

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

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May- Child's Month



International
University
of the
Caribbean



College for
Leadership and
Theological
Development



Mel Nathaniel
College

OVERCOMING VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS THROUGH PEACEBUILDING RESILIENCY IN CHILDREN

The International University of the Caribbean, with the launch of its Peace Institute and Extended Learning Centre, recognizes that crime and violence in the Jamaican society has been at an unacceptable level for many decades. Violence has increasingly become a feature of school life for many Jamaican students, especially those in high school. A study by Soyibo and Lee (2000), done among high school students, found that 60.8% of students had witnessed violence at school and 29% had caused injury. The conclusion of this study was that “effective programmes are urgently needed to address the high rate of violence recorded in this study among high school youths in Jamaica.”

The IUC Peace Institute has entered into a strategic partnership with the Child Resiliency Programme and the Violence Prevention Alliance that gives focused attention to adolescence from schools within the inner-city community of Boy's Town, Kingston. This programme has been operating since 2006 when it started at the Hope United Church reaching out to children at risk in schools within the Papine and Hope communities.

The research data gathered over the years consistently proved that when Children are regularly engaged in educational activities; supported to strengthen their coping mechanisms and life skills through sporting and cultural activities delivered by caring, consistent adult mentors; Receive nutritional support; Parents are supported to become better, more involved parents; and Teachers are trained to refer and better cope with these behaviorally challenged children, then these children become resilient and are empowered to cope with the challenges of life. Then, they overcome violent behavior and become peacebuilding agents.

The Child Resiliency Programme adopts a holistic approach to

building resiliency in children to overcome violence. It is a methodology rooted in an environment of fun and nurture that caters to the whole person. The data gathered in the programme are used to measure a) the children's level of aggression and exposure to violence (risk) and b) Resilience: protective factors/ level of the children's resilience. The programme outcome is considered to be successful when the children's risks are lowered in the following areas: fighting, bullying, hitting, name-calling, cursing, threatening and the carrying of a weapon.

The Child Resiliency attributes are considered positive when the following areas are strengthened a) coping mechanisms, and life skills, b) mental wellbeing, c) increased engagement in educational activities, d) Increased parent/family engagement, e) reduced level of aggression.

The IUC Peace Institute is currently planning to upscale the peacebuilding initiative to focus on peacebuilding within the Secondary School sector. Two decades after, and with the implementation of a number of programmes such as the Safe Schools Programme and Change from Within Programme, many Jamaican high schools continue to be faced with increasing incidents of violence perpetuated by students and in which students and teachers are the victims. Violence perpetuated in schools, by students, has grown exponentially since the recent return of students in high schools after two years of absence as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The media has featured several acts of school violence, one such act leading in death, with these acts being perpetuated by both boys and girls.

The time for action is now and the need is urgent. The Institute is planning for an initiative in public dialogue which will bring together teachers, parents, students, school support professionals, policy makers, academics, psychologists, psychiatrists, the Church and other related professionals for the purpose of the analysis of our present situation and for formulating the steps forward. There have been a number of initiatives which have focused on lessening violence in schools and lessons have been learnt. This dialogue will share

information and coalesce new ideas for the changes which will make our schools, and by extension communities, safer for children and youth.

This colloquium will include a brief overview of violence in high schools and the associated critical issues, and focus concretely on the specific challenges and opportunities for building safe schools.

The presentations will 1) review the current status of safety in schools and explore contributing and inhibiting factors, and the implications for students and teachers ; 2) review educational policies and discuss the need for enabling policies which will allow for the building of long term support for peacebuilding in education; 3) discuss psychological factors which impact both students and instructors, and classroom/school interactions, and implications for building safe schools; 4) provide examples of how projects have facilitated peacebuilding among students in schools and reflect on lessons learnt and best practices; 5) address Social Accountability in schools and the roles to be played by all stakeholders, students, teachers, church, community leaders, in creating and maintaining safe schools.

