



A Weekly Update from The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

November 17, 2021

Issue 8 Volume 45

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Ordination 2021 || No hugs, handshakes nor kisses



**Reverends Anna-Kay Henry-McGregor,
Wendell McKoy , Sandra Collins.**

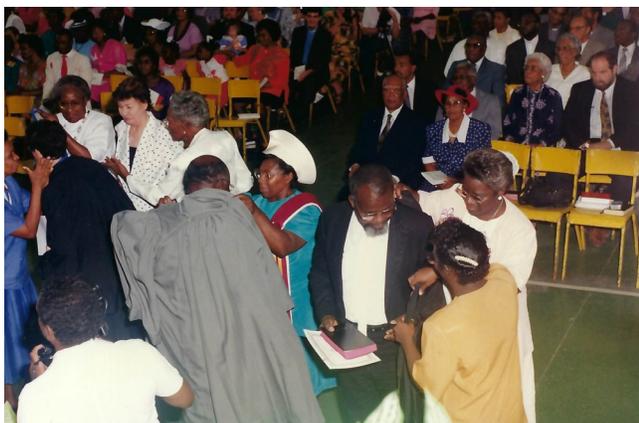
For the first time in 56 years the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands ordained three ministers to Word and Sacraments in a way foreign to the practice of our denomination.

Our service of ordination, which has for many years occurred at the Ridgemount United Church in Manchester, took place on November 11, 2021, at the Webster Memorial Church in Kingston.

Reverend Anna-Kay Henry-McGregor, Reverend Sandra Collins, and Reverend Wendell McKoy, were ordained.

In last week's publication, Rev. Henley Bernard, Director of Ministerial Formation explained that ordination is not only for the gaining of status but it is the celebration of preparation undergone by the candidate, the recognition of the candidate's suitability for participation in the community's life, the embrace of the candidate through the 'laying on of hands' and the extension of appropriate signs of fellowship, as colleague and partner in the faith community's commitment to serve the cause of Christ.

However, this grand celebration in our current context, required the Moderator, the Rt. Reverend Gary Harriott, to “stretch forth his hand” over the candidates instead of the laying of hands on their shoulders by the



The late Reverends Leslie Cansius, Rev. James Davis, Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler being ordained at the first UCJCI Convocation Service at the National Area on April 10, 1994. Others ordained at this service were the late Rev. Keith Gordon, Revs Egbert Harvey, Ranford Hewitt, Trevor Hylton, and Delia Picart-Hibbert. All except Revs. Fowler, Hylton, and Picart-Hibbert were the first group of graduates from the Institute of Theological and Leadership Development (ITLD), one of the constituent colleges of the present International University of the Caribbean (IUC). Former Governor-General of Jamaica, Sir Howard Cooke and his wife are in the front row. Just behind them is Rev. Madge Saunders.

moderator and ministers. Because of COVID-19, we have aimed as a church, to avoid all physical contact except the bouncing of elbows to greet each other. Therefore, there were no hugs and handshakes or kisses.

In addition to this, the Webster Memorial Church which has the capacity to seat approximately 750 people, hosted only 50 people, including the clergy and the candidates, last Thursday. This was in keeping with the Covid-19 protocols and guidelines issued by the Prime Minister of

Jamaica. At the time, this stated that church services can only accommodate up to 50 people in accordance with the 6ft social distances rule. New measures were announced yesterday, November 16, 2021, and will take effect on Friday, November 18 (please see COVID-19 protocols on pg 5).

A maximum of 185 more people, witnessed the candidates’ dedication to the service of Jesus Christ through the live stream of the event on our YouTube channel, UCJCI’s channel.

As the authority to serve in the office of pastor was conferred upon them through the ritual of ordination by the faith community, expressions of praise rang in the pews and the live chat.

Viewers shared congratulations, well wishes, and prayers. There were some Reverends who rolled back the curtains to seminary and ordination in conversation with each other while awaiting the crossing over of their colleagues.

