

August 11, 2021



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HOW DO I SOAR
- Ministry in Virtual Spaces

Emancipation Still Coming

News from Cayman

Updated COVID Protocols
in Jamaica

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 30

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

UCJCI's Enlarged Territory Ministry in Virtual Spaces

'Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! ...' Words from 1 Chronicles 9 known as, The Prayer of Jabez, have become the request of many Christians in a search for wider horizons for ministry and influence. COVID 19 has opened up enlarged territory for UCJCI as it has for many denominations of the Christian Church.

One of the ways in which this is evident is through the work of Rev. Kevin Calvert, a United Church Minister who was appointed Minister of the Visual and Performing Arts in November 2020. Known also by the stage name, Nana Moses, this creative uses storytelling, poetry, drama, dance, music and film to proclaim the gospel of Christ and engage in advocacy

So how has Rev. Calvert engaged his mandate from the UCJCI. A number of initiatives have been undertaken.



HOW DO YOU SOAR (Strive to Overcome Adversities with Resilience)

In May 2021 (Child Month), the Government of Jamaica launched an initiative, I SOAR campaign focusing on children and appealed to organisations to be a part of it. This was seen as an excellent opportunity for collaboration and to incarnate the Synod theme: *Rooted, Resilient, Responding in H.O.P.E.* Rev. Calvert saw this as a means of engaging youth to reach youth using the creative arts. In this initiative children displayed their own gifts and skills by telling stories using their own language and expressions to communicate their passions. They were asked: **What would you do if you were Prime Minister for a day? What would you change about Jamaica? What**

kind of Jamaica do you want to live in? How do you SOAR, how do you contribute?

CREATING VIDEOS FOR UCJCI HOUSE CHURCH LITURGY

Given the task of strengthening, visualizing and bringing to life the house church liturgies developed by a UCJCI team of Worship Planners, Rev. Calvert produced 'El Chay', and 'The Unspeakable Gift', the latter featuring the written work of Rev. Earle Thames, deceased UCJCI minister.

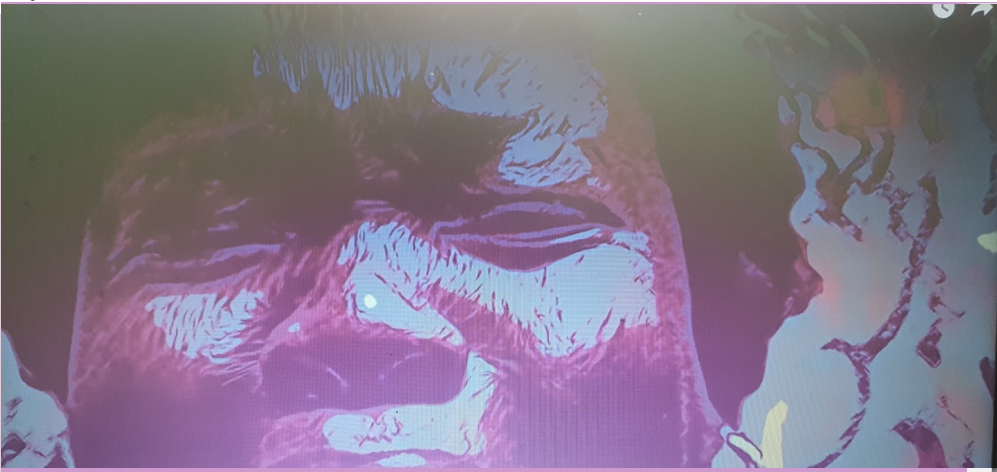


ON THE VERANDAH

This is a series of presentations under the title: which address matters of the heart which have an evangelistic intent and is shaped around 4Cs in addressing the issue of Gender-based Violence. The approach is to identify:

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1. **CRISIS**— expose the problem
2. **CONFRONTATION**— face the problem
3. **COUNSELLING**— show the church’s approach to dealing with conflict and confrontation
4. **CONSOLATION**—a resolution through healing.

This ‘head on’ approach to Domestic and Gender-based violence is expected to start conversations in safe spaces recognizing these are sensitive conversations which the church itself is impacted by; a topic which challenges perpetrator and victim.

