



UCJCI UPDATE

MAY 1, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 15

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



HOPE UNITED CELEBRATES YOUTH. AT YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE ON SUNDAY APRIL 28, THE YOUTH GROUP CELEBRATED IN DANCE TO 'REJOICE' BY SINACH.

ON THE INSIDE

- COUNTDOWN TO CONVOCATION
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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.

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING EDITOR: MRS. KAREN FRANCIS - UCJCI.KAREN.FRANCIS@GMAIL.COM

I HAVE OFTEN HEARD OR READ THE EXPRESSION, 'THE SERVICE HAS ENDED BUT THE WORSHIP CONTINUES' IN REFERENCE TO WORSHIP UNDERSTOOD AS LIFESTYLE AND WITNESS. THE OTHER EXPRESSION I LOVE TO USE IS 'THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING', FOR IN IT WE DECLARE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHURCH IS INDEED NOT THE BUILDING; IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST. WE ARE THE CHURCH. OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. NIGEL PUSEY WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC APPEAL TRIBUNAL (P. 12) WE MUST ALSO OFFER PRAYERS FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE AS HE FULFILLS THAT ROLE. WE ALL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO BEAR WITNESS (CONTINUE THE WORSHIP) THROUGH THE VARIOUS POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE AND ACTS OF SERVICE OUTSIDE 'THE BUILDING'. MAY WE BE FAITHFUL IN OUR WITNESS.

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

THROWBACK!



Knox College Choir ministered at Convocation 2018 joined by past Moderator, Rev. Christopher Mason.

YOUTH CONVENTION

- **Praise in Worship**
- **Adoracion Ministries**
- **Holy Communion**
- **Proclamation of the Word by Rev. Donovan McPherson**
- **Ministry by youth from regions including Cayman**

Youth Reignited by the Spirit

Young people of the United Church have been called to Montego Bay for their Youth Convention. Youth Minister, Rev. Laddia Young, urges congregations to send out their youth.

CALLING ALL UNITED CHURCH YOUNG PEOPLE!

Youth Convention 2024 promises to be a day of worship, fellowship and spiritual upliftment for our young people. It has been five years since the last Youth Convention and our youths are hungry for their time of worship and fellowship. Convocation and Youth Convention will be happening simultaneously. The youths will gather in our own space for worship and fellowship.

The Youth Commission and the UCYPF Synodical steering committee have been preparing for months for Youth Convention. The location is already booked, the preacher Rev. Donovan McPherson is coming with a timely and solid word. The liturgy is prepared, our guest ministers of Adoracion Ministries are ready to minister to those who gather. We will also be gathered around one table to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The only thing we need is for the youth to come from the north, south, east, west and Cayman. I encourage congregations to ensure your young people get to Youth Convention 2024.

It is the hope that having gathered for worship; our youth would have encountered the Holy Spirit in a way that comforts and challenges them. Our hope is that the Holy Spirit will comfort them in a way that affirms who they are and whose they are in this authentic place of worship. It is our hope that the Holy Spirit will challenge them so that the youth will be reignited to start a fire in their local congregations and that youth who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour will come to accept Him.

LET US ALL WEAR RED TO CONVOCATION!

Cont'd on p. 3.

PACKING YOUR LUNCH?

We have been encouraged to take our lunches with us to Convocation because no lunches will be available for purchase. This has been hard to swallow and considered a humbug by some persons. Well, there are two main reasons behind that decision as a result of the rules of the owners of the property:



- 1. The Conference Centre management is normally the sole provider of meals. Despite keen negotiations with UCJCI, the lowest cost for a meal is quite high (\$5000 for one meat) This is likely to be too expensive for the average family.**
- 2. The Conference Centre management does not normally allow food on the compound which they have not provided, including branded food (e.g. fast food offerings and other restaurants)**

After negotiations with UCJCI, the Centre management has agreed to allow the consumption of food in the main hall of the Convention Centre. This is not normally allowed. However, this food cannot be brought in from restaurants.



Given those constraints and the Centre's concession, in order to ensure our members can have an appropriate meal during lunch, you are encouraged to bring your lunch. Of course it becomes an opportunity to share fellowship over a meal, so bring enough to share.

LET'S HAVE FELLOWSHIP OVER FOOD!

