



UCJCI UPDATE

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 26

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



REV. DONALD WEST BEING ROBED BY THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD, RT. REV. GARY HARRIOTT. (PAGES 2 AND 3)

ON THE INSIDE

- MINISTERIAL FORMATION IN THE UNITED CHURCH
 - HIGHLIGHTS OF ORDINATION SERVICE
 - GRADUATION OF LAY LEADERS
- CELEBRATING CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH
- NEWS FROM CAYMAN
- 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

THIS WEEK THE UNITED CHURCH CELEBRATED IN A BIG WAY. WE WELCOMED NEWLY ORDAINED MINISTERS, REV. DONALD WEST AND REV. ELCE JUNIOR LAURISTON ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9 AND REJOICED WITH 32 LAY LEADERS FROM THE UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE WHO GRADUATED ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12. WHILE OUR JOY MUST BE EXPRESSED AND CONGRATULATIONS OFFERED, MAY WE NOT FORGET OUR ROLE IN PROVIDING THE SUPPORT, ACCOMPANIMENT, PRAYERS AND HELP FOR THESE SERVANTS OF GOD AS THEY DEEPEN THEIR WORK OF MINISTRY. (PAGES 2

-4)



GRADUANDS LINED UP TO ENTER HOPE UNITED CHURCH FOR THE LAY LEADERS' TRAINING GRADUATION CEREMONY. (PAGES 4 AND 5)



THE NEWLY ORDAINED TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENTS IN THE UNITED CHURCH

Revds. Donald West and Elce Junior Lauriston stood before the congregation of members of the United Church on Thursday November 9, 2023 at 3:46 pm as the newest ordained ministers of Word and Sacraments in the United Church.

The dominant theme of the Service of Ordination was: Divine Invitation, Human Response. The gathering participated with songs of joyful celebration, signs of commitment and moments of fellowship. The company of ordained and commissioned ministers, lay pastors, ministerial students along with congregations from which the ordinands candidated and places they served, surrounded the new ordinands with actions and messages of congratulations as

these Lay Pastors faced that momentous occasion. Having heard the story of their journeys to this point, the Moderator of the Synod conducted the Act of Ordination in which they were asked to respond to weighty questions about their commitment to God, belief in the Word, acceptance of the doctrines of the Christian faith, acknowledgement of the government of the United Church, intention to seek unity and peace of the church and declaration of their motivation for engagement in ministry.

“This Ordination is a Big Thing.”

Rev. Anthony Chung was the preacher. He placed Ordination in context stating that, “ The ordinands having expressed that they have heard and answered the call, received and accepted the invitation, and having seen God at work in their lives, are now being affirmed in that position by the church, which is saying, ‘Yes, you can now be set apart for the work for which we believe God has called you’. So then, it is not only the Ordinands who have responded it is also the church. The collective body has said we have perceived that God has called you and we respond by ordaining you. This ordination then, in the mind of the church, is a big thing.



Moderator of Synod robes Rev. Elce Junior Lauriston



Moderator of Synod robes Rev. Donald West.

“Before God and this company, all of you, with God's help we pledge to be always available to be used by God in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our lips and our lives. We pledge to be faithful shepherds of the flock entrusted to our care. We pledge to be examples and influences for good in the local and wider communities as God helps and enables us.”

Rev. Elce Lauriston delivered the response from the newly ordained ministers. Noting that the journey. Noting that over the journey towards the day they became ‘enthusiastically and intensely engaged in ministry and mission activities within and beyond our respective local congregations.’ Describing different aspects as intense and affirming, Rev. Lauriston voiced both their commitments before the gathering of availability, faithfulness and good example.

LAY LEADERS GRADUATE



On Sunday November 12, 2023, 32 members of the United Church graduated from the UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course Module 1. The cohort included members from all regions of the United Church.

