



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

MAY 22, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 18



**KIDS' CONVOCATION WAS A KIDS' QUAKE  
CELEBRATION OF THE GIFTS OF OUR CHILDREN**

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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.

### CELEBRATING BY GIVING

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CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS INVOLVES GIFTS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE USUALLY ABOUT RECEIVING GIFTS. AT THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT PENTECOST GOD GAVE TO HUMANITY THE GIFT PROMISED BY JESUS - THE HOLY SPIRIT. WHILE CELEBRATING RECEIVING THAT GIFT, TWO OF OUR CONGREGATIONS RECOGNISED THAT THE GIFT OF GOD'S SPIRIT EMPOWERS THE CHURCH TO BE A GIFT OR A BLESSING TO HUMANITY. WE ARE PROUD OF CONGREGATIONS WHO NOT ONLY MAINTAIN MINISTRY FOR MULTIPLE YEARS BUT CHOOSE TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FOUNDING BY OFFERING GIFTS TO OTHERS. READ ABOUT ANDREWS MEMORIAL IN MANDEVILLE AND WEBSTER MEMORIAL IN KINGSTON WHO CHOSE TO MAKE TANGIBLE OFFERINGS TO BLESS PEOPLE AND BRING GLORY TO GOD.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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

# KIDS QUAKE AT CONVOCATION



CHILDREN'S COMMISSION CHAIR, MRS. COLLETTE RILEY WITH THE WINNING DUB POETRY TEAM FROM ELTHAM UNITED.

The Winning  
Message from  
North Eastern  
Regional  
Mission  
Council  
Jayana Hill from St.  
Paul's United Church  
Lockett Avenue

**Children, as we look at the theme 'Children Re-ignited by the Spirit...Wi Reddi fi di Road', it suggests that there is something within us which has gone cold but has found new life and therefore causes a desire for us to want to do something new or different.**

For most of us, the Word of God would have been planted within us whether by our parents, Sunday School teachers or from an experience on radio, television, a community service, or even Tik Tok.

Whatever the reason, we know that we are not too young to be used by the Holy Spirit to do great and wonderful things for God. We have seen many examples in the bible where God used young people to achieve his purpose – David, Isaac, Samuel, Joseph, the little boy with the 5 loaves and two fishes. So, God can use you and me to do good for him and he is always calling us.

My message today is based on the instructions given in Ephesians 6 because it focuses on obedience and calls all of us children to be obedient to our parents, teachers, authority and ultimately to God. *(Cont'd on p. 3)*

## 'WI READY FI DI ROAD!'





**WINNING KID'S QUAKE SONG FROM RUNAWAY BAY UNITED**

**“We must be obedient and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit”**

We must be obedient and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit which speaks to us in many ways. Just as Samuel heard the voice and was obedient, so too, must we be obedient in order for us to be 'Reddi fi di road'.

The road is a very dangerous place and without the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can end up on the wrong path as we see what has happened to so many young people today. Do you want to be on the wrong path in life? I am sure your answer is no, just as it is for me.

To be 'Reddi fi di road', we have to know the voice of God and this requires listening, studying his word, through reading of the bible and going to church/Sunday School regularly where we get a better understanding of what is in the bible. It is only when we know God's Word that we can begin to have purpose and be comfortable to let our little light shine.

**God is calling us while we are strong**

**Children/youth, we are the present and the future, God is calling us while we are strong. So, put on the whole armour of God just as Ephesians 6: 11-18 tells us. It is only when we do so that we will be truly “reddi fi di road.” In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!!**



**WINNING POSTER FROM RUNAWAY BAY UNITED (RIGHT)**



**WINNING DANCE-MINERAL HEIGHTS UNITED**



**WINNING TIKTOK VIDEO BY BOULEVARD UNITED**

# CONGREGATIONS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

## ANDREWS MEMORIAL IN SRMC CELEBRATES 60 YEARS AND GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

### *Giving Thanks, Giving Back*

- Contributed by Mrs. Janet McConnell

**The Andrews Memorial United Church in celebration of 60 years of ministry made good on her decision to give back to the community in a tangible way. The theme that provided the platform for the Anniversary celebrations was Giving Thanks, Giving Back.**

On May 7, 2024 the church handed over two hospital beds valued at over \$300,000 to the Mandeville Regional Hospital.

The decision came about as we noted that the sick who turned up at the hospital would spend an extended time (sometimes days) in wheelchairs or on benches as they are being attended to by the medical personnel. The general cry of 'no beds' has been heard by many members of Andrews as they go to visit relatives and friends who remain in the Accident and Emergency Unit beyond a reasonable time span in uncomfortable and overcrowded conditions.

