



UCJCI UPDATE

MARCH 13, 2024 VOL. 11 NO. 8

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

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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.

MISSION TO RESTORE, REPAIR AND RENEW

OVER A NUMBER OF ISSUES, UCJCI UPDATE HAS FEATURED, NERMC EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE WORK OF MISSION IN THE CEDAR VALLEY COMMUNITY. WE REJOICE THAT THIS ISSUE FEATURES THE FIRST SERVICE HELD THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT OF CONGREGATIONS IN THE REGION. (READ ABOUT IN ON PAGES 4 AND 5) THE MISSION OF RESTORATION IS ALSO FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE IN THE NEWS FROM THE WEST. BELLEVUE UNITED CHURCH IN TRELAWNY IS DETERMINED TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCES OF THE CHURCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY. (READ ABOUT IT ON PAGES 7 AND 8). THEN IN THE SOUTH, THE JAMES HILL CONGREGATION IS DETERMINED TO REPLACE ITS ROOF WITH THE HELP OF THE WHOLE CHURCH SO THAT THE WORK OF MINISTRY CAN CONTINUE THERE. FOLKS, THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE. LET'S GET TO IT.



THE GIRLS AND OFFICERS OF THE 9TH MANCHESTER COMPANY

LENTEN FEATURE

PRAYERS FOR LENT



- **Prayer for Repentance:** "Dear Lord, during this Lenten season, help me to recognize my sins and turn my heart toward you in genuine repentance. Grant me the strength to make amends and grow in your grace. Amen."
- **Prayer for Guidance:** "Heavenly Father, as I embark on this Lenten journey, guide my steps and illuminate my path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my soul. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."
- **Prayer for Spiritual Renewal:** "Lord Jesus, during Lent, I seek spiritual renewal and a deeper connection with you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, cleanse my heart, and draw me closer to your love and grace. Amen."
- **Prayer for Self-Denial:** "Gracious God, as I practice self-denial during Lent, may I grow in humility and reliance on you. Help me to turn away from worldly distractions and focus on your presence and purpose. Amen."
- **Prayer for Compassion:** "Dear God, during this Lenten season, open my heart to the needs of others. May I reflect your love and compassion in my actions, serving those who are suffering or in need. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

NEWS FROM CIRMC

GIRLS BRIGADE WEEK CELEBRATED IN CAYMAN MARCH 3-10, 2024

Girls' Brigade Companies from across Grand Cayman gathered on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at the William Pouchie Memorial Church in North Side to mark the opening of the 2024 Girls' Brigade Week. Ms. Debra McLaughlin, President of the Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade Council, brought the Greetings, and Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, National Chaplain, offered the Opening Prayer.

The 2024 Girls' Brigade Week theme is 'Mission Possible - Making Disciples.' In his message based on Mark 1:16-20, Minister of the host Congregation, Rev. Rohan Forrester, focused on two things that sum up the importance of embracing the call and the responsibility to respond: 'Follow me' and 'immediately.'

The week's activities include a joint Companies Fellowship Gathering on Wednesday, an Overnight Camp for the Seniors and Brigaders on Friday, and a Day Camp on Saturday for all the girls at the Prospect Youth Centre.



Ms. Debra McLaughlin ,
President of the Cayman
Islands Girls' Brigade
Council.

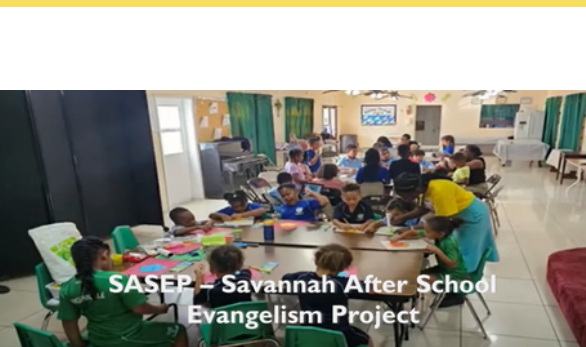
EVANGELISM MAT SUNDAY AT SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH

The Savannah United Church had its Evangelism MAT (Mission Action Team) Sunday on March 3, 2024. Mrs. Sonia Wallace, in her presentation, outlined the three primary responsibilities of the MAT:

1. Plan and share in organizing aspects of evangelism in conjunction with other MATs
2. Organize different forms of evangelism, thereby providing opportunities for sharing Christ in practical ways
3. Explore contextual ways of mobilizing the Congregation to evangelize.

