



UCJCI UPDATE

APRIL 17, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 13

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



'A HISTORIC MOMENT!' READ ABOUT IT ON P.2

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.

ON THE INSIDE

- UK CHURCH APOLOGISES FOR ROLE IN SLAVERY
- UCJCI COMMITS LAND FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
- YOUTH LEADERSHIP NEWS
- NEWS FROM CAYMAN
- NEWS FROM SRMC
 - FARMING AT MT. OLIVET
- NEWS FROM THE WEST
 - PATH TOP SCHOLAR FROM FALMOUTH UNITED
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND PRAYER

'ACTION NOT A BAG A MOUT!'

EDITOR: MRS. KAREN FRANCIS UCJCI.KAREN.FRANCIS@GMAIL.COM

THESE WORDS ARE WELL KNOWN TO JAMAICANS AND CONVEY THE SENTIMENT THAT UNTIL ONE PUTS MONEY WHERE ONE'S MOUTH IS, WORDS MEAN NOTHING. THERE ARE PERSONS WHO HOLD THE VIEW THAT AN APOLOGY SUCH AS HAS BEEN MADE BY THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH FOR ITS ROLE IN SLAVERY IS NOT ONLY INADEQUATE BUT IS ALSO UNWELCOME. BELIEVING THAT AN APOLOGY WILL NOT CHANGE THE BREAD AND BUTTER CHALLENGES OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ENSLAVED PERSONS, THEY PREFER TO HEAR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF HOW MUCH MONEY THEY WILL RECEIVE. I SUGGEST THAT THE APOLOGY IS A BEGINNING IN REPAIRING THE BREACH BECAUSE IT EMBRACES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WRONG. I ALSO SUGGEST THAT IT IS A NECESSARY BEGINNING. MORE TO COME. KEEP READING UCJCI UPDATE.

DID YOU KNOW?

UCJCI's radio programme
United in Faith
is available on Spotify?
Follow our podcasts and
share with others.

UNITED KINGDOM CHURCH APOLOGISES FOR ROLE IN SLAVERY

On Sunday April 14, 2024 history was made. The United Reformed Church (URC) which includes congregations in England, Scotland and Wales tendered a public apology to Jamaica for its role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade and chattel slavery. The apology was made at an Ecumenical Church Service planned by the Churches Reparations Action Forum (CRAF) held at Webster Memorial United Church.

The statement of acknowledgement was presented initially at the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in 2022 as “an expression of its commitment to write the wrongs of a hostile history.” In presenting the apology, Rev. Dr. Tessa Henry Robinson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC spoke on behalf of a body representing 37,000 members.



Rev. Dr. Tessa Henry Robinson (left), Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom presents the text of the apology from the URC to Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of the Synod of The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Public Apology

Details of the apology will be shared in a coming issue of UCJCI Update



From left: Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott - Moderator of the Synod of UCJCI, Hon. Oliva Grange - Minister of Culture, Entertainment and Sports, Rev. Karen Campbell - Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, URC, all share in the historic event.

THE UNITED CHURCH COMMITS LAND TO THE REPARATION PROCESS

the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands committed “parcels of lands, bequeathed to us by those who profited from the slave trade and colonization, for orderly and dignified housing solutions to some of the most vulnerable among us”.

This statement was made by the Moderator of the Synod of UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott following his acceptance of the apology which he described as “a first step as a move towards making it possible for conversation about repairing the breach and paving the way for new patterns of behaviour to emerge, based on justice and peace for all”.

UCJCI MODERATOR WELCOMED COMMITMENT TO TANGIBLE ACTIONS BY URC

Rev. Harriott expressed his pleasure that “the URC is not satisfied with ‘words’ only, but is prepared to undergird those words with tangible, practical actions with the intent of changing the trajectory. Among other things, we affirm your intention to lobby the UK Government to release countries and communities, for whom the Legacies of Slavery continue to haunt and taunt, from debt deemed to be owed to the UK”.



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

“WE ARE BOTH VICTIMS AND BENEFICIARIES”

In committing to offering land to address landlessness in Jamaica, the UCJCI Moderator noted that “we are victims of the transatlantic Trade in enslaved persons, we know fully well that we, like other faith Communities, are also beneficiaries.”

Consequently, he invited other faith communities, locally and regionally, as well as governments of the region, to join the UCJCI in committing land to provide housing solutions for the most vulnerable. Details of the land offer are to be worked out.

In next week’s issue of UCJCI Update...’ Judgement must begin in the house of the Lord’ – Sermon delivered at the Ecumenical Service by Bishop Christine Benguche

YOUTH NEWS

Contributed by Dhujay Scully



Ms. Lisa Palmer delivers a presentation on Leadership.

Training for Youth Leaders

Steering Committee members of The United Church Young Peoples Fellowship (UCYPF) participated in training at a Leadership Development seminar on April 6, 2024 at Andrews Memorial United Church in Mandeville..

Three presentations were shared on Worship, Mission and Leadership. The presentations were well delivered by Rev. Paul DaCosta Pinto (Worship), Rev. Patrick Banda (Mission) and Ms. Lisa Palmer (Leadership)



Rev. Paul DaCosta Pinto (left) receives a token of thanks from UCYPF Synodical Steering Committee Chair, Kashief Barton.



Rev. Patrick Banda, Council for World Mission Partner in Mission from Zambia delivering the presentation on Mission.

NEWS FROM CIRMC

July 4th, 2023

COMMUNITY CARE MAT SUNDAY AT SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH

The Savannah United Church had its Community Care MAT (Mission Action Team) Sunday on April 7, 2024, the fourth in a series of Worship services focusing on the ministry of the various MATs created in the Congregation.

The First Impression Ministry aims to ensure that all members, adherents, and visitors feel at home, fostering a warm and friendly atmosphere. The ministry team consists of guest book attendants, greeters, ushers, and parking attendants. In addition to extending a warm welcome, they also engage in follow-up calls and emails to those who have visited the congregation, ensuring that everyone feels valued and connected.

The Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry coordinates and facilitates activities that respond to both the spiritual and material needs of the congregants and the wider community. This includes providing the meal following Sunday Worship Services, distributing grocery cards and food baskets donated by church members.



The Seniors Ministry is dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and providing opportunities for seniors to express their talents through arts and crafts. In addition, they organize informative sessions with medical professionals to discuss health issues relevant to seniors' well-being.

Members of the ministry team actively engage with seniors who remain active during the weekends, as well as those who are homebound, by visiting them to share moments of devotion, fun, and fellowship. These visits created a sense of connection and community, ensuring that every senior feels valued and supported.



The Visitation Ministry is dedicated to reaching out to those who need support, encouragement, and companionship. Whether it is spending time with patients in hospitals or in their homes, comforting grieving families, or simply providing companionship to those who are isolated, this ministry plays a crucial role in extending the love and compassion beyond the church walls by offering a listening ear, a comforting presence, words of hope, and encouragement.

THE FAMILY, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS MINISTRY FOCUSES ON PROMOTING OVERALL WELL-BEING, ADDRESSING THE DIVERSE HEALTH NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS.

Cont'd on p.6

COMMUNITY CARE MAT SUNDAY...

The Family, Health, and Wellness Ministry focuses on promoting overall well-being, addressing the diverse health needs of individuals and families across all age groups. Through various initiatives and events this ministry aims to empower individuals and families with knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about their health and wellness and embrace healthy lifestyle choices.



One of the primary services of the **Outreach Ministries** is to provide assistance to individuals who require transportation to or from the church, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the congregation's activities and gatherings. In addition to transportation support, this ministry also engages in the preparing and delivering of meals to individuals and families in the community.



**ALL OF THESE
MINISTRIES
EXTEND BEYOND
THE CHURCH,
POSITIVELY
IMPACTING OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE
WIDER LOCAL
COMMUNITY AS
WELL.**

NEWS FROM SRMC



BOUNTIFUL FARMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

BOYS' HOME

Contributed by Sheree O'Connor

The Mount Olivet Boys' Home is expanding their farming operations and has now ventured into growing sweet peppers, selling eggs and raising pigs.

Utilising the greenhouse on site, the Home has been able to grow a fruitful crop of sweet peppers. So far they have harvested over 300 lbs of the sweet peppers and secured markets with entities such as Fresh Valu Supermarket, Mega Mart in Mandeville and Glastonbury Purveyor Company.

Over 300 lbs of sweet peppers harvested and markets being supplied

Additionally, the home benefits from eggs laid by the chickens raised on the property. They supply surrounding communities as well as operate as the exclusive supplier of eggs to St. John Bosco Vocational Training Centre in Hatfield, Manchester.