I AM MY FATHER’S SON

These productions use story-telling featuring individuals within the denomination and highlights positive examples of men who have been inspired to be like their heavenly Father. Two have been released so far featuring an individual in rural Jamaica and in Kingston . Rev. Calvert is particularly pleased about these productions because they have provided opportunity and exposure for persons whose stories may never have been told otherwise.



THE PIERCED HAND

In Easter 2020, Rev. Calvert undertook the production ‘The Pierced Hand’ based on the poem by Judy Doyle. The work looks indepth at Jesus’ struggles with his death, Judas’ contemplations and invites the viewer into a conversation on suicide.

Rev. Calvert’s passion is to see UCJCI as a visual lighthouse—so others can look at what we are doing and be inspired. Noting that ‘this church is rich and bursting at the seams with talent and people with creative ideas. This is seen at every level form leadership to membership. COVID 19



created opportunity to capitalize on this and opened the doorway to seeing these opportunities at the forefront of ministry. We can work creatively and create impact.”. He speaks of our intellectual property—original work which every member has potentially within them. The question is how can these be used for the glory of God and to take on advocacy on issues. How can we use this menas to ‘speak truth to Empire’?

The work of the Preforming and visual Arts draws heavily on Kevin’s’ personal brand and work of many years ‘Kairos Creation Productions’. It is his hope that a cadre of persons with technical abilities will be trained within the church.

Kevin comes to the post with a Bachelor of Theology from UTCWI/UWI with a minor in Cultural Studies and much of his cultural exposure has come from coaching by persons such as *Cont’d on page 4.*



SUPPORT IUC

Professor Roderick Hewitt, President of the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), makes an appeal to the UCJCI family for support for the institution which is owned and operated by UCJCI.

1. Please advertise the courses that we are offering regularly, at worship services, on your website and during online service.
2. We are encouraging your local church to recruit at least one student for the next semester that begins in September 2021.
3. Please include IUC in your missionary contribution by sponsoring at least one student for the 2021/2022 academic year. We welcome and appreciate whatever contribution that you can offer.

I am pleased to inform you of an interesting new development at IUC with the development of the IUC Peace Institute. We will soon begin a major advertisement blitz on national TV, Radio and through social media that will lead up to the official launch of the Institute in September 2021. Through this development, IUC will give renewed emphasis to its founding Motto: "Seek Peace, Pursue Excellence".



IELTS EXAM AT IUC

(International University of the Caribbean)

Breaking news alert!!!!!!

International University of the Caribbean is pleased to confirm that they are now an approved test venue to sit your IELTS exam in Kingston, Jamaica! bookings now available for **August 12th. Register now!!!**



Make your dream of living abroad come true by taking the IELTS™ test



Book your exam with confidence at

<https://www.multilingua.com.co/ielts-international>



1876 8136177



international.prep@iuc.edu.jm



<https://iuc2.edu.jm/online/>



UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

The Government of Jamaica, on August 9, 2021, announced a number of amended provisions under the Disaster Risk Management Act. These provisions are for the period **August 11 to August 31, 2021**.

We wish to share with you the ones which will affect congregational life from **August 11, 2021**:

Curfew on Sundays – begins at 2 p.m.

Church Services – the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary will be a **maximum of 50 persons based on the maximum capacity of the designated area for worship according to the 1 person per 40 square feet guideline**. “The 50 persons limit is still subject to the physical distance rule. So if your church, in applying [the] one (person) to 40 square feet rule, can only accommodate 30 persons, then 30 is your limit. [But] If your church, in applying the physical distancing rule could accommodate 200 persons, 50 is your limit.”

No crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.

Existing provisions remain in place as under:

Funerals – will be allowed with a maximum of 30 persons within the venue.

Burials will be allowed for 30 minutes on weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm with a maximum of 30 persons at the graveside.

Weddings – no more than 50 people allowed

Stay at home – persons 60 years and over. Fully vaccinated persons are exempt.

Please note that the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are still required for public spaces and gatherings.

We invite you to comply with these provisions.

COMING SOON...

Constitution Corner

Would you like to know more about the UCJCI Constitution and how it impacts you? Look out for

Constitution Corner

every last Wednesday of the month in the UCJCI UPDATE.

