



UCJCI UPDATE

APRIL 24, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 14

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

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THROWBACK

PEACE DEMONSTRATION AT CONVOCATION 2018

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.

'ACTION NOT A BAG A MOUT!'

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

THE PEACE INITIATIVE TO BE LAUNCHED AT THE UPCOMING CONVOCATION IS A BIG DEAL. WHEN WE HEAR STATISTICS OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA WE MAY BE TEMPTED TO DESPAIR AND FEEL POWERLESS TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THOSE REALITIES. BUT AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WE ARE NOT POWERLESS. HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION, THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GREAT COMMISSION WE HAVE MOTIVATION, MEANS AND SPIRITUAL MIGHT. THE PEACE INITIATIVE IS ONE WAY OF INFLUENCING THE YOUTH THROUGH WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG MEN TO ADDRESS A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE. PLEASE SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND RESOURCES SO THIS WORK IN ONE PART OF THE VINEYARD MAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN JAMAICA.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

COUNT-DOWN TO CONVOCATION



SUNDAY MAY 5

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

All roads lead to



Montego Bay Convention Centre



Prayers, preparation and plans are in high gear for Sunday May 5 when the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands gathers for a grand celebration and worship of Almighty God.

Among the activities planned for the day is the launch of a Peace Initiative. The Moderator outlines plans for this venture of public witness.

LAUNCH OF PEACE INITIATIVE

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands understands Peacebuilding as a critical part of the Mission of Christ in the world and as Christ's disciples, we must be engaged in that Mission. In light of this, over the years, the United Church at various levels has been engaged in peacebuilding. The decision to initiate such an initiative to the troubled community of Salt Spring is another manifestation of this mission action.

Our Focus on Children and Young Men

While we hope that in time the whole community of Salt Spring will benefit, our focus at present will be on children and young men, as they are the most at risk to experience violence or to become the perpetrators of violence.

There will be some galvanizing events and a more sustainable programme.

- Visit of the Moderator – April 25
- A Gospel explosion proposed for June 9
- An Expo – June 22
- A March and Street Meeting (Date to be confirmed)

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

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

LET US ALL WEAR RED TO CONVOCATION!

Cont'd on p. 3.



The Peace 'demonstration' staged by our children at Convocation 2018

The more sustained programme will involve

- **Mentorship**
- **Training and sensitization programme** to address the subject of trauma.
- **The use of the School Pastors' Programme** to engage children in schools and by extension, their families.
- **The establishment of a Marching Band** inspired by the experience and success of the Farm Heights Band which was started by the Farm Heights United Church. Drumming has also been proven to be an effective tool in providing therapy for persons who have suffered trauma.
- **Football Competitions** as sports is also known to be an important tool in bringing communities together and building peace.

AT THE CONVOCATION

We will:

Hear stories coming out of Salt Spring

Share plans for the initiative

Take a special offering that will be used to support the initiative, more specifically, to purchase instruments for the band



The church in worship at Convocation 2018.

The initiative will be spearheaded by the Salt Spring United Church under the leadership of Pastor Heather Fray and will be supported by the Evangelism Committee of the Western Regional Mission Council and the Ministers' Fraternal of the Community.

AS YOU PLAN YOUR JOURNEY TO MONTEGO BAY

Please note that an event is planned which may affect your journey. Be sure to check the routes impacted by this event. **WE WANT TO YOU TO GET TO CONVOCATION SAFELY AND ON TIME!**

Run/Walk Montego Bay's MOBAY CITY RUN!



IT'S OUR 8TH STAGING

MOBAY CITY RUN

PRESENTING SPONSOR **WATA**

"We Marry Sports with Education."

10K/5K Run and Walk
SUNDAY, MAY 5
@ 6:00AM
OLD HOSPITAL PARK,
JIMMY CLIFF BOULEVARD (HIP STRIP), MONTEGO BA

CALL US AT **876-828-0413**

For more info: email: mobacityrun2@gmail.com

5k Run and Walk	Individual 10K Run	Group/Team (10 or more)
\$2,200 ^{PP}	\$2,500 ^{PP}	\$2,000 ^{PP}

PP - per person

SPONSORS

MOBAY CITY RUN IS SPONSORED BY **JMC**

themobacityrun | Mobacityrun

Synodical Youth Sunday Message



Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour – Jesus Christ.

In this world fraught with challenges, uncertainties and constant change, it becomes crucial for us – Christian youth – to stand firm in our faith and purpose. The call to be resilient is the call to be unwavering in our commitment to Christ even in the face of difficulty; it is the call to rise above adversity and embrace our purpose with steadfast determination. For these reasons, the theme: “Resilient Youths with Purpose”, has been chosen to guide the observance of Synodical Youth Sunday, 2024.

