



UCJCI UPDATE

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

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

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

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WE PRAY FOR PEACE

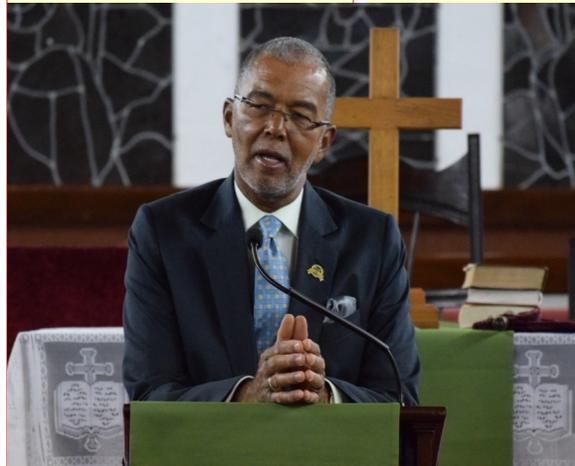
- **The World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (WWPPI)**, -an annual event for several years, begins **18th September**. Churches throughout the world will **join in prayer for the sake of peace**. Theme is: **"Dismantling Barriers"**
- **Pray also for Jamaica & the peoples of the USA who are facing terrorist acts of violence.**

CIRMC CELEBRATES 170 YEARS!

Last week the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council, formerly known as, The Cayman Islands Area Council celebrated its 170th Anniversary of mission and ministry in Cayman.

From the 4th – 9th of September Congregations of the United Church hosted events to celebrate the history of the Presbyterian Church and all its contributions to the Cayman Islands in Education, Government, and Ministry.

The 170th Anniversary Week of Celebration began on Sunday the 4th of September with the John Gray Memorial United Church who hosted "A Journey Through 170 Years". Their event highlighted the history of Cayman and the life of the people particularly women. The women of the church performed a dramatization of the poem "Women of Brick" by Ms. Betty Ebanks, showing the struggle of the Caymanian women and how much this struggle hasn't changed. The History of the Presbyterian Church in Cayman was shared through a re-enactment of the Rev. James Elmslie (performed by Mr. Bryan Bothwell) sharing his testimony of the trials he faced when establishing the Presbyterian Church in Grand Cayman.



Mr. Roy Bodden, lectures on the history of the church in Cayman

also shared the triumphs and accomplishments the Presbyterian Church made in helping to establish an education and legislation system in Cayman.

The Week of Celebration continued on Tuesday the 6th of September in the East End and Gun Bay Charge as they presented "A Dramatic History of the United Church", indeed it was quite dramatic. The play focused on the union of the United Church by its three antecedents: Presbyterian, Congregational, and Disciples of Christ.

The audience laughed from beginning to end as the comedy smoothly gave the history of the Church in a most entertaining way. The East End and Gun Bay congregations had

various "old time" Caymanian artifacts on display and ended the evening with a buffet style of some good "old time" food and desserts along with delicious tamarind juice and swanky.

The George Town Charge consisting of Elmslie Memorial United Church and South Sound United Church hosted a Potluck Social for the United Church's 170th Anniversary Celebration, which took place on Wednesday the 7th of September.

The evening was a wonderful time to reflect on the growth of Elmslie Memorial and South Sound congregations as well as cherish memories from the past. Fond memories were shared through a



The CIRMC Youth Explo- sion!



EVENTS

Remember!

The Moderator's Retreat will be held at *Sea Gardens Beach Montego Bay,*

September 22-23.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2016

● Resourcing the Renewal and Transformation Agenda –

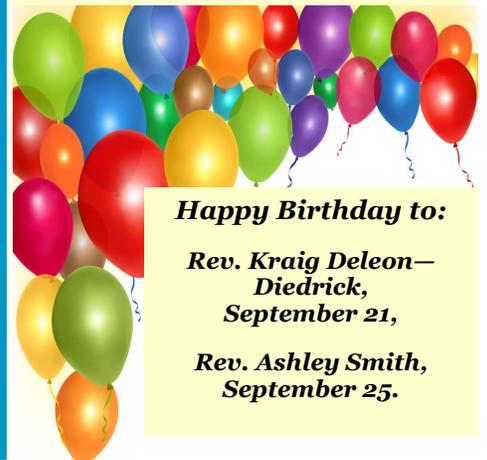
An Action Plan Template for Spiritual Growth for use in congregations and charges is *available in both hard and soft copy from your Region.*

● **Leadership** – We will continue to pursue initiatives to build relationships, **accompany, and build capacity** and to inspire our leadership to achieve their full potential.

● **Communication** – we are committed to exploring additional avenues to ensure improved communication of the best practices, significant events and to ensure cross communication among regions to celebrate, educate and inspire the wider church.

UCJCI is committed to pursuing personal relationships with God through prayer, study and worship, *“Touching lives, nurturing Disciples, seeking transformation through Christ”*

CELEBRATIONS.



Happy Birthday to:

*Rev. Kraig Deleon—
Diedrick,
September 21,*

*Rev. Ashley Smith,
September 25.*

slideshow of pictures and by members sharing funny stories and jokes about **Elmslie's Church bell** and the eccentric Minister Rev. George Hicks. A tribute to Cayman's heritage was done by Elmslie's dance ministry as they performed the Quadrille. The most anticipated moment of the evening was getting to taste the vast spread of food, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

On Thursday the 8th of September the Webster Memorial United Church and William Pouchie United Church hosted a lecture and discussion by **Mr. Roy Bodden**. Members across the Congregations attended to hear the insightful words and discussion Mr. Bodden shared about the history of religion in the Cayman Islands and the Presbyterians impact on education, culture, and tradition in Cayman.

Mr. Bodden applauded and expressed how impressed he was with the accomplishments of the Presbyterians and the United Church. He challenged the United Church to find a way of re-gaining the formula or strategy used in past to bring them to this point of 170 strong years as their strength to move forward in time where Churches (in general) are struggling to be present in the community.

Throughout the week of celebration, the history of the Presbyterians and the United Church was shared, cher-

ished, and reflected. The celebrations came to a close with the **Youth Explosion** hosted on by the **Savannah United Church and the Robert Young Memorial United Church**. Youth groups from all the Congregations joined at Savannah for an amazing time of fellowship, worship, fun, and sharing of history. The Savannah United Church Dance Ministry performed a dance item, and testimonies were shared by youth about their summer and the impact God had on them throughout it.

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council ended its celebration on Sunday, September 11, 2016 reflecting on the establishment of Presbyterian Church by Rev. James Elmslie on September 11, 1846.

OTHER CIRMC HAPPENING!

Strategic Planning is on the agenda for **Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council** September 30 - October 1.

Ministers, lay pastors and other leaders in the region will gather at Prospect Youth Centre to participate in a workshop on *“Conducting Mission Audits and Developing Strategic Plans*, run by **Council for World Mission Caribbean** to help member churches of CWM develop missional congregations.

Trainers Karen Francis, Elaine Commissiong and Henroy Samuels will lead the group through key stages in the planning process including conducting research in the community.