



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 1 : Issue 10

Wednesday, July 6 2016

Congregational,
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian

12, Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10. Tel: 926-8734,
email: synod@ucjci.com,
Website: www.ucjci.com

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

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST.

**RECOMMENDATIONS :
The West Kingston
Commission of Enquiry
DO YOU AGREE?**



ENQUIRY DECISIONS QUESTIONABLE?

REV EARLE THAMES ASKS...



Rev. Earl Thames

The West Kingston Commission of Enquiry has ended and the Commissioners have published their 900 page Report.
I have not read the full Report, but have heard the summaries of the Report as given in the media. I followed the actual Enquiry as much as possible and can only say that I disagree with the conclusions and some of the recommendations made by the learned Commissioners.

I disagree that the government should apologize to the residents of Tivoli Gardens because one does not apologize for punishing those who willingly and knowingly aid and abet a known criminal who is seeking to evade trial.

I disagree that the government should apologize for counter-attacking those who attacked and set fire to Police Stations – the recognized symbols of law and order in the nation.

I disagree that the government should apologize to a community which set up barricades and imported an army of criminals from other communities to resist the lawful Security Forces of the nation.

I agree that excessive force may have been used to overcome those who were seeking to defend and hide a person now convicted of many crimes, but what took place in Tivoli Gardens was "war" and what is excessive force in war?

I admit that the high loss of

life was regrettable and that some may have been avoidable, but how can the loss of life be controlled when the state itself is attacked? **The Tivoli Gardens insurgence was an attack against the state of Jamaica and a state has the right to defend itself although there may be a loss of life.**

I fear that the conclusions of the Commissioners, while undoubtedly pleasing to some persons could be interpreted as a justification of crime, of community support to criminals and a deterrent to the Security Forces to secure law and order in the nation. In fact, this Report could lead to an intensification of criminal activity in a nation already infamous for crime.

Worse of all, this Report could be viewed as the official sanctioning of evil not merely on an individual but on a community scale.

I fear that this Report could also justify future actions of wicked persons by awarding compensation for any loss which may be suffered because of their unrighteous actions.

“ENQUIRY...”

This Report could be indirectly saying that unrighteousness exalts a nation.

I pray that this Report may be seriously reconsidered as it could have a very detrimental effect on the life of the nation.

(Published in the Jamaica Observer, June 17, 2016)

JOBS..JOBS..JOBS

The Council for World Mission is pleased to invite expressions of interest to join the staff team in the following positions:

1. Programme Associate – Mission Development
2. Programme Associate – Partner in Mission
3. Deputy General Secretary for Programme.

Further information: Visit <http://www.cwmission.org/join-the-staff-team/>

HAPPENINGS!

Listen out for the interesting series on *Who We are as Disciples of Christ* which is being aired on our radio programme “*United in Faith*”, on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am on RJR.

This week, on Sunday, **July 10** the Rev. Henley Bernard shares on Presbyterianism in Jamaica; and the potential impact of **Presbyterianism** on the United Church on a whole.

This follows on last week’s programme on the **Disciples of Christ**.

Listen next week for our programme on the Congregationalists!

PRAY FOR:

• **Rev. Dr. Adlyn White**, who is ill.

• **Jiréné Bain**, daughter of Joan Paige Bain who is ill.



• **UCJCI Camp Ministry**

Children – July 9 – 16 (Jamaica); July 9-14 (Cayman)

Juniors – July 16 – 23

Teens Pacesetters – July 23 – 30;

Discovery Teens – July 30 – August 6

Youth - August 6–13

Young Adults - August 19 – 21

THE NEW UCJCI WEBSITE!

Take a look at the new website of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands which is being completely revamped.

While still under construction, we invite you to enjoy: **Our History**, and our **Documents** at which all past UCJCI Updates will be up for your review. **Have a special need or question to ask?** Then use “**Dear Moderator**”, - a new feature that you may find useful!

Plans are to make available soon **video and audio** presentations you have missed via the website with links to a revitalised **UCJCI YouTube Channel!!**

EVENT PLANNING WORKSHOP, NEXT WEEK!

A workshop on “**Event Planning**” will be held at the **Webster Memorial United Church** on **Saturday, July 17th** at the **Webster Board Room**, between **12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.** It will be led by **UWI Lecturer in Communications and Marketing, Communications Consultant, Mrs. Elaine Commissiong.**

Topics to be addressed during the workshop include:

‘**Planning The Event**’, ‘**Management and Logistics**’, ‘**Preparing the Running Order**’, ‘**Ushering**,’ and ‘**Protocol**.’

The Workshop is being presented free of cost, to members of Webster Memorial United Church and limited spaces are also being offered to members of other United Churches who wish to attend.

Persons who wish to attend are invited to make their bookings early, with **Mrs. Carolyn Facey** at Webster; **Tel: 968-8986.**