Learn more about key provisions of the UCJCI Constitution and the work of the Constitution and Doctrine Committee in interpreting, applying and giving life to the Constitution!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rev.
Euthman
Wray



AUGUST 13, 2021

NEWS FROM CAYMAN



CIRMC SUMMER CAMPS

Children

July 18-23, 2021

Teens

July 25-30, 2021

Since 1982 the Prospect Youth Centre of the UCJCI in the CIRMC has been hosting children and youth camps during the summer months. Over the years, for countless campers, it has become synonymous with a lifetime of memories, lasting friendships, life-changing decisions, not forgetting the plenty of fun, great comradery, and important lessons learned. The various activities at camp offer a plethora of opportunities to our children and youth to learn about what it means to share space with others, to consider each other's needs, to communicate effectively, to organize themselves, and most importantly, of course, to learn about God, about what it means to put our trust in God, who has a purpose and plan for each of us. It is indeed very challenging, if not outright impossible to capture in words what a camp experience means for one's spiritual formation and overall well-being and development.

Following the pandemic-induced lockdown, the restrictions, and the cancelled usual summer activities of 2020, the need to reconnect became ever more urgent. Planning for VBS and Summer Camps 2021 began earnestly with great excitement and anticipation in our Congregations and Council at the beginning of the year. Over the following months, the overarching themes and minute details were attended to with great care. Thanks to God's loving guidance and help, as July arrived everything and everyone was in place. The theme for Summer Camp 2021 was '**Root, Shoot, Fruit**', corresponding to the theme of the current Synodical period in the UCJCI, 'Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E'. In their daily Bible Study time from Monday through Friday campers considered the spiritual implications of the life cycle of plants:

THE SEED Just like the seed of a plant needs certain conditions to germinate e.g. good soil, water, light, the Word of God planted in our life needs care and attention to take hold.



THE ROOT Plants develop their root system for two reasons. One, to provide stability as they grow and develop, and two, to access the

necessary nutrients present in the soil. We too, need to grow deep in our faith, in the Word of God, and prayer if we want to mature in our spiritual life.

THE SHOOT As they grow and develop, most plants are prone to become 'bushy' or get infested with parasites and insects, but with proper pruning and treatment they take on the best 'shape' and grow healthy and strong. In the same way, God provides personalized care to us by timely 'trimming, pruning and cleansing', by addressing what is undesirable or outright dangerous for our spiritual development, and trains us to grow the right way.

THE FRUIT Some plants are appreciated primarily for their aesthetic beauty while others for their fruits. The spiritual seeding, rooting, and



shooting process in the life of the believer naturally leads to bearing spiritual fruits for the benefit of others and for the glory of God. Ultimately, this is the meaning and purpose of our life, to become what God has designed for us to be in our unique, personal way.

THE CYCLE But the life-cycle of a plant doesn't end with itself. One of the essential inherent characteristics of living organisms is to multiply, to bring forth new life. While a new life, in a spiritual sense, is the result of the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit, every one of



us is called to participate in our own way, to contribute to this process more so by practice and example than





Photo courtesy of Buzz Caribbean

Emancipation still Coming...

The following is the text from a sermon by Rev. Tara Tyme, Minister of the St. Paul's/Norwood Charge, on Emancipation Day.

Today is a day for reflection as we contemplate the whole meaning and task for emancipation. We have made some strides to this end, but there is no denying that we have a long way to go. Emancipation is to be free from any form of bondage... and we not only bound physically, but emotionally and mentally. We cannot ignore the fact that while for the most part, we are free physically, the enslavement of our minds and spirits are evident in our midst.

- The crab in the barrel mentality in all areas of society.
- The way in which at times we see our selves and speak ourselves; see our people and speak about our people.
- The constant struggle with corruption, greed, time and violence.
- The lack lustre approach to consistently be a people of excellence that carry the spirit of excellence in all of who we are and all that we seek to do.

Kortright Davis (a Caribbean Theologian) in his book "Emancipation still coming..." asserts, and I paraphrase... "as a people we are full of mysteries... no one can ever satisfactorily explain how we have managed to survive in the way that we have..."

I believe the time has come to not just survive, but to be fully emancipated... physically, emotionally, mentally.