‘Resilient Youths with Purpose’

**How do we cultivate
resilience and live with
purpose in a world that
often seeks to divert us
from our Christian
journey?**

It is my fervent prayer that we might adopt the resolve of St. Paul, who in his epistle to the Philippians declares, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14) As Christians, our purpose; the goal for the prize of the upward call in God toward which we must press is one that transcends personal ambitions and material gains. Our purpose is to be beacons of light in a world shrouded in darkness, to be agents of love, compassion, and justice. It is to live out the teachings of Christ in every aspect of our lives, inspiring hope and transformation wherever we may go.

- **We must nurture our relationship with God through prayer, scripture, and Christian fellowship.**
- **We must embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.**
- **We must be intentional about our actions and choices.**
- **We must be supportive of one another on this journey.**

Cont'd on p 7.

The work that the newly constituted young people's fellowship steering committees in each region has not gone unnoticed. From parish link – ups and "Purple Praise" in the south; to evangelism marathon and card tracking in the west; to "Operation Rebirth" and "The Secret" in the north – east, their innovate efforts and creative thinking are to be applauded especially considering how difficult it can be at times to lead one's peers.

I am delighted to share some opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship with like – minded Christian youth:

- **The Biennial Youth Convention** is to be held on Sunday, May 05, 2024 at the Montego Bay Convention Centre and will commence at 8:30 a.m. This event has not been held in five (5) years due to various challenges including that of the COVID – 19 pandemic; however, it returns this year with the promise of being an anointed time of intense worship and rich fellowship.
- **Youth Camp is back!** Scheduled for August 2024, youth camp will provide a unique opportunity for us to grow in our faith, build lasting friendships, and deepen our understanding of God's purpose for our lives. This activity has not been held in six (6) years, again, due to various challenges including that of the COVID – 19 pandemic; therefore, let us lend our support to this venture as we eagerly anticipate the time of spiritual refreshment and empowerment guaranteed.

The Camp Experience



- **The Young United People (YUP) podcast** is aired weekly on the UCYPF YouTube page. This podcast serves as a space wherein various aspects of the Christian life as well as the life and witness of the United Church at large is discussed with the aim of better equipping young people with the requisite knowledge of effectively navigating their faith journey in addition to how the church exercises its God-given mandate on both denominational and local levels.

Let us embrace our identity as resilient youth with purpose, knowing that we are called to make a difference in this wretched world. Let our lives be a testament to the transformative power of faith, resilience, and purpose. May God continue to richly bless each and every one of you abundantly as you continue to walk in His light.

Kashief Barton
Chair, Synodical Young People's Fellowship
Steering Committee

NEWS FROM CIRMC

July 4th, 2023

ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The Global Missions Committee of the Elmslie Memorial United Church recently hosted its annual Global Missions Conference. This week-long event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds under the theme "Nations United for Christ." From April 10 to April 14, 2024, congregants and guests gathered to explore the call to mission and evangelization in today's world.

The conference's guest speakers included Bishop Raphael Haule from the Ruvuma Anglican Diocese of Tanzania and Mrs. Keitra Vilma, the Regional Director for the Northern Caribbean with Operation Mobilization. Their presentations offered theological and practical perspectives and insights into global mission efforts.



Bishop Haule engaging the children

One of the most exciting moments of the event was the Youth Night on Friday. Children and youth from our congregations all over the island took part in virtual visits to various parts of the world. They learned about the positive impact that mission and evangelization make on people's lives and their communities.

On Saturday morning, over one hundred individuals gathered for a breakfast and workshop on evangelism. The conference concluded on Sunday with morning and evening Worship Services, culminating in an International Missions Finale.



Mrs. Keitra Vilma, from Operation Mobilization (OM) leading the Saturday morning workshop on evangelism.

Throughout the week, attendees engaged in various activities designed to deepen their understanding of mission work and its impact. The conference started with a church-wide Bible study led by Bishop Haule, setting the spiritual tone for the rest of the week

Cont'd on p.9

GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE...

The finale showcased the rich diversity of the congregation and community, with guests from Zimbabwe, India, the Philippines, Honduras, Cuba, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and many other nationalities coming together to share their food, music and cultural costumes.

The conference was a testament to the dedication of the Global Missions Committee and a reflection of the dynamic and collaborative spirit within the Elmslie Memorial United Church community. By bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, the conference served as a powerful reminder that our shared mission is to spread the message of God's love to every corner of the world. The conference also highlighted that engaging in mission and evangelization is the responsibility of every congregation and believer.

OPERATION MOBILIZATION

Operation Mobilization (OM) is a Christian missionary organization that focuses on evangelism, discipleship, and church planting around the world. Founded in 1957 by George Verwer, OM has grown into one of the largest and most diverse mission organizations, with a presence in over 110 countries.

The organization is known for its diverse outreach initiatives, including ship ministries (most notably the MV Logos Hope, a floating book fair and cultural exchange vessel), relief and development projects, community outreach programmes, and training opportunities for missionaries and church leaders.

