



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Weekly Update

June 29, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 26

Tribute to Mr. Paul Christopher Miller June 8, 2022

Whether it was through that inimitably expressive laughter, or his compelling voice proffering insights regarding an issue, with the consistent preface, *my brother or my sister; or his trademark, enough is good, in response to the normative how are you greeting; whether it was by way of his passion for the marginalized or the dispossessed; or his consistent, incisive and unrepentant protest of what for him was a policy or an action or activity rooted in injustice, often willing to be the lone voice or protestor, Paul Christopher Miller has indelibly deposited his unique brushstrokes upon that canvas which constitutes the life and witness of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.*

A member and Elder of the Webster Memorial Church, Paul served the wider United Church in a number of capacities; this most human of human beings expressed his Christian faith and social conscience in three distinct passions, which I would like to highlight.

A Passion for Education

Following the restructuring of the church in 2008, from a centralized to a decentralized model, the UCJCI established an Education Commission to provide oversight for its educational institutions at all levels, as a means of ensuring compliance with the ethos and values of the UCJCI. The objective was to ensure that the church's ministry in education produced students who were academically competent but were also exposed to those *values that would nurture them into becoming model citizens. Paul Miller was appointed as its first Chairman in 2009 and served in that capacity for 4 Synodical periods comprising 8 years. At the time of his untimely passing, he was serving as the Deputy Chair. By virtue of the role, he played on the Education Commission, he also served as a member of the Central Mission Council, that body which acts on behalf of the Synod of the UCJCI between its regular meetings. He was also a member of the Constitution and Doctrine Committee, serving as the chair of the Doctrinal sub Committee at the time of his passing.*



Mr. Miller served as one of the UCJCI's representatives on the Ecumenical Education Commission, formerly known as the Reece Committee, which holds regular meetings with the principal players in the Ministry of Education, concerning education related issues for church owned educational institutions.

Additionally, he served as a member of the Mel Nathan College and Council Member of the International University of the Caribbean between 2009 and 2015.

His was not a role consisting of merely chairing a meeting or being present. He penned numerous documents through which he expressed his views on a wide cross-section of issues related to education rooted in his faith position. These included, but were not limited to, his view that preparatory schools owned and operated by the church, had become elitist, given the levels of fees required for admission; that those who were educators in our schools should be commissioned by the church in a vocational manner; that the liberal model of education in the Caribbean was outdated and was no longer adequately meeting the needs for integration into the global space, which had long since abandoned that model.

At the time of his passing, he was spearheading the

production of a book on the history of the Knox Complex of Schools, which celebrates 75 years of existence this year. One cardinal aim of this project is to share with the wider public a model of education worthy of celebration.

A Passion for Activism

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Paul was appointed to chair a UCJCI committee tasked with providing a meaningful response to the crisis. The committee not only partnered with local and international agencies in offering the basics in response, and raising over US\$80,000, but went much further. Following a visit to Haiti, it was agreed that the resources should be shared among four areas 1) the work in Le Cayes of our then Medical Missionary to that country, Mrs. Joan Page Bain, 2) the work among the handicapped, rendered so by the earthquake, 3) the orphanage established as a result of the numerous homeless orphaned children whose parents had died in the earthquake and 4) a scholarship fund for Haitian children to pursue their education in Jamaica. These were supplemented by organizing a public forum on the issues facing Haiti and advocacy regarding building codes in Haiti to minimize the recurrence of earthquake damage.

Paul did nothing by half measures.

A Passion for Ecumenism

In addition to his work on the Ecumenical Education Committee, Paul initiated a task force among four denominations, the United Church, the Baptists, the Methodist and the Anglicans (founders of Westwood and St. Andrew High Schools) with a view towards co-operation in education, health, evangelism, youth ministries, church training, asset management, church planting, rationalization of efforts, outreach programmes, asset management, sharing of information on ministries, scholarships, income generating projects, use of technology in this digital age, and expanding ecumenical cooperation among other denominations.

Whether in the area of education, activism or ecumenism, Paul had an unbridled passion and energy for the expression of the Christian faith through these channels, always aiming for a positive impact on life and living. His will be remembered as a legacy of service committed to the uplift of his fellow human beings through their holistic development. Indeed, we are assured that he has already received the commendation of his master, *well done good and faithful servant*.

We offer our condolence to his life partner, Kemorine, his children Shaka, Onika, Quame, and the extended family and assure you of our continued prayers and tangible support.

May his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.

CPR/AED Training for Cayman Camp



On Saturday, June 18, 2022, thirteen camp leaders and two Council staff participated in a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator CPR/AED training offered by the Cayman Islands Health Service Authority Training Unit. Although our camp/youth leaders have their Basic Water Rescue Certification, to prepare for eventualities as camp activities include visits to the beach, it was felt that supplementing this with other 'life-saving' skills was absolutely essential. Emergencies can happen anywhere; it may be at a church event, at school, at home, or on the road. Our training and quick response can save a life or be come in handy until professional help arrives.