The Church has and must continue to acknowledge its complicity of the enslavement of our ancestors... and must do everything in her power to be a part of the work, and fight for total emancipation of all people.

Exodus 3: 1-10 is a familiar text - the call of Moses to deliver/ free the Children of Israel from bondage.

Moses lived in the palace of the oppressor; the oppressor of his kinfolk. It's very interesting that the trappings of the oppressed for the first 40 years of Moses's life caused him to be blind to the reality of his people's suffering... that without the ingenuity of his mother to preserve his life, he would be in need of deliverance/freedom himself. The truth has a way of catching up with us and sometimes painfully so.

We must not allow the trappings of our oppressor, whoever the oppressor is, to blind our eyes to our reality or realities. The Church must not allow the trappings of our oppressors in the past or present to blind our eyes to our realities... of the need to confront them about the injustices, abuse and dehumanising of our people; to challenge them and demand of them to do what is right.

Moses had to face who he was, as he witnessed his kinfolk being beaten, which resulted in him defending his kinfolk, which led to the death of an Egyptian and this led to him fleeing for his life.

He sought refuge in the wilderness, taken in by a Midianite priest and life took on a whole new meaning for him... not a Prince anymore, just an ordinary man trying to survive the rigours of the day.

When the veil is removed, one's eyes starts to open up...

Who better to lead the Children of Israel out of bondage, but one who has lived and benefited from the hands of the oppressor? God inspires us to make decisions in a moment, without us recognising that in time to come, it's God's way of working God's purpose out in us and through us... in the context of this text, it was to set the people free... and so little did Jochebed know that she was a part of God's master plan to set his people free.

Who better to continue with the work and task of emancipation, than the Church, which has benefitted from the hand of the oppressor, but our eyes are being opened and we have no choice, but to commit to all of God' people living in freedom.

Who better to continue the work of our total emancipation for ourselves than ourselves.

From the text, I draw your eyes to 3 things. The continued task of emancipation demands that we: **Face our past, Live in the present and Secure our future**

Face our Past

In verse 7 God brought back Moses to his past to go back to a place that represents mixed feelings for him or maybe more fear/ trepidation, as opposed to fond memories living in a palace. Moses had to go back to face Pharaoh and all of Egypt - the oppressors. He also had to face the Children of Israel, his people - who for them - he had failed. He had failed them because, he did not identify as being one of them (he lived privileged, powerful as a Prince of Egypt) and when he discovered who he truly was, facing that reality crippled him, rather than empowered him to do something to alleviate the suffering of his people.

Privilege and power can rob us of truth and justice, feed our egos and give us a false sense of self, of who we truly are. Going back to Egypt, going back to his past, will now force Moses to confront his true identity: confront his oppressor as an ordinary man and not as a "Prince of Egypt" and to confront his people, which, in my view, will be most difficult for him... because he will be seen as foe and not as a friend; an oppressor and not as a deliverer...

- a. ***Facing our past is inevitable***, for Moses to fulfill his task he could no escape it. It was the only way, he would have been able to go forward. We cannot escape facing our past because, it's the impetus we need to move forward.
- b. ***Facing our past will be painful***, because we must confront and deal with all that we have contributed in causing people pain and suffering... to confess them and to challenge ourselves to do something about it.
- c. ***Facing our past is simply the right thing to do***, for while we can forget it, we cannot erase it... while the past is the past, it is recorded somewhere in the annals of human existence... therefore, the possibility remains that the past can resurface at anytime.

Live in the Present

When we live in the present we have the benefit of the past...

Moses, from the posture of the text, one could suggest... that his past, is his past However, in his present life in the text, he had to face the past.

In the present, we are shaped by our past and it affects and helps to determine how we handle and deal with the present.

Privilege and power can rob us of truth and justice, feed our egos and give us a false sense of self...

Let's consider Moses for a minute... his present life, based on his past seemed to have humbled him... he is now tending his father-in-law's sheep, living in a tent, living the life of a nomad... no palace, servants at his beck and call. As a prince of Egypt Moses had everything done for him; as a shepherd he had to do everything for himself. He lived as an unknown foreigner.

