



# The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

## WEEKLY UPDATE

January 12, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 2

### PRAYER and CONDOLENCE for the family of Rev. Dr. Edmond Folkes

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of Rev. Dr. Edmond Folkes, J.P., who made his transition earlier today after a brief illness.



Rev. Dr. Folkes was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments on July 8, 1964, and has exercised his call to ministry in a number of capacities within the United Church. He served as minister in the Askenish, Davyton and New Broughton Charges. He also served as Chairman of the former South Middlesex Area Council (now Southern Regional Mission Council), the Synod's Mission Witness and Service Committee and Chairman and member of the Board of Management of the Mt. Olivet Boy's Home.

At the community level he served as a Justice of the Peace, chaired and served on numerous school boards, taught at Bellfield High School and founded the Conference Centre of Project Ebenezer with skills training centres at Davyton, Williamsfield and Porus in Manchester.

Rev. Dr. Folkes was a model of servanthood as a pastor, leader and community builder. As a pastor he blazed a trail of compassion, care and commitment to the empowerment and evangelization of people. As a leader he demonstrated boundless energy and enterprise while leading congregations in establishing new congregations and in building programmes, Union and New Broughton, are two such among many others. As a community builder his contributions to offering relevant and contextual ministries within the communities he served are worthy of commendation.

He will be remembered in the UCJCI as a powerful preacher and evangelist, with a strong and effective ministry focus on boys and men. His disarming smile combined with a passion to engage others complimented his ministry of care and empowerment among people within community. These represent a rich and extraordinary legacy worthy of celebration.

We offer our deep condolence to his wife and partner in ministry, Dr. Auma, his biological sons, Albie and Elon and the 36 other children they adopted and raised.

We have lost a giant of the faith, may his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine on him.

*Rev. Norbert Stephens*  
*-General Secretary of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands*

# Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

**THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY**

According to the Church's Liturgical Calendar, on January 6, 2022, we enter into the Season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a special day as well as a season between Christmas and Lent. The word 'epiphany' means manifestation, revelation and it refers to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, God's self-revelation to the world in human form. It also means a sudden profound understanding or realization of something. In Western Christianity Epiphany commemorates the visits of the Magi (Three Kings) who followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet Jesus. This indicates Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. For Eastern Christianity Epiphany is associated with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, and is seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. Like the Magi, may we, too, be open to be surprised as we continue on our journey. Like those at the river Jordan, may we have an 'eye' to see Jesus in the common and ordinary. May we also be rooted and resilient as we respond in HOPE to the many challenges we face in our personal lives and collectively as a Church.

## Christmas 2021 in CIRMC



## Prayer Requests

- Family of the late Rev. Dr. Edmond Folkes who passed on Monday from a brief illness.
- Rev. Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Mrs. Karen Francis, whose husband Rev. Dr. Norman Francis has passed on.
- The climbing number of COVID-19 infections in the Cayman Islands.
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID 19.
- Gunshot victims and their families.
- The church and the various plans for the New year.

HAPPY  
Birthday  
TO YOU



Rev. Ranford Hewitt

January 17

## Prayer

Almighty God. To whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Ms. Carlene Andrade

January 19



**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**  
**AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA AND**  
**THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

**Cayman Islands**

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Cayman Islands since the start of the pandemic is 11,666. In addition, 14 COVID-19 patients have died as at midnight at Tuesday January 11. The Cayman Government has responded with regulations aimed at controlling the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. Consequently, indoor gatherings, including church services, are now restricted to 100 persons while outdoor gatherings are restricted to 250 persons.

**Jamaica**

There are 106,379 confirmed cases of which 11,427 are active with 2,506 deaths. The Government of Jamaica, on November 16, 2021, announced amendments to orders under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA).

Please note and be guided by the following:

1. Church Services – The number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship should be determined by the physical distancing requirement of a minimum of six feet between persons, but should not exceed 100 persons.
2. Weddings – the maximum number of persons allowed is 100.
3. Funeral services are allowed with a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.
4. Burials are allowed for 30 minutes Mondays to Fridays between 9 am and 4 pm with a maximum of 20 persons at the graveside.

The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:

5. No physical crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.
6. Physical gatherings are limited to 10 persons.
7. 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.