The theme, 'Upgraded and Available' provided the backdrop for the celebration of the cohort which graduated. Remarks and greetings from the Moderator of the Synod – Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Chair of the Church and Ministry Committee – Rev. Euthman Wray and Dean of the College of Leadership and Theological Development, a constituent college of the International University of the Caribbean (IUC) – Dr. Joan Reid, all encouraged the graduates to utilise their knowledge and exposure from the programme to add value wherever they serve.



In attendance in person were family members and fellow congregants of the cohort, their ministers, lecturers in the training programme, past graduates and regional and Synodical leadership of the United Church from all regions. Regional Deputy General Secretaries from Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council- Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield, Southern Regional Mission Council – Mrs. Janet McConnell and Western Regional Mission Council – Mrs. Mauleen Henry were in attendance. North Eastern Region was represented by the Chair of Council, Mrs. Jennifer Martin and also present was the Chair of Southern Regional Mission Council, Rev. Anthony Chung. The presence of all regions indicated that the Lay Leaders Training embraces all the geographical regions of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

**“Don’t Show Off
Don’t Engage in a Showdown
Instead Show Up!”**



Guest speaker at the graduation was Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas, President of The United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI). In a memorable challenge to the graduates, he discouraged them from showing off their ‘new knowledge and skills by not ‘showing off’. He urged them to avoid the desire for a ‘showdown’ with others. Neither of these, he said, would

positively impact the lives of others and advance God’s kingdom. However, the newly ‘Upgraded’ lay leaders who made themselves ‘Available’ by ‘Showing Up’ for the work of ministry could significantly contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God.



NEWS FROM CAYMAN REGION



On Sunday, November 5th, the John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay) expressed gratitude to Rev. Donovan Myers for his seven years of exceptional, innovative, and thoughtful service. He was also recognized for his many years of dedication to the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council, the Cayman Prep and High School, and the wider Cayman community. The Congregation commended him for his Christian commitment, leadership, inspiration, creativity, patience, and kindness.

UCJCI CELEBRATES CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH



UCJCI Children's
Ministry Commission

CELEBRATING
OUR CHURCH
SCHOOLS



FROM
CHURCH
SCHOOL
TO
MINISTRY

The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

Many of
the
current
leaders of
the
United
Church
came
through
our
Church
Schools



A Son of Bryce United Church
School in the Southern
Regional Mission Council



RT. REV. GARY HARRIOTT



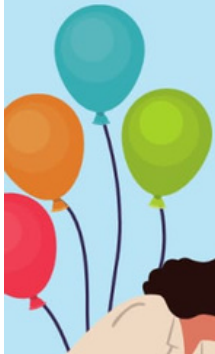
UCIJCI Children's
Ministry Commission

**CELEBRATING
OUR CHURCH
SCHOOLS**



**FROM
CHURCH
SCHOOL
TO
MINISTRY**

Rev. Tamara Smith-Coleman



**A Daughter of Lowe River
United Church School in the
Southern Regional Mission
Council**



**REV. TAMARA SMITH
COLEMAN**

UCJCI CELEBRATES CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH



James Hill United Church

**Thank you to our
teachers and
administrators**



St. Andrew's Scots Kirk



Bryce United Church

UCJCI CELEBRATES CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH

Southern Regional
Mission Council
Andrews Memorial
United Church

**ESSAY:
WHO ARE
PEACEMAKERS?**

Peacemakers are people who resolve conflicts, promote harmony, and seek peaceful solutions. They value empathy, compassion, and understanding. With patience, open-mindedness, and great communication skills, they listen to all involved individuals without judgement.

Peacemakers also strive for justice, equality and human rights. They tear down oppressive systems and promote inclusivity. Anybody can be a peacemaker.

In conclusion, peacemakers actively work to resolve conflicts peacefully by fostering understanding and empathy. They have qualities like patience, open-mindedness and effective communication. True peacemakers seek peace in both personal and broader levels

Written by Chinem Agadaga
Age: 11 years old

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

TRAINING LAY LEADERS - A NEW BEGINNING



MODULES 2 AND 3 ORIENTATION SESSION SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2023 VIA ZOOM

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.

