



**The United Church
in Jamaica and the
Cayman Islands**

Weekly Update

January 26, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 4

UCJCI TRAINS LAY LEADERS FOR SERVICE

“This was thought provoking and much needed!”

“Oh my word! Training was excellent today. To God be the glory!”

“These sessions let me seriously believe that I need to serve as a Lay Pastor. They are so rich, bringing out the gift or gifts inside.”

“I enjoyed today’s sessions thoroughly! A greater understanding of what, before now, was mostly known to me as “The lost Books of the Bible”, especially appreciating why they were/might have been omitted. Overall guidance and comments of the session leader were both insightful and reassuring. Group work was excellent!”

These are among the testimonies from participants in the 2021 UCJCI Lay Leaders Training Module 1. Training was held between February 13 and July 31, 2021 bringing together over 100 persons from across all regions of the United Church.

Covering 15 topics through lectures, discussions, PowerPoint presentations, group work, videos and role play, the training was delivered by lecturers drawn from the competent resource of United Church leaders; both ordained and lay.

There was some anxiety about whether the modality of online learning via Zoom would have adequately substituted for face to-face sessions. While some aspects of the learning were challenged by the online method of delivery, this did not diminish the quality of discussions and the competent delivery of training.

Spending the better part of six hours together in training proved a challenge, but heartiest congratulations to those who stayed the course (literally) and were diligent in participation.

Primarily aimed at those preparing to serve as elders in local congregations in keeping with the Synod’s commitment to train lay persons for leadership, the lay training programme was re-designed in 2019 and standardized across councils in an effort to ensure quality control. The International University of the Caribbean (IUC) is the collaborating partner which provides the necessary quality assurance and certification of the programme.

Following the launch in November 2018, the newly named UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course comprised three modules targeting different categories of lay leaders - elders are required to do Module 1, persons preparing to lead specialized ministries such as Pioneering Ministries, Youth and Children, are required to do Modules 1 and 2 and persons preparing to become Lay Pastors are required to do all three modules.


Any member of the church may choose to undertake training in the Lay Leaders Certificate Course and upon completion of all three modules may pursue further studies by matriculating for IUC’s Diploma in Theology once they meet the requirements of Mathematics and English at the level of CSEC.

A grand Graduation celebration is planned for Sunday February 6, 2022 at 2 pm when the 2021 cohort of lay leaders will graduate. All are invited to tune in via UCJCI’s YouTube channel. The 2022 round of Module 1 begins on Saturday February 12 and continues on second and fourth Saturdays between 9 and 2 pm and on Thursdays 6-8 pm in the week following the Saturday training days.

-Karen Francis
Coordinator of Training of Lay Leaders

MEET OUR NEW HUMAN AND MISSION RESOURCE MANAGER

Fail forward; perfection is overrated. Too many times people remain where they are out of fear of the unknown. When faced with any fear, turn that into excitement and use that positive energy to push you forward. It is better to make one step in the right direction than to remain dormant.



I am **Anissea Bremmer**, an old soul-contrary to my current age reality. I have been a member of the King's Gate United Church for almost 4 years, where I am serving my congregation as the President of the Young Adults' Action Movement, a group of superstars- there is not much they cannot do. The King's Gate Women will be happy, fit and motivated for the journey this year too, with me serving as the Recreational Chair of the Women's Fellowship Executive. That is my guarantee.

Many of you would have seen my welcome to the church and wondered, "hmm Actuarial Science and Human Resource?" Well, I think the contrast of the two captures my transformation. In high school, I found subjects like Mathematics, Physics, Accounts and even Computer Science very enjoyable. Numerical subjects were objective and I liked that. The answer, formulas, sequences of steps were established and there were only two modalities, right or wrong. This really led to my decision to study Actuarial Science. I thought, let's apply the numbers to real life situations. Upon completing my degree, it was somewhat challenging to find a role in the subject area. However, I actually had the opportunity to connect with a Principal Actuary, God. You could consider this my moment of impact where I re-evaluate the path I was on and where I wanted to go. *I was convicted then of the fact that I was made to interact in a meaningful way with people. I knew this.*

Working the back end tirelessly was not going to fill the gap with this "interactive chatty mouth of mine". It is so interesting to describe my transition to Human Resource as a direction pointer from God and since working in the field I felt in my spirit, this is the right fit for me. If you asked me then, where do I see this HR journey taking me, I would have never guessed here, but I understand and appreciate that God's will must be done. So I am delighted to serve as your Human and Mission Resource Manager.

Before taking on this role as Human and Mission Resource Manager this year, I enrolled in the lay training institute in 2021. Learning about the work and structure of God's Kingdom helped me to develop a better appreciation and a clear understanding of the structure of my church. Introduction to doctrine and the review of the history was fascinating. Committing to this every other Saturday for six months was a steep price to pay but totally worth it. I look forward to graduating on February 6.

“

*No one is you and that is your superpower
We are all unique, special and have something different to offer.
This reminds us that working together and collaborating is very important.*

Fun facts about me

- I am a foodie and this keeps me on the treadmill if you get what I am saying.
- I can't think of a fruit, vegetable, protein, carbohydrate or fat that I don't eat.
- I can't sing all the time, but I love to. Why is that a point to note? You'll likely hear me singing, so no need to state the obvious to me.



Women's Fellowship Week

The Women's Fellowship week will be celebrated between January 23 and 29, 2022. During the week, members of the Fellowship will visit older members who have contributed so much to this outstanding organization. The Women's Fellowship Annual Breakfast, which typically concludes the week's activities on the last Saturday of January, is planned to be held at the end of February 2022.

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Requests

- Family of the late Rev. Dr. Edmond Folkes who passed on Monday from a brief illness.
- Rev. Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Mrs. Karen Francis, whose husband Rev. Dr. Norman Francis has passed on.
- The climbing number of COVID-19 infections in the Cayman Islands.
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19.
- The church and the various plans for the New year.

Prayer

We pray for teachers, for students, and for all those in authority and leadership, both locally and throughout the world. Give them your mind, and surround them with godly counselors who will exercise integrity and work for justice, morality, and freedom. Help them to esteem you, not dismiss you. Send revival, Lord.

AT HOME LITURGY

Rooted and called to Respond without Fear
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 || Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 || Luke 4:21-30

What excuses do you make when called by God? Jeremiah blamed his speech impediment and his youth, but he was reminded that God's purpose will be fulfilled through his ministry.

• Fear can be obstructive in our quest to respond to God's call on our lives.

• Fear prevents us from exercising our faith and can stymie our desire to serve God and humanity.

• Do you fear the response of the crowd to God's calling and the consecration on your life?

The Pauline text is also important as love helps us to overcome fear. This text, one of the most popular passages of Scripture, was first written to a community that was having a very difficult time staying together.

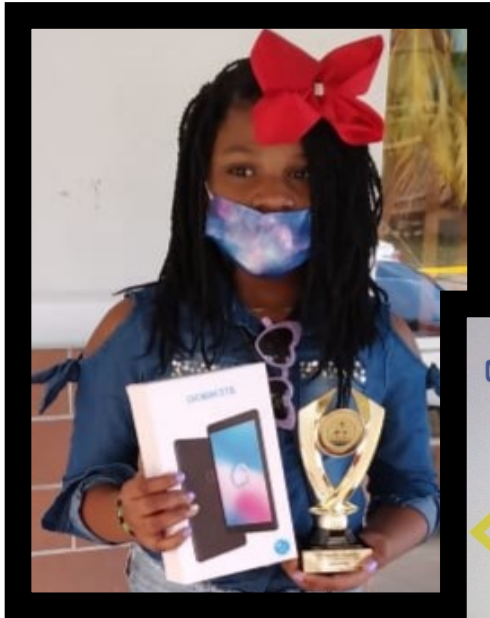
The call to understand love and to live in love is critical for those who will serve Christ without fear.

End Violence Against Women



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

Congratulations



The winner of the Children's Commission logo competition, Micquela Saddler from Norwood United Church posed with her grand prize. The logo she designed is below.



Sarah Timbawala from Meadowbrook United Church came in second place, winning a gift certificate from Kingston Book Shop.



On January 16, 2022, Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, Deputy General Secretary of North-East Regional Mission Council, and Pastor Clyde Shaw presented sisters Vinnel Gordon and Kathleen Cole from Berea United, Buff Bay Charge with plaques for their long service.