LET US ALL WEAR RED TO CONVOCATION!

SOUTH SOUND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, April 21, 2024, four new members were admitted into membership in the South Sound United Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Donovan Myers. The new members received a heartfelt welcome from the elders and members of the Congregation. May their joining be a blessing for them and their new spiritual fellowship



AN EVENING OF MUSIC

In support of the **Lilla Nell Ebanks Music Fund**



The John Gray Memorial Church Sanctuary (West Bay) filled once again to its capacity on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm as people from around the island gathered for the second time for an evening of music supporting the Lilla Nell Music Fund.

The South Sound United Choir presenting 'African Alleluia'

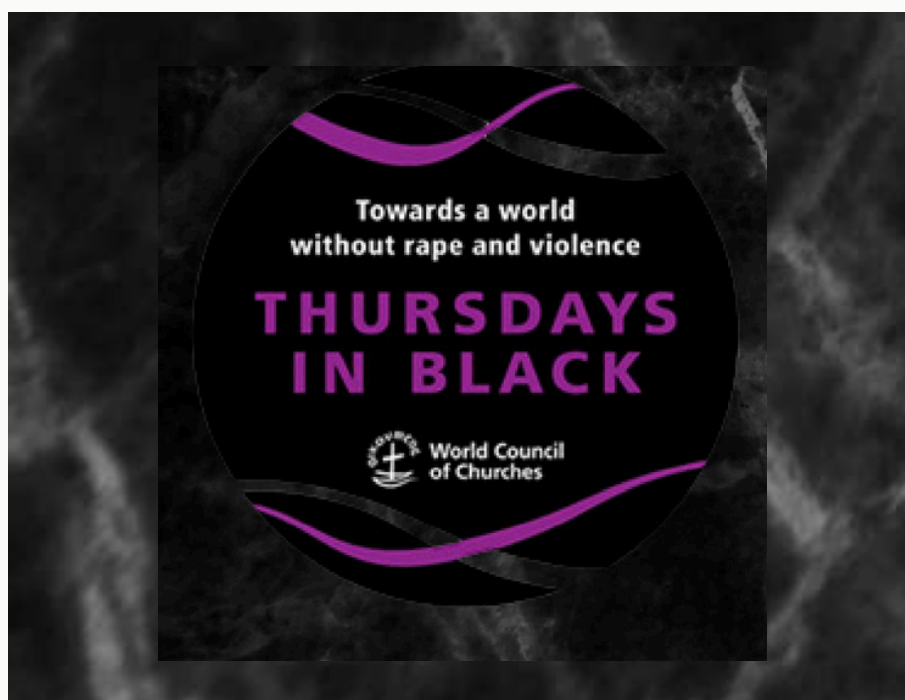
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AN EVENING OF MUSIC...

The Fund was created in November 2023 to advance education in music and song amongst the children and young people of the John Gray Memorial Church, including its Youth Choir.

The programme featured artists and musicians like the JGMC Sanctuary Choir, the South Sound United Church Choir, pianists Mr. Glen Inanga and Ms. Hanna Shen, violinist Katherine Inanga, soloists Ms. Emmi Mowbray, Ms. Olga DaCosta-Jackson, Ms. Daphne Orrett, Mr. Blake Hurlston, Ms. Abigail Parchment, Freida Blake, and Spanish guitarist Mr. Nathan Herrera.

Following the programme, refreshments awaited those who stayed behind for more fellowship. The event was a great success, not only because of the great interest and numbers in attendance (166) but also financially because the Fund received \$3,600 to continue its ministry. Congratulations to the organizing Committee and the John Gray Memorial Church for such a blessing enjoyed by so many.



NEWS FROM NERMC

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH CELEBRATING OUR LEADERS & TEACHERS IN EDUCATION

Contributed by Shaun Battick



PRAYING FOR EDUCATORS

Rev. Lembe Sivile and Meadowbrook United Church are shining a light on the unsung heroes of our society! Special services are being planned to honour and celebrate the dedicated workers who serve our public service sector.

Last Sunday, April 28 was the first such which sought to Recognize and Celebrate the work of Leaders and Teachers in educational institutions.

