



UCJCI UPDATE

NOVEMBER 8, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 25

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



CHILDREN OF THE KIRK: CHILDREN OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SCOTS KIRK UNITED CHURCH IN KINGSTON PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE AT THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 2023, TO LAUNCH UCJCI'S CELEBRATION OF CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH.

ON THE INSIDE

- CELEBRATING CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH
- NEWS FROM CANACOM
 - GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SENSITIZATION OF MEN
- CELEBRATIONS
 - ACHIEVEMENTS
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES
- UPCOMING EVENTS

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 NEWS IN RECENT DAYS IN JAMAICA HAS SADLY RECORDED THE DEATH OF CHILDREN. AT SUCH TIMES, THE NATION TAKES A SHARP BREATH, THEN THE SOMBER SILENCE IS REPLACED BY CONDEMNATION AND LAMENT. AT TIMES LIKE THESE IT IS HELPFUL TO FOCUS ON THE TASKS WITHIN OUR REACH AND NOT THE MOUNTAIN OF OBSTACLES TO CLIMB. UCJCI TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON CHILDREN IN NOVEMBER BY CELEBRATING CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH. WE ARE ALL URGED TO LOOK TO OUR HOMES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP A CHILD TO FLOURISH. READ THE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE MODERATOR AND CHILDREN'S COMMISSION. (PAGES 2 -4)



CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH FOCUSES ON PEACE IN HOMES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES. PAGES 3 AND 4

'A Safer Environment for our Children'

Message from the Moderator

In the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands November is celebrated as Church School Month.

Boys and girls, leaders of our Church School Ministry at the Congregational, Regional and Synodical level, it is with great joy that I bring you greetings on behalf of the Synod of our church as you celebrate another Church School Month. We celebrate the fact that more of our Church Schools are now meeting compared to the period during COVID 19. Girls and boys, your spiritual and moral development are very important in determining the kind of adult you become, and so, I am encouraging you to ensure that you remain a part of the church and that you invite other boys and girls to join you in Church School. We need better countries, and we believe that you, boys and girls, are critical in helping our countries of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands to be their best.

Work for Peace. Live in Peace.

Your theme – "A Peace We Sey" could never be a better theme chosen at this time. In the Cayman Islands, but more so in Jamaica, violence in various forms is making life difficult for so many people. Many lives have been lost on account of violence; many persons have become wounded or disabled due to violence. We see young children like you, and even younger, losing their lives because of conflicts among adults. So, I am

happy that you, girls and boys, are joining many of us adults who are working for peace. You can make a difference by living in peace with other boys and girls at school, church and within the community.

Protecting our Children

To the adults among us, let us commit to creating a safer environment for our children in our homes, churches, schools and communities; let's allow them to enjoy their childhood and have the opportunity to grow into adulthood. For those who work directly or desire to work directly with our children, as a Synod, we are strongly encouraging you to embrace the "Child Care and Protection Policy" of our Church – ask your Church School Superintendents about this policy.

Cont'd on page 3



A Safer Environment for Children...

Also, we are strongly encouraging you to get a police record as this is a way of declaring that our children are safe with you and that their parents and guardians don't have to worry unnecessarily. Where persons are not able to afford it, we strongly recommend that the cost be borne by their congregation. Our children deserve this assurance and so please give it to them.

Let us remember those piercing words of Jesus, "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matt. 18:6)

So together, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with each of us."

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott
Moderator of the Synod



Children from St. Andrew Scot's Kirk as the congregation launched Church School Month on Sunday November 5, 2023

"A Peace Wi Sey!"

From the Children's Ministry Commission

A Happy Church School Month to you all. In the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands November is celebrated as church school month. This year, we are celebrating under the theme, "A Peace Wi Sey!"

As we focus on this theme, let us reflect on a few questions.

"What is peace?" "What does it look like to not have peace?"

"Does God want us to have peace in our life?"

Sisters and Brothers of our church, we get to be seed Sowers. However, we don't always get to see the impact of the seeds that we've planted. I share with you the parable from Matthew 13: the passage goes on to explain what happened to each seed that was planted. Then, I started thinking about the environments Jesus talked about. There was the path, the rocky place, the thorns, and then the good soil. Which place did the seed grow best? The good soil. Now think of this in terms of a child. A child does not get to choose which home, which family, in which environment they are placed. When they walk through our church's doors, what type of soil are they planted in? rocky or good soil?

As a church family it is our responsibility, to provide a positive environment for our children to grow. The church is a place where we can take these seeds, these babies, preschoolers, and children, and

plant them in rich, good, and nurturing soil. Our Church should be a place where they are loved and known that they are loved, accepted, and understood. A place where they can begin to understand who Jesus Christ is.

