



UCJCI UPDATE

JANUARY 17, 2024 VOL. 12 NO. 1

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

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SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AND EDUCATION - KINGSGATE UNITED (READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 6)

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 - CAN THESE DRY BONES LIVE?

THIS IS THE QUESTION CONTEMPLATED IN THE WELL-KNOWN PASSAGE EZEKIEL 27 V. 3 IT IS THE VERY QUESTION BEING FACED BY UCJCI AS NERMCM EMBARKS UPON A MISSION OF RESTORATION AND REVIVAL IN THE ST. CATHERINE COMMUNITY OF CEDAR VALLEY. READ THE BEGINNINGS OF A JOURNAL OF MISSION AS WE TRACK THE EFFORTS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS MISSION ENDEAVOUR. NOTABLY, IT IS THE COMMUNITY WHICH HAS INVITED THE CHURCH TO REVIVE THE WORK. WHAT BETTER SOURCE OF BECKONING COUPLED WITH THE COMMISSION OF CHRIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES? ONCE AGAIN, AS A UNITED CHURCH WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION- TOUCHING LIVES, NURTURING DISCIPLES, SEEKING TRANSFORMATION THROUGH CHRIST.



THE CEDAR VALLEY MISSION. (PAGE 3)



**SYNOD
LEADERSHIP
ANNOUNCES THE
DEATH OF 102
YEAR-OLD
RETIRED UCJCI
MINISTER**

REMEMBERING REV. HERBERT REDWAY SNR.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our beloved brother, Rev. Herbert Redway Sr., transitioned this life last evening at home. He celebrated his 102nd birthday in October 2023.

He was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the former Congregational Union of Jamaica in 1951, having completed his probationary period in the Shortwood and North Street congregations. In the same year he was inducted as pastor to the James Hill Charge in Clarendon.

In 1953 Rev. Redway and his family, set out for British Guiana, as Guyana was then known, for service in the Arundel Congregational Church, in the community of Buxton. They returned to Jamaica in 1957. He then served in the Four Paths Charge and played a significant role in the establishment of the Denbigh Congregation.

In 1959 he was called to serve in the Davyton Charge and after a fruitful period of ministry, his next place of service commenced in 1965, in the Brownsville Charge. He was inducted in the St. Paul's Montego Bay Charge in 1974 until his retirement in 1988.

Post-retirement, he provided pastoral support as an interim minister in the Mt. Zion and Hampden Charges and played an important role in the early development of the Lilliput Congregation.

Rev. Redway was a stalwart of the faith, an effective preacher, a dedicated pastor, a friend, and counsellor. Rev Redway was known for his passion for young people, music, supported in large measure by his wife of blessed memory Linette, his humility, and generosity of spirit. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, particularly his immediate and extended family. We also surround the St. Paul's United Charge and the Western Regional Mission Council with our prayers and condolences at this very tender time.

*A Journal of
Mission*

CEDAR VALLEY



**RESPONSE TO
GOD'S INITIATIVE**

The North Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC) has embarked upon a journey in mission with the community of Cedar Valley. In 2022, the region committed to the revival of ministry in the area through the Cedar Valley United Church in the Carron Hall Charge and to do so through the collective effort of the entire region.



God is undoubtedly at work in the world. God's gift of Jesus Christ to the world as a means of reconciling relationship with us is a clear indication of love and commitment and Jesus' declaration in 'I have come that they might have life...abundance' affirms God's initiative towards human beings.

As believers we have the privilege of joining in God's mission and by choosing to participate in the ministry of reconciliation we respond to God's love and initiative towards us.

Motivated by God's initiative of mission, NERMC set about organising itself through a number of actions and activities to accomplish the vision of a revived ministry through the Cedar Valley United Church. The first visit in a process of spiritual mapping took place on February 16, 2022, led by the Council's vice chair for Evangelism, Rev. Lembe Sivile.

SPIRITUAL MAPPING

Chair of NERMC, Mrs. Jennifer Martin reported, "The team (Cedar Valley Mission team) truly felt that God had prepared the community for the visit. The community walk revealed a strong interest in the rebirth of Cedar Valley. Above all, a community member who had grown up in the church, presented the group with the Pulpit Bible which he had protected" despite the demise of the building and the ministry.

Vice-Chair, Evangelism, Rev. Lembe Sivile explained spiritual mapping. "Seeking to understand the dynamics of the context by studying the layout of the community and that which defines life and living". He explains that Cedar Valley is a community of farmers, is affected by alcohol and drug use (ganja smoking). There is a prevalence of health issues which may relate to more than physical circumstances. "We identified spiritual areas on which intercessor prayer should be focussed before other intervention". His description included elements of context-reading and a mission audit.