How we have evolved as a people, ought to humble us today... in the sense that while we continue to suffer from the effects of the enslavement of our fore parents, the atrocities of then, though bearing and leaving scars, have caused us to be in a good place, not the best place, but a good place. That reality ought to inspire us to move forward with every ounce of courage, resilience and tenacity that we have to not stop, until we are our best selves, our children and their children will be their best selves.

Moses, living in the present has been shaped by his past to be a better version of himself that he is yet to meet... he had to learn about the ways of the people he is about to lead out of captivity and also about life in the desert.

The encounter with God through a bush on fire, but not being consumed, was inviting him to be and see his best self... to see not what he was, but who he has become and is becoming in the present, to lead God's people out of slavery, on the road to emancipation. Likewise, the Church cannot allow our past to cripple us,

Rev. Tara Tyme



PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY

UCJCI responds to the
COVID-19
 pandemic and other local,
 regional and global
 challenges as a community
 of faith

Let us Pray Together

Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 pm

- The rising number of COVID 19 cases in Jamaica
- Concerns about children's education- for the new school year.
- Camps and virtual encounters planned for children and youth this summer
- Rev. Dr. Norman Francis who has been hospitalized
- Climate change concerns worldwide
- Riots in South Africa which has left more than 300 persons dead
- Flooding in Germany

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

August 15, 2021



WHEN LEADERSHIP MODELS A PEACEFUL LIFE...

1 Kings 3: 3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5: 15-20

August 22, 2021



THE CENTRALITY OF GOD: THE KEY TO HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34: 15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20



Super Summer in the Spirit!

Camp Ministry



**The United Church in Jamaica and
the Cayman Islands**

Camp Ministry Presents

***Children's & Junior
Summer Bounce***

BOUNCE UP INNA GOD'S HOPE



AND



**August 8-13, 2021
@3p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**



Cont'd on page 3...Ministry in Virtual Spaces

Buddy Pouyat. Rev. Calvert advanced his studies recently with a Certificate Course in Digital Filmmaking from Durham College in Quebec.

The creative talent of the United Church and wider constituents to which he refers includes the following groups

Grove Town United	Retirement United
New Broughton	Santa Cruz
Davyton United	Ebenezer United
Ridgemount	St. Paul's United
Andrews Memorial	Manning Hill Primary
Discovery Bay United	Ebenezer Primary
Blue Mountain United	Magotty High Teachers and Students

Aspiring work which is on the to-do list include producing visual material to accompany the UCJCI production, 'Our Church' and a documentary on Mental Health and "I am My father's Daughter" .

As the UCJCI membership is encouraged to embrace and engage ministry in virtual spaces, do consider having watch parties i.e. gathering groups of persons such as youth fellowship, young adults, couples groups to watch the various productions and begin conversations. Hopefully these conversations will lead to new ministries being birthed and, most importantly, lives being impacted in positive ways.

ORGANISE WATCH PARTIES!!

The following are now available on the UCJCI You Tube Channel

El Chay
Unspeakable Gift
The Run of Hope
Next Time You see a Bamboo
The Pierced Hand
This is How I Soar
If I were a Birdie
On the Verandah: The Heart of the Matter
Episode 1 Crisis
Episode 2 Confrontation

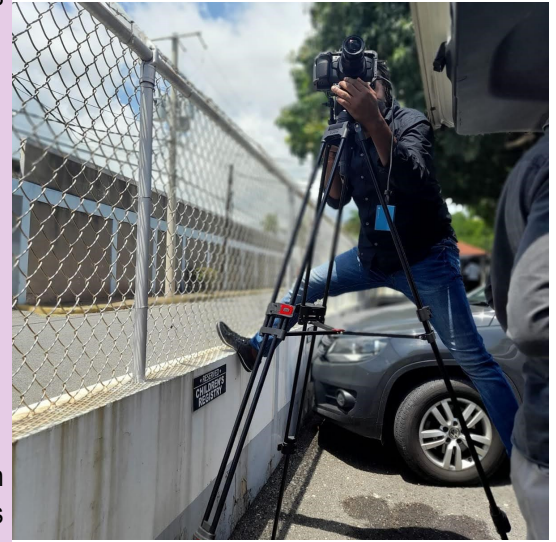
I Am My Father's Son: I am a Child of God
Featuring: Bro. Davis faithful member of Grove Town

