



# UCJCI UPDATE

MAY 8, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 16

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

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THE COLOUR PART BEARS THE FLAGS OF JAMAICA, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS AND THE BRIGADES AT THE START OF THE MORNING WORSHIP AT CONVOCAATION

## 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 PEOPLE CAME

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THE CALL TO CONVOCAATION WAS MET WITH A RESOUNDING RESPONSE IN THE GATHERING OF 8,000 PLUS WORSHIPPERS AT THE MONTEGO BAY CONVENTION CENTRE. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CHARGED AND THE SEA OF RED STRETCHED ACROSS THE MAIN AUDITORIUM INTO THE GATHERING SPACES OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN. AS THE BUSES ROLLED IN, ONE HAD A SENSE OF HIGH EXPECTATION OF THE TIME OF GATHERING. AS SONGS OF PRAISE WERE RAISED, EXTEMPORANEOUS PENTECOSTAL PRAYERS VOICED AND THE WORD POWERFULLY PROCLAIMED, THE SPACES WERE ENERGIZED. WOULD THAT AS WE DEPARTED FROM THE PLACE OF GATHERING, THAT WE MOVE INTO THE SPACES WE OCCUPY DETERMINED TO WITNESS TO THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO ENABLES US TO BEAR WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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



# THE PEOPLE CAME



# CONVOCATION 2024

**By bus, car and plane, across miles of hills, and valleys and over roads and seas...the people came.**



It is estimated that over 8,000 persons turned up at the Montego Bay Convention Centre for UCJCI's Convocation 2024 on Sunday May 5. The members of the United Church were called and they came - children, youth, young adults, seniors, women and men.





# THEY WORSHIPPED

The praise began at 8:31 a.m. and rousing choruses including 'We come here to praise', 'Sing Praises unto God' and 'My Soul doth Magnify the Lord' resonated through the auditorium as the sea of worshippers clad in red raised their voices in song and danced to the glory of God.



# THEY SHARED FELLOWSHIP



!To the tunes of 'We are Together Again' and 'Get Together in the Lord', the assembly of worshippers celebrated the gathering which had not taken place for six years. The atmosphere was joyful and emotional.



# GOD'S WORD WAS DECLARED

## REIGNITE TO REPLENISH

**"The church receives her life and power from her Lord. Hence she must constantly be renewed in him. This is why an occasional change, revival, or reform will not suffice. The church must be constantly renewed and reformed by the Word and the Spirit of Jesus Christ, her head".**

These are among powerful words of challenge delivered by the preacher, Rev. Glenroy Clarke, Minister of Lucea United Church in Hanover.

Preaching from the text: Ezekiel 47: 1-12 which concludes with a wonderful picture of the temple giving life to the world, Rev. Clarke declared, "In Ezekiel 47:1-12, the Lord gives His prophet a vision of water flowing out from the temple in Jerusalem. This imagery gives us a vivid, prophetic portrayal of the Spirit's work in the church. We see what types of things should be happening when the Spirit is at work among the people of the Lord". This includes the filling of empty places, fruitfulness, healing of broken, hurting people; and there is transformation and life-giving power.

He called for **divine energy** emanating from God on the altar. The altar is a place of fire and fervour and the fire on is to be kept burning. Our passion for God - worship and honour - needs to be reignited with a renewed divine energy as a community and as individuals.

He called for a **deliberate discipleship journey** inspired by the Holy Spirit so that our church is missional. "Mission begins at the place of sacrifice, is launched in worship and transforms creation".

He said further, "The Holy Spirit sends us to call people back to God through Jesus. The Holy Spirit sends us to be people who heal relationships. The Holy Spirit sends us to be people of peace, not violence. The Holy Spirit sends us to bring good news to the poor and the wounded. The Holy Spirit sends us to restore broken creation, not because we are afraid of what will happen to this planet, but because we are full of hope about God's good intentions for his creation".



**...we, like the prophet, must go deeper into the river (flowing from the temple in Isaiah's vision) if we individually and as the church want to experience fullness of life, healing, and fruitfulness.**



# MORE FROM CONVOCATION

- The Afternoon Celebration
- Youth Convention
- Kid's Convocation

In the next issue of UCJCI Update



**"We have work to do."**

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

**Young people were challenged by Rev. Donovan McPherson to be the sons and daughters who prophesied the word of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**



# NEWS FROM NERMC

## CELEBRATING A MARRIAGE

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## 50 Years Later

Congratulations to Pastors Lambert & Deloris Smith who will celebrate their 50th Wedding anniversary on Saturday May 11, 2024. Pastor Lambert Smith is Full-time Lay Pastor serving Rose Hill United Church and Pastor Deloris Smith is Part-time Lay Pastor at Bethel United, Highgate. We wish the Smiths God's continued blessings on their union. May they enjoy many more years of love and happiness together.



Cont'd on p8



# BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



**Miss Janae Bryan**

MAY 7

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle**

MAY 10



**Rev. Kevin 'Nana Moses' Calvert**

MAY 14



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

**We celebrate with our Ministers and Synod Staff**



# Let us Pray Together

## WE PRAY FOR

- Pastor Norma Marriott whose brother Winston Gooden has died.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister Rema Fisher is ill.
- Mrs. Karen Francis whose brother-in-law, Dr. Wigmore Francis died. Funeral service May 18, St. Andrew's Scots Kirk.
- Our young people who will undertake exams in the coming weeks.
- 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 political turmoil around the world, in particular our neighbours in Haiti.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
  - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
  - Rev. Roy Dodman
  - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
  - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



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





# HAPPY Mother's Day

## LET US WORSHIP

5th Sunday of Easter

### WORSHIP THEMES FOR HOME AND OUR CONGREGATIONAL GATHERINGS

#### **Reignited for Nurture and Protection:**

The concept of Nurture is most often associated with mothers/motherhood. William Ross Wallace states that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Consider therefore, the impact of women who nurture others in the faith, and affirm their witness in the congregation just as Paul did with Timothy's mother and grandmother.

