



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

January 27, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME 2021 – **Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE** (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

CIRMC Popular Report

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council held its first regular meeting of the new year on January 23, 2021, at the Elmslie Memorial United Church Hall.

Synod Remit

We collectively give thanks for the ways God led us through 2020, given the many challenges we faced, and we are convinced that God will guide us through this New Year. There is clear evidence of a church which has adapted to the realities of COVID-19 and continues to discover innovative and impactful ways of ministering in the midst of a pandemic. We are truly grateful for the leadership offered by our Ministers, Lay Pastors and Lay leaders in making our church responsive to the ministry and mission needs of these times.

Synod 2021

The 42nd Synod will be a virtual event held between April 11 and 18, 2021 under the theme: “Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism).” This offers the opportunity, in cost-effective ways, to use a blended approach of physical and virtual spaces to extend the reach of the Synod beyond its delegates, to involve persons both locally and overseas, as well as achieve the purpose of reviewing the work of the church over the last Synodical period and determining the direction of the church in the midst of and beyond the pandemic.

The above objectives will be achieved through a series of events, including Pre-Synod consultations and a Children’s Rally in each Region. The Synod schedule will include opening and closing worship, a celebration of life and witness, business sessions, Bible studies, a Youth Synod, public webinar, theme expressions, and the celebration of congregational ministry and mission.

UCJCI Lay Leaders Training Certificate Course

The Training for Lay Leaders program launched last year by the UCJCI Lay Training Institute has been re-named, and it is now known as – UCJCI Lay Leaders Training Certificate Course. The original three Modules scheme has been retained. Module 1 is for Elders, Module 1-2 for those serving or desiring to serve in specialized ministry areas, and finally, Module 1-2-3 is for those desiring to receive qualification as Lay Pastors.

Those participants who complete all three Modules may matriculate to IUC’s Diploma in Theology, providing they also have Mathematics and English at the CXC level.

Topics within a Module will be delivered online by one presenter for all Regions via Zoom on the second and fourth Saturdays from February to August, typically for 6-7 hours, including breaks.

CWM Mission Grants

In 2020 the UCJCI received a COVID-19 Relief Grant from CWM to be used in all Regions to address technology needs (training and equipment). In response to this, the CIRMC has set up a Technology Team, chaired by Mr. Christopher Allen, to identify the best ways to use this fund. The Council Office has been inspected to ascertain the necessary equipment needed to facilitate the identified objectives.

The CWM COVID-19 Mission Grant for the counselling of persons affected locally by the pandemic, through the auspices of the Bethesda Counselling Centre has been received from the Synod Administration.

CIRMC Strategic Goals 2021-2024

The Task Force, which was set up in 2019 aiming to discern ways to increase the efficiency of the CIRMC in using its resources and also to promote the effectiveness of its ministry was unable to meet since September 2020, due to unfavorable circumstances. The new Council Executive Committee will prioritize this matter.

Leadership

a. East End/ Gun Bay Charge

The Charge remains vacant and the Interim Minister Rev. Rohan Forrester and Lay Pastor Ormond Williams will remain in post until the Joint Board and the Pastoral team in place will be able to assess the arrangement, hopefully before the end of the first quarter of 2021.

b. John Gray Memorial Charge

The Rev. Donovan Myers remains on Sick Leave. As of November 15, 2020, the Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS) attends to the administrative and the Rev. Louis Sully to the pastoral duties of the Charge.

Triennial Visitation to Charges

The George Town Charge and the Savannah / Robert Young Charges are next on the schedule for visitation. Once the re-design of the process and the instrument receive the approval of the Church and Ministry Committee, the Council will conduct these visits.

Property

The Atlantis building in George Town remains unoccupied. Several interests have been expressed but a suitable tenant has not yet been identified. The Cayman United Church Corporation continues to monitor this situation.

