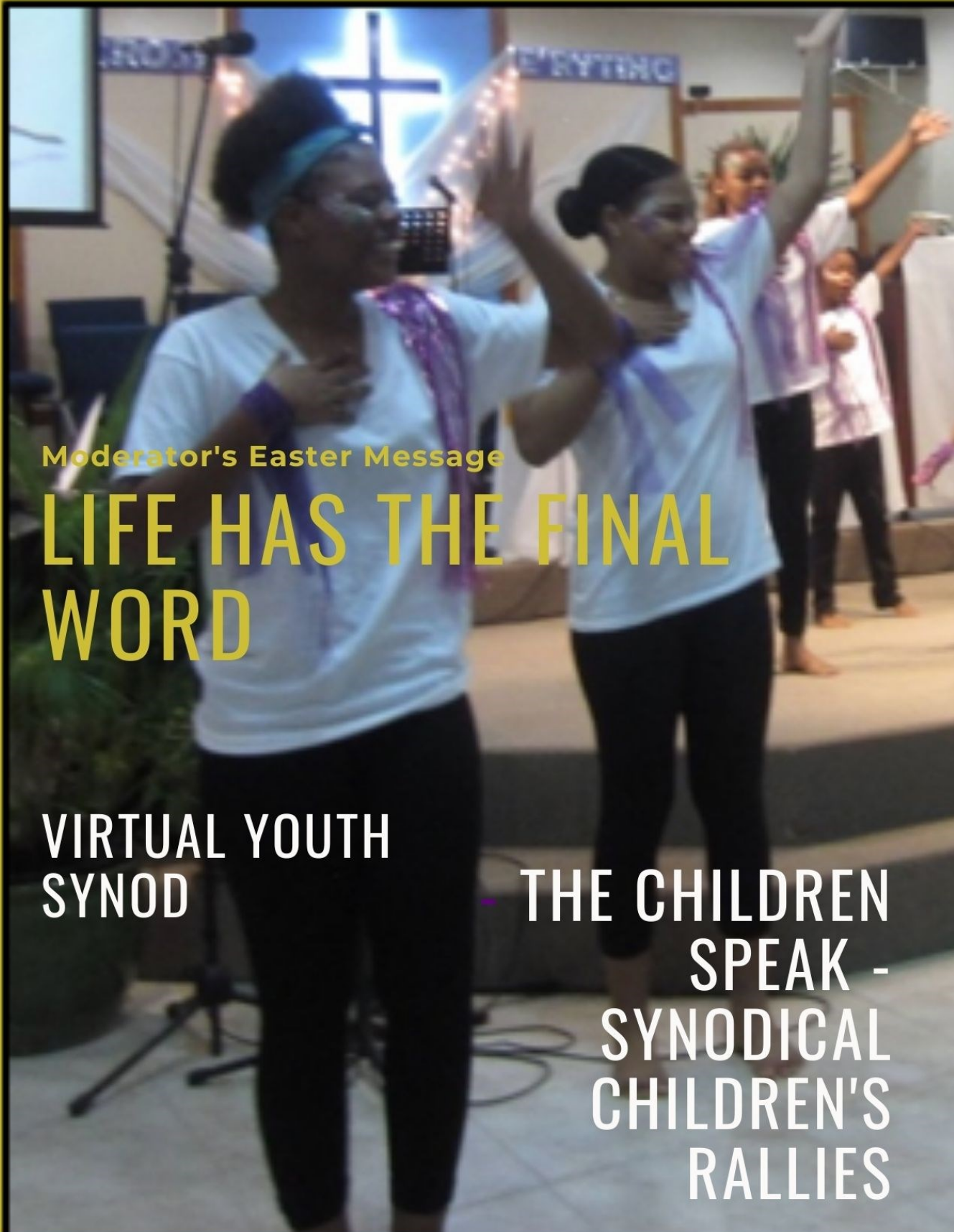




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Moderator's Easter Message

LIFE HAS THE FINAL
WORD

VIRTUAL YOUTH
SYNOD

THE CHILDREN
SPEAK -
SYNODICAL
CHILDREN'S
RALLIES

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 14

Life, not Death, has the Final Word

Moderator's Easter Message

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Easter message comes to you in a period in which we have experienced at least a year of pandemic conditions. The corona virus has altered so much of life as we know it with much uncertainty, discomfort and illness and for some the spectre of death has been a haunting reality. We grieve with those who grieve the passing of their loved ones and we stand in solidarity with those who currently face significant health challenges, whether caused or exacerbated by the direct or indirect impact of the pandemic.

