



# UCJCI UPDATE

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*A Union of the Presbyterian, Congregationalists and Disciples of Christ Churches.*

**THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

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**OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."**

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## Special points of interest:

- *We salute with pride the **OUTSTANDING growth achieved by two of our congregations, each recording a 66% growth:***
- *A) The Lincoln Kirk in Kingston, and*
- *B) Davyton United in Clarendon! and*
- *C) Mt Sinai at 62%*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GS.



*General Secretary,  
Rev. Norbert Stephens*

**I**n January this year as part of our thrust to deepen our communications within the Church, these weekly newsletters were initiated. We have been encouraged to learn that the information provided has been useful in helping our leaders and

member churches to keep themselves updated on what is happening in our Church; its events, personnel changes, challenges, and yes, the celebrations that we share as a Church.

As we seek to better serve you in this respect, we have given our Newsletter a 'name' which describes its function. So this week we are in a way introducing the inauguration of the "UCJCI UPDATE!"

We want this to be a two-way Newsletter; so, to keep 'UPDATE', relevant and newsy, please send us news on the developments in your church that you would like to share, and also let me know if there is spe-

cific information that you would like from the Synod Office. E-mail us at [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com) and like us on Facebook.

**I invite you too, to share the news with others in our Church,** as we seek to communicate: keeping ourselves informed, and yes even educated on all aspects of our Church's function.

Just last week, for instance, the Moderator & I participated in the **158th Anniversary** celebrations of Duke Street United. **Did you know that Duke Street is the oldest mission outreach of the Disciples of Christ Church USA in the world?** - There is so much to be learned about our United Church! Read on, and be informed!

## MOVEMENTS: - PERSONNEL CHANGES...

●**Rev Delroy Harris**, formerly Programme Secretary of the Western Regional Mission Council, is now the Settled Minister at the **Riverside United Charge**.

●**Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle**, formerly of the George Town Charge of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

will as of **August 2016** assume the post of **UCJCI Warden** at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI).

●**Rev. Henley Bernard** will be assuming responsibility for **Ministerial Formation** as of September 2016.

●**We wish to thank Miss. Marsha Martin**, who between 2008 – April 2016 served as the Synod Office's **Communications and IT Coordinator** and produced and hosted our **United in Faith** Radio Programme, aired on RJR.

**We wish Marsha God's richest blessings, as she seeks to serve in another area of the Church's life and Ministry.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—

●**'YOUTHQUAKE'**: We celebrate the talents of our Youth at the presentation of the Youth Fellowship's "Youthquake 2016", planned for this Saturday, **May 7**, at the Ridgemount United Church in Manchester. As we join in the celebration of talents we are reminded of the words of **1 Peter 4-10**: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully, administering God's grace in its various forms!"

●Also, important to remember is that "**Ministry Sunday**" will no

longer be in June, and will now take place in **September!**

●Look out for a brand new approach to "**United in Faith**", as of this **Sunday May 8th**.

Plans include, Radio Dramas; Inspirational features including Sermonettes; Features on the work of the Church in various communities in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and our Child Care and Protection Programme, which it is hoped will be launched **May 22**.

**Let us have your feedback!**

## PRAY FOR:



**Let us remember to pray** for our brothers and sisters who are undergoing significant challenges in their lives at this time.

We remember especially:

●**Rev. Ralph Hoyte** who is recuperating from surgery, and

●**Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels**, who was a partner in the construction of housing for the poor with the missionaries who were killed last week.

## THINGS TO CELEBRATE: — OUR SUCCESSES.

**W**e Celebrate: the **Cayman Convocation** held April 24th, which was marked by **inspiring worship, rich fellowship and high energy!** Our congratulations to the leadership of the Region!

We join in celebrating with the **Webster Memorial United Church** its **75th Anniversary**, on **Sunday**,

**May 15th**. - Focus of the Anniversary celebrations will be the church's local Ministers of which there have only been three; including its current minister, **Rev. Astor Carlyle**.

**Rev. J. Oliver Daley** who was the Church's first local Minister, and who stayed at Webster for **21 years** will be the preacher.

Both he and **Rev. Norbert Stephens**



who was the church's second local minister will be honoured!

## SIGNIFICANT GROWTH ACHIEVED!



**A**s the Renewal and Transformation strategies are being more warmly embraced and implemented, we are

beginning to see significant growth in our churches. We celebrate growth in UCJCI churches in both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Specifically we joyfully record the outstanding increase in membership at the ●**Lincoln Kirk**; growing from **120 to 228 members in one year**; - a **66% growth**.

●**Davyton United** has also re-

corded a **66% growth** and

●**Mt Sinai** has achieved an increase in membership of **62%!**

**Seven congregations** have seen increases in membership of at least **10%**, and 11 Pastoral Charges have recorded growth in all their Charges, that is, including **35 congregations!!**