Topics will include:

- Ministry with Children
- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Ministry with Youth
- Communication
- Pioneer Ministries

Both modules will include periods of practicum.

UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE - MODULES 2 AND 3 COMING

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 IN EACH OTHER...



Fan the Fire in each other with integrity, accountability and encouragement: Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is looking, and accountability is about taking responsibility for our actions (or lack of action). Fanning the fire will require that we do the right thing by God's standards, and that we take responsibility for our stewardship. This includes the way we mentor others - allowing them just enough responsibility to grow (but not too much, so they don't falter under the weight) and encouraging them along the way.

1 THESSALONIANS

5:1-11

MATTHEW 25:14-30

JUDGES 4:1-7

We Pray together for



- The United Church family as we mourn the loss of Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke.
- Rev. Anna-Kay Henry-McGreggor and Mr. Roy McGreggor who lost their twins over the weekend.
- The students, teachers, administrators and parents of Meadowbrook High School who experienced a bomb threat
- All schools, institutions and business places impacted by bomb threats in recent weeks. Pray also for the emergency services who respond to these urgent calls.
- Rev. Sandra Collins, whose mother Mrs. Annette Grant-Foster. has died
- The Israeli and Palestinian conflict.
- Ms Anissea Bremmer (Human and Mission Resource Manager) who is unwell.
- 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.
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who is unwell.

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.

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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



5:00 PM



Meeting ID: 838 8517 6542

zoom

Passcode: 477698

MODERATOR

REV. PAUL PINTO

PRESENTERS

**Honourable Marlene Malahoo Forte,
KC, JP, MP
Chairman CRC**

**Senator Hon. Thomas Tavares-Finson,
OJ, CD, KC
President of the Senate and Commissioner
of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica**

**Mr. Anthony Hylton, CD, MP
Parliamentary Opposition -
House of Representatives**

**Mr. Hugh Small, KC
Consultant Counsel and Nominee of
the Leader of the Parliamentary
Opposition**

**Dr Elaine McCarthy, Chairperson
Jamaica Umbrella Groups of Churches (JUGC)**



International University of the Caribbean (IUC)
in collaboration with the
University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
presents



Public Lecture 2023

TOPIC

‘Good Governance, Democracy & Public Trust’

Presenter: Professor R. Simangaliso Kumalo
Dean of the School of Religion & Philosophy
University of KwaZulu-Natal

Under the distinguished patronage of
THE MOST HON.
PERCIVAL JAMES PATTERSON

Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Hope United Church
221 Old Hope Road; Kingston 6
4:00 - 6:00 p.m

Join us on IUC's YouTube channel for the live presentation

*Our
minds*



*Our
rights*

HOPE UNITED CHURCH HOSTS A CONVERSATION WITH
DR. NAVESHA DUNCAN-SERGILE ON

MENTAL HEALTH: OUR RESPONSIBILITY



AM I TOO
YOUNG?

ARE WE
TOO
OLD?



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH 2023 @4:00PM
IN THE CHURCH HALL, 221 OLD HOPE ROAD
CONTACT: 876-927-2909/ HOPEUNITED@CWJAMAICA.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!'



ST. ANDREW'S
SCOTS KIRK
UNITED CHURCH

Under the Distinguished Patronage of the
Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte
Presents

MUSICAL OASIS

43 A DUKE STREET, KINGSTON
SUNDAY, DEC 3, 2023
STARTING @ 4:00 PM

FEATURING:

**Kevin
Downswell**

Dwight Richards

Roy Rayon

Backed by:

**DESI JONES
BAND**

OTHER PERFORMANCES BY:

- Raheem Vassell
- Calvin (Bubbles) Cameron
- Everton Pessoa
- Ozou'ne Sundalyah
- Amelia Afflick
- Samantha Thompson

MC: OWEN "BLAKAA ELLIS



CONTRIBUTION
\$3,000

TICKET OUTLET:
Fontana, Barbican

For more information
telephone: 876-922-1818



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