This Easter message is meant to remind us together that at the heart of our faith is the astounding reality of a God who chooses to live in and among people, bearing and experiencing the challenges of human life and who is in every sense acquainted with grief. Jesus knows all about our trials. Our God does not recoil in the face of trouble. Jesus' life on earth is the seminal example of how to face disaster. With fortitude, He bore the cross and emerged on the other side of death.

Yes, emerged victorious!

The Christian faith is a Resurrection Faith. It is founded on this amazing fact that, for the sake of the world, God in person engaged the human experience, confronted trials, faced the reality of death and then declared for all who would hear that death does not have the last word. The Lord and Giver of Life declares to us that it is Life that has

the final word.

"The world will see Me no more, but you will see Me, Because I live, you will live also" (John 14v 19)
Jesus' glorious resurrection, more than a unique event to be recalled once per year, is meant to propel in each of His followers a fresh, bold, new way of looking at life and an unparalleled, refreshing option of how to choose to live. Jesus' resurrection means that we can live, hopefully.

Each of us individually and the Church collectively have the privilege of living in the perpetual Resurrection Hope.

In these most difficult times, even when circumstances appear disastrous, God's word to us is Life.

We give God thanks for the speedy development of safe and effective vaccines and for the continued faithful work of the medical, other scientific and support personnel who selflessly strive to provide health care in this extended period of trial.

You and I as Christians have been in the forefront of

**God's Word
to us is LIFE!**

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demonstrating in our societies, by both word and action, what it means to be our brother's and sister's keepers. Compassionate and disciplined responses in the midst of this crisis must continue to be our witness to God's grace in the world.

I urge you to hold fast to the Resurrection Hope and, like our Leader, emerge, having borne our cross, to live, indeed to live more abundantly. A brighter day dawns. God bless you all.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans

He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

In Christ Alone My Hope is Found

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and
storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

(Stuart Townend and Keith Getty)



Spotlight on UCJCI 42nd Synod

Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E.

Synod Schedule

Date	Event	Time	Platform
April 11	Opening Service	1 p.m.	Streamed on UCJCI YouTube Channel/Zoom (Delegates)
April 12-15	Bible Study	6 a.m. – 6.45 a.m. 6.45 a.m. – 7.30 a.m.	Streamed UCJCI YouTube Channel Zoom (by invitation)
April 12-15	Delegates Bible Study Groups	9 a.m. – 9. 50 a.m.	Zoom
April 12-15	Business Sessions	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Zoom
April 12	Celebration of Life and Witness	4.30 p.m.	Streamed on UCJCI YouTube Channel
April 14	Public Lecture	5 p.m.	Streamed on UCJCI YouTube Channel
April 18	Closing Service	4 p.m.	Streamed on UCJCI YouTube Channel