On Sunday, June 19, 2022 (Father's Day) the children and youth people of Webster Memorial United Church in

Bodden Town Cayman paid tribute to their fathers by handing out gift packages and presenting special musical items. Leanah Squire sang a song and Payton Robinson played on the saxophone.



The Savannah United Church Girls' Brigade Award Ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

JEMM recognizes Sarah Palmer for over 30 years of sterling service



From Left: Ms. Renee Mills, Programme Coordinator JEMM; Ms. Sarah Palmer; Mr. Howard Chin Jnr. (in background), a youth member of Meadowbrook United Church; Ms. Shernett Smith, Director, JEMM.


Ms. Sarah Palmer was celebrated especially for her dedicated services to adult and youth exchange programmes, as The Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission (JEMM) reflects on its work in Jamaica over the last forty-three (43) years.

A retired educator and former principal of Mel Nathan Preparatory School; Ms. Palmer is also a former (UCJCI) Church School Superintendent and a longstanding member of Meadowbrook United Church (MUC).

The celebration and reflection on JEMM's work happened as part of the morning worship service at MUC, on Sunday, June 12.

Established in 1979, JEMM manifests the gospel in word and deed through various mission programmes in health, agricultural and housing services; as well as through adult exchange programmes and youth exchange programmes. JEMM's inter-denominational mission partners are The Methodist Church in The Caribbean and The Americas, The Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and The United Church in Jamaica and The Cayman Islands (UCJCI).

End Violence Against Women and Children



Share your Thursdays in Black photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and tag us @ucjci

#WCC, #UCJCI #evgw, #ThursdaysinBlack, #endviolenceagainstwomen


Tune in to United in Faith Sundays on RJR 94 F.M at 6:30 a.m.



Anchor FM
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You can listen to United In Faith episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. Platform. Click the link either in our Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp.



How are your exams going?
Don't tap out now, keep pushing

STUDY WITH CLASSMATES


Study groups can be very helpful, especially for learning less mastered subjects

FIND A GOOD STUDY SPOT

The best study environment is the one that feels most productive

READ AND REVIEW

We tend to forget 70% of what we've learned, so read and review as early as possible



PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Requests

- Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels who lost his brother
- Miss Heather Thompson who lost her Uncle
- The family of Mrs. Lola McKinley who passed recently
- The family of Ms. Rachel McLean who passed recently
- Rev. Godfrey Meghoo who is ill
- Mrs. Janet McConnell who lost her uncle recently
- Mrs. Sheila Arscott-Smith who lost her brother-in-law recently
- Rev. Everton Brissett, Minister of Savanna la Mar charge of United Churches, and family, as they mourn the passing of his mom Mrs. Lillette Brissett
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and the security force and government as they respond

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank You for your presence in the world. You touch our pain and warm our hearts with hope.

Fill us with the joy of your Spirit and make us faithful messengers of your Gospel.

Amen.

Liturgy for At Home Worship

July 3, 2022

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Responding:

A Call to Action

The call to respond comes from God who, in Christ, commissions the church to reach out to the world. As Jesus sent his disciples, so the church is sent to care for hurting and broken people.

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30


Luke 10:1-9

Gal. 6:1-10 62


July:

**A Church Responding to
God's Call**

NOTICES




THE NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL
MISSION COUNCIL
INVITES YOU TO
THE INDUCTION SERVICE
FOR



REV. DR. COLLIN COWAN
to the
**Immanuel Boscobel Charge
at the Boscobel United Church**

Sunday, July 3, 2022
at 4:00 p.m.
Streamed via YouTube




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Santa Cruz United Church
Presents a

BBQ COOK OUT

**MONDAY
AUG
1
2022**

★ Domino Game
★ Bounce-About



9:00 AM
On Church Grounds

MENU:
• Jerk/Fry Chicken-\$1000
• Jerk Pork •Fish: Fry/Steam-\$1500

SIDE ORDER:
Bammy, Rice & Peas, Roast Breadfruit, Tun Cornmeal & more!!!

**21 Institution Drive, Santa Cruz, St. Bess
(On the bypass road)**

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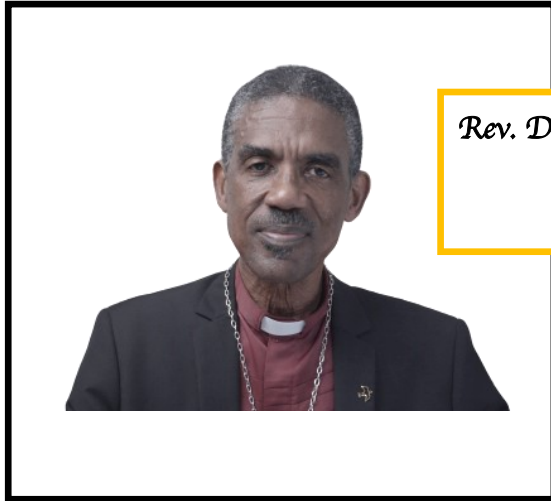
2022 | AUG. 18-21, 2022
50th Edition

Madge Saunders Conference
Tower Isle, St. Mary

**ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY
LIMITED SPACE**



Happy Birthday



Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans

July 1

Mr. Bryan Bothwell
July 4

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

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