HAPPY Birthday



Mrs. Joyce Williams
Jan 26



Mrs. Mauleen Henry
Jan. 27



Rev. Paul DaCosta-Pinto
Jan. 29



Mrs. Annie Lyew
Jan. 30



Rev. Roy Dodman
Feb. 02



Mr. Patrick Newman
Feb. 02

NOTICES

UCJCI Lay Training Institute



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS 2022

Offered in collaboration with The International University of the Caribbean

Get Ready to Serve!



MODULE 1 BEGINS FEBRUARY 12, 2022

TRAINING FEATURES

- Weekend and Weekday classes
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursdays 6 - 8 p.m.
(2nd and 4th Saturdays and Thursday in the immediate week following)
- Combination of Learning in Virtual Classrooms via Zoom and in Learners' own time

ORIENTATION JANUARY 29, 2022

REGISTER NOW through your Regional Mission Council office

For more information: nermc@ucjci.com; dirmc.info@gmail.com; wrmc01@yahoo.com; srmc@ucjci.com

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE GAYMAN ISLANDS LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THE CARIBBEAN

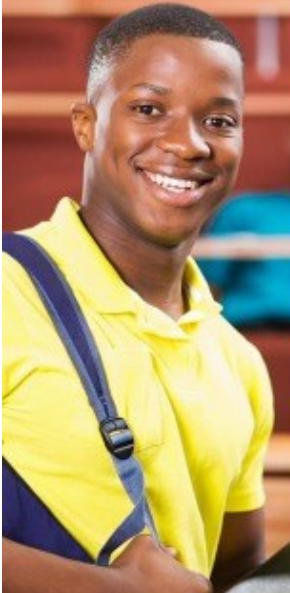



Lay Training Graduation Celebration

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. YVONNE LEYS DAWKINS
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN

The Celebration will be streamed live from Hope United Church via the UCJCI YouTube channel.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO TUNE IN
Due to COVID 19 restrictions there will be limited in-person gathering of specially invited guests



International University Caribbean
Seek Peace Pursue Excellence

Undergraduate Degrees

- BSc: Business Administration
- BSc: Business Administration (PPM)
- BSc: Tourism & Hospitality Management
- BA: Guidance & Counselling
- BE: Primary Education*
- BA: Psychology
- BA: General Studies
- BA: Community Development
- BA: Media & Communication Arts

Mode of Study: Online & Face to Face


Entry Requirement:

5 passes in CSEC subjects including Mathematics & English Language (*only option for BE degree)

... or a combination of CSEC and City & Guilds (Level 3)

... or any 3 passes in CSEC subjects + 2 equivalent IUC subjects

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES APPLY NOW!



eMail: apply@iuc.edu.jm
Tel. 876.754.1921

U.C.M.F.
The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Men's Fellowship National Convention 2022

MEN FILLED WITH HOPE
Responding to the Crisis

Speaker:
Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott
Moderator of the United Church



26th February, 2022 10 a.m.

Join the live stream on YouTube: UCJCI'S CHANNEL

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Islands

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Cayman Islands since the start of the pandemic is 11,666. As of this past weekend, more than 6,000 people in Cayman were in isolation after testing positive for Covid-19. 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, including church services, are now restricted to 100 persons while outdoor gatherings are restricted to 250 persons.

Jamaica

There are 121,963 confirmed cases of which 11,814 are active with 2615 deaths. The Government of Jamaica said the amendments under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) will remain the same until February 11, 2022.

Please note and be guided by the following:

1. Church Services – The number of persons allowed in

the sanctuary for worship should be determined by the physical distancing requirement of a minimum of six feet between persons, but should not exceed 100 persons.

2. Weddings – the maximum number of persons allowed is 100.
3. Funeral services are allowed with a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.
4. Burials are allowed for 30 minutes Mondays to Fridays between 9 am and 4 pm with a maximum of 20 persons at the graveside.

The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:

5. No physical crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.
6. Physical gatherings are limited to 10 persons.
7. Stay at home – persons 60 years and over. Fully vaccinated persons are exempt.

Please note that the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are still required for public spaces and

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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