



THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

# UCJCI UPDATE

JANUARY 29, 2025

VOL. 12 NO. 4



**LAUNCH OUT INTO THE D.E.E.P**  
(Discipleship, Evangelism, Edification and Prophetic Ministry)



# BEING PROPHETIC

by Rev. Dr. Jane Kaluba, Minister for the Falmouth United Charge of Churches

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has set its synodical theme in anticipation of the upcoming Synod in April. The theme is launching out into the DEEP where 'DEEP' is an acronym for Discipleship, Evangelism, Edification and Prophetic ministry. The church has been preaching and teaching the word and emphasising on how important Discipleship and Evangelism are to the growth of the church both numerically and spiritually.

As pointed out by one minister in the last council meeting of the Western region, the church needs a prophetic word. This word does not just come about but needs in-depth study of the word, commitment to Bible study, prayer and fasting sessions and other programs organised by the church. But what is Prophecy?

Paul writes:

*"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy." – 1 Corinthians 14:1.*

Prophecy is:

## 1. "Speaking Truth to Power"

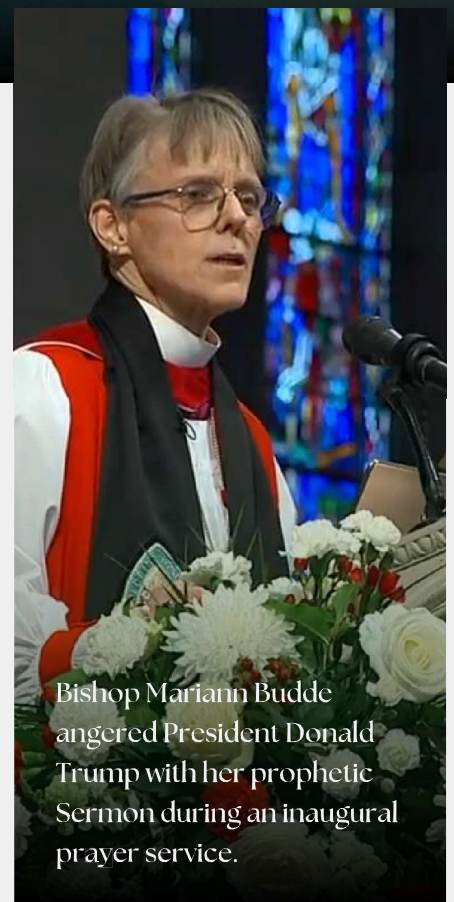
Prophetic ministry involves speaking God's truth to those in positions of power and authority, holding them accountable for justice, equality, and righteousness.

## 2. Challenging Systems of Oppression

Prophets are called to challenge systems of oppression, such as racism, sexism, and economic inequality, and to advocate for the marginalized and vulnerable.

## 3. Declaring God's Justice and Mercy

Prophetic ministry involves declaring God's justice and mercy, calling people to repentance, and announcing God's redemption and restoration.



Bishop Mariann Budde angered President Donald Trump with her prophetic Sermon during an inaