via
Zoom to remember and
celebrate the life of our
sister**

**Meeting ID: 813 8206 0566
Passcode: 411300**

**YOU MAY ALSO LEAVE A WRITTEN TRIBUTE
on UCJCI'S Memorial Page**

<https://letusremember.ucjci.com/memorial.php> ...



THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



THE INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE
CARIBBEAN

LAY LEADERS GRADUATION 2023

THEME:

UPGRADED AND AVAILABLE

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 12,

2023

3:00 p.m.

Hope United Church
Kingston, Jamaica

GUEST SPEAKER

- REV. DR. ORAL THOMAS

PRESIDENT, THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES

**VIRTUAL VIEWING IS ALSO INVITED VIA THE UNITED CHURCH
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**



**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 2024 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

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



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: SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THE CHRISTIAN

5:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 894 9305 3068

PASSCODE: RIDGEMOUNT

Worship Together

PRAYER THEMES FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH TO
USE IN OUR HOMES AND FOR GATHERING IN
OUR CONGREGATIONS

FAN THE FIRE WITH HUMILITY



Rekindling builds on old embers, but it must be a new fire! Just as Moses passed the baton to Joshua, so too we must be prepared to take up the mantle so to speak as we fan the flames of faith until there is a blazing fire. Importantly, we must operate in humility, always remembering that we rely on God and God alone.

JOSHUA 3:7-17
MATTHEW 23:1-12
PSALM 107:1-7,
33-37

We Pray together for

- Rev. Dr. Derik Davidson whose brother died on Wednesday.
- Rev. Sandra Collins, whose mother Mrs. Annette Grant-Foster has died
- Rev. Thomas Phiri, whose father is very ill in Zambia
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who is unwell.
- Miss Sasha-Kay Rutherford (Accounting Clerk, Synod Office), whose uncle suffered a heart attack and has been hospitalized
- Those impacted by the heightened conflict between Israel and Palestine
- Rev. Karlene Thomas-Barnes who is recuperating from illness
- The family, friends and members of the Salem charge at the death of Rev. Hyacinth Edwards.
- Ms. Anissea Bremmer (Human and Mission Resource Manager) whose aunt, Ms. Jackie Reynolds, died.



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!



**MS. ANISSEA BREMMER
NOVEMBER 4**

CONGRATULATIONS!



**REV. DR. MARGARET
DOWNER MESSIAS**

**Successful
doctoral thesis defence**



For Your Health

WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR BREAST CANCER RISK



Do not smoke

Breastfeed



Control your weight

Be physically active



Limit or avoid alcohol

Avoid exposure to radiations



World Health Organization

#Cancer

BREAST CANCER SYMPTOMS



Early diagnosis of cancer generally increases the chances for successful treatment.



Nipples changes



Bloody discharge



Lump in the breast



Change in breast color



Pitting of the breast skin



Breast or nipple pain



World Health Organization

#Cancer

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 for promotion in UCJCI Update.



The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of Synod,

Invites you to the service of

Ordination for

Pastor Donald West

&

Pastor Elce-Junior Lauriston

to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments

*Ridgemount United Church
Thursday, November 09, 2023
2:00 p.m.*

 *YouTube: UCJCI's Channel*



TORRINGTON UNITED CHURCH
2023 HARVEST THANKSGIVING CONCERT

Entitled Choirs in Praise

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023
4:30 PM

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE
CHURCH'S OUTREACH
PROGRAMMES**

Adults : \$1500
Children \$ 500 (at the gate)

TICKET NUMBER:

CARETAKER WANTED

**Torrington United Church and Basic
School require the services of a
CARETAKER.**

**Interested persons, please make contact
with the church,
Monday to Friday between the hours of
9:00 a.m and 3:00 p.m. by calling
876 922-2661 and providing contact
information to Ms. Rowe.**



TORRINGTON UNITED CHURCH

A congregation of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.
Congregational, Disciples of Christ. Presbyterian.

35A Slipe Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica.
Tel: 876-922-2661
Email: torringtonunitedchurch@gmail.com

'RALLY INNA DI YAAD!'

SANTA CRUZ UNITED CHURCH



RALLY OF THE ZONES

THEME: Let Everything that has Breath,
PRAISE THE LORD

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
26, 2023

START TIME 6 PM

VENUE: CHURCH GROUNDS
21 INSTITUTION DRIVE, SANTA CRUZ,

'Wi come ya fi praise di Lawd!'



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