The theme of the MAT in 2023 was 'Sharing Christ ONE 2 TEN,' and the activities focused on Family and One- to-One Evangelism training and facilitated Sports Evangelism, Prison Ministry, and Child Evangelism.

The MAT has chosen the theme 'Encounter Jesus for 2024', primarily focusing on Family, Community, and Sports Evangelism. During the Service, the Evangelism MAT also launched a Family Evangelism brochure, encouraging the Congregation to share it with family members and neighbors throughout the year.

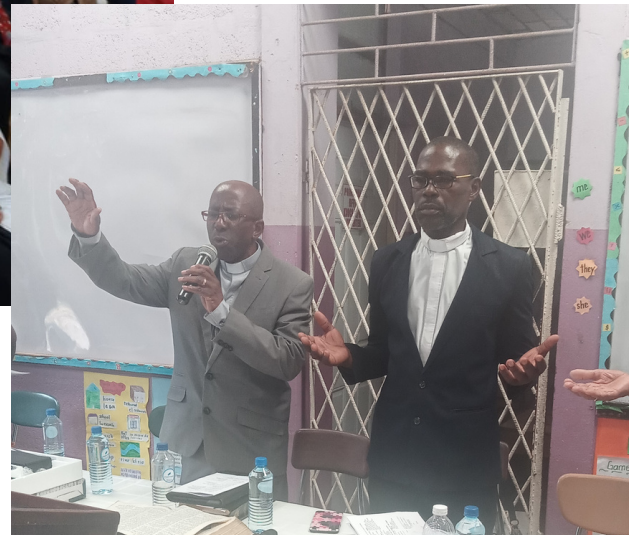


NEWS FROM NERMC

Contributed by Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! CEDAR VALLEY UNITED CHURCH OPENING SERVICE HELD

In 2021 the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott asked,..."Son of man can these bones live?" (Ezk. 37:3).



MISSION RESTORATION!

On Sunday March 10, 2024, one hundred and fifty (150) persons from various United Church congregations and the Cedar Valley community gathered for the official Re-opening Service of the Cedar Valley United Mission. It was a joy to see twenty members of the community (adults and children) joining in the worship.

Meadowbrook United Church was responsible for organizing the worship and their choir participated with rich and inspiring music. The singing and praise in worship was led by Mrs. Lloy McKoy and Pastor Hyacinth Ricketts Gayle.

The sermon was preached by the Moderator Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott who also brought greetings on behalf of the Synod. The Moderator expressed his delight at being present and expressed thanks to all who were engaged in the mission and through whom the fire had been re-ignited in Cedar Valley.

The Moderator used as his text Ezekiel 37: 1- 10, the story of "The Valley of Dry Bones". He made reference to the following post he made on Facebook when he visited the site on May 21, 2021 (almost 3 years ago):

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of UCJCI Synod (left) and Rev. Donald West, Minister of the Carron Hall Charge under which Cedar Valley falls.

"Son of man can these bones live?"..."Sovereign Lord, you alone know" (Ezk. 37:3). Cedar Valley United Church in St. Catherine was once upon a time the place where the Good News was proclaimed; souls were saved and discipled. That is no longer the case; there is no congregation, yet there are possibilities. A Primary School is there; the church has a nice, flat yard space just anxious for landscaping; the community is growing and asking for its restoration; new homes and businesses are being established. I pray that "the chords that are broken will vibrate once more."