# Notices

**UCJCI Lay Training Institute**



**TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS 2022**

Offered in collaboration with The International University of the Caribbean

*Get Ready to Serve!*



**MODULE 1 BEGINS FEBRUARY 12, 2022**

**TRAINING FEATURES**

- Weekend and Weekday classes  
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thursdays 6 - 8 p.m.  
(2nd and 4th Saturdays and Thursday in the immediate week following)
- Combination of Learning in Virtual Classrooms via Zoom and in Learners' own time

**ORIENTATION JANUARY 29, 2022**

**REGISTER NOW** through your Regional Mission Council office

For more information :  
nermc@ucjci.com; cirmc.info@gmail.com; wrmc01@yahoo.com; srmc@ucjci.com

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THE CARIBBEAN





**Lay Training Graduation Celebration**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.**

**GUEST SPEAKER: DR. YVONNE LEYS DAWKINS**  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN

The Celebration will be streamed live from Hope United Church via the UCJCI YouTube channel.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO TUNE IN**  
Due to COVID 19 restrictions there will be limited in-person gathering of specially invited guests



**International University Caribbean**  
*Seek Peace Pursue Excellence*


**Undergraduate Degrees**

BSc: Business Administration  
BSc: Business Administration (PPM)  
BSc: Tourism & Hospitality Management  
BA: Guidance & Counselling  
BEd: Primary Education\*  
BA: Psychology  
BA: General Studies  
BA: Community Development  
BA: Media & Communication Arts

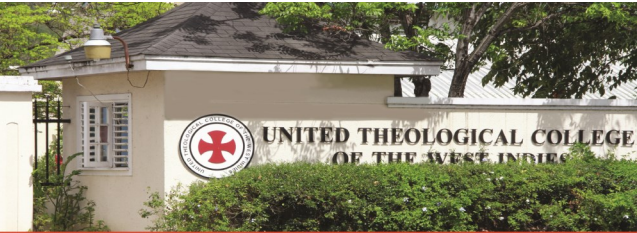
**Mode of Study: Online & Face to Face**

**Entry Requirement:**  
5 passes in CSEC subjects including Mathematics & English Language (\*only option for BEd degree)  
... or a combination of CSEC and City & Guilds (Level 3)  
... or any 3 passes in CSEC subjects + 2 equivalent IUC subjects

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES APPLY NOW!**



eMail: [apply@iuc.edu.jm](mailto:apply@iuc.edu.jm)  
Tel. 876.754.1921




**United Theological College of the West Indies**  
**invites applications for the following short course:**  
**Advanced Certificate in Leadership Skills for Church and Society**

**What will you learn?**  
Theory and practice of leadership.  
How to lead as decision-maker, motivator, and communicator.  
How to lead during chaos, crisis, and conflict.  
How to lead by design.  
How to lead as project manager and entrepreneur.

**Why should you enroll?**  
**Build** your capacity to be a transformational leader, and lead ethically.  
**Fulfil** your leadership potential through acquisition of a range of leadership styles, competencies and strategies.  
**Acquire** skills in team building, strategic planning and decision-making.

**For whom?**  
Managers and middle managers in schools to include; Principals, Vice Principals, Senior Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Work Experience persons, and others who aspire to leadership positions in their organization... Church, Service Clubs, Volunteers Organization, and other social or societal groups.

**Course Duration:** January 22, to March 6, 2022  
**Cost:** USD \$300.00



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**Registration closes January 14, 2022**

## Liturgy for worship at Home

**January 16**

**2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 62:1-5 || Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 || John 2:1-11

Rooted and called by a New Name –  
Transformed.

What is your name? The Prophet reminds us that, ‘you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give’.

Persons often believe that they are named by their circumstances but our encounter with

God transforms our circumstances because of God’s grace. See the new names given in Isaiah 62.

- What are the markers of a transformed life?
- What are the responsibilities that accompany the new name?

The theme of transformation also prevails in the Gospel reading. The motif of transformation can be seen in the following:

- from skepticism to obedience,
- from water to wine,
- from scarcity to fullness,
- from inferiority to superiority,
- from embarrassment to dignity.

### **The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian**

#### Moderator

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

#### General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

#### Regional Deputy General Secretaries

##### ◇ **Cayman Regional Mission Council-**

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

##### ◇ **North-Eastern Regional Mission Council -**

Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

##### ◇ **Southern Regional Mission Council-**

Mrs. Janet McConnell

##### ◇ **Western Regional Mission Council-**

Mrs. Maureen Henry

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