OM's primary goal is to share the message of Jesus Christ and demonstrate God's love through practical actions, such as providing humanitarian aid, education, and healthcare, alongside evangelism efforts. They work with local churches and communities to empower them to address spiritual and practical needs within their contexts.

OM operates on a volunteer basis, with individuals from various backgrounds and nationalities joining together to serve in different capacities, ranging from short-term mission trips to long-term commitments. The organization emphasizes a holistic approach to missions, aiming to impact both individuals and communities for the long term.

GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE...

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BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We celebrate with our Ministers and Synod Staff

Ms. Marsha Martin

APRIL 22



*Praying God's continued blessings of
grace and peace*

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

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



RE-IGNITE: CATCH-A-FIRE THROUGH FRIENDSHIP- EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

If the youth are preaching, encourage a focus on personal testimony from their experience of the resurrected Christ.

What does it mean to speak of salvation coming solely through Jesus in our current spiritual landscape.

For John, the Gospel message is rooted in the Love of God in Jesus Christ, which points to the power of the resurrection. Staying 'lit' as a believer requires a personal relationship with Jesus that permeates every action - in Love. Not as the world loves, but the kind that seeks the best for others and drives out fear and hopelessness. Sharing from one's experience of God's redeeming love through friendship with Jesus may help to transform others and help them catch-a-fire for Jesus.

FOCUS FOR THE QUARTER:

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

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ketch a Fya
Called as Partners
in Christ's Service
He Lives
Celebrate Jesus,
Celebrate!

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who lost a brother.
- Revds. Glenroy Clarke and Garwell Bacchas, and Pastor Patricia White who recently lost close relatives.
- Rev. Roy Dodman who is not well.
- 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 challenges
 - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



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

The Moderator's Call to Prayer and Fasting



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

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 and the Moderator who will give the Closing Charge
- 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



The United Church
in
Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



CONVOCATION

PRAYER MEETING

With

Rt. Rev.

GARY HARRIOTT

03
May
@ 7 p.m.

Via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 839 4995 9350
Passcode: 366577



HERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT

The following pages carry information of available opportunities for work..
Please send your posters and flyers in pdf, j-peg or png format to
ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com for promotion in UCJCI Update.



SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

PROGRAMME SECRETARY

The Programme Secretary will take the lead in developing and communicating dynamic gender and age-specific programs within the Regional Mission Council.

The incumbent will maintain close links with the Region to provide operational support for Regional and Congregational programmes, as well as adapt national programmes to specific regional contexts.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Education, Communications or related disciplines
- One year of related experience
- Theological/Christian education training would be an asset

📍 MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER

Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to synodhr@ucjci.com by **Friday, May 3, 2024**

Job & Ministry Opportunity

COMPETENT AND SAFE DRIVER NEEDED Mount Olivet Boys' Home, Walderston, Manchester

➔ **REQUIREMENTS**

- Have a valid Open General or General 7000 kgs. Driver's License.
- A minimum of at least 2 years of driving experience (inclusive of driving a Coaster bus)

➔ **APPLY**

Submit Resumé to:
contact.mobh@gmail.com
or call 876-964-5253



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 ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com for promotion in UCJCI Update.



UCJCI Lay Training Institute

**LAY LEADERS
TRAINING
MODULE 1**

**TRAINING CONTINUES ON
SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024**



**RESOURCE PERSON
REV. KRAIG DELEON
DIEDRICK**

TOPIC

**PLANNING AND
LEADING BIBLE
STUDIES**

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 P.M.

via Zoom

Join at 8:30 a.m.

For more information

Email: ucjci.sheryl.chung@gmail.com

**Persons may choose to attend this day's training at a cost of
J\$1500. Please register and make payment to your region**

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



KIDS 2024

CONVOCATION

May 5, 2024

8:30 am

Montego Bay Convention Center



REIGNITED BY THE SPIRIT

Wi Reddi fi di Road!

LISTEN UP!

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

Activities Include:

AGES 4 - 9

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

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?**

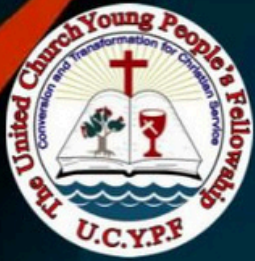
NERMC

vs

SRMC

vs

WRMC



Youth 2024 CONVENTION

"RE-IGNITED BY THE SPIRIT"

May 5, 2024 | 8:30am



Montego Bay Convention Centre

Rose Hall Road, Montego Bay

Featuring:

**ADORACION
MINISTRY**

Wear Something RED !!!

Preacher:

REV. DONOVAN MCPHERSON

Minister

Eltham United Church
Spanish Town, St. Cathrine



Webster Memorial United Church



in collaboration with the
United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands [UCJCI]
and The Children's Registry

presents

UCJCI

*Child Care and
Protection Policy
Training of Trainers*



May

**Modality:
Zoom**

**11 & 25, 2024
10:00 am**

**Registration
is required.**



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