The Moderator stated that he believes "God wants Cedar Valley United Church to put on flesh again; to stand up again; to breathe again;

Cont'd on p.5

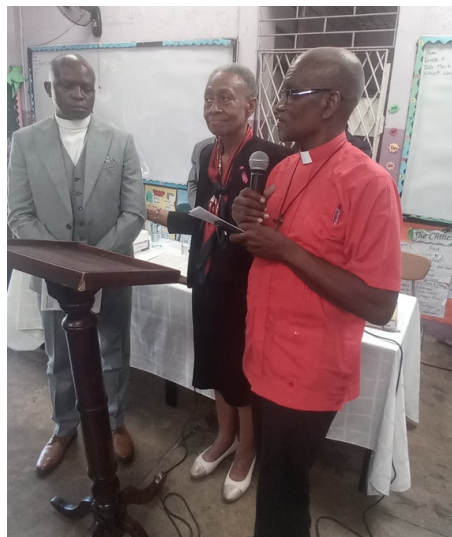


Children's Time was done by Dr. Jane Dodman who encouraged the children to walk with God in how they lived daily.

Cont'd from p.4.

to become like an exceedingly great army of God." He asked the congregation "Will you make yourself available to the Spirit of God to re-ignite you; to empower you? You who are from here; will you surrender afresh to God today so God may use you to bring Godly life to those who have become dry and spiritual dead?"

Some persons from the community responded to the altar call and all the community members present were invited to the altar for prayer.



"Rev. Lembe Sivile (left) Coordinator of the restoration, Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Chair of NERMC and Rev. Sylvan Hinds member of the Restoration Committee.

Other participants in the Service included the Chairperson of Council Mrs. Jennifer P. Martin, who served as liturgist and

Excerpts from the sermon...

"While THE VALLEY represents God's judgment, difficult times, our lowest points, and periods of trial and testing, the valley is also the place where the presence of God is powerfully felt and experienced."

"THE DRY BONES suggest that once life was present."

"TEST OF FAITH "There is no doubt in God that He has the capacity to bring life out of a situation of death.



Elder Ruth Lord of Carron Hall United brought in the bible at the start of the service. Pastor Ionie Vincent, Lay Pastor assigned to the Mission (2nd right) and Rev. Laddia Young, UCJCI Youth Minister (3rd right) were among the attendees at the service.

The Service was attended by a number of ordained ministers, lay pastors and members from at least ten (10) Charges in NERMC. brought greetings on behalf of the North Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC), Rev. Lembe Sivile, Evangelism Vice-Chair and Coordinator of the restoration of the mission did the welcome and update on the mission restoration. He commended the partnership of community members who made their locations and other facilities available for the crusades. These persons were later presented with tokens of appreciation. Rev. Sivile noted that this was truly a God ordained Mission.



Children from the Cedar Valley participated in the service, sharing their school prayer. As a reminder of the encouragement to walk with God in the Children's address, the children were all presented with a little metal foot token by Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, RDGS.

In the coming weeks and months we are looking forward to the participation of other Congregations in conducting Sunday worship which will continue each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at the Cedar Valley Primary School until the sanctuary is refurbished.

Your prayers and support for this mission are much appreciated.

Contributed by Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

NEWS FROM SRMC

THE 9TH MANCHESTER COMPANY OF THE GIRLS' BRIGADE - CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS

Contributed by Ms. Sheree O'Connor

On Sunday, March 10, Ridgemount United Church was abuzz with excitement as the 9th Manchester Company of the Girls' Brigade was relaunched with the commissioning of officers and enrolment of girls. Fourteen girls were enrolled into various ranks of the Girls' Brigade – 3 explorers, 3 juniors, 4 seniors, and 4 brigaders, each embarking on a journey of growth, learning, and service within the Brigade. It was a momentous occasion as they officially pledged themselves to uphold the values and principles of the Girls' Brigade. The congregation also witnessed the commissioning of officers who will help to nurture and guide the girls on this journey as together they seek to live out the motto of the Brigade – **Seek, Serve and Follow Christ**.

