



UCJCI UPDATE

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

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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.

TOGETHER IN TRANSFORMATION

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COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION STAGES ITS QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA. THE UNITED CHURCH WILL BE A PART OF THIS SIGNIFICANT GATHERING. MANY WILL KNOW OF VARIOUS GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS OF WHICH UCJCI IS A PART. THESE RELATIONSHIPS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SHARING SPACE, IDEAS AND RESOURCES AS TOGETHER WE ENDEAVOUR TO SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST AND MAKE DISCIPLES AS CHRIST COMMISSIONED BELIEVERS TO DO. UCJCI UPDATE PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT. FOR THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, DO JOIN IN THE OPENING WORSHIP. NOT EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO, BUT EVERYONE CAN PRAY FOR THE DELIBERATIONS, SHARING AND OUTCOMES OF THE ASSEMBLY THAT GOD'S WORK OF MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE WORLD, (PAGES 2 AND 3)

DID YOU KNOW?

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

CWM ASSEMBLY 2024

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 12-19 JUNE 2024



Rise to Life

Together in Transformation



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PARTICIPANTS IN THE PRE-ASSEMBLY GATHERING IN THE CARIBBEAN

SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

- Missional Congregations – Witnessing in Public Spaces
- Transformative Ecumenism: Mission from the Margins
- Mission in Digitalised World
- Tax Justice for an Economy of Life
- Building a Movement for Eco-Justice
- Racism, Power and Privilege
- Community De(en)velopment Towards Transformation
- Caste: Discrimination and Power
- Dismantling Militarised Empire
- Discovering the Historical Collections of the CWM
- Radical Hospitality as Evangelism
- Education Transforming Power
- Gender: Leadership and Power
- Affirming Life-Flourishing Spiritualities
- Indigenous Vision – Transformed World
- Creating Space? Frustrated Youth

Council for World Mission (CWM), a global family of churches in mission of which UCJCI is a part, holds its General Assembly in Durban South Africa 12-19 June 2024. This is the first such gathering since 2016.

General Secretary of CWM, Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum said, "The 2024 Assembly is scheduled to take place in Africa. As such, it is important for the assembly to address the current issues and opportunities facing African churches and communities, including both potential threats and promising opportunities.



REV. DR. JOOSEOP KEUM, CWM GENERAL SECRETARY

The assembly will promote the contribution of the African mission thinking and action, especially "the shift of the centre of gravity of world Christianity" to Africa and Black Theology of Liberation to shaping mission theology and practice into the future. The spirit of African rhythms, music, and art will pervade the environment in which the assembly is held, and in the times of our worship together.



CWM ASSEMBLY 2024

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 12-19 JUNE 2024



RISE TO LIFE: Together in Transformation

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About the Assembly

The Assembly takes place once every four years. It is a gathering of about 250 persons, comprising delegates, observers, ecumenical partners, various committees and other invited guests. Since the 2020 Assembly was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global Council for World Mission (CWM) family has not been able to gather for eight long years.

The Assembly 2024 is not just a gathering but a unique opportunity for us to rise to life as a community of churches together towards a transformative mission of God. Through this Assembly, CWM will strive to foster life-flourishing communities where people can find spaces of belonging and new hope in life together. The Assembly theme, together with the sub-themes, will guide the CWM family during the Assembly 2024 and beyond as we rise to life together from the forces of death and destruction and transform our communities into life-flourishing communities.

It is a festive and celebratory event where the global CWM family, including delegates, observers, ecumenical partners, resource persons, staff, stewards, and other invited guests, comes together to worship and fellowship. We share and celebrate each other's stories of God at work in ministry, read and respond to the signs of the time, and reaffirm our commitment to God's mission in partnership that defines us. This is a highly anticipated time in the life of the organisation, meant to encourage and accompany each other and to celebrate our common ministry and mission, emphasising the integral role of each delegate in our shared purpose.

Source: 2024cwmassembly.org



Mr. Shamar Brown is serving as a steward to the Assembly.

JOIN IN THE ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

Please consult the CWM Assembly website

2024cwmassembly.org

for links to the Opening Assembly Worship

Thursday 13 June at 9:30 a.m. EST.