The first regional conference is being scheduled for September 2022 and will include Workshops that cover the following topics:

- Enabling policy framework/ Social Accountability in Education
- Organizing schools for Peace/Support framework
- Helping parents to grow peaceful children
- School, church and community in peacebuilding

The participants will include:

- * High school principals
- * Parents -Parent Teacher Association
- * Education policy makers
- * Professionals – Guidance Counsellors and Deans of Discipline
- * Chairpersons of high school boards
- * Church representatives
- * Leaders of anti-violence initiatives in schools e.g. Safe Schools Programme, Change Within, Child Resiliency Programme
- * Representatives of student organizations

IUC invites you to partner with the work of the Peace Institute and Extended Learning Centre to work towards overcoming the pervasiveness of crime and violence in local communities. Through community involvement, working alongside those in need, we can make a difference in communities, children and families whose lives have been upset by conflicts within their homes and communities.

IUC Peace Institute specializes in training of students, community leaders and partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to resolutions of conflicts.

Help strengthen communities and nation building through transformation of dysfunctional behaviours to resilient and strong characters.

With your help, we can transform Jamaica together.



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



Anchor FM
<https://bit.ly/2YjtPnv>

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.

In Honour of

The Pringle Home for Children

100th Anniversary

Congregations are requested to do a *walk-up offering* every Sunday during May 2022.

Proceeds are for the centenary celebration.

In March we introduced you to the Regional Mission Council, more specifically: what the Regional Mission Council is, and who makes up the Regional Mission Council.

In this edition, we will continue to look at the Regional Mission Council and speak about some of the duties of the Regional Mission Council.

This edition will focus on three of the duties of the Regional Mission Council namely, General Oversight, Petitions, and Ordination/Induction of Ministers. The duties can be found in Chapter 2, Section 2 of the Constitution.

General Oversight

The Regional Mission Council exercises oversight of Congregations within its bounds. What specifically does this mean?

The Regional Mission Council has the general oversight of all ecclesiastical (church-related) matters within its bounds, subject to the decisions of Synod.

The Regional Mission Council is responsible for church funds and property, guards them from injury or improper use, and sees that Congregational property is kept in such a state of repair that the work of the Church is unhindered.

The Regional Mission Council shall promote new Congregations. (This means that they shall declare new congregations to be open)

The Regional Mission Council takes charge of charges/congregations when no Minister is present. It shall provide supply to Congregations either during vacancy or in the event of illness or absence of the Minister; to take the oversight of vacant Congregations to appoint a Chairperson to the Congregational Board when necessary; to guide a Congregation in the call of a minister; to ascertain that all collections appointed by the Synod are made according to regulations.

Petitions

The Regional Mission Council has the power to judge petitions from Congregational Boards, Congregations, or communicant members of the Church. It has the power to review protests, appeals, complaints or overtures which are to be laid before Synod.

The Regional Mission Council shall recommend candidates (for training for the Ordained ministry) to the Church and Ministry Committee. The Regional Mission Council shall appoint a small committee to interview the candidate, which shall report its findings and recommendations to The Regional Mission Council. The Regional Mission Council shall have the responsibility of submitting a report to the Church and Ministry Committee. The Regional Mission Council shall provide guidance and encouragement to the Candidates which they have recommended.

Ordination and Induction

The Regional Mission Council shall oversee probationers (interns) who are placed under that Regional Mission Council. The Regional Mission Council shall satisfy itself as to the fitness of probationers who are called to the ministry within its bounds.

The Regional Mission Council shall induct Ministers who have been located within its bounds.

Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests

- 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
- Family and friends of Mr. Paul Miller who passed on recently
- Rev. Laddia Young, Minister at the Askenish Charge in Hanover, and her family. A shooting incident resulted in the death of her step-mother and the wounding of her father and one of her brothers
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica
- 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
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19
- Family of the victims of mass shooting in the United States of America

Dear Lord,

We pray for the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, and those who are imprisoned— behind both visible and invisible walls. Send your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence to those who are without hope. Protect the defenseless, and hold them close to your heart.