We hope that our response will assist the most vulnerable among us and inspire others to respond to the issues in our health care system or any other challenge that affects us in community.



*Two hospital beds valued at over \$300,000.*



*The beds were received by Mr. Alwyn Miller, CEO seen here with Rev. Khereen Wilson Bailey, Minister of the Ebenezer/Andrews charge*



*(L-R) From Mandeville Hospital - Mr. Alwyn Miller, Natalee Powell, Office Administrator; Matron Sadie Allen. From Andrews Memorial - Rev. Khereen Wilson Bailey, Minister; Ms. Siana Foster, Chair of 60th Anniversary Committee; and Elder O. J. Lawrence, Vice-Chair for the Congregational Board*

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# WEBSTER MEMORIAL IN NERMC CELEBRATES 83 YEARS PROVIDING FUNDS FOR A SECOND CHANCE FOR FEMALE INMATES

**The Webster Memorial United Church donated \$100,000 towards the completion of Bachelor of Science degrees by two inmates of the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre for females (SCACC) at our 83rd anniversary service on Sunday May 19, 2024.**

Webster's Correctional Service Ministry, a sub-Ministry of the Community Care Ministry (CCM), ministers to the ladies of SCACC every 1st Sunday of each month, in a number of ways including sharing the Word of God, Bible quizzes, counseling, providing personal care items, arranging legal and medical assistance where possible.

When the Church was approached by the SCACC on behalf of inmates, it was without hesitation that our Church immediately agreed that we must support this cause. Through an adjustment to the CCM budget and sponsorship, \$100,000.00 was identified to assist the ladies.

The two ladies who are pursuing the degree were present along with other inmates who also contributed to the Service in song!

The Webster Memorial United Church believes in the expansion of God's Kingdom, by going out into the wider communities beyond the walls where persons would not want to go



The cheque was presented to Overseer Ms. Norma Sappleton Dawkins of the SCACC, by Rev. Astor Carlyle.

The SCACC is one such area that our Church will continue to support the ladies in their rehabilitation in preparation for re-entry into society, for their second chance at becoming model Christ-filled citizens.

- Contributed by Dawn Marie Brown

# WEBSTER MEMORIAL CELEBRATES 83 YEARS...



**THE CHILDREN SANG** – Students from St. Andrew Preparatory School joined the 83rd anniversary service at Webster Memorial on Sunday May 19. St. Andrew Preparatory enjoys shared chaplaincy of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and the Methodist Church which jointly established the school. The students sang 'Jesus' Love Has Got Under My Skin' with gusto as they participated in the service.

# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We celebrate with our Ministers and Synod Staff



**Rev. Lembe Sivile**  
MAY 20



**Rev. Garwell Bacchas**  
MAY 28

# 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

# 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.
- Our young people who are undergoing exams.
- 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

### Re-Ignited by God's Spirit into a life of Holiness:

Isaiah, the anointed prophet of God had an encounter with God's Spirit that resulted in his personal transformation.

Remind congregants and ourselves that despite being 'near' church, it is easy to be far from God (consider linking to 1 Samuel 3:1-2).

Note that an encounter with God's Spirit invites reflection and true repentance. Upon repentance (confession), it is possible to reignite the flame, which confirms our status as children of God.

Make the connection between the cloven tongues at Pentecost (see readings last week) and the live coal that cleansed and renewed the prophet.

Life in the Spirit is a call to holiness and righteousness that invites us to bear witness to others.

Invite the congregation to an encounter with God's Spirit that leads to personal repentance and the deliberate discipling of others.



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

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

**Isaiah 6:1, 5-8**

**Psalms 29**

Romans 8:12-17

#### **SUGGESTED HYMNS**

O for a Closer Walk with  
God

Love Divine All Loves  
Excelling

Spirit of the Living God  
Come Ye That Love the  
Lord



# 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  
SATURDAY MAY 25, 2024  
9:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

Training will be conducted via Zoom

**TOPIC: THE CHURCH -  
THEN AND NOW**

**Come and learn about**

- the birth and witness of the Early Church
- the Reformation
- the history of the United Church



**RESOURCE PERSON  
Rev. Anthony Chung**

**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.**

# 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**



**COMING  
SOON**



**REGISTER NOW**

**Street/ School/  
Prayer Pastors Training**

**NEXT COURSE RUNS  
JUNE 1 - JULY 6, 2024**



WHATSAPP: A  
876-909-0470

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HELPING, CARING, LISTENING**

Meadowbrook United Church



Presents

The 40<sup>th</sup> Staging

# Aeast of Music

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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)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.  
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**MODERATOR**

**Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

**REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES**

Cayman Regional Mission Council  
**Rev. Norbert Stephens (Acting)**

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

Southern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Janet McConnell**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Mauleen Henry**