It is my fervent prayer that you are all serving and working with children because you see the importance of loving our children and you want God to do big things in our communities and significant things in the lives of these children.

I believe we all desire to see our children bear peace as a fruit of the spirit, to grow into individuals who love Jesus, serve

others, and do good. As such, let us give these children the spiritual foundation that will propel them into peacemakers.

God is and continues to do amazing things in our ministry. If you are willing to be a seed Sower, just put on your spiritual overalls, grab your spiritual spade, and start digging. Let us plant the seed of peace for eternity.

Let us all play our part in creating a more peaceful world, as we transform "Children to Make a Difference for Christ."

Yours in Christ,
Collette Murray Riley
Chair



UCIJCI Children's
Ministry Commission



CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS



FROM CHURCH SCHOOL TO MINISTRY

Rev. Tara Tyme

**A Daughter of Free Hill United
Church in the Western
Regional Mission Council**



HI, IT'S
NOVEMBER



Activities

- 1. Regional Peace Walks**
- 2. Congregational Recognition of Church School Teachers and/ Administrators**
- 3. Congregational Church School Sunday**
- 4. Dynamic Kidz in Action**
- 5. Virtual Synodical Church School Teachers' Conference**

**HAPPY
CHURCH
SCHOOL
MONTH**

For Further Details
Please Contact Your

Regional Mission Council Office



NEWS FROM CANACOM



Sensitisation for Men in Sexual and Gender Based Violence

The Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) hosted a training for men in the community of Castleton, St. Mary to address sexual and gender-based violence.

The objectives of the training were to:

- Provide an increased understanding of Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- Look at some biblical perspectives of gender-based violence.
- Explore how society/societies are affected by sexual and gender based violence
- Learn strategies to cope with and challenge gender-based violence
- Learn/sharpen basic methods of sharing the information learnt with church members and persons from the wider community

There were 12 men of varying ages, with some being members of the church where the training was held, while others were community members. The training was primarily led by Pastor Peter Neil, from the host church, and Elder Damion Pryce, congregant, and respected member of the community, supported by Rowen Johnson wpart of the CANAOM team. Mrs Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary, Mrs Debesha Grant-Roberts United Theological College of the West Indies Student(UTCWI) and Programme Coordinator, and Miss Shelley Ann Brown Administrative Assistant, attended the opening and closing exercises.



NEWS FROM CANACOM CONT'D



The key outcomes from the workshop were:

- Men had an increased understanding of Sexual and Gender Based Violence with 58.3% sharing that their level of knowledge gained was excellent
- Men learnt strategies to cope with and challenge gender-based violence with 66.7% indicating that the content was excellent
- Men learnt/sharpened basic methods of sharing the information learnt with church members and persons from the wider community with 50% stating there was an improvement in their skills to speak to other men on these matters

The training was well-received by the men who participated. They shared that it was a critical discussion to have, given that they must avoid violence in their community, and the training could lead to them saving a life. Most men indicated that their level of knowledge gained was excellent and had significantly improved their skills to speak to other men about sexual and gender-based violence. Areas of discussion such as respecting the rights of a woman, valuing oneself as a man, developing a Christian mindset, and being willing to seek support were key to achieving the outcomes of the workshop. The men recommended that role play, and entertainment could be included to enhance the workshop experience. Moreover, they shared a desire for additional sessions and community meetings given the value of the information shared.

The training will continue to be shared across the UCJCI and other CANACOM Member Churches.

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

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**

**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



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 WISDOM



Like the 5 wise virgins we are expected to exercise sound judgement, because we will need to have a steady supply of oil (the Holy Spirit) to keep our lamps burning until the Bridegroom comes

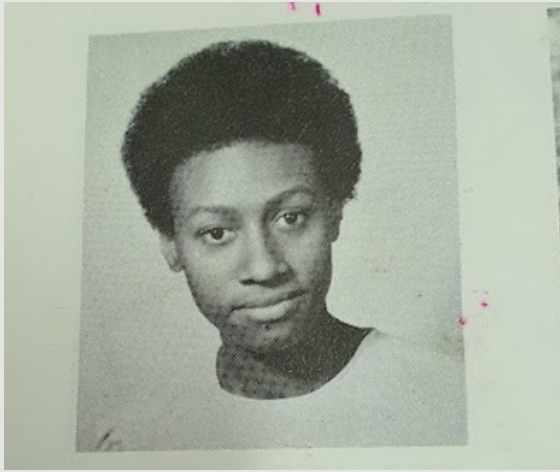
MATTHEW 25:1-13
JOSHUA 24:15-17,
21-25

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.