Election of Council Executive

The following persons were nominated and subsequently, elected:

Chair of Council: Rev. Rohan Forrester

Vice-Chairs:

Children & Youth MAT: Rev. Euthman Wray

Discipleship MAT: Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Evangelism MAT: Rev. Louis Sully

Mission MAT: Ms. Tessa Bodden

Leadership MAT: Dr. Elizabeth McLaughlin

Youth Leaders' National Executive (YLNE)

The reports indicated a slow but steady recovery following the lifting of restrictions. Most regular children and youth activities/ministries such as Sunday Schools, Youth Groups, and regular monthly youth services have resumed in all Charges, however, pre-Covid attendance numbers have not been reached yet. Before Covid, two Charges had After School Programmes (John Gray and Savannah), and only Savannah was able to restart AS activities in the last quarter of 2020. Children's Christmas programs were also held in most of the congregations.

The newly elected officers of the YLNE for the period 2021-2022 are as follows:

Chair: Mr Roy McGregor (Youth Minister, GT)
Dep. Chair: Ms Camile Watt (Youth Minister, SAV-RY)
Secretary: Ms Vanda Powery (JG)
PR Officer: Mr Garth Webster (BT-NS)

Mr Noel Wallace continues to serve on the YLNE as Council appointee/representative. Jelani Hanson (SAV) was admitted to the YLNE as one of the representatives of the Youth Advisers Committee, Jennelle McLaughlin (GT) being the other.

Finance

The 2021 Budget of the CIRMC was approved in the November 30, 2020, meeting of the Council. The CIRMC remains current with its statutory obligations.

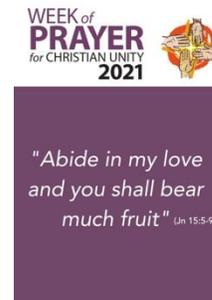
All Congregations submitted assessments on time and there were no outstanding balances due at the end of 2020.

A Year-End Closing workbook was prepared with Instructions, Checklist, Timeline and Template for Congregations to complete.

A Treasurers' Workshop was held on January 20, 2021, aimed at to guide Treasurers in compiling the 2020 accounts and to ensure streamlined reporting and reviewing standards.

Council has received an unqualified Review from RSM and has submitted the 2019 NPO Return which has been approved by the relevant CIG department..

The CPHS is servicing their loan, debt-free, NPO compliant, and remains profitable.



(source: Churches Together and the World Council of Churches)

The **2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** was held between January 18-25. This ecumenical event has been jointly organized by the WCC and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Roman Catholic Church since 1968.

“In a culmination of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the World Council of Churches (WCC) held its first ever online global ecumenical prayer on 25 January, drawing attendees from across the world who came together in a spirit of hope.

WCC interim General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Saucă reflected that the online format allowed people to pray together wherever they are. “The global pandemic has shown just how fragile we are as humans, yet also how creative and resilient we can be when we pray and work together to bring hope and a sense of caring for each other and for the wider ecumenical family,” he said. “We are one world and one human family.”

“The theme for this year, with materials was prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.”

Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.”

(<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>)

(<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/global-ecumenical-prayer-shows-we-are-one-world-and-one-human-family>)



A mental Health Workshop was hosted by the John Gray Memorial Church in West Bay on January 21, 2021.



Members of the Women's Fellowship at the William Pouchie Memorial Church, North Side on Women's Fellowship Sunday, January 24, 2021, in the company of Rev. Rohan Forrester, Minister and guest speaker Rev. Mary Graham.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL BREAKFAST**
January 30, 2021 8:00 am
George Town Yacht Club
Cost: \$25.00



United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 2021
7:30 – 9:45 am

Location: Savannah United Church

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(Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30. (Saturday)

Women's' Fellowship Annual Breakfast – 8:00 am GT Yacht Club
Girls' Brigade Officers Training – 9:00 am Prospect Youth Centre

January 31. (Sunday) 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Youth Leaders Appreciation Service – 5:00 pm – Elmslie MUC

February 5 - 8. (Friday - Sunday)

Girls' Brigade Overnight Camp – Prospect Youth Centre

February 6. (Saturday)

YLNE planning meeting – 9:30 am – venue TBD



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

January 31, 2021
Rev. L. Christopher Mason

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