PLANNING EARLY ACTIVITIES

The team developed a plan to revive the mission. Between April 2023 and January 2024, the team has attempted to mobilise the region to take practical action. In February 2023, the mission was officially launched at the Ash Wednesday Day of Fellowship with an ingathering of an offering to fund the mission. Vice Chair, Children and Youth (NERMC), Mrs. Karen Ann Harris McLean reported that in July 2023, in collaboration with the Cedar Valley Primary School, a combined Summer School and Vacation Bible School was held. At its largest, there were 26 children in attendance. The approach of combining a Summer School and VBS arose from collaboration with the Primary School in accord with the needs of the community for improvement in literacy and numeracy. Human resources were offered by Carron Hall and Mannings Hill United churches. To maintain our

context, the team visit on Saturday

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TASK ASSIGNMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Promotion

A promotional video was produced in December 2023 and circulated in the region and updates have been provided to NERMC Council meetings.

Programme of Activities

•**Virtual intercession** - To set the spiritual tone for the mission assignment 8th, 15th & 22nd February 2024. Coordinated by Siltown Townsend.

•**Community Walk** - in preparation for crusades 24th of February 2024 To spiritually engage the context and promote the crusades.

•**Crusades** - will run from the 26th February to the 8th of March 2024. Seven strategic community places were identified for crusades. All the crusades will be conducted in the community in partnership with mostly shop owners – a more cost-effective and collaborative approach. To energize the community for the revival cedar Valley mission.

•**Inaugural Service** - 10th March is set as the day for the official opening of the Church. The school will be used for our inaugural service and at least for the first one year.

•**On-going services** - A revised schedule of the Congregations and ministry groups participation in the building up program is ready for sharing. 31st March to 11 August



RESOURCING

- Funding - the proceeds of the Ash Wednesday Service for 2024 will be directed again towards the Cedar Valley Mission.
- The Lay Pastor specifically for the Cedar Valley mission will help with consistent administrative and Pastoral support.
- All the congregation evangelism leaders to be encouraged to join the Cedar Valley mission team.

Prayers and participation are welcome as the UCJCI seeks to expand the Kingdom of God.

Launch of the Kathleen Rainford Church School Award

A Legacy of Supporting Youth and Education



Mr. Norman Rainford made an initial donation of \$255,000.00. This was received by Rev. Garwell Baacchas, Minister of the Kingsgate charge.

Terms of Award

On a quarterly basis one student will be given \$10,000.00-cash and a \$5000 book voucher.

The award will be given to students based on Punctuality, Participation, Attendance and Conduct

On Sunday January 14,2024 the launching of the Kathleen Rainford Church School Award took place at King's Gate United Church.

Who was Kathleen Rainford?

Kathleen Rainford Aunty Pam was an active and dedicated member of KingsGate Church School for over 20 years. She was very involved and participated in all the activities of church school. She played many roles during her time as a teacher including that as counselor, nurse and advisor.

Her love for her students was evident as she was not only concerned about their spiritual development but also cared about their personal and academic development. Aunty Pam would be disturbed by and concerned with children who were indisciplined or had behavioural issues and wondered how they performed in school. She believed in encouraging excellence in performance among the students and would always provide incentives in the form of cash or kind. Her generosity went beyond the walls of KingsGate to several students in High Schools.

It was through her initiative that the student of the quarter was given \$5000.00 in cash and \$5000.00 book voucher.

Aunty Pam was a mentor to many other teachers who were guided by her. She was a stickler for time and was never late.

Her impact was great and her memories will live on.

The next presentation will be 2nd Sunday in April - Youth Sunday

No child will be given the award more than two times. The award will be given to students based on **Punctuality, Participation, Attendance** and **Conduct**. The learning of memory verse and the taking of Bibles to church will also be taken into consideration.

At the end of the quarter the points will be tallied and the student with the highest number of points will be given the award. A child can earn up to 6 points on a Sunday).



Mr Milton Rainford, Kathleen's widower was present.



Mr Norman Rainford, addressed the congregation.

We thank the Rainford Family for continuing the legacy of Aunty Pam.

PREPARING TO SERVE

There are many opportunities to participate in mission through the United Church by serving in congregations and communities. The Training of Lay Persons for leadership is one of the ways the United Church seeks to carry out the Great Commission.



The UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course provides training to engage in the Mission of God

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MODULE 2

TRAINING BEGINS
THIS SATURDAY

Deadline for
payments
January 30,
2024

TRAINING VIA ZOOM IS
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JANUARY
20, 2024

JOIN IN THE TRAINING VIA SPECIALIZED LEADERSHIP AND LAY PASTORS PATHWAYS

If you have completed Module 1 and desire to continue training to serve your church through key ministries, the UCJCI Lay Training Institute invites you to undertake **Specialized Leadership Training Pathway in Module 2**. If you desire to offer yourself for service as a Lay Pastor and have completed Module 1, you are further required to do Modules 2 and 3 and should undertake the **Lay Pastors Training Pathway**.

SPECIALISED LEADERSHIP TRAINING PATHWAY

- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
- YOUTH MINISTRY
- YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
- EVANGELISM MINISTRY
- DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
- COMMUNICATION MINISTRY
- PIONEER MINISTRY (MINISTRY WITH SPECIAL GROUPS)

Choose **one** of these ministries in which to specialise and pursue additional foundation topics and electives

LAY PASTORS TRAINING PATHWAY

- Basic Homiletics
- Ministry in Community
- Old and New Testament Survey
- Administering the Sacraments
- Duties and Responsibilities of a UCJCI Pastor and Pastoral Ethics
- Self-care and Sustaining Effective Ministry

These areas will be covered in addition to foundation topics.

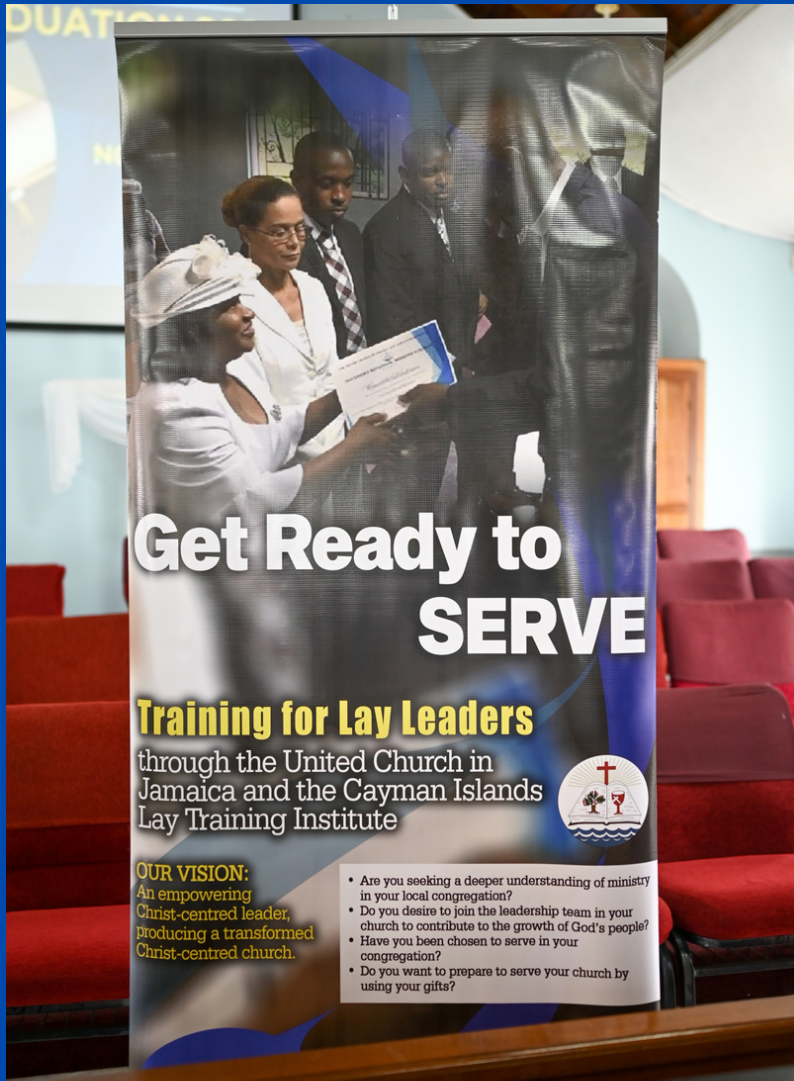
Cost of Training: \$10,000 for Specialised Leaders and \$12,000 for Lay Pastors.

Individuals may choose not to do the whole module but to audit a topic i.e. attend class without doing assessments. In that case the cost per topic is \$1500. Payments should be made to Council offices

COMING SOON!

MODULE 1

MARCH TO SEPTEMBER



The UCJCI Lay Training Institute will offer another round of Module 1 training in March 2024. This first level of training in the UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course provides base training for persons willing to serve in the United Church and is a requirement for those who will serve as elders.

More information available soon!

