



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

MAY 15, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 17



**IN A POSTURE OF PRAISE - ONE OF THE SCENES AT THE YOUTH CONVENTION HELD ON MAY 5, 2024.**

## ON THE INSIDE

- CONVOCATION NEWS
  - IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUTH CONVENTION
- NEWS FROM NERMC
- BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND PRAYER

## 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.

### LET'S SHOW UP FOR YOUTH.

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FROM ALL VISIBLE INDICATORS THE YOUTH CONVENTION WAS A SUCCESS. THE YOUNG PEOPLE CAME. THE YOUNG PEOPLE OFFERED THEIR GIFTS FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD AND BUILDING UP OF THE BODY. AS THE PREACHER FOR THE DAY, REV. DONOVAN MCPHERSON SAID, WHAT MUST FOLLOW OUR SUBMISSION TO CHRIST IS IMPACT. THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE YOUTH IS NECESSARY BUT SO IS THE FAITHFULNESS OF THOSE WHO WILL RESOURCE, GUIDE AND SUPPORT THEM. SO LOCAL CONGREGATIONS, PARENTS, WIDER FAMILY MUST SHOW UP AS COMMITTED MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE SO WE GROOM AND GROW OUR YOUTH. KINGDOM BUILDING DEPENDS ON IT. CAYMAN AND JAMAICA ARE DEPENDING ON IT. LET'S SHOW UP FOR OUR YOUTH.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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

# YOUTH CONVENTION



The atmosphere was electric. Over five hundred youth piled into Block C at the Montego Bay Convention Centre for the UCJCI Youth Convention.

Voices were raised in worship, bodies moved to the infectious rhythms of the music and the young people rejoiced in their gathering...at last.

## 'SELL OFF!'

**In the words of a young daughter of the United Church, the Youth Convention and Convocation were good experiences. Asked why she felt that way she said simply, 'The praise, the Word and the fellowship''**



The day's programme was filled with performing arts offered for the worship of God - dance, drama and song - a stirring challenge by Rev. Donovan McPherson and the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

# 'YOUTH ARE CALLED TO IMPACT THE WORLD...' – Rev. Donovan McPherson

In his message to the youth, Rev. Donovan McPherson, Minister of Eltham United Church said, "Youth are called to impact their world, peers, and congregations for the kingdom of God".



**"God will do a new thing as he promised a time of restoration and renewal. As part of this experience, the Spirit's outpouring would occur without partiality".**



**A TIME OF RESTORATION AND RENEWAL**

The preacher said that youth are called to ministry and mission through whatever vocation or career path they choose. God will use them as his sons and daughters to be world-changers. The fire on the altar must never go out (Leviticus 6:12). "Be inspired by Christ's anointing, his authority, his faith in us, the importance of his mission, our identity and call to follow him".

## The Youth Responded



**Youth respond to altar call.** An invitation was made for unsaved youth to commit their lives to the Lord while others were challenged to recommit their lives to Jesus Christ.

·The preacher continued, "Youth need to know that Pentecost is centered on Jesus – his life, death, resurrection, and gospel. Jesus shows us God in the flesh and shows us ourselves in Jesus. Therefore, youth must embody and pattern Jesus in your lives. We cannot see the mighty rushing wind, but we can see its impact".

·Young people were challenged to be the sons and daughters who prophesied the word of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. "Prophesy miracles among your fellow youths. Prophesy ministries arising from the youth. Prophesy that the remnant youth of our church might be re-ignited with passion and purpose as you share the gospel and love of Jesus Christ".

# A CELEBRATION OF GIFTS



Savanna-la-mar United Mime Ministry



St. Paul's (Montego Bay) Charis Dancers

## Holy Communion



Charis Praise team, Portmore United.



A team from Cayman ministered.



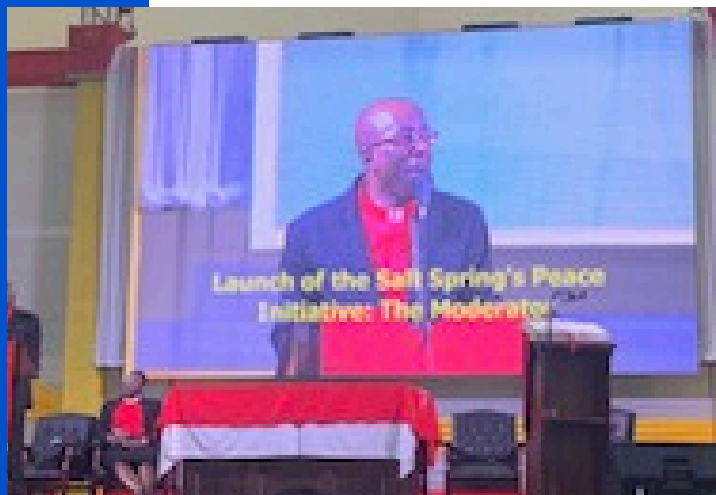
Youth Minister, Rev. Laddia Young brought greetings.