Reflect also on Moses' mothers (Jochebed, Miriam, and Pharoah's daughter) and their individual and collective efforts to save him from sure and certain death. All 3 women changed the course of biblical history through their influence on Moses. How will you celebrate these women, and whose life might find renewal through the love and nurture of a 'mother'?

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

##### **Psalm 1**

Exodus 2:1-10  
(John 17:6-19)  
2 Timothy 1:3-7

#### **SUGGESTED HYMMNS**

Faith of Our Mothers Giving  
Thanks to Mothers  
God of the Women

### **Theme for the Quarter - ROOTED AND RESILIENT: RE-IGNITED BY THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION AND BY GOD'S SPIRIT**







# 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](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com) for promotion in UCJCI Update.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com) for promotion in UCJCI Update.

# JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (JCC) WEEK

**May 26 - June 2, 2024.**

**THEME: “Justice, Truth, Be Ours Forever” - Re-imagining God’s intentions for human flourishing”**

**SUNDAY MAY 26**

**- PULPIT EXCHANGE EXERCISES**

**MONDAY MAY 27**

**- TOWN HALL MEETING ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

**TUESDAY MAY 28**

**- PUBLIC LECTURE ON GOVERNANCE 1**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 29**

**- PUBLIC LAMENT FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN  
AND WOMEN**

**THURSDAY MAY 30**

**- PUBLIC LECTURE ON GOVERNANCE 2**

**FRIDAY MAY 31**

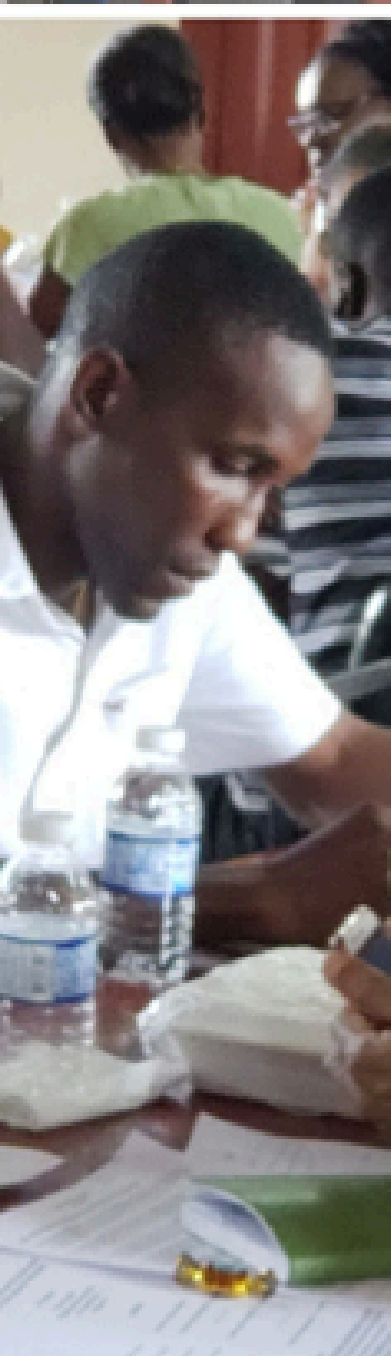
**- ECUMENICAL AWARDS DINNER**

**SUNDAY JUNE 2**

**- ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE**

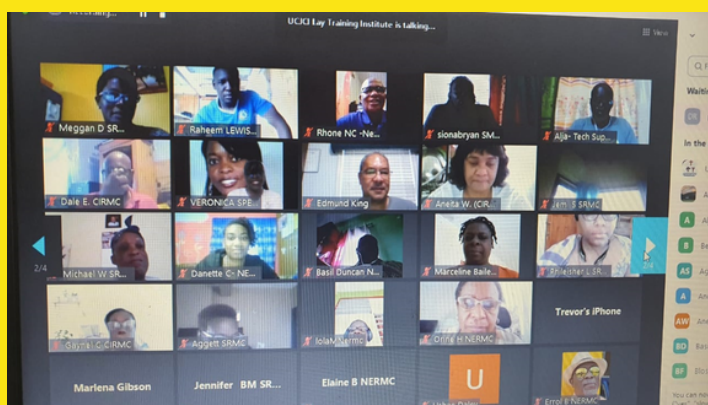
**Persons may choose to attend this day’s training at a cost of J\$1500. Please register and make payment to your region**





# UCJCI Lay Training Institute

## LAY LEADERS TRAINING MODULE 1



**TRAINING CONTINUES ON  
SATURDAY MAY 11, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Training will be conducted via Zoom

**TOPIC: STRATEGIC  
PLANNING FOR  
CHURCH GROWTH**

**RESOURCE PERSON  
Mrs. Karen Francis**

**For more information**

**Email: [ucjci.sheryl.chung@gmail.com](mailto: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**

# 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)

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**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**