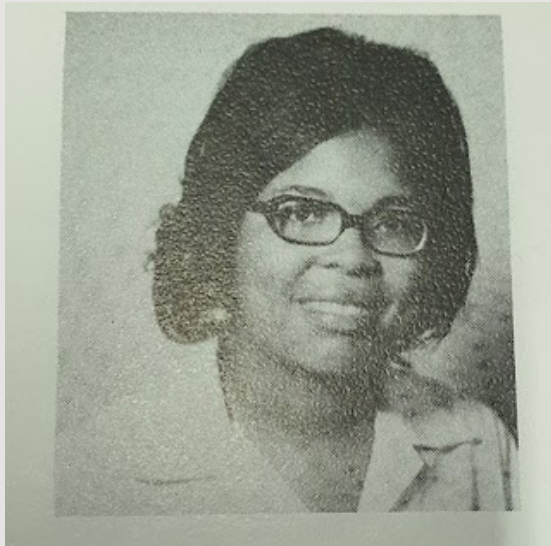


CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SINCE MICO

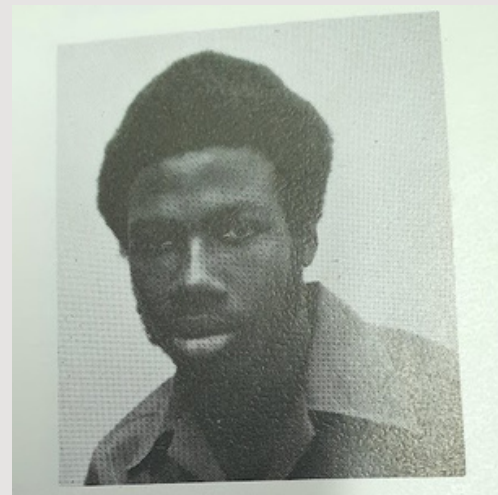


Mrs. Jennifer Martin

Batch 73 of the Mico University College marks its 50th anniversary during the period November 8-12, 2023. There will be a reunion to commemorate this milestone. Among the batch are some members of UCJCI. In particular, we celebrate with roommates Noreen Anderson (Brown), SRMC, and Jennifer P. Bailey (Martin), NERMC. Also, a member of the batch is Jasper Lawrence, WRMC.



Hyacinth Connolley

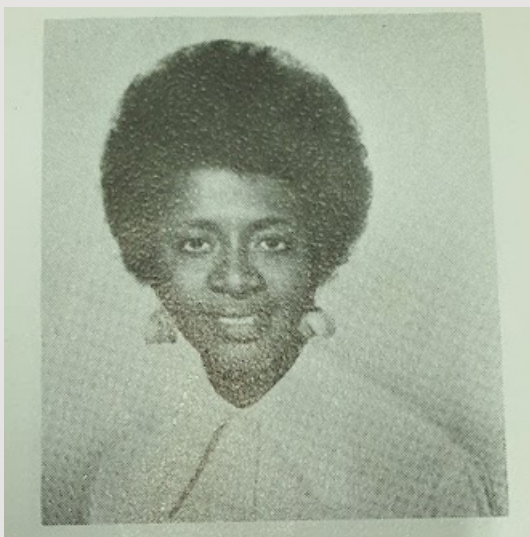


Jasper Lawrence

Sadly, to be named among the departed is Hyacinth Pearson (Connolley), late of CIRMC and roommate of Jennifer and Noreen. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.

The MICO Motto is "Do it with thy might" and the college song calls its daughters and sons in the words of Ecclesiastes 9:10 – "What your hands find to do, do it with all your might." These Miconians have demonstrated their college motto among us.

Blessings and congratulations to you.



Noreen Brown

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.

Meadowbrook United Church



Invites You to join us for

A CONVERSATION ON

“CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY AND THE ISRAELI / PALESTINIAN CONFLICT”

NOV 8, 2023


6:30PM


VIA  zoom

Meeting ID: 882 3148 7638

Passcode: 028540

& MUC  Channel

 www.meadunited.org

 1 876 925 5860 / 1 876 969 6918

Presenter:

REV. DR. RODERICK HEWITT



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*



King's Gate Y.A.A.M
Movement Presents

MARRIAGE MATTERS PART 3

Topic: 'Self-
Introspection'

On Saturday
November 11

6:00 PM
King's Gate United
Church

SPEAKER: REV DR.
DAVE HAZLE

Are your ready to be a wife?

Are you ready to be a husband?



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

King's Gate United Church



invites you to a discussion on:

CONSTITUTIONAL

Reform



WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS?

HOW WILL THESE CHANGES AFFECT US?

Be informed! You can't afford to miss it!



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Presenters:



5:00 pm

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM
THE CONSTITUTIONAL
REFORM COMMITTEE
(CRC)**



Meeting ID: 838 8517 6542

zoom

Passcode: 477698

Moderator:

REV. PAUL PINTO

'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