



# UCJCI UPDATE

MARCH 6, 2024 VOL. 11 NO. 7

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

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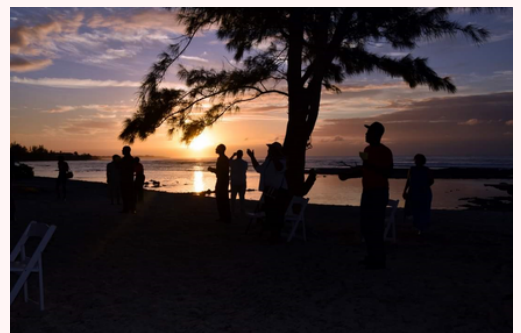


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UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE DENOMINATION, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN REGIONS, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

## THE LENTEN SEASON

AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT I RECOMMEND INTROSPECTION THROUGH THE PARADIGM OF FASTING AND FEASTING. AN EXCERPT FROM A POEM BY WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD PROVIDES A USEFUL EXAMPLE:

FEAST ON ENCOURAGEMENT,  
FAST FROM BITTERNESS,  
FEAST ON FORGIVENESS;  
FAST FROM SELF-CONCERN;  
FEAST ON COMPASSION;  
FAST FROM SUSPICION;  
FEAST ON TRUTH;  
FAST FROM GOSSIP;  
FEAST ON PURPOSEFUL SILENCE



LENT IS A TIME OF  
INTROSPECTION

**LENTEN FEATURE**

# **THE DANIEL FAST**



**BY REV. OTTO MENKO**

During the Season of Lent, many Christians engage in various forms of fasting, prayer, and reflection as part of their observance. One popular fasting practice is the Daniel Fast, inspired by the biblical account of Daniel in the Old Testament (Daniel, chapter 1). The Daniel Fast typically lasts for a specific period, often 21 days, though the duration may vary.

Participants in the Daniel Fast abstain from certain types of food, including meat, dairy, sugar, and processed foods. Instead, they focus on a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, and water. This practice and other forms of fasting serve as a spiritual discipline. Those undertaking the Daniel Fast aim to cultivate a closer relationship with God through prayer and self-discipline.

In addition to its spiritual significance, the Daniel Fast also serves as a moderate form of dietary cleansing, contributing to overall health and well-being. This dual purpose makes the Daniel Fast a meaningful and wholesome approach for those seeking both spiritual and physical benefits during the Lenten season.

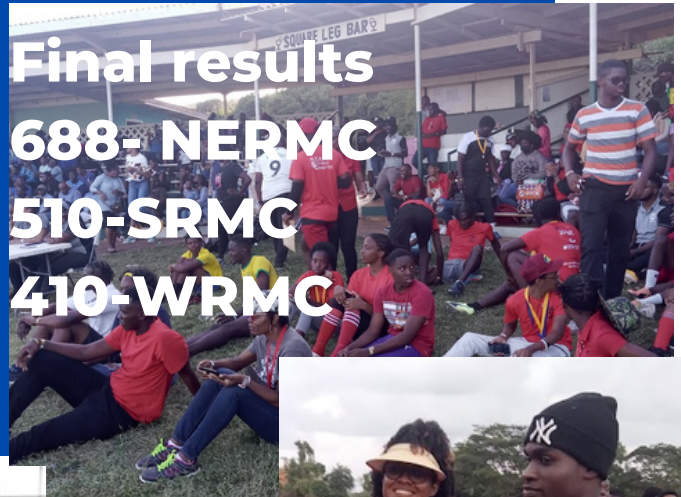
# SCENES FROM SPORTS DAY

The United Church Young People's Fellowship (UCYPF) held their sports day on February 10, 2024. The trophy was returned to the NERMC after heavily contested games at the Noranda Sports complex in Discovery Bay. Here are scenes from the day.

## NERMC winners lift the 1st place trophy



Final results  
688- NERMC  
510-SRMC  
410-WRMC



WRMC - 2nd place in Cheerleading competition



A proud moment of celebrating achievement.

Well done to the Synodical Youth Executive for your hard work in the successful planning and execution of our Synodical Sports Day!

# NEWS FROM CAYMAN

## BAKE SALE AT WEBSTER MEMORIAL

The Women's Fellowship of the Webster Memorial United Church in Bodden Town held a bake sale on Saturday, February 24, 2024, to raise funds for the expenses of the upcoming 170th Anniversary Celebrations scheduled for May 2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who baked a wide selection of delicacies such as cakes, cupcakes, biscuits, breads, and cookies and those who assisted with the sales.