Cont'd on p.8

BOUNTIFUL FARMING...



Mrs. Janet McConnell, Regional Deputy General Secretary, Southern Region examines the produce at Mount Olivet Boys' Home

The home also now owns a 4 month old pig named Lashes, which was donated by a member of the Mount Olivet United Church. The pig has inspired a new opportunity and is exploring/working towards expanding into pig and goat rearing. Donations of money or of animals are welcomed.

The tea project, previously introduced, is on pause to facilitate the care of the plants as they required pruning. However, rosemary leaves and fever grass can still be purchased.

The projects come as an opportunity to increase the level of self sufficiency of the home. It aims to teach the boys responsibility and accountability and serve as a method to teach that there is another way to make a living outside of scamming. The boys participate by tending to Lashes and the chickens through feeding, giving water, cleaning the pen and coop as well as harvesting eggs. The boys also assist in the harvesting and cleaning of the peppers. Those who participate in the projects are given a stipend to encourage their work.

To support this venture, sweet peppers may be purchased by individuals at \$400 per lb and the eggs at \$1200 per flat of 24.

The farming project aims to teach the boys responsibility and accountability and serve as a method to teach that there is another way to make a living outside of scamming.

Donations of money or animals are welcomed.



PLEASE SUPPORT THIS WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOUR

NEWS FROM WRMC

Contributed by Mrs. Maureen Henry

TOP SCHOLAR FROM FALMOUTH UNITED

Miss Evoy Gooden, a member of the Falmouth United Church School, is the 2024 female Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) top scholar at the Primary Level in Region Three.

The award comes on the heels of Evoy's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Primary Exit Programme (PEP) Examinations having received the highest scores in both Region three and the Island of Jamaica.

This ardent and committed Church School student serves the Lord and her congregation by reading, singing and praying, during worship.

The award was bestowed upon this Westwood High School Student on April 11, 2024, at a function held at the Spanish Court Hotel in Kingston.



Evoy Gooden receives the award from Mrs. Colette Roberts Ridsen, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.



Evoy is the ward of Elder Patricka Seivwright (left) and is seen here with the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of Labour and Social Security.



ON THURSDAYS WEAR BLACKK

They claimed there was scope for self-actualization, fiscal independence and 'success'. With limited economic opportunities and social structures, Paradise seemed like the perfect place for relocation. Except, there were snakes in paradise. What seemed like a marvelous dream became a nightmare

Trafficked

- Mental anguish
- Dehumanization
 - Servitude
- Physical and sexual abuse
 - No pay
 - Illegal status
- Threats of Deportation

... singularly and collectively conspire to keep the victimized victims.

Sweatshops,

Mining companies

Domestic Work

Sex workers (amplified by online sex trade, where information is rented, copied and resold almost at the speed of light)

Agricultural produce – even

Illicit drug and arms trade

- are some of the industries common to the trafficking of humans. Many are bold enough to post loosely worded, sugary enticements through Help Wanted ads

Racial, ethnic, 'political' minorities

Persons with disabilities

Lower castes

Persons from lower classes

Children, adults – every gender; though women and girls comprise the majority

Educated seeking employment, friends, family and even stranger

**Whether it's our friend, lover, family or foe -
Trafficking must end: Together we work to save
and rehabilitate.**

#EndTrafficking Now #ThursdaysinBlack

CONTRIBUTED BY
REV. NICOLE ASHWOOD
PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE
JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



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

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

RE-IGNITED WITH BOLDNESS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS:

The Gospel message is of little import if it does not include the glorious mystery of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Over the years many have died for their country or for others whom they know; but none of them have returned from the grave. Jesus, however, has. Just like He promised. This is the essence of the Gospel - that Jesus not only died, but He rose (by Himself), with no life or human support in order that we might access eternal life. And this is what distinguishes Christianity from other faiths.

Help members to celebrate Resurrection as Good News, and its impact for believers today. (Connect this with 1 Corinthians 15:55-58, noting that the final enemy of life is Death).

Emphasize the need to share this news for those who have no hope, especially in the face of increasing wars and disasters. Make the connection with UCJCI's renewal and church growth strategy, in conjunction with the resurrection power, which reignites us for boldness to share the good news.