**"BIG UP JESUS ALL THE TIME! BIG UP ALL THE YOUTHS, ADVISORS, MINISTERS AND VISITORS. We give God thanks for grace and a good convention, let us remember that the work continues as we prepare for the camp season". - Rev. Laddia Young**

# MORE FROM CONVOCATION

- The Afternoon Celebration
- Kid's Convocation

In the next issue of UCJCI Update



'Tell a friend, bring a friend...Let's get Together and Reignite by the Holy Spirit'...Winning Tik Tok Video. Read about it in the next issue of UCJCI Update

**"We have work to do."  
Moderator of the Synod, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**

# NEWS FROM NERMC

## RE-IGNITED BY THE SPIRIT – FOR WHAT?

### School Pastors' Programme – An Opportunity for Action

Since last year the North-Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC) has been trying to encourage persons to sign up for the School Pastors Programme to be equipped for a ministry that would support our schools. The take up from NERMC has been minimal with confirmation of only two (2) persons completing the training and being commissioned to date.

There is great need for this ministry as we see what has been happening among our school children and young people in recent months. In the last few weeks we have heard or seen an increasing number of incidents of violence among students. A student from our own Meadowbrook High School was seen in a viral video viciously beating a schoolmate last month. At other schools, 2 students were killed in recent weeks, one of which happened on Monday of this week, May 13.

We gathered at Convocation 2024 on May 5 and were challenged to be "Re-ignited by the Spirit" for action.



## STREET AND SCHOOL PASTORS' TRAINING COMING

The Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott charged us to "Go back to our families, churches, schools and communities as re-ignited people, empowered to be difference makers". This is a practical way in which some of us can respond and equip ourselves to make a difference in the lives of our young people. It's time for action, the Moderator said, "The people of the United Church must get up and go, get up and do, get up and be". "What are the re-ignited people of the United Church prepared to do?" The Holy Spirit is prompting us. Let us respond in obedience and be a part of the transformation we want to see in our communities and country.

**The next Street Pastor's Training will be from June 1-July 6, 2024 in this Region. Training is free. The first session is Face to Face on June 1 at HEART Beauty School, 15 Hope Road, Half Way Tree. All other sessions will be on Zoom, mostly in the evenings. You can apply online using this link:**

**<https://forms.gle/Uc28NWbyFmeoHMA76>**

Contact the NERMC Office at 876 906 1394 or 876 369 7365 for further details if you would like to consider this programme.

Rose Wedderburn, RDGS NERMC

# BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**Rev. Elce-Junior Lauriston**

MAY 13



# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MAY 17



**Rev. Dr. Lorna Letts Jones**

MAY 19



**Rev. Kimberley Hines**

MAY 20



**Rev. Raymond Coke**



**Rev. L. Christopher Mason**



**Mrs. Doreen Barnett**

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

# Let us Pray Together

## WE PRAY FOR

- Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts whose brother, Vinroy Grant, has died.
- 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. Wigmoore 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 on-going political turmoil around the world, in particular our neighbours in Haiti.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
  - Dr. Norma Smellie
  - 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*



# WORSHIP THEMES FOR HOME AND OUR CONGREGATIONAL GATHERINGS

## LET US WORSHIP

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

**Reignited by God's Spirit:  
That Dry (Church) Bones might Live:**

It's Pentecost, the birthday of the Church! The reading from Acts speaks of 4 things that resulted in the re-igniting of the disciples:

- 1.united presence
- 2.sound of rushing wind
- 3.spirit filled room
- 4.individual flames

Note that these are both collective and individual - because the move of God's Spirit is (a) for the benefit of the church, and (b) manifested in each believer's life. Part of the challenge many churches face these days is the denial of God's Spirit, or the mistaken belief that God's Spirit is only manifested through tongues or in particular people's lives.

Ezekiel 37 tells us that the 'dry bones' all came back to life as a mighty army, not one particular bone. In the successive weeks consider very intentional teaching on the role, gifts and witness of God's Spirit in the Church. This is the means by which the denomination will be reignited for ministry.

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

### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

#### **Psalms 1**

Acts 2:1-21

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

### **SUGGESTED HYMNS**

Fire! Fire! Fire!

Spirit of the Living God

Revive us Again

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God

Almighty!

Breathe on Me Breath of  
God

Everytime I feel the 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.



JOIN OUR AMAZING TEAM

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

### **SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL**

**Job Summary:** To perform a variety of administrative/secretarial duties in supporting the Deputy General Secretary in order to maintain and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Mission Council.