UCJCI

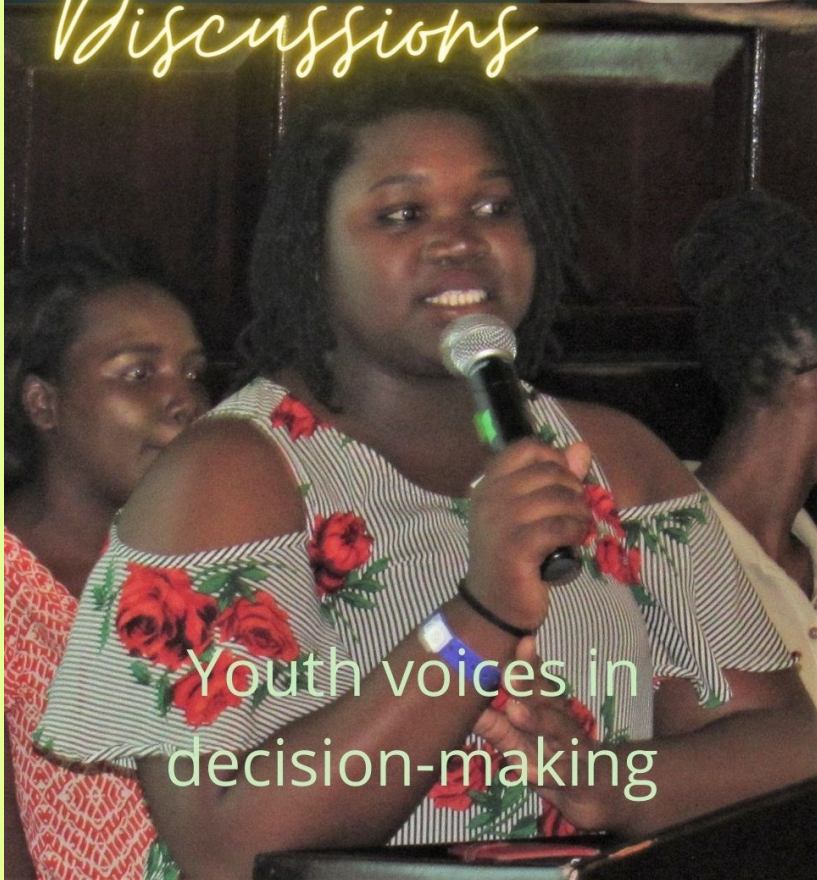


WORSHIP
GROUP
ACTIVITIES

Lively
Discussions



VIRTUAL
YOUTH
SYNOD



Youth voices in
decision-making

TUESDAY
APRIL 13, 2021
10:00 A.M.

Join via Zoom

For more information,
contact UCYPF President -
Vanessa Blissett
876-264-3449 (Telephone
and WhatsApp)
vanjenbliss@gmail.com



THE 42ND SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Celebration of Life and Witness

Monday
APRIL 12

4:30 PM

Service to be livestreamed via UCJCI
YouTube channel

We are celebrating and recognizing

50 Years of Ordination

Service to Regional Mission Councils

Renewal and Transformation Awards (Ministers and Lay Pastors)

Persons with outstanding service to the church

We will recognise through Memorials, delegates who
have passed April 2019 – April 2021.

**Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one
another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)**

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Send comments and news about your congregation to: ucjciupdate@gmail.com

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Children's Synodical Rally

Above: Jaedon Hanson Speaker at the CIRMC-UCJCI Children & Youth Rally .

Below: Rev. Rohan Forrester, CIRMC Chairman and Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield, CIRMC Regional Deputy General Secretary bringing greetings



On March 28, 2021, the children and youth of the CIRMC UCJCI gathered for their Synodical Rally at the Savannah United Church.

The event was a joyful celebration of the life and ministry of the Church in preparation for the 42nd Synod of the UCJCI to be held between April 11-18, 2021. The Chair of Council Rev. Rohan Forrester extended a special welcome and the RDGS, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield brought greetings bringing into focus the theme for the new Synodical period, 'Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. The 160 plus persons in attendance enjoyed a programme rich in the display of a wide array of talents and uplifting items through songs, dance, puppetry and instrumental recital. The message of this special evening was brought by one of the youths, Master Jaedon Hanson, a member of the Savannah United Church.



Dancers from West Bay United Church.



Rooted in the Power Source:

Jesus Christ

Address to SRMC Children's Rally

Children take a journey with me. Imagine for a minute that you are using one of your devices; cell phone, tablet, laptop. You are so busy in your activity that you didn't notice the low battery sign or hear the notification. Suddenly your screen goes blank. What would be your reaction?

Picture this too, that all of us are gadgets and our ultimate power source is Jesus Christ. There are simple things that we need to do to stay connected so we can have constant power.

The theme for the United Church is ROOTED, RESILIENT, RESPONDING IN H.O..P.E (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism). Today I want us to concentrate on the sub theme: Rooted in the Power Source: Jesus Christ.