Women's Fellowship bake sale

## ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS



Workshop for leaders

The Deputy Chairs and Congregational Secretaries gathered together on Wednesday evening, February 7, 2024, at the Council Office for a workshop and the Annual Examination of Congregational Records.

The workshop was conducted by the Acting Deputy General Secretary of the CIRMC, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield. The examination included the Minutes of Congregational Board Meetings, Minutes of Congregational Meetings, Members' Lists and Logbooks.

## COMBINED YOUTH GROUP MEETING



Youth  
together in  
Cayman

On Friday, February 23, 2024, sixty young people from our nine Congregations gathered for the first CIRMC Combined Youth Group Meeting of 2024 at the John Gray Memorial Church in West Bay. Our Youth Ministers led the evening, Mr. Roy McGregor (Elmslie Memorial), Mrs. Jusan Hamilton-Lewis (John Gray Memorial), Ms. Camile Watt (Savannah United), and Mrs. Itza Bodden (East End and Gun Bay United), supported by several volunteers from our Congregations. The event was filled with plenty of fun, food, and fellowship.

## ANNUAL GIRL'S BRIGADE TEA PARTY

The 14th Annual Girls' Brigade National Council Tea Party was held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at Mr. Handeland Audrey Whittaker's residence in Frank Sound, depicting the theme "Pretty in Pink." Over 120 girls and adults attended the festive occasion.



Pretty  
in Pink

The event was a great success. Special thanks to the gracious hosts and all those who planned, facilitated and contributed to this memorable afternoon

# ECUMENICAL NEWS –

## WCC and the Roman Catholic Church in Joint Effort



A Joint Working Group has been established to support a growing partnership that benefits all programmatic areas of the World Council of Churches (WCC) of which the UCJCI is a part.

According to the WCC website: :The Roman Catholic Church is the largest, by far, among those churches that are not members of

the WCC. Cooperation between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC continues to grow across all aspects of the WCC's work for a common Christian witness and service. The Joint Working Group, co-sponsored by the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church, is an effective tool to strengthen this cooperation.

Rev. Dr Yvette Noble Bloomfield, one of UCJCI's representatives to WCC is a member of the Joint Working Group.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to facilitate a deeper understanding among participants through personal introductions, as well as sharing insights into their respective work and ministries. Continuing participants reflected on the recent history of the Joint Working Group.

The meeting also included updates on recent activities of the parent bodies, ensuring participants were informed about ongoing initiatives and priorities. Core discussions centered on the future work of the group, which also approved the Terms of Reference 2024-2030, which will guide the work of the current mandate.



**World Council  
of Churches**

## CWM CARIBBEAN PRE-ASSEMBLY



THE CARIBBEAN REGION OF COUNCIL FOR  
WORLD MISSION WILL GATHER FOR THEIR  
PRE-ASSEMBLY MARCH 11-15, 2024 IN  
KINGSTON

The two member churches which comprise the CWM Caribbean region - Guyana Congregational Union (GCU) and The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) - will meet to discuss challenges and share stories, ideas and insights.

The pre-assembly agenda will also include orientation and preparation of delegates to participate in the CWM Assembly scheduled for June 2024 in South Africa where they will meet with all other regions of CWM. UCJCI will be represented by Rev. Anthony Chung, Mrs. Michelle Ashwood Stewart Mr. Markel Virgo and Ms. Trifener Reid

Guided by the theme: RISE TO LIFE: TOGETHER IN TRANSFORMATION, the pre-assembly participants will spend time in worship, reflecting on thematic presentations, discussions and bible study. The Keynote Address will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas, President of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI).

**20 CWM  
24 Assembly**



**RISE TO LIFE:  
TOGETHER  
IN  
TRANSFORM-  
ATION**



H A P P Y  
I N T E R N A T I O N A L  
W O M E N ' S  
Day



MARCH 8

Every woman finds her true source of strength, resilience, and empowerment deeply rooted in Christ. It is only through Jesus Christ and His resurrection power that she overcomes challenges, fulfills every duty, and becomes the person that God has created her to be.