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NEWS FROM CAYMAN

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, during the morning worship service, members of the Savannah United Church (SUC) and the Elmslie Memorial United Church (EMU) witnessed the commissioning of new Elders and the recommissioning of re-elected Elders



Savannah United

At the Savannah United Church, three new Elders were Commissioned, and three re-elected Elders were recommissioned by Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Congregations

Elmslie Memorial

At the Elmslie Memorial United Church, two new Elders were Commissioned, and two re-elected Elders were recommissioned by Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Minister of the Congregation. May God grant them and all our Elders in our Congregations far and wide guidance and wisdom in carrying out their duties, make them an example of faith and selfless service, and bless them in their posts.



JOIN ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES

IN UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONS

TOPIC

St. Paul's Lockett Avenue and North Street United

WEDNESDAYS – 6 :00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 850 369 0667
Passcode: 3eEM4L

**DEFENDING
THE FAITH**

TOPIC

Meadowbrook United

WEDNESDAYS VIA ZOOM – 6:00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 862 8088 4128
Passcode: 026309

**THE
BEATITUDES**

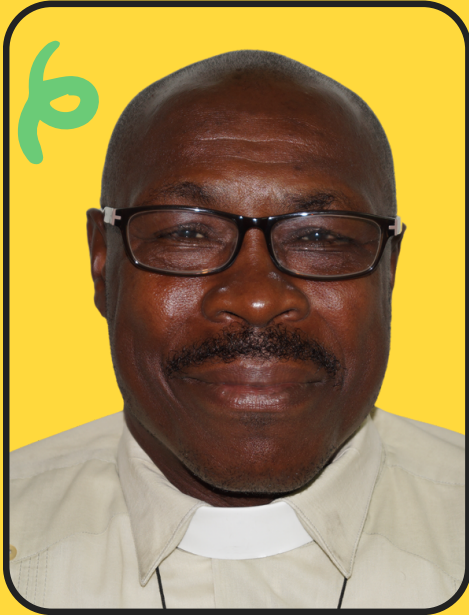
**Can we work together to bring the Word to
those who are thirsting for it?**

**Let's reach beyond our communities by sharing access
information to our online bible studies.**

**Ministers and Lay Pastors, if you want to participate,
please send Topic, Date of Studies and access
information to ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com**



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



JANUARY 17

REV. RANFORD HEWITT

JANUARY 19



MRS. CARLENE ANDRADE

JANUARY 20



REV. NIGEL PUSEY

LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

**3RD SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY**

God's greatest desire is that all might be saved. One of our tasks as believers, who have the END in Sight, is to share the Good News of God's Kingdom. In the face of crime, violence, devalued currency, property values, and brokenness all around, we have a responsibility to invite others into true repentance, with God (and not materialism) as our focus.



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

**EVANGELISM –
CALLING OTHERS
TO TRUE
REPENTANCE**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Amazing Grace

Let us Pray Together

LET US PRAY FOR

- The family of late Rev. Herbert Redway Snr. who died this past week.
- Rev. Obren Thomas and other members of the family of the late Rev. Ellen Thomas who died this past week.
- Pastor Peter Neil who recently lost his grandmother.
- Professor Roderick Hewitt who lost a brother
- Ministers of the United Church who are suffering illness
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karlene Thomas Barnes



Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.
From the ends of the
earth I call to you,
I call as my heart
grows faint;
lead me to the rock
that is higher than I.

Psalm 61: 1-3



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA
AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ZOOM?



THE UCJCI LAY
TRAINING INSTITUTE IS
IN NEED OF TECHNICAL
SUPPORT FOR LIVE
CLASSES IN MODULE 2
OF THE LAY LEADERS
TRAINING

ARE YOU
INTERESTED IN
EARNING?

ARE YOU
AVAILABLE?

LIVE CLASSES WILL BE
HELD 1ST AND 3RD
SATURDAYS
9 AM - 12 NOON

Please contact:

Mrs. Sheryl Knibb Chung
Lay Training Administrator
via email

ucjci.sheryl.chung@gmail.com
or WhatsApp
876 8818783

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.



UCYAAM SYNODICAL CHURCH SERVICE

VENUE: BOULEVARD UNITED CHURCH

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 21, 2024**

STARTS AT 9:30AM



**MINISTER
REV. NIGEL PUSEY**

Theme:

ALIVE! CHRIST CENTERED, LIFE FOCUSED , LIFE GIVING



United Church Young People's Fellowship

CIRMC

SRMC

NERMC

WRMC

SYNODICAL SPORTS DAY

"Resilient Youths Reignite with Purpose"

Noranda Sports Complex

Saturday February 10, 2024 at 8:00am



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)

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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