While Rev. Henry-McGregor delivered the response on behalf of the newly ordained ministers, the viewers joined in with laughter and expressions of agreement as she shared the journey.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, our church, proudly and prayerfully welcomes Reverends Anna-Kay Henry-McGregor, Sandra Collins and Wendell McKoy, along with the pledges taken by others, who not only considered the service of ordination an occasion but an opportunity to commit and recommit to personal acts.

<p>NOVEMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Church School Month ⇒ Men’s Health Month ⇒ National Parent Month in Jamaica: <p>2021 Theme- ‘Positive Parenting, impacting Generations’</p>	<p>November 19th- International Men’s Day</p> <p>November 20th-International Children’s Day</p>
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I remember

Sunday School, now Church School, has always been a part of my church reality.

I remember when we tried to reach early for church so that we could go to Sunday School and win a sticker or a sweet for reciting the memory verse or the memory gem.

I remember when quiz time came around and we had to study the text, but not just the text, but UCJCI facts. We had to know the names of the Moderator and General Secretary. We had to know the three antecedent traditions, the first congregations of each, and the dates of the two major unions. We listened intently over the coming weeks to hear who went on to the next round and who was the best in the congregation. Big up to 'RTB' who seemed to beat me every year.

I remember children's (Sunday School) rally at St. Andrew's Scots Kirk on the yearly Sunday evenings. We had to 'small up' ourselves as there were not many vehicles to carry all of us; but did we care...no. The roll calls helped us to know if our friends were there as we would hear the names of their congregations being called. The competitions were healthy, so too were the banners. Who can forget the banner procession? I still have that picture.

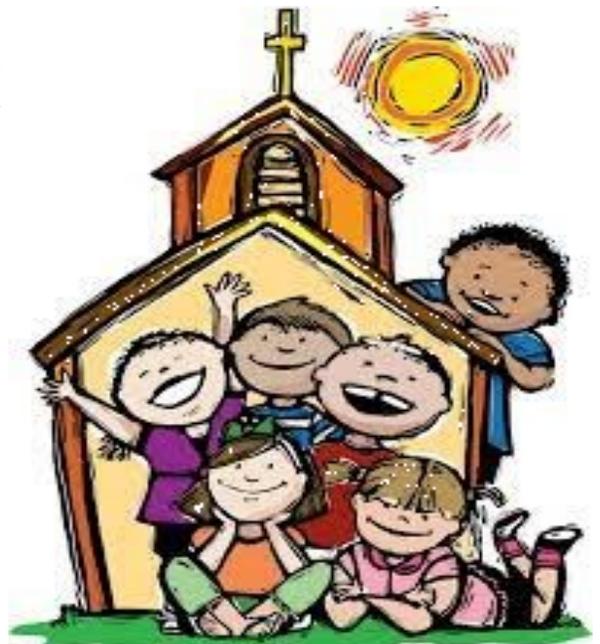
I remember fun days at church, football, water war, hide and seek and dandy-shandy. You were almost guaranteed to go home with a bruised knee, or to your parents telling you, "is you going to wash that shirt enuh." Ice-cream, cake, and the festivities were things to look forward to at these fun days.

I remember when there was always an item from the Church School at Harvest and Christmas Morning services. We were never left out as we are a part of the church and were never made to feel left out because we were children.

