



The Girls' Brigade in the UCJCI
A vehicle for children's ministry

By Vanessa Blissett, President of UCYPF



I can recall myself at age three, hiding during drills. Today, in those and other moments, I can humbly say a sense of pride has been instilled in me. This is a long term-effect of the Girls' Brigade (GB).

In the UCJCI the GG companies have served as a vehicle for Children's Ministry. However, GB is one of our Ministries that offer a life-long enrolment starting mostly from the age of three. The aim of the Girls' Brigade is "to help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ through self-control, reverence, and a sense of responsibility, to find true enrichment of life" as Christ wants us to be in control, reverent, and responsible.

Along the way, GB teaches children how to manage their time and, ultimately, their lives. In this enriching community, you will learn that:

- Anger and illogical behaviours can readily emerge in people who lack self-control.
- Reverence instilled in children equips them to demonstrate respect and honour in situations that frequently put their character to the test.
- Responsible people are usually trustworthy, considerate, and dedicated.

The Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service-oriented (SPES) programme provides HOPE via activities that also encourage personal and professional growth in our girls. Age-appropriate activities can be found at each level be it and our explorers, juniors, seniors, or brigaders, they all benefit from GB's comprehensive programmes. Thus, this global interdenominational organization falls well within the remit of the UCJCI's Children's Ministry that aims to develop the compassionate, creative, knowledgeable, and

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actively involved Christian women we, as a church, wish to see in our congregations, and wider society.

Some of the life skills developed through GB's activities include cooking, sewing, crafts, and discipline. Tips are also provided to assist with studying the Bible, working in high-pressure spaces and coming up with fresh and interesting ways to connect with others.

Whenever I participate in a colour party, holding the Jamaican flag high, I am reminded of myself as a young preschooler in GB who was blessed with multiple maternal figures and shown love in the way that Christ would have intended.

Many of our children enjoy being able to explore from an early age in order to develop independence and initiative. Our children are the present and future of our society. As a result, the Girls' Brigade is ready to minister to our young girls who enjoy attending meetings, trips, and rallies.

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.' Because children are a gift from the Lord, it is my prayer that our young girls will continue to be engaged, prayed for, and groomed through GB.



Girl's Brigade Day Camp

held March 26, 2022

event highlight



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

Youth Services in Gun Bay and East End

Youth Sunday Services were held at the Gun Bay and East End United Church Congregations on March 20, 2022, with the children and youth assuming duties over all aspects of the service. The message based on Exodus 3:1-15 was delivered by Youth Worker Mrs. Itza Bodden who focused on God's calling on our lives. Youth Group meetings resumed in Gun Bay last Friday and East End will follow in steps this coming Saturday.



Members of the Gun Bay United Church Youth group with Mrs. Itza Bodden

WEST BAY GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY



The West Bay Girls' Brigade commissioned its newest Lieutenant on Sunday, 20th March 2022. Ms. Alikie Kandler is no stranger to the Girls' Brigade; she grew up in it and is an active member of the John Gray Memorial Church. Coming through the ranks of the Girls' Brigade from a young age, to become a Lieutenant was a natural progression for her. Alikie has demonstrated her commitment and dedication to the Girls' Brigade since assisting the Explorers section in September 2020. She has completed all the required training, and we are thrilled to have her take on this leading role. Those welcoming and surrounding her with love and support included Captain Mrs. Melanie Ebanks-Jackson, National Chairman Ms. Debra McLaughlin, National Chaplain Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, members of the Girls' Brigade Company and the Congregation.



CONSTITUTION CORNER

The previous editions of Constitution Corner have looked at the provisions dealing with the Congregation. We have talked about:

- Who makes up the Congregation;
- Who is a member in good standing;
- How decisions are made in a Congregation;
- The Leadership of a Congregation and how they are selected; and
- The Officers of a Congregation.

Constitution Corner now takes a look at the next level of governance within the United Church: the Regional Mission Council. This edition will cover the definition and constitution of the Regional Mission Council.

What is the Regional Mission Council?

“There shall be Regional Mission Councils which shall have the oversight of the whole work and witness of the Church within specified geographical bounds. It shall be responsible for the proper workings of all Congregational Boards and Congregations within its bounds.” (Basis of Union, Paragraph 3(b)(iii))

There are four Regional Mission Councils in the United Church. They are:

1. The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (the Cayman Islands);
2. The Northeastern Regional Mission Council (the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary);
3. The Southern Regional Mission Council (parishes of Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth. However, the Lowe River Charge which is located in the parishes of Trelawny and St. Ann belongs to this Regional Mission Council.); and
4. The Western Regional Mission Council (the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, Trelawny and St. Ann).

Who Makes Up the Regional Mission Council?