-Scriptural Grace





# WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS

Towards a world  
without rape and violence

## THURSDAYS IN BLACK



## THURSDAYS IN BLACK

Towards a world  
without rape and violence



#ThursdaysinBlack



# JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

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



**FOCUS FOR THE MONTH:**

## **DEEPENED FAITH**

**JESUS: HIGH & LIFTED UP; PROPHET & FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY**

**4th Sunday in Lent**

It is hard to see/understand a God Who sends serpents to punish the Children of Israel for their disobedience, as a God of Love. But serpents appearing out of nowhere could be God's punishment, as well as it could be the consequence of their vituperative actions (their words were poisonous as viper's fangs) and so, Moses' serpent was necessary for the people's healing.

Jesus' reference to the bronze serpent in the wilderness was not so much about venerating the serpent as it was about helping Nicodemus, a theologian and scholar, to understand that Jesus is The Ultimate Saviour and in Him is healing from sin for all eternity. The lifting of the serpent on a pole has two significant messages for us today.

1.The serpent on the pole was higher than everything else, and thus visible to all. For healing grace to be effected upon the Children of Israel therefore, they needed only to look up. And by looking up, they could get up. and have access to God's grace that heals our unrighteousness, and replaces the need/tendency to worship idols.

2.Jesus may have been alluding to the cross - it is only in His death, resurrection, and ascension that Jesus is proven Lord and Saviour of ALL. His crucifixion, outside the city, on a pole on a hill was intended to be a public warning for the Jews of the day, yet Jesus turned all that upside down because He literally was placed in the 'highest' point to offer salvation to any who looked at Him and believed.

Many are still locked in unbelief and fail to see the glorified Jesus. Yet, whenever we fall prey to the sting of the serpent's temptation, we need only remember God's abiding love in Jesus Christ and look up (to Him) so we will be able to get up.

## **LET'S WORSHIP TOGETHER IN MARCH**

Enabling people to grow in the depth of their understanding of God, Jesus and the Church (The Divine Personhood of Jesus)

### **SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

John 3:14-21

Ephesians 2:1-10

### **SUGGESTED HYMNS**

O for a Closer Walk with God  
Just for Me (Jesus Came and did it Just for Me)

Lord I lift Your Name on High  
My Song is Love Unknown

Rock of Ages

As Moses raised the Serpent Up  
We Fall Down, (But We Get Up)

# A Call to Prayer and Fasting



Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott  
Moderator of the Synod, UCJCI

Brothers and sisters in the United Church family  
are invited to  
**PRAY FOR CONVOCATION**

**Every Wednesday  
March 13 to May 1**

If able, please fast all day Wednesday; if not able to do so  
consider fasting up to midday

Pray for the witness of UCJCI in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

## Let us Pray Together

### WE PRAY FOR

- Mrs. Karen Francis who lost her brother-in-law, Dr. Wigmoore Francis, recently.
- Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts, UCJCI ministerial student at UTCWI, who lost her grandfather - Headley Sutherland.
- Mrs. Carlene Andrade, Programme Assistant SRMC who lost her dad - Duncan Powell.
- Joel Kong, young son of Rev. Rohan and Stephanie Kong. The family remains in need of supportive prayer.
- Rev. Clement Reid who lost his uncle, Telford Norman, and his brother-in-law, Norbert McPherson.
- The family of late Rev. Herbert Redway Snr.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing illness
  - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
  - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



**The Lord is near to  
the brokenhearted  
and saves the  
crushed in spirit.**

*Psalm 34: 18*

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# Good Friday Offering

**My sisters and brothers,**

**Lenten Greetings.**

**As is customary, the UCJCI seeks to invite individuals and congregations to make a special and sacrificial contribution to church development in the form of the Good Friday Offering. We are extremely grateful to the congregations which have consistently contributed to this offering thereby helping to expand the ministry of the UCJCI.**

**For 2024 congregations all across the church are invited to draw alongside the James Hill Congregation in the SRMC and assist this congregation in replacing its roof (see pictures attached).**

**The estimate for the roof replacement is J\$2 million Dollars. The congregation has one quarter of that amount in hand. We are therefore trying to raise the minimum amount of J\$1.5M.**

**Please remit the amounts collected or individual contributions to the following account:**

**Bank: National Commercial Bank – Duke Street Branch, Kingston Jamaica**

**Account: United Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands**

**A/C #: 234297430**

**Type of A/C: Savings**

**As we give, let us pray to the God of plenty to multiply our efforts and bless this ministry.**

**Blessings**

**Rev. Norbert Stephens – General Secretary, UCJCI**



# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

*Happy Birthday*



**REV. DR. YVETTE NOBLE  
BLOOMFIELD**

**March 8**



**MRS. JENNIFER MARTIN**

**March 9**



**REV. J. OLIVER DALEY**

**March 10**



**REV. EGBERT HARVEY**

**March 11**



World Communion  
of Reformed Churches



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) is accepting applications for its internship programme, particularly from individuals interested in communications and administration.

