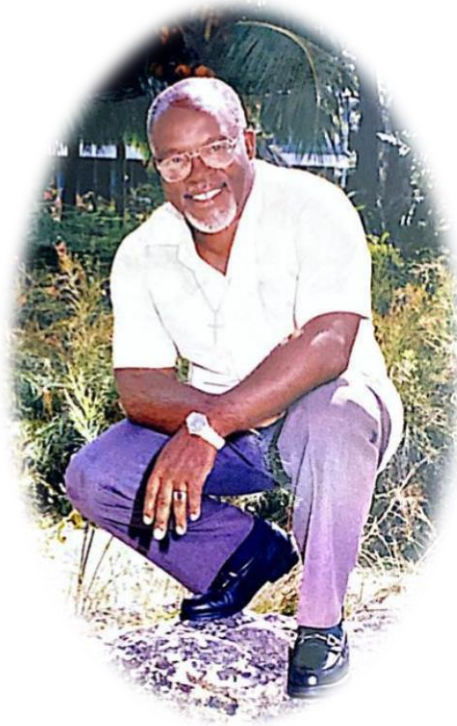


*The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands  
Tribute to the late Rev. Keith Livingstone Gordon  
October 10, 1948 to August 27, 2020*



In a season when the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is resolute in its efforts to assert anew the theological principle of the priesthood of all believers, the life and witness of the late Rev. Keith Livingstone Gordon bears indisputable testimony to the efficacy of this principle. He and others like him have illustrated well the indispensable role of each member in building up and maintaining a vibrant ministry within the local congregation and, as a consequence, being deemed suitable candidates for transferring that energy to the wider denomination.

Born on October 10, 1948, Keith Gordon was numbered among a group of dynamic young leaders and lay preachers who were active within the Davyton Charge the decades of 1970s and 1980s. Led by their pastor, the Rev. Edmund Folkes, this group served as a source of inspiration and support in evangelistic efforts within the Charge and across the United Church.

In 1989, Keith was numbered among a pioneering group in what was then an experiment in a complementary ministerial training programme, a kind of in-service training model dubbed the Institute for Theological and Leadership Development, one of the antecedents of the International University of the Caribbean. A notable characteristic of this pioneering group was that, while the majority of its members had exceeded the age of forty, all members were by then settled in families in which each was a primary partner.

Other members of this group were the Rev. James Davis, the Rev. Ranford Hewitt and the late Rev. Leslie Canzius. Under the careful and extremely candid tutelage of the inimitable Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte, they were guided in the theoretical and practical dimensions of their preparation for engagement in ordained ministry.

Keith Gordon, along with his pioneering colleagues, was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments at the National Arena during the first biennial convocation of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on April 10, 1994. He continued to render pastoral service in the Medina Charge in the Southern Regional Mission Council, having been located there as Ministry Intern during his days of training. He subsequently served in the Stirling and Riverside Charges of United Churches in the Western Regional Mission Council.

Upon the attainment of the age of retirement, the Rev. Gordon went into full retirement and returned to live in his home district of Davyton. The ensuing years served to accentuate health challenges being experienced by him resulting in his being in and out of hospital. His wrestling with these challenges came to an end when he passed away on August 27, 2020. We thank God that for him, all sickness and sorrow are ended; that death itself has passed and pray that he will receive the rest that remains for those who await God's appearing in Jesus Christ.

To his widow Pat and their children, the Synod conveys its most profound sympathy and prays the undergirding of the Holy Spirit in these challenging times.