I Am My Father's Son: About My Father's Business
Featuring Eld. Palmer Caretaker at Lincoln United

A few independent documentaries and productions:

Mothers Against Gun Violence for the Peace Management Initiative sponsored by CWM
Our Children's Rights: Our Responsibility that features the role of UCJCI, CANACOM and JCC in protecting the Nations Children. for Caribbean & North America Council for Mission Juona—a translated story of Jonah in patois for Wycliffe Caribbean

CREATIVITY AT WORK



Cont'd from page 9...Emancipation Still Coming

but to empower us in the pre sent to be who we have become and are becoming and not who we were then... because we have and we continue to encounter God's presence in many ways and those encounters seek to affirm our God given will, to work and fight for total emancipation.

Secure the Future

The work of our fore parents has secured our future... whether or not we want to acknowledge it. It may not be the best future, but it is certainly different from their reality then. Therefore, the work continues... their sweat, tears, labours, indignities, atrocities and sacrificed lives are the very reason we are here today to continue with this work and fight for emancipation.

Moses himself being stripped of his Princely title and reduced to nothing, was securing the future of himself, the Children of Israel and the generations to come. When God engaged Moses, he was not asking him to go... God was simply sending him. Today, as a Church, God is not asking us to work and fight for emancipation, God is instructing us to carry on with what was started then. In other words, Moses did not have a choice in the matter, despite all his possible excuses. We do not have a choice in the matter, despite all our excuses.

Wherever, we find ourselves - the task of emancipation is every Christian's work and fight and we thank God we do not work and fight alone. The bush being burnt and not consumed, was God's

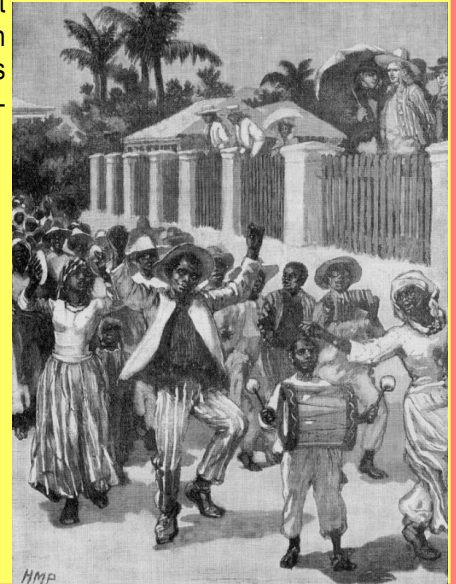
power being demonstrated to Moses (an awareness, acknowledgement and affirmation of another power, than Pharaoh's) ... to assure and reassure Moses that "Yahweh," will not send him to do a job, where "Yahweh" would be absent, but that "Yahweh" will be very much present.

We are not sent to do a work, where God is absent, God is very much present.

Let the symbol of the bush being burnt and not consumed, ignite the passion within us to not treat the matter of emancipation with scant regard or to take it for granted, but with wisdom, fortitude and the work and movement of the presence and power of God within each of us, to not rest, until emancipation is being realised in its truest form for all people.

Picture:

Emancipation festival, Barbados, 19th c. [Cassell's History of England (1886-95), vol. 5, p. 369]



Amen!

NEWS FROM CAYMAN cont'd from page 7

Other camp activities included morning physical exercise, breakfast and lunch duties, praise time, creative activities, visits to the Elmslie Soup Kitchen Mission, the Turtle Centre, the beach, participation in the Sunday morning worship services at the Savannah UC, and special concerts at the Elmslie Memorial UC, showcasing the talents of the campers. In all, forty-nine children and twenty-nine teens attended under the leadership of 35 volunteers.

**Remember to wear Black on
Thursday as you work for a world
without violence**

UCJCI VALUE S

In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

Mission and Outreach:

Seeking always to respond to the hurts and needs of people, giving them hope; always acting justly and being advocates of justice (James 2:15-16, Deuteronomy 16:18-20, Zechariah 7:8-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 4:17-19).

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**The International University of the Caribbean
— Phoenix Rising!**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace - Evangelism)”