Roots are essential for the plant to have life. They are the parts of the plant that attach and carry water and nourishment throughout the plant to the branches. The deeper and wider they go, the more benefits they provide for the soil as well as the plant.

The power source is the origin of the incoming electricity, in most cases an outlet, battery or generator. The power supply works to convert the power from the source into the correct form or voltage. Likewise, a connection is necessary with Jesus Christ if we are to experience power to have a spirit filled life. Just as plants are dependent on their roots, gadgets are dependent on their chargers and power source. We are to be deeply rooted in Christ the ultimate power source.

In the powerful passage read earlier of Colossians chapter 2 verse 6-15. Paul helps us to better understand our journey with Christ. So we start out as tiny seeds planted and nurtured with the right nutrient supply from Christ. As we begin to grow we start to develop roots that grow and spread based on all that we learn about Christ. The depth of our roots depend on - how we use what we learn or tell others

about him or by living a life of love, faith, obedience. There will be evil and harmful ideas but do not allow anyone or anything to come between you and Christ.

Spend time in the Word

Read your Bible on a regular basis. That application should be your best friend. Meditate on the word of God, pray for God to help you understand his word and continue to feed on it daily. The word of God has the power to fix broken parts, heal us from our diseases, encourage us when we are weak and flow through our spiritual veins. (Colossians 2: 6-7)

There is no power without knowledge and there is no knowledge without the study of God's word. When trials come you can each draw on the word of God to nourish your roots so you can stand firm against the wiles of the enemy, you can tear down quickly the lies that will come to disrupt your peace and trust (Jeremiah 17: 7-8). So when temptation comes we can easily draw on a passage. Remember your gadgets need time to charge. Spend time getting to know God's word.

Do the right thing- make choices that honour him.

When you spend time with Jesus Christ, you get to know Him, there is a relationship, so you know where to find him when you need him: praying or in his word. In St John 15: 5, Jesus reminds us who we are and just how dear we are to Him.

We must always remember who we are and try to do the right thing. We obey the word of God; obey the gospel and be baptized, obey the Holy Spirit and start living a holy life; obey the Lord and be faithful. Doing the right thing brings so much power in our lives.

(Cont'd on p. 11)

THEMES FOR HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY during the Month of April

SUNDAY APRIL 11

Theme:

Believing, but not seeing...

Doubt can stand in the way of us not believing what God is about to do.

Isaiah 12; Psalm 33;
St. John 20: 19- 31

SUNDAY APRIL 18

Theme:

The Power of Christ's Presence

Knowing that God is with us can be so reassuring in chaos and confusion.

Isaiah 55: 1-11; Psalm 4;
St. Luke 24: 36-50

SUNDAY APRIL 25

Theme:

Whose voice do I listen to?

Knowing the Shepherd's voice makes the difference between life and death.

Zechariah 11: 4-17; Psalm 23;
St. John 10: 11-18

Liturgies are available from the Minister/Lay Pastor, Communication Officer of congregations and Regional Mission Council Offices.

PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY

**UCJCI responds to the COVID-19
pandemic as a community of faith**

A Call to Prayer

Every Wednesday

12 noon—1:00 pm

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV)

LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.-

1 Chronicles 16:11

- ♦ Miss Joy Williams who lost an uncle, Miss Lorraine Howell who lost a brother-in-law, and Mrs. Anna Kay Henry McGreggor who lost her grandmother.
- ♦ The people of Myanmar in the face of unjust military action.
- ♦ The upcoming general elections in Cayman on April 14
- ♦ Delegates, Ministers, Lay Pastors and UCJCI Administrative staff who will participate in the 42nd Synod of the United Church
- ♦ The family, colleagues and friends of Rev. Lloyd Reid
- ♦ Healing and help for Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke
- ♦ Healing for members of the United Church and the wider community who have contracted COVID 19.
- ♦ Persons struggling with the mental, emotional and physical stress of COVID 19.

UPCOMING EVENTS



PURPOSE?

This course proposes that leadership competence transcends gender and that people of any gender, appropriately qualified and trained can provide quality leadership in church and community towards disciple-making.