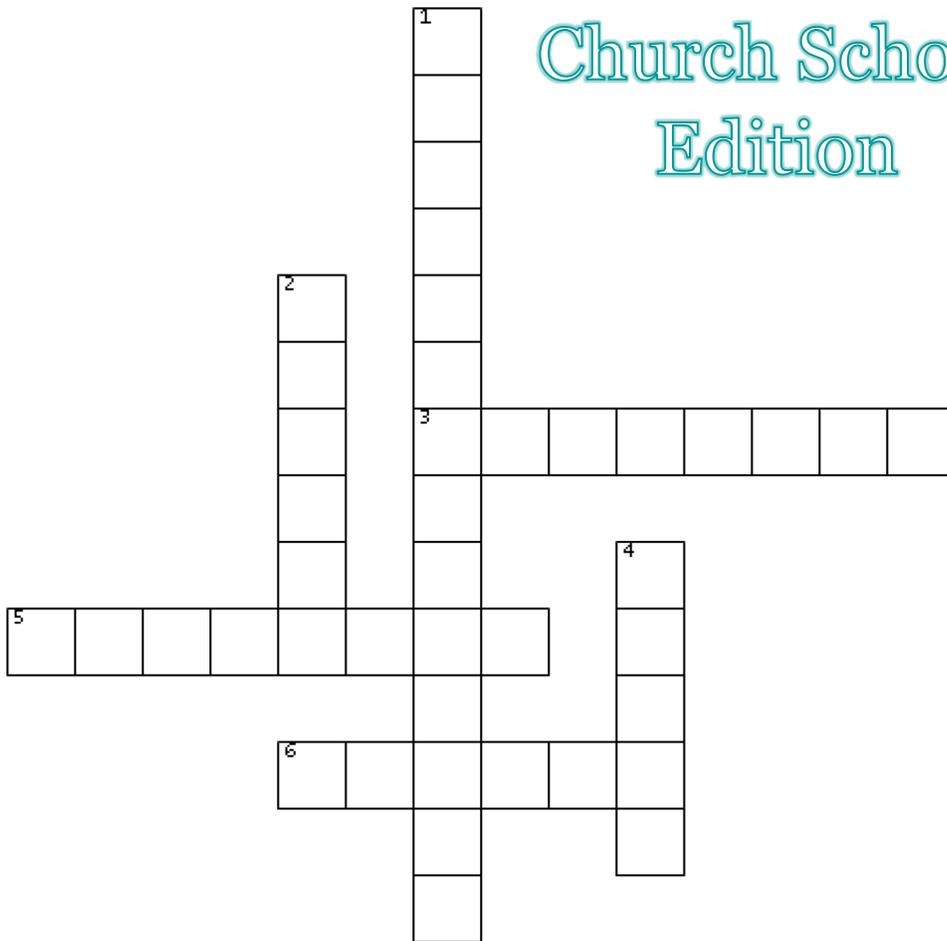
Even as I remember these things, I am thankful that it continues today. It served to ground me and so many others spiritually and helped us to appreciate this church of which we are a part. Even today, many of the things I know were taught to me in Church School, intricately broken down by teachers and Pastors to help us understand this faith in Jesus Christ.

I remember... and will always remember!

Rev Kraig De Leon Diedrick
Communication Technical Support Officer



Church School Edition



ACROSS

3. Church School Month.
5. What must Church School teachers undergo?
6. First name of the Chair for the Children's Commission.

DOWN

1. Person Responsible for Church School in the Congregation.
2. Last name of the Chair for the Youth Commission.
4. Major Church School event in April.

**Here are the answers to
last week's UCJCI Facts:
Ordination Edition.**

Saunders

White

Gordon

Davidson

Three

Christopher

Ordination

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Islands

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Cayman Islands continues to rise. Of the 4,917 confirmed cases, 3,340 are active with 4 deaths and 21 persons in the hospital. 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. The restrictions are in place until November 22, 2021.

Jamaica

There are 90,341 confirmed cases of which 1,025 are active with 2,331 deaths. The Government of Jamaica, on November 16, 2021, announced amendments to orders under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA). These provisions are for the period November 18 to December 9, 2021.

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 gatherings.

HAITI RELIEF

Since the earthquake, which had its epicenter near Haiti, on Saturday August 14, 2021, has devastated the nation, the country has been experiencing strong tremors. Many persons are still homeless and living under rubbles. Some are hesitant to erect concrete structures as they fear another earthquake at any given time.

At the last count, the death toll was 2,207, with 344 people still missing. The severe physical, economic and social impact on Haiti have been made more challenging as shortly thereafter they experienced the passage of Tropical Storm Grace. All of this follows the recent assassination of their President.



As part of our initial response as a church, we wish to offer financial support to the relief efforts in Haiti, through our established contacts there.

We are aware of the restrictions on attendance in worship in Jamaica and would suggest that, where possible, congregations make a contribution from their own funds.

How to Donate

Cayman Islands:

Send your contributions to your local congregations, which will then remit the same to the Cayman Regional Office.