FOCUS FOR THE QUARTER:

ROOTED AND RESILIENT:
RE-IGNITED BY THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION AND BY GOD'S SPIRIT

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

John 10:11-18

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Up From the Grave
He Arose Don't Try
to Tell Me God is
Dead My Hope is
Built
Because He Lives

The Moderator's Call to Prayer and Fasting

Brothers and sisters in the United Church family let us PRAY FOR CONVOCAATION

EVERY WEDNESDAY UNTIL MAY 1

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

EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL APRIL 28

CONGREGATIONS are asked to include the Convocation in their Intercessory Prayers

PRAY FOR

- The planning committee and all who will minister
- Children's Convocation and Youth Convention
- The preachers - Rev. Glenroy Clarke (Morning Worship) and Rev. Donovan McPherson (Youth Convention) as they prepare to declare God's word
- Safe travel for all who will attend
- The Salt Spring Peace Initiative which will be launched
- That the whole church will rise from Convocation RE-CHARGED and RE-COMMITTED to the work of ministry in our communities



Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- Rev. Glenroy Clarke who lost his grandmother, Ms. Ethelma Chambers. Funeral on May 18, 11 am - Riverside United.
- Rev. Roy Dodman who is not well.
- Rev. Garwell Bacchas who lost his sister, Mrs. Blossom Peru. Thanksgiving Service will be on May 4.
- Pastor Patricia White who recently lost her husband.
- Mrs. Joan Page Bain and family, retired UCJCI Mission Partner in Haiti
- The people of Haiti for the restoration of peace - right relationships; good decision-making and governance.
- The on-going conflicts around the world, in particular - between Israel and Palestine; and Ukraine and Russia.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing health challenges
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34: 18

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We celebrate with Ministers and Synod Staff



Mrs. Janet McConnell

APRIL 20



Rev. Tara Tyme

APRIL 18



Rev. Wayne Wisdom

APRIL 23



Rev. Obren Thomas

APRIL 22

*On your special day
may God's grace
and peace be upon you*

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.

BUILD YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP

TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS MODULE 1



Sessions will include:
Styles and Approaches to Leadership
Biblical Models of Leadership

JOIN VIA ZOOM



Training continues on:

Thursday April 18
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

RESOURCE
PERSON:

**Mrs. Janet
McConnell**



For information, contact Sheryl Knibb Chung via email - ucjci.sheryl.chung@gmail.com or WhatsApp 876-881 8783. You may register for this single session via your Regional Office at a cost of \$1500

CONVOCATION 2024



SUNDAY MAY 5

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



**All roads
lead to**

 **Montego Bay
Convention Centre**

- **Morning Worship**
- **Youth Convention**
- **Kid's Convocation**
- **Lunch and Fellowship**
- **Afternoon Praise,
Showcase, Peace
Initiative Launch and
Closing Challenge**

**The first
gathering of the
whole United
Church for
Convocation in
6 years**

**WILL YOU BE
THERE?**

LET'S ALL WEAR RED



Youth 2024 CONVENTION



**"RE-IGNITED BY
THE SPIRIT"**

**Sun., May 5, 2024
8:30 AM**



**Montego Bay
Convention Centre**
Rose Hall Road, Montego Bay

Preacher:

REV. DONOVAN MCPHERSON

Minister
Eltham United Church
Spanish Town, St. Cathrine





KIDS 2024

CONVOCATION

May 5, 2024

8:30 am

Montego Bay Convention Center



REIGNITED BY THE SPIRIT

Wi Reddi fi di Road!

Activities Include:

AGES 4 - 9

- Kids Praise
- Arts and Craft
- Jesus Video
- Speech Bubble Skits

LISTEN UP!

Show your ♥ for our children homes-
Mount Olivet Boys and
Pringle Homes by
donating: clothing, food,
toys and cash

AGES 10 - 12

- Hats Off Praise
- Kids Quake:
 - Culinary Delights
 - Dub Poem/Poetry
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Poster
 - Song
 - Tiktok Video
 - Charge

**Game
On!**

Dress Code:

Red

Please register your
attendance at your
Regional Mission
Council Office

**Who
will win?**

NERMC

vs

SRMC

vs

WRMC



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



JOIN WITH US IN RAISING

**280 FOR
HAITI**

Let us show how much we care
tomorrow, it might be you



BY LOVE SERVE



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