**Applications are due by 15  
March 2024.**

# APPLICATIONS FOR EXTENDED INTERNSHIPS INVITED

- **COMMUNICATIONS**
- **ADMINISTRATION**

The two positions available in 2024—one beginning in July and the other in September—will be for 16 months, with both interns serving through the next General Council, to be held in Chiang-Mai, Thailand, in October 2025.

The programme is open to English-speaking individuals of WCRC members who are aged 30 or younger, including ministers, seminarians, or Christian professionals with an interest in working for their churches or the ecumenical movement at any level. Women and individuals from the Global South are particularly encouraged to apply.

# 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](mailto:citc@gmail.com) for promotion in UCJCI Update.



The United Church  
in Jamaica and the  
Cayman Islands

**Calling Men,  
Women, Youth,  
Children**

# **CEDAR VALLEY COMMUNITY CRUSADES!!!**

Theme:

## **MISSION TO RESCUE**

### **Where?**

- ✓ **Feb 28** - ST. JOHN TOWN
- ✓ **Feb 29** - REDWOOD SQUARE
- ✓ **March 1** - JUBILEE SQUARE
- ✓ **March 2** - DOVER CASTLE SQUARE
- ✓ **March 3** - MS SPENCER'S SHOP,  
CEDAR VALLEY
- ✓ **March 4 - 9** CEDAR VALLEY SQUARE

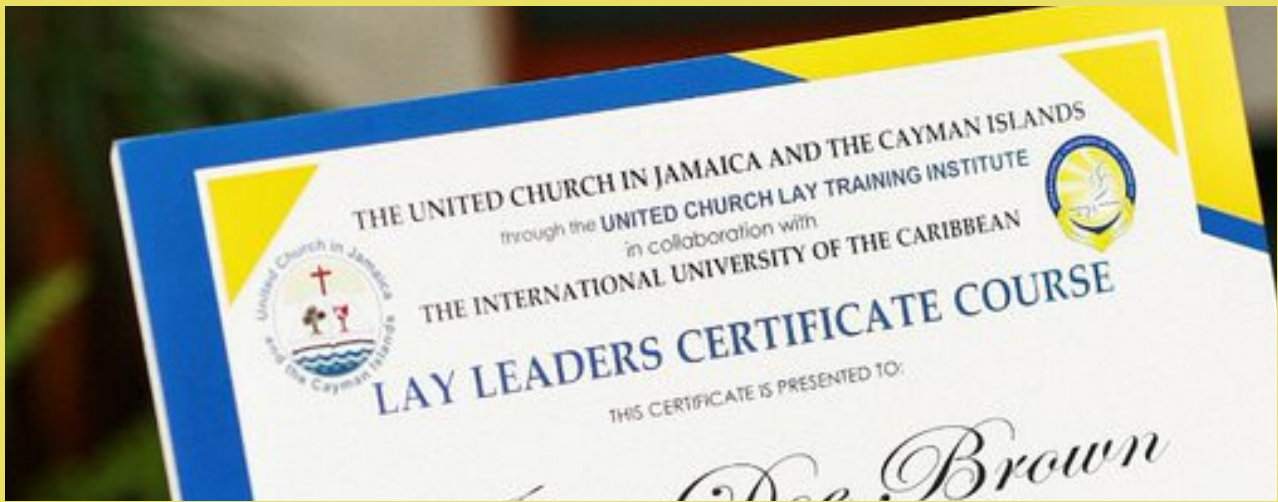
**6:30 EACH EVENING**

**February 28 - March 9, 2024**

**COME HEAR  
GOD'S WORD  
FOR SALVATION  
RESTORATION  
TRANSFORMATION**

**Answer the Call -  
Jesus Christ Makes a Difference!**





## MODULE 2 - MARCH 16

# TOPIC: OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY



ANY  
MEMBER OF  
UCJCI MAY  
JOIN IN THE  
TRAINING  
FOR EACH  
SESSION OF  
MODULE 2  
AT A COST  
OF \$1000  
PER TOPIC