Jamaica:

Bank: National Commercial Bank Jamaica Ltd

Address: 90-94 Slike Rd.
Kingston 5

Account Name: United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Account #: 234297392

Type of account : Savings



*Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cayman Team
(Established in 1996)*

This year the Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cayman Team celebrates its 25th Anniversary. A number of United Church members partner in support of this ministry. The faithful prayers and financial assistance both nurture and encourage the Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cayman Team and Wycliffe missionaries who have committed to the lengthy challenging work of Bible translation and Linguistic Training in the world's difficult places. Such support of the Lord's work over the years honors Jesus Christ's 'Great Commission' to all His followers to share the Gospel with the many millions of people who do not yet have it in their heart language.

Thursday, November 11th was the date for the 2021 annual Wycliffe World Day of Prayer. The theme for this year was "Strength for the Journey". The metaphor of a journey conveys forward movement and progress. As individual Christians we are each on a journey with the Lord, growing in our faith, our knowledge and our love for Him through reading His Holy Word. But many still do not yet have His Word.

As a Bible translation movement, Wycliffe Alliance organizations around the world by God's grace, push continually toward the goal that one day every language community will have members who worship and follow Jesus.

Often our journey is difficult and so we become weary. Praise God for never growing tired or weary (Isaiah 40:28) and that Bible shows the many ways God strengthens us when we need it. God is always ready to help us (Psalm 46:1).

WYCLIFFE YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Africa - The story of the Lugwere New Testament <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJYbtA1tMBo>

Americas - Seeking out their translation. The Quechua <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ilff2nJ6gs>

Pacific - What do you take for granted <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngvNH5DXkY>

Sign Languages - Celebrating the American Sign Language <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N45Bw62YtYo>

Farewell

Mrs. Janet McConnell, Human Resource Manager

Mrs. McConnell's new role as Regional Deputy General Secretary of the Southern Regional Mission Council takes effect December 1, 2021.



Prayer Corner

- Rev Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Pastor Ormond Williams who lost his mother.
- Rev. Mason who is unwell.
- 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.
- Those who have loss loved ones to COVID-19.
- Crime and Violence in Jamaica.
- The people of Haiti and Afghanistan.
- Victims, family members and those affected by the operations and principles of Pathway International Kingdom Restoration Ministries in St. James.

Almighty God,

We thank you, Lord that you have come to us in our tribulations. You deliver us from “the terrors of night and the arrow which flies by day”, and you guide us in your paths.

Grant, Lord, that you may be glorified in us according to your will.

Amen.

Liturgy for worship at home

November 21, 2021
Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Jesus Will Come Again

Jesus our majestic King will come again and be seen by all. God in Christ is the Beginning and the End. He is Almighty.

Notices



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

UCJCI CHURCH SCHOOL TRAINING

SATURDAY,
November 20, 2021

@10 am – 2pm



VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID:
891 2335 1434
Passcode: 806898

“TRANSFORMING
TEACHING AND
LEARNING TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE FOR
CHRIST”

All Church School
Superintendents, Teachers
and other Children
Ministry leaders are invited



**THE UNITED
CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND
THE CAYMAN
ISLANDS**





**THE UNITED
CHURCH MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP**

Sponsors:








2021 WALK ATHAN

**COME WALK WITH US!
WE START AT 6 A.M.**

Emancipation Park
Elleston Wakeland Centre
Manchester High School

\$500.00 PER LAP

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER
20, 2021**

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: **SEE YOUR LOCAL
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

EVERY STEP YOU
TAKE MEANS A LOT!

MADE WITH PHOTOSHOP



UCJCI Children's Ministry Commission



**NEEDS
Church School Curriculum
Writers & Editors
URGENTLY!**



**Please Contact Us:
876-238-3588
ucjchildrenscommission@gmail.com**



International University of the Caribbean

ANNUAL GRADUATION





**Venue: Hope United Church
Date: November 25, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m**

Join the livestream at the link below
<http://bit.ly/iucyoutube>

**Happy
Birthday**



**Miss Laurel-Ann
Livingston, Nov 19**

**Rev. Bryan Stone,
Nov 19**

**Pastor Alja Dias,
Nov 24**



**Rev. Stotrell Lowe,
Nov 24**

**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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