UCJCI DELEGATES

Member church delegation of four members must include clergy, lay leader, female and youth.



Youth delegate - Miss Trifener Reid



Lay leader - Mr. Markel Virgo



Female delegate - Mrs. Michelle Ashwood Stewart



Clergy delegate - Rev. Anthony Chung

NEWS FROM CIRMC

CAYMAN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL HAS A NEW REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

REV. DONOVAN MYERS



The Central Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has approved Rev. Donovan Myers as an RDGS in the UCJCI and assigned him to the CIRMC with effect from June 1, 2024.

Rev. Myers was previously the minister of the John Gray-South Sound charge.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MINISTER TO THE JOHN GRAY – SOUTH SOUND CHARGE

REV. DR. YVETTE NOBLE BLOOMFIELD

Following the affirmation and appointment of Rev. Donovan Myers by the Central Mission Council (CMC) of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) to the office of Regional Deputy General Secretary (RDGS) in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC), the Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield was appointed by the Council Executive Committee to the John Gray and South Sound Charge as Interim Minister while the two Congregations search for a new Minister. Rev. Noble-Bloomfield commenced her duties as of June 1, 2024



REV. DR. YVETTE NOBLE-BLOOMFIELD AT THE SOUTH SOUND UNITED CHURCH ON JUNE 2, 2024.

NEWS FROM CIRMC

THE SOUTH SOUND UNITED CHURCH THANKS REV. DONOVAN MYERS



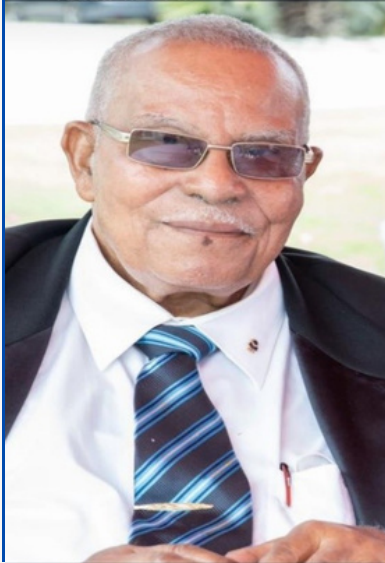
On May 15, following the morning Worship Service, members of the South Sound United Church (SSUC) stayed back for a fellowship breakfast to bid farewell to their Minister, Rev. Donovan Myers, who will assume the office of Regional Deputy General Secretary at the beginning of June in the CIRMC.

Rev. Myers has been the Minister of the Congregation since 2022, when the South Sound United Church and the John Gray Memorial Church merged to form a new Charge. This strategic realignment was part of broader efforts by our Regional Mission Council to respond to an ever-changing and increasingly challenging context.

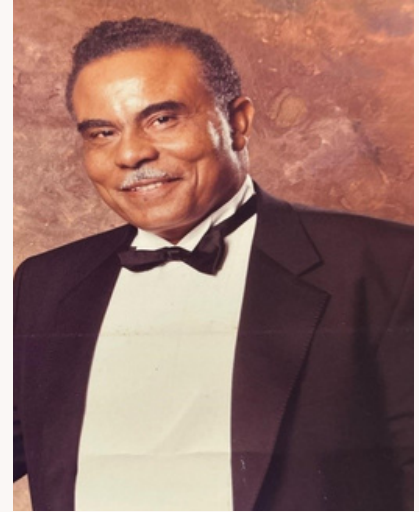
Over the past two years, Rev. Myers has forged a close and dynamic relationship with the South Sound Congregation. His down-to-earth approach and genuine warmth have left an indelible mark on the membership, creating a vibrant and supportive spiritual environment for all.

As Rev. Myers transitions to his new role, the SSUC extends heartfelt thanks and wishes him God's richest blessings. His friendliness, energy, and leadership style will be greatly missed, and doubtless, his new position will benefit from the same dedication and spirit he brought to the SSUC congregation.

THE PASSING OF A STALWART IN THE FAITH



Trevor Watler was a member of the Gun Bay United Church for over 33 years. He began his spiritual journey at the East End United Church, where he accepted Christ at the young age of 10 years.