**RESOURCE PERSONS:**  
**MRS. KAREN FRANCIS**  
**REV. DR. COLLIN COWAN**

**Training via Zoom**  
**9 am - 12:00noon**

**Register and make your  
payment through your  
regional office. You will  
then be provided with  
the Zoom link.**

*Come and learn about your  
church and the Christian faith*

# JOIN ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES

IN UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONS

## St. Paul's Lockett Avenue and North Street United

**WEDNESDAYS** - 6:00 P.M.

Meeting ID: 850 369 0667

Passcode: 3eEM4L

## TOPIC

**DEFENDING  
THE FAITH**

## Meadowbrook United

**WEDNESDAYS** VIA ZOOM - 6:00 P.M.

Meeting ID: 862 8088 4128

Passcode: 026309

**THE  
BEATITUDES**

## Ridgemount United

**WEDNESDAYS** VIA ZOOM - 5:30 P.M.

Meeting ID: 894 9305 3068

Passcode: RIDGEMOUNT

**THE BOOK OF  
GALATIANS**

**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](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com)**



Meadowbrook United Church



# WEEKLY WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

**MAR 6**  
**2024**

**12:00 MIDDAY**  
**FACE-TO-FACE SESSION**


*Focuses on:*

**MATTHEW 5:8**

*"Blessed are the pure in heart..."*

**THE BEATITUDES SERIES**

**Leader: Rev. Roy Dodman**

 1 876 925 5860 / 1 876 969 6918

 [www.meadunited.org](http://www.meadunited.org)

 2 Flemington Drive, Kingston 19,  
Jamaica

**6:30PM**  
**EVENING SESSION**

Via  zoom & You  Tube

*Join in the deliberations on the  
topical issue of*

**REPARATION**

**Leader: Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans**

*Immediate Past Moderator of*

*The United Church in Jamaica & The Cayman Islands  
& A Member of The Jamaica Reparation Committee*

**Meeting ID: 862 8088 4128**

**Passcode: 026309**

# Meadowbrook United Church

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR SARAH PALMER

Saturday, March 9, 2024  
AT 10:00AM



Ms. Sarah Palmer served the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in various capacities including children's ministry.



## DUKE STREET UNITED CHURCH

IS SEEKING AN:

### Office Administrator

#### Job Description:

- Must be proficient in Microsoft Office: Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Good Telephone Etiquette
- Must be able to manage Minister's appointments
- Must be discreet, as incumbent will be exposed to confidential information

Working days: Wednesday - Friday:  
9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

**APPLY NOW**

Send Your Resume:  
dukestunited@gmail.com





The United Church Lay  
Training Institute

# TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS

## MODULE 1

**NEW START DATE -**  
**MARCH 23, 2024**

TOPICS INCLUDE  
EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP,  
COMMUNICATION, BIBLE  
STUDY, WORSHIP,  
CAREGIVING

THIS TRAINING IS FOR  
PERSONS PREPARING TO  
SERVE AS:

- Elders
- Specialized Ministry Leaders
- Lay Pastors

2nd and 4th Saturdays- March to  
August 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

via Zoom. Registration through regions  
opens February 27

FOR MORE INFO

 [ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com)

 1876-4327057

RECORDED ORIENTATION SESSION  
AVAILABLE BY EMAILING  
[UCJCI.SHERYL.CHUNG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UCJCI.SHERYL.CHUNG@GMAIL.COM)



**COST**  
**JMD**  
**\$10,000**



**THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
invites you to



# SUMMER CAMPS 2024

**Children's Camp**  
July 6, 2024 - July 11, 2024

**Junior Camp**  
July 13, 2024 - July 18, 2024

**Pacesetters Teen's Camp**  
July 20, 2024 - July 25, 2024

**Discovery Teen's Camp**  
July 27, 2024 - August 1, 2024

**Youth Encounter**  
August 3, 2024 - August 8, 2024



**Cost**  
**\$15,000.00**

**REGISTER NOW!!**  
AT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE

 **Madge Saunders**  
Conference Centre



**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](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://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**