The service was enhanced by the active participation of the girls themselves. Showcasing their talents, leadership, and faith – they led prayers, read scriptures and ministered through poetry and singing. The preacher for the day was Rev Anthony Chung – Minister of the Ridgemount Charge and newly commissioned Chaplain of the company. The service was truly a blessing to those present including officers and girls from other companies in the Manchester District who came to offer their support. All were filled with a sense of anticipation and excitement for the journey that lies ahead for these newly enrolled girls and commissioned officers and for the Girls' Brigade as a whole.



Enrolment of the girls

Some of the girls and officers from the Manchester District of the Girls' Brigade



Commissioning of the Chaplain for the company, Rev Anthony Chung

NEWS FROM WRMC



MAKING OLD SPACES NEW AGAIN

Bellevue United old school building

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands owns property that can provide financial viability to the church. These properties can be put to good use, for example, generate finances to support the work of the church and offer different activities to the communities where they are found. One of the beautiful places where we find such property is at Bellevue United Church in Perth Town, Trelawny.



Abandoned books.

HISTORY

For more than 80 years, the building was once the home of the then Bellevue All Age School. In 1978 it was removed to its present location approximately 1 mile from the Bellevue United Church and was first renamed Bellevue Primary and Junior High in 1993. After the School was moved, the community infant school began its operation in the original building from 1990, and served the community for approximately 15 years, after which it was again closed for 5 years; during which time the building was used as a library. With the coming of the internet and data service, the use of physical books began to diminish and so persons stopped coming there to use or even borrow books to read, which brought this venture to a halt. In 2018 the school in its present location was renamed Perth Town Academy.

Cont'd on p.7

ACTIVITIES

During the period of the Covid-19 pandemic when schools were closed down and students were taught online, the church applied for and got the internet on the property, this revived the use and purpose of the old building; as students returned there to use the facility to get their assignments done and assistance with their lessons.

Post Covid 19, schools reopened and everything returned to normal, the building was again closed until September 2023; when the Senior Citizens Club in the community sought and was given permission to clean and use the building, though dilapidated and in need of much repair, to hold their meetings and nondenominational worship opportunities once per month. Since then, the Women's Fellowship of the church has also been using it to hold their meetings.



The interior in disrepair.

WAY FORWARD

The Church has plans underway to further renovate this building and use it as a centre for helping the vulnerable in the community in terms of social outreach, giving food to the vulnerable, offering counselling and making it a place where everyone in the community will be welcomed to fellowship, have fun and get help.

Fencing for the area has been received, 200 hundred coconut trees will be the standing crop, which will be inter-cropped with cash crops namely



papaya, watermelon and pumpkin.

The leadership at the Bellevue Congregation is not only intending to make an old space/building, new again, but is on a path to provide substantial financial assistance to the servants God has placed , and will place in the context.

Contributed by Rev. Jane Kaluba



CWM CARIBBEAN PRE-ASSEMBLY - HAPPENING NOW

THE CARIBBEAN REGION OF COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION GATHERED FOR THEIR PRE-ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 11, 2024 IN KINGSTON

The Caribbean Regional Pre-Assembly began with a Life Flourishing Inaugural Worship Service led by Rev. Norbert Stephens, UCJCI General Secretary and Synodical staff members.

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



The keynote address by Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas focused on the theme "Rise to Life: Together in Transformation." He emphasised personal and communal transformation, the invitation to live in interdependence and mutuality to fulfil not only individual but, more importantly, community action in rising together in transformation.



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 PRIEST, OF THE
ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK:**

5th Sunday in Lent

Melchizedek, the King of Salem who is first mentioned in Genesis 14:17-20, was a mysterious character who was a high priest of God. The text tells us that Melchizedek (King of Righteousness) met Abraham shortly after Abraham's victorious battle against the 5 kings, and gave to him bread and wine. It is worth considering the significance of Melchizedek's gift, which may be considered prophetic: as it not only alludes to the Messiah being born of Abraham's line (see God's covenant with Abraham), but it points directly to the Last Supper.

