



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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PASTORAL LETTER

*Congregational,
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

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

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PRAY FOR:

Our Church and all our 'sister' denominations in Jamaica, for God's guidance, and strength.



*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace;
the beauty of thy peace.*
(John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872)

Colleagues in Ministry, my sisters and brothers in the UCJCI Family, In the midst of the present milieu there are many competing and confusing voices.

However, our capacity to discern enables us to hear with clarity from the one who calls us into this ministry of **Word and Sacraments**.

Integral to this call to ministry is the role of the pastor as shepherd, advocate and confidant and we are encouraged to be faithful to this call.

Recent events in our societies affecting the church have challenged the exercise of ministry and in the midst of the same it is easy to become immune, discouraged, defensive, and speculative and to lose confidence in the institution of the church.



Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason

We in the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands remain resolute in our identity in Christ, committed to our vocation and open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As a church we do not condone any form of abuse, victimization or conduct, which seeks to discredit this high calling to ministry and we are prepared to challenge any behaviour which brings into disrepute the integrity of ministry and the church as an institution.

I wish to remind you that within our structure we have the following documents, supportive of our policies, available for the exercise of ministry, and

which can also be obtained from our Regional Offices:

- Ministerial Code of Ethics
- Sexual Misconduct
- Child Care and Protection.

There are additional documents in the **Minister's Manual**, which address the conduct of ministers and Lay Pastors. Please be remind and be guided as pastors and congregants of these policies and documents of our church.

As a church we are always willing and able to accompany those who may need a space to process.

I remain available to you and encourage you to be prayerful and faithful to your calling as ministers and members, even as we encourage and support one another.

Let us be in prayer together as we continue to serve Christ and the Church.

Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Romans 12:2)



CELEBRATIONS



70:

Mrs. Carlene Andrade
January 19th

Mr. Dwight Henriques
January 20th

fresh
expressions 

How do you grapple with the challenge of connecting with people in community who have not been exposed to 'traditional' church?

How can we connect with those who are disinterested or disenchanted with organized religion?

CWM Caribbean is inviting ministers and church leaders to sit down with Fresh Expressions of Church Team Member, **Rev. Wayne Hawkins on Monday January 30, 2017 at 10 am at Shirley Retreat Hotel** to see and hear examples of those who have embarked on 'fresh expressions of church' with good outcomes.

For more information please call Karen Francis 432-7057 or email vickeisha.burke@cwmission.org

CIRMC'S TRIBUTE TO REV. HARRY BODDEN



We thank God for the Rev. Harry Bodden who celebrates forty seven (47) years of Ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacraments. Rev. Harry was ordained on the 18th January 1970 and over the years has served with distinction in the Porus Charge, First Hill and then the Falmouth Charge.

He also served briefly at the Hampden, Barrett Town and Mt. Zion Congregations in Jamaica. In the Cayman Islands, Rev. Harry served in the Bodden Town /North Side Charge and the East End / Gun Bay Charge. Rev. Bodden is an avid reader and is a deep thinker.

A quiet soul, he serves God with faithfulness and has a passion for Christ and the Church. Rev. Harry is always enquiring about his colleagues and regularly keeps in touch with his friends in ministry. He offers ministry through the 'Worship the Lord', the United Church's radio program in Cayman and he also does his own radio broadcast, 'Trust in Lord' every other Tuesday morning on Radio Cayman.

May God continue to keep Rev. Harry in good health and to bless him in all his endeavours. In the United Church we are truly appreciative of the wonderful blessings that have been received through the ministry of Rev. Harry Bodden.

UCYAAM MONTH

Since its establishment in 1973, *The United Church Young Adult Action Movement (UCYAAM)*, has come of age and is now a "full" adult in its own right.

The movement has not only provided "the climate for spiritual guidance and motivation within a fellowship and at the same time recognize and develop talents, which could be used effectively within the Church" but has also created that space for grooming and exposure which has resulted in affirmative response to ministry.

But most of all it is a ripe harvest field which makes evangelism the core of its focus and especially so, more intentional in this season.

So as we celebrate yet another year, we invite you to come socialize, evangelize & actionize (S.E.A.) with us!!

The (UCYAAM) came to existence to fulfill the needs of those who may be considered to be in the "gap" age of our church and that is between 21-40 yrs. In most congregations, there is a church school, a youth fellowship, bible class, women's fellowship, men's fellowship, but nothing prior to its establishment in 1973 that specifically addressed the needs or targeted the aforementioned age group.

Beginning with a nucleus of concerned and dedicated young adults, the movement called, "Operation Salvage", spearheaded by **Rev. Maitland Evans and the indomitable Rev. Earl Thames**; resulted in the first UCYAAM Conference held at Kelly Lawson Training Centre, **Falmouth, in 1973.**

Since then, the movement has gathered strength and has cantered on various activities which not only emphasize the indispensability of the role of Young Adults within the life of the Church, but which also seek to equip those who fall within this age group for the programme in which everything is directed towards commitment to Christ and his service in His Kingdom

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