The programme is relevant and will challenge participants to interrogate practices and beliefs which exclude women from leadership and encourage them to envision and work towards an alternative reality of a partnership of equals.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Ministerial students preparing for ordination.
- Lay leadership in congregations
- Graduates of UTCWI and other theological institutions - clergy and lay.

Duration of Course: 9 Weeks

Start Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Jamaican time)

 **APPLY NOW**

CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

TEL - (876) 927-2868/1724 | EMAIL - unitheol@cwjamaica.com

WEBSITE - www.utcwi.edu.jm | CONNECT WITH US - @utcwiconnect



(Cont'd from p.8) **Rooted in the Power Source: Jesus Christ**

Just as we need to have the correct charger for our gadgets we need to display and live the right way. We might look alike, wear similar clothes, go to similar schools, be in the same online classes but we are different in so many regards. We don't need to follow the crowd and do what the world says we are to do when we know it's not the right thing to do. We are to take a decision that we know will honour Christ. So, we don't just mark our names in online school, turn off the camera and disappear to our beds, or the teacher asks us a question and we dodge and next time around we say our microphone was not working! Making the right choice to honour God equips us with integrity- doing the right thing even when no one is watching)

On our gadgets we have music, pictures, videos that are not so nice. Today we are going to do the right thing and clean up our gadget. This will help to improve space on our gadget too. We should always aim at doing the right thing. Can you use a laptop charger to charge your iPhone plus? Absolutely not. Do the right thing and apply what the word of God says to your lives.

Talk about Him- tell everyone!

Jesus is THE power source. You cannot learn about him, honour him and not tell others about him. Jesus is not a secret. He gives us power for witness. In verse 15 of Colossians 2, our ultimate power source Jesus Christ made a public spectacle by dying for us on the cross. (Acts 1: 8; Luke 24 48, 49) . Sharing Jesus with others multiplies the power of the Holy Spirit. Let the whole world know who he is. Our King, Protector, Provider, Healer and Deliver.

Send a message, make a call, do a broadcast, go on live. Ensure that the messages, the videos, the music we send display characteristics of Christ.

So we broadcast him on SnapChat, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp (by the way children and young people be extremely careful of the sites when you are online) The lives we live are a book that many people can read about Christ. Let us use our lives to witness to others about Him.

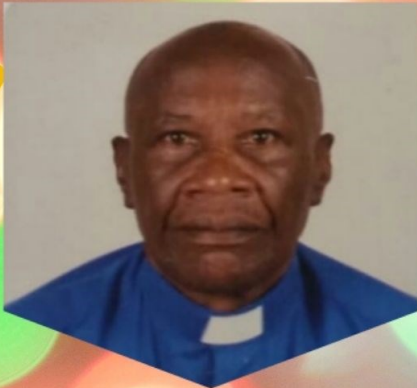
Dominick Daley attends Bryce United Church.



APRIL 9
Rev. Clement Reid

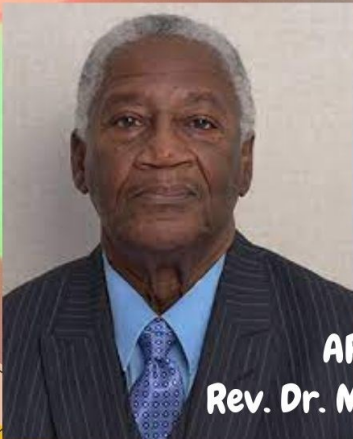


APRIL 9
Miss Joy Williams



APRIL 11
Rev. Alton Clarke

Happy Birthday



APRIL 13
Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans



APRIL 13
Miss Heather Thompson

UCJCI VALUE S

“In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value :

The Work and Worth of All People:

Displaying unconditional love to all people, acknowledging all in the ministry of Christ, affirming the priesthood of all believers, embracing the gifts of the Spirit, and enabling each person to participate to the fullest extent possible

(Matthew 12:28-31, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Ephesians 4:7-13, 2 Corinthians 1:12-14).

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Church and State
...Conflicting
authorities?**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA

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Moderator

Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
(Interim)
Rev. Norbert Stephens

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life”