To worship Jesus as High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek therefore demands that we seek the righteousness offered by the only High Priest Who bears our sin and makes atonement for us once and for all.

**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

Psalm 110:1-4
Hebrews 5:5-10
(Genesis 14:17-20)

SUGGESTED HYMNS

TIME SAVING
Lest I Forget Gethsemane
Man, Sorrows What a Name
There is a Balm
Breathe on Me

A Call to Prayer and Fasting

Brothers and sisters in the United Church family are invited to

PRAY FOR CONVOCATION

Every Wednesday

March 13 to May 1

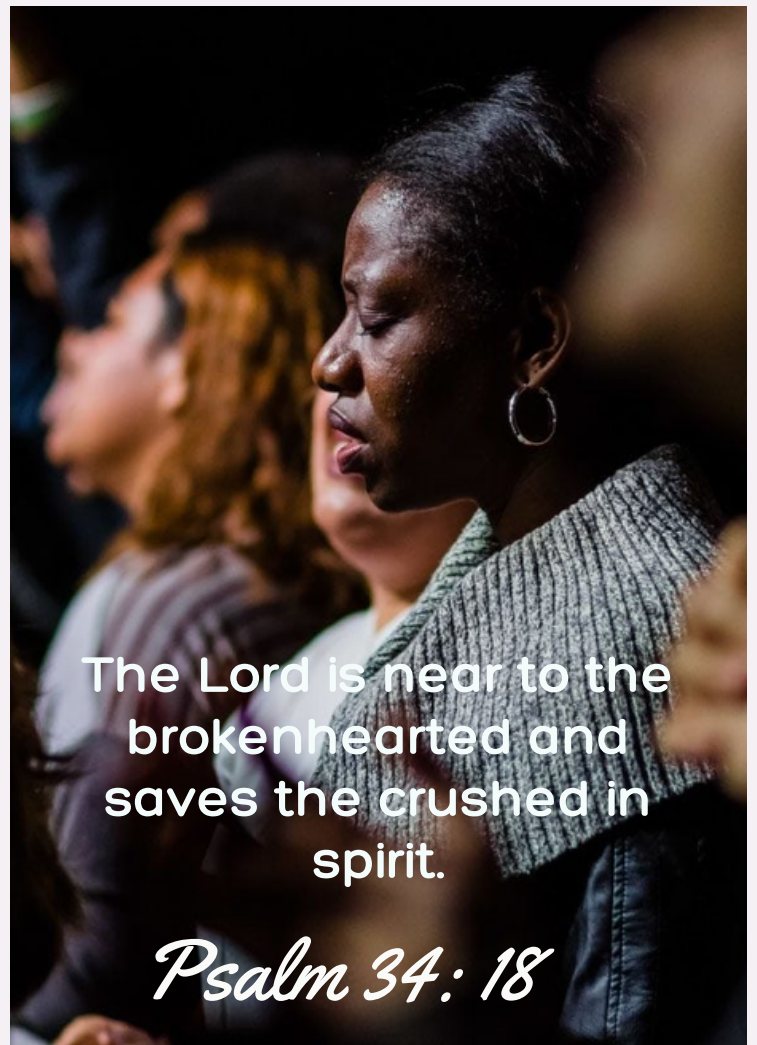
If able, please fast all day Wednesday; if not able to do so consider fasting up to midday

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

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- The people of Haiti for the restoration of peace – right relationships – good decision-making and governance.
- 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

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 below).

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

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





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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



REV. DR. HERBERT REDWAY JR
MARCH 17

← Act. **Jamaica Gleaner** ☰

1977: The Ardenne High School auditorium was packed to capacity as hundreds of children from various parts of Jamaica assembled for the annual pre-synod rally for children. The rally was the first in the programme of activities to mark the 12th annual synod of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman.