Mr. Watler lived a life of service. He served in various capacities in both the church and the community as follows:

- Deputy Chairman of the GB Congregational Board
- Elder and Synod delegate for over 33 years until his passing.
- Chairman of the Gun Bay United Church's Property Committee
- A devout member and former President and Treasurer of the Christian Endeavour
- Helped to organize the annual Garden Party
- Frequently donated funds for maintenance and mission
- Tourism Ambassador for the district of East End
- Member of the Lions Club of Grand Cayman.
- Member of the Seafarers Association

Mr. Watler was deeply engaged in every aspect of the church's mission and outreach, often asking, "What is the church doing to bring young people to Christ?"

May God be glorified in his death as in his life!

UNITED CHURCH MEMBER AND FIRST FEMALE HOUSE SPEAKER HAS DIED



Source: Jamaica-gleaner.com

Ms. Violet Neilson, first female speaker of Jamaica's House of Representatives, hailed as a 'stalwart' of local politics has died. She was a member of the Hampden charge

Source: Jamaica-gleaner.com

WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS



**Take a stand
against
violence
especially
directed at
women and
girls**

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- Ms Laurel Livingston, Synod staff, and her son Keon who has been hospitalized.
- Camp leaders, campers and camp ministry and the programmes and activities aimed at challenging and nurturing young people.
- The exercise of ministry in Jamaica and Cayman in the face of significant obstacles and challenges at various levels.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister Rema Fisher has died.
- Staff of the Synod Administrative Centre who have lost relatives.
 - Ms. Joy Williams whose aunt, Alice Kemble died
 - Ms Derrica Ellis whose uncle, Knute Davis, has died
- Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts whose brother, Vinroy Grant died.
- Our young people who are undergoing exams.
- The on-going political turmoil between Israel and Palestine and in particular unrest and instability in Haiti which has led to loss of life and denial of justice.
- 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*



HAPPY
Father's
DAY



May fathers experience joy and satisfaction on Fathers' Day as they are celebrated. May fathers for whom the day is challenging experience God's presence to meet their needs

**WORSHIP THEMES FOR HOME
AND OUR CONGREGATIONAL GATHERINGS**

LET US WORSHIP

Re-Ignited to Deepened Faith By God's Spirit and not in our own might

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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

SUGGESTED READINGS

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

SUGGESTED HYMNS

**Some Trust in Chariots
Be Still and Know that I am God
God Moves in Mysterious Ways
Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me**

The parable in the Gospel reading subverts the popular understanding of leadership traits and power throughout history. A shrub is not expected to be large enough shade for humans, but it can provide some cover for sparrows and other smaller birds often overlooked by many.

Could the text then be inviting readers/worshippers to see God's anointing on their lives in their own spheres of influence? Present God's comment, "man look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart", to the congregation and explore what it means for today's average believer.

Bear in mind the fact that God's Spirit knows us and intercedes for us. Link this to the Trinitarian premise of presence and prescience. Explore the implications for our faith walk in uncertain spaces and difficult situations.

Note the assurance of God's favour, as set out in Psalm 20:1-3.

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.



TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS MODULE 1

Training continues
Thursday
June 13, 2024

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Persons may join the
training for this single
topic at a cost of \$1.500.
Register with your
region.

Topic:
LEADING
WORSHIP

Resource Person:
Mrs. Karen Francis

For more information:
Contact
Mrs. Sheryl Knibb Chung
Administrator
via email
ucji.sheryl.chung@gmail.com
or WhatsApp - 876 8818783

**COMING
SOON**



REGISTER NOW

**Street/ School/
Prayer Pastors Training**

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



WHATSAPP: A
876-909-0470

Join Today!



E-MAIL:
STREETPASTORSJA@GMAIL.COM

**STREET PASTORS JAMAICA
HELPING, CARING, LISTENING**



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. Donovan Myers

North Eastern Regional Mission Council

Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Southern Regional Mission Council

Mrs. Janet McConnell

Western Regional Mission Council

Mrs. Mauleen Henry