



UCJCI UPDATE

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Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

UCJCI AND THE WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES

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

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PRAY FOR:

The World Communion of Reformed Churches.



The year 2017 will mark 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, sparking the Protestant Reformation. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has its roots deeply planted in this Protestant Reformation as our three antecedent denominations were all formed and nurtured by the efforts of the reformers.

Today, the UCJCI is a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches which was formed in 2010 at the Uniting General Council, held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The World Communion of Reformed Churches is a communion comprising the member churches of the former World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the former Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC).

WARC was founded in 1970 at a General Council held in Nairobi, Kenya and was a coming together of the Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian System and the International Congregational Council

In 1970 WARC was formed with 114 member churches in 70 countries. UCJCI was a very active member of WARC and participated fully in the theological discourses which accompanied the development of the Belhar Confession (1982) and the Accra Confession (2004).

We have been ably represented on WARC by Rev. Sam Smellie, Rev. Earl Thames, Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans, Rev. Dr. Colin Cowan, Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt, Rev. Dr. Gordon Evans and many others who made valuable contributions in the various meetings and committees of WARC.

The Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) was formed in 1946. It was a gathering of churches that had no other international ecumenical ties and were committed to mutual support in a Reformed confessional unity.

The REC ultimately encompassed 41 churches in 26 countries, the majority in Africa and Asia. (WCRC website).

The WCRC now has 225 member churches in 100 countries and has a membership of over 80 million Christians.

It coordinates joint church initiatives for communion & church unity, justice (economic, environmental, and social), leadership development, mission and theology.

(contd. over page.)

CELEBRATING...



TO:

Rev. Carlington Keen*December 15;***Mrs. Jeannette Rose-Bryan***and***Rev. Nicole Ashwood***December 21.***WCRC. contd.**

United in Christ and rooted in the historic Reformed traditions, the WCRC with its member churches believe that Christian faith is responding to God's call to meet spiritual needs and foster justice for all in the transformation of the world through the love of Jesus Christ'.

The UCJCI since the General Council in Grand Rapids has been represented by **Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield** who was elected as one of the four Vice Presidents. She represents North American and the Caribbean.

She is also the Moderator for Communications for the WCRC.

The WCRC President is **Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay** of South Africa and the General Secretary is **Rev. Dr. Chris Ferguson**.

The office of the WCRC is located in

Hannover, Germany, having relocated from the WCC Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland in **December 2013**.

The **2017 General Council** will be held in **Leipzig, Germany from June 26 – July 7, 2017**. The UCJCI will be represented by **Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, Ms. Angela Martins, Chair – CIRMC and Ms. Blossom Foster of the SRMC**.

Rev. Dwight Kelly will serve on the **Worship Committee of the General Council in 2017**.

BELOW:

Rev. Dr. Noble Bloomfield in attendance at a meeting of the WCRC leadership and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) – The Evangelical Reformed Church in Germany – November 10, 2016



Send comments and news about your congregation to ucjciupdate@gmail.com