- THE GLEANER ARCHIVES

PUBLISHED IN JAMAICA GLEANER
MARCH 13, 2024

A DAY **IN UNITED** **CHURCH** **HISTORY**

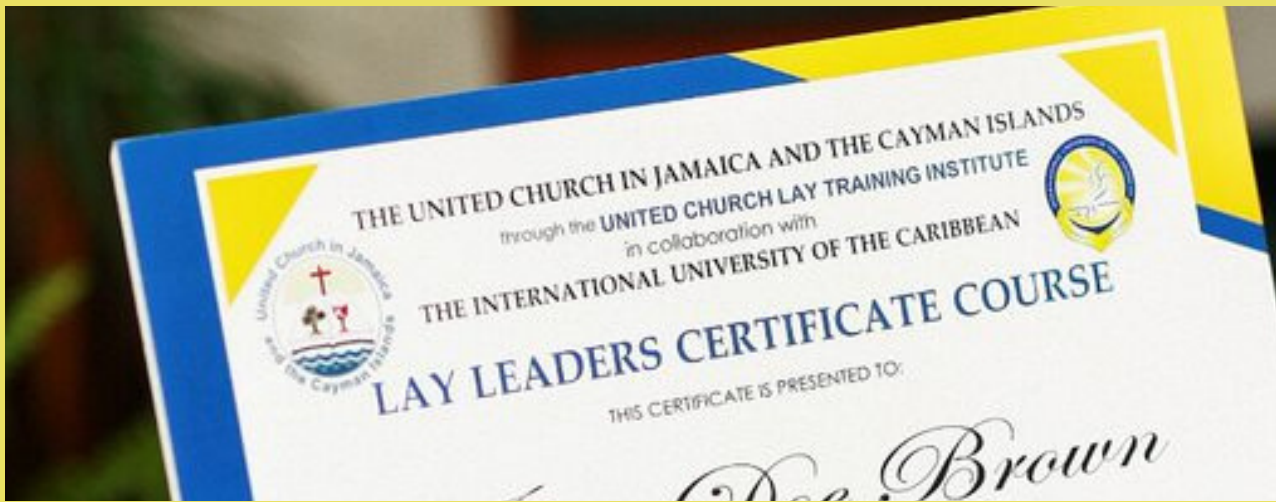
Contributed by Mrs. Rose
Wedderburn

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.



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*



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

 1876-4327057

RECORDED ORIENTATION SESSION
AVAILABLE BY EMAILING
UCJCI.SHERYL.CHUNG@GMAIL.COM



COST
JMD
\$10,000

UNITED CHURCH YOUNG ADULTS ACTION MOVEMENT
PRESENTS

Ingathering OF THE YAAMS



WHICH YAAM WILL BE CROWNED?

ENTRY FEE-\$300



SPEAKER:
REV. TARA TYME



UCYAAM Ingathering



UCYAAM
Rev. Earl Thames
SCHOLARSHIP
\$200,000.00

PROCEEDS IN AID OF REV. EARL THAMES SCHOLARSHIP
FUND & UCYAAM MINISTRIES.



ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MONTEGO BAY

DUKE STREET UNITED CHURCH' PERFORMING ARTS MINISTRY

PRESENTS

The Predicament



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:

CHEVAN SHIRLEY

STARRING: Selina Baker, Latoya Campbell, Calneth Reid,
Shama Reid, Melva Harrison & Fitzroy Clowson.

VENUE:

**DUKE STREET
UNITED CHURCH**
70 DUKE ST, KINGSTON

SHOW DATES:

**FRI. MAR. 29 @6 P.M.
SAT. MAR. 30 @6 P.M.
SUN. MAR. 31 @6 P.M.**

TICKETS:

**PRESOLD: \$1,500
AT GATE: \$2,000
\$800 FOR KIDS**

FOR TICKETS, WHATSAPP/CALL: 876-348-7700

SPONSORS:





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