Amen.

Liturgy for Worship at Home

May 29, 2022
Ascension Sunday

Resilient:
“...that they may be one as we are one”

1st Reading: Acts 16: 16-34

RR: Psalm 97

2nd Reading: St. John 17: 20-26

This is a call “to be one” in the cause of Christ... so that the world may know Christ.

NOTICES



THE CHURCH-SITE COUNSELLING INITIATIVE PARTNERS WITH WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

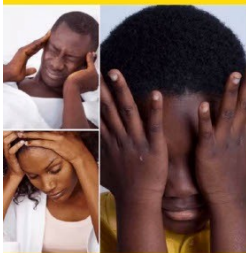
TO PRESENT A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON

UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONAL WOUNDS IN SELF AND OTHERS

June 4, 2022 • 9:30AM to 12:00PM

SAVE THE DATE!

ENQUIRIES AT CHURCHSITE.COUNSELLING@GMAIL.COM



KEY PSYCHOLOGISTS WILL DISCUSS:

- Causes of emotional wounds
- Outcomes of being emotionally wounded
- How to move forward after being wounded

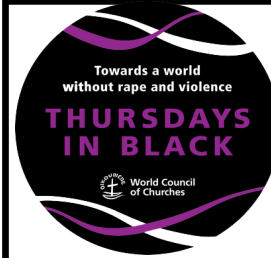
FREE

GUEST PRESENTATION BY CARDIOLOGIST, DR. LISA HURLOCK

TARGETING: MEN & WOMEN IN FAMILIES, CHURCH, WORKPLACE AND ALSO ALIENATED YOUTH

CSCI - TAKING A STANCE FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, PARENTING AND FAMILY LIFE

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



International University of the Caribbean

REBUILDING RELEVANCE, RESPONSIVENESS AND RESILIENCE

- BSc Business Administration with PPM
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- BSc Business Administration
- BA Guidance and Counselling
- BA Psychology
- BA General Studies
- MSc Counselling and Consulting Psychology
- MEd Educational Administration and Leadership



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United Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands

NERMC Church School Rally

Theme:

"Children of God helping others discover Christ."

SUNDAY MAY 29, 2022 @ 2:00 pm

Webster Memorial United Church

Activities:

Roll Call, Entrance of the Banners, Poster and Poetry Competitions, Performances from the various Church schools.

An evening of Fun and Fellowship.



"IGNITE" FOR CHRIST

LOOK OUT FOR VIRTUAL TRAINING SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

GET READY FOR FACE TO FACE VBS 2022



UCYAAM

CONFERENCE

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

Madge Saunders Conference
Tower Isle, St. Mary

ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY
LIMITED SPACE

NOTICES

Marriage Enrichment Seminar

Understanding "I do"

Save the date

Saturday, June 25, 2022
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

UCYAAM

CAMP 2022

MADGE SAUNDERS CONFERENCE CENTRE

UPDATED DATES
(Teens 1 & 2 and Youth)

Pacesetters Teens Camp (Teens 1)
Wed, July 13- Sun, July 17
(Ages 14-17)

Discovery Teens Camp (Teens 2)
Wed, July 20 - Sun, July 24
(Ages 14-17)

Youth Encounter
Wed, July 27- Sun, July 31
(Ages 18-25)

Register through your regional office
by submitting completed registration
form and registration fee of \$4500

DEADLINE MAY 31, 2022

COST: \$9000
(Includes the registration fee)

SUNDAY
MAY 29,
2022

Southern Regional
Mission Council

CHILDREN'S RALLY OF THE ZONES

THEME: LISTEN UP...
CHILDREN'S VOICES MATTER

RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH AT 2PM

Join the rally march from Manchester Shopping
Centre to Ridgemount at 1:30 p.m.

COME IN YOUR ZONE COLOURS !!!

Happy Birthday

Rev. Garwell Bacchas
May 28

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

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