Chapter Two, Section One of the Constitution states that the Regional Mission Council shall consist of the following members:

1. The ordained Ministers of the Congregations within the geographical bounds as fixed by Synod.
2. Ministers without Charge (that is, Ministers who have been ordained, and their appointment approved by the Church, but may not be in the employment of the Church by serving in a Congregation or other Church related office. It must be noted that they are still under the control and discipline of the United Church).
3. Retired Ministers living within the bounds of the Regional Mission Council.
4. Commissioned Ministers living within the bounds of the Regional Mission Council.
5. Commissioned Ministry Interns working within the bounds of the Regional Mission Council (Ministry Interns are students in training who have been approved by the Synod’s Committee on Church and Ministry).
6. Commissioned or Licensed Lay Pastors serving congregations with the Regional Mission Council.
7. Congregational representatives. These Congregational representatives shall normally be Elders, appointed biennially from each Congregation. The calculation is done on the basis of two representatives for the first three hundred members and one representative for each additional hundred members or part thereof. (This means that each a congregation should have no fewer than two representatives each.)
8. Youth Representatives, who shall be elected from the young people, and young adults in The Regional Mission Council on the basis of three representatives from the young people and two representatives from the young adults.
9. The Regional Deputy General Secretary; and
10. The Programme Secretary.

Prayer Corner

- Rev. Delroy Harris whose niece passed recently
- Rev. Roy Dodman who had a surgery
- Ukraine and all affected by the invasion of Russia
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and security force and government as they respond
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who continues to improve but is still in the hospital
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19



Liturgy for Worship at Home

April 3, 2022
5th Sunday in Lent

Resilient: Honour before death

In the face of opposition/possible death, Mary honours and prepares Jesus for what is to come.

Old Testament: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126

New Testament: St. John 12: 1-8

Prayer

Dear Lord,

May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen



COVID-19 UPDATES

Affecting Congregational Life



Cayman Islands

ACTIVE CASES

522

DEATHS

25

NEW CASES

44

*COVID-19 statistics as of Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

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, are now restricted to no more 500 people while outdoor gatherings are restricted to no more than 1000 persons.

Churches with an indoor capacity of more than 500 persons can only exceed the 500 person limit if they can ensure social distancing between people who do not live together.

Jamaica

ACTIVE CASES

224*

*In the last 2 weeks

NEW DEATHS

1

NEW CASES

23

*COVID-19 statistics as of Tuesday, March 28, 2022.

The Government of Jamaica, announced that the Order and measures contained in The Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) will be withdrawn effective March 18, 2022.

Consequently all regulations relative to congregational life, (worship, funerals and burials, weddings, meetings and gatherings [bible studies, prayer, children and youth etc.,]) are no longer in force. Basically this means we are back to operating, at the congregational level, as we did before the advent of COVID-19.

It must be noted however, that COVID-19 is still active and as such under The Public Health Act Regulations, the following are applicable to congregational life:

- Hand washing and sanitizing
- Mask-wearing in enclosed spaces
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate
- Maintaining physical distance is highly recommended but not mandated

We strongly advise that you ensure compliance with The Public Health Act Regulations. Let us continue to pray for all those who continue to be affected by this pandemic, including our sisters and brothers in the Cayman Islands where protocols to control the spread of the disease are still in place.

NOTICES

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SEMINARS

MARCH - MAY 2022



- DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT
- SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
- LIVE STREAMING & PRODUCTION

First Saturdays are theoretical sessions via Zoom. On the second Saturdays, the practical sessions for Live Streaming and Production will be done at the locations below:

NEW DATE
WCC Webster Memorial Mar 12/19
WRMC & CIRC St. Paul's (St. James) Apr 23/30
SRMC Ridgemoor May 14/21

REGISTER NOW

<https://training.ucjci.com>

876-926-6059

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 #evgw, #ThursdaysinBlack,
 #endviolenceagainstwomen



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You can also listen to the episodes at your convenience on our *Anchor F.M.* platform.



HOPE UNITED CHURCH

LENTEN MEDITATIONS

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

THE WILDERNESS OF **TEMPTATION**

REV. DR. DAVE HAZLE

6th
 MARCH
 2022

THE WILDERNESS OF **SIN**

REV. DR. ORAL THOMAS

13th
 MARCH
 2022

THE WILDERNESS OF **INDECISION**

REV. DR. STEPHEN JENNINGS

20th
 MARCH
 2022

THE WILDERNESS OF **PAIN**

REV. CANON DR. GEORGIA JERVIS

3rd
 APRIL
 2022



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CHILD OF GOD
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TRAINING SESSIONS

You are Invited to Participate in Training Sessions on

The Development of Active Spiritual Discipline:

- Developing the Art of Stewardship
- The Act of Discipling
- Reading, Studying & Meditating on the Word of God
- The Discipline of Prayer & Fasting

PERIOD FOR TRAINING SESSIONS:

Tuesdays
 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

March 1, 2022 to April 12, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION OFFERED FOR ATTENDANCE

HOSTS:
 Mrs. Elaine Commissiong
 and Rev. Astor Carlyle

GUEST PRESENTERS:
 Rev. Norbert Stephens, Rev. J. Oliver Daley
 and Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell

Register to Join: In the Sanctuary or On: ZOOM



Rev. Everton Brissett
April 02



Rev. Dr. James Gibbs
April 02



Rev. Khereen Wilson Bailey
April 04

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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