The service was well attended and included attendance and addresses from the Minister of Education, Moderator of the Synod of the UCJCI and representatives from the Jamaica Teachers Association. Gift baskets were presented to the educators.

The service was enhanced by items from students from Meadowbrook High School, an address by the head girl and a ceremonial flag-bearing by their uniformed Cadet Corps.

Reverend Lembe Sivile addressed parents, teachers and attendees, urging educators to persevere despite challenges, as God has called them to this critical role. He emphasized the importance of their work, especially in Jamaica where educators play a vital role in shaping the future. Rev. Sivile also chided some parents for neglecting their children, leaving them vulnerable to negative influences. He stressed that the classroom



REV. LEMBE SIVILE, MINISTER OF
MEADOWBROOK UNITED

Cont'd on p8

environment has changed, posing risks for educators who often deal with students who have been abandoned by their parents. He encouraged parents to take responsibility and support educators in their crucial work, acknowledging that educators often go above and beyond to care for students who have been given up on by their own families.

Towards the close of the service, Rev Sivile led special intercessory prayers for our educators and students.

View highlights or watch the full service on Meadowbrook United Church's YouTube channel.



MEADWBROOK CADETS PARTICIPATE IN FLAG CEREMONY

STUDENT LEADER BEMOANS 'EVIL WAVE' INFLUENCING JAMAICAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

Krissan Spaulding, the head girl of Meadowbrook High School in St Andrew, was only scheduled to read a Bible verse at a special service Sunday at Meadowbrook United Church. But a burning reminder of the frequent and violent stand-offs among her peers prompted her to present a short speech in which she identified an "evil wave", and appealed to parents to get involved.

The service on Sunday was dedicated to teachers and principals in the public education system, who are on the frontline everyday in schools and who have to deal with the turmoil among students.

The theme of the church service was 'Recognise and Celebrate'.

"We have all seen the videos on social media of students brawling, fighting and assaulting each other and there has even been a death. My school has not been immune. The extent to which this is occurring islandwide suggests an evil wave is in our midst, and so we welcome the call for divine



KRISSAN SPAULDING, HEAD GIRL APPEALS FOR MENTORS FOR YOUTH

"We welcome the call for Divine intervention."

intervention in the education system by offering up prayers for us all. Let us pray for the homes children come from. We are appealing and making a special call for mentors for our students. Parents, get involved in your children's lives. We need you," the young girl said.

"We hope that a change in the attitude of students and the population on a whole is on its way with the help of God Almighty," Spaulding added, before quoting 1 Peter 4:7- 11 from the Bible.

Source: Y JASON CROSS Observer staff reporter
crossj@jamaicaobserver.com
April 29, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT



Rev. Nigel Pusey appointed to Road Traffic Appeal Tribunal

Jamaica on Friday marked a significant milestone in its implementation of the Road Traffic Act (RTA) 2018 with the swearing-in of the Road Traffic Appeal Tribunal, with retired Justice Carol Lawrence Beswick as chair.

Other members are: Victor Barrett and Kimberlee Dobson – who will both serve as deputy chairpersons – Connolly Black, Rev Nigel Pusey, Delworth Heath, and Dr Parris Lyew-Ayee.

The swearing-in, held at the at Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport's (MSETT's) Maxfield Avenue location, was presided over by Chief Justice Bryan Sykes and Carol Palmer, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport.

The Road Traffic Appeal Tribunal, established under the Road Traffic Act (RTA) 2018 and attendant regulations, is tasked with hearing appeals related to traffic offences and violations. Comprising a panel of legal experts and other relevant professionals, the tribunal is committed to upholding fairness, transparency and accountability in the adjudication of traffic matters.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We celebrate with our Ministers and Synod Staff

MAY 7



Rev. Rohan Forrester

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



Rev. Dr. Leroy Walters

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

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
THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024**



**RESOURCE PERSON
REV. KRAIG DELEON
DIEDRICK**

TOPIC

**PLANNING AND
LEADING BIBLE
STUDIES**

6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

via Zoom

Join at 5:30 p.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?**

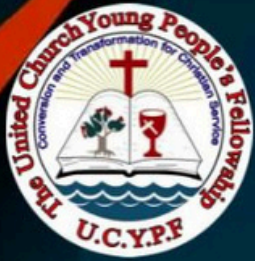
NERMC

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