✓ Drafts letters, official and routine correspondence and memoranda

✓ Maintain the financial records for the Council

### **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

**Diploma in Business Administration or another related discipline**

**OR**

**Five GCE O'Level or CXC/CSEC subjects at the General Proficiency Level, including English Language with three years related work experience**

**Send your resume to**  
**[synodhr@ucjci.com](mailto:synodhr@ucjci.com)**  
**DEADLINE: Friday, May 24, 2024**



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## PROGRAMME SECRETARY

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Facilitate the development of age-specific programmes for the auxiliaries in the Council
- Adapt national programmes to specific regional contexts
- Identify and develop programme resources to support congregations
- Provide administrative support for the region

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Education, Communications or related disciplines
- One year of related experience
- Prior experience working with children/youths would be an asset.

**📍 MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER**

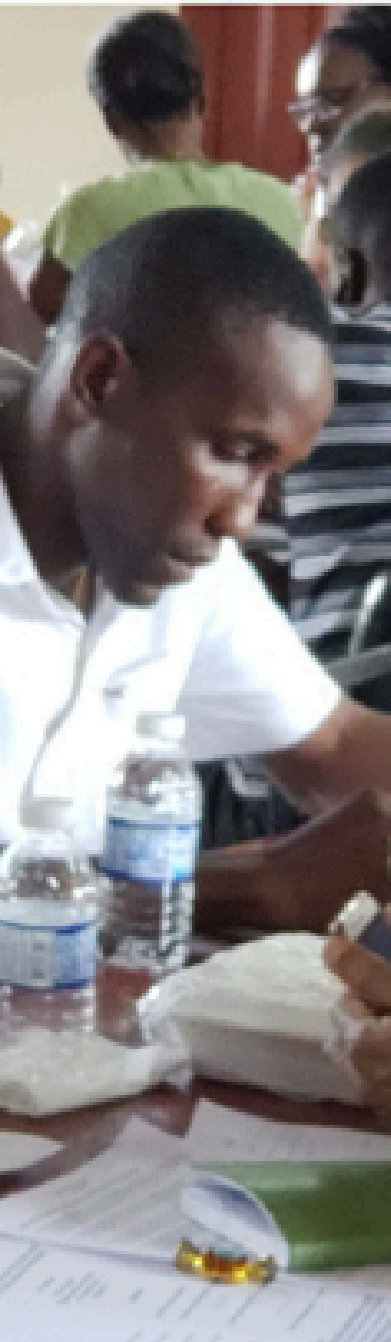
Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to [synodhr@ucjci.com](mailto:synodhr@ucjci.com) by Friday, May 24, 2024

# EVENTS PAGES



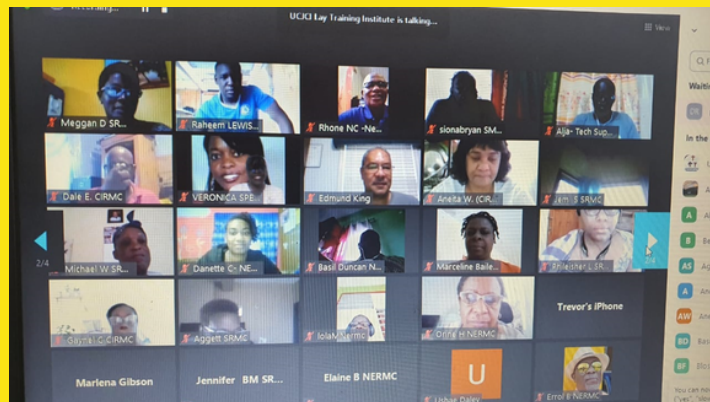
## SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND PRESENCE

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.



# UCJCI Lay Training Institute

## LAY LEADERS TRAINING MODULE 1



**TRAINING CONTINUES ON  
THURSDAY MAY 16, 2024**

**6:00 - 8:00 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.**



WEBSTER MEMORIAL  
UNITED CHURCH

WYAAM PRESENTS



Bi-Annual   
**BLOOD DRIVE**

Saturday

**May 18**

10am - 3:30pm

**2024**

**@Webster Memorial United Church Hall**  
53 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10

ALSO ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE  
CHURCH'S FEEDING PROGRAMME:

SCAN TO REGISTER



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

- + Toiletries
- + Tinned Food
- + Non-Perishable Items

DON'T FORGET TO

**DONATE** 





# 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**

Meadowbrook United Church



Presents

The 40<sup>th</sup> Staging

# A East of Music

Meadowbrook United Church

Under The Distinguished Patronage of  
REV. RAYMOND COKE, C.D., J.P., AUTHOR

\*Philharmonic Orchestra of Jamaica

\*Gem Myers \*D'Major

\*MUC Dancers \*Floyd Cassanova

\*Raheem Vassell (Saxophonist)

COMPÈRE - Mr. Evon Thompson

CONTRIBUTION  
\$5000

Cocktails  
will be served

SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2024

6:30PM @THE LITTLE THEATRE




ARTISTES

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH - 2 Flemington Dr. Kgn. 19. Phone: 876 925 5860 /1876 969 6918

ANSWERS - Shop 1 Tropical Plaza, Constant Spring Rd.

PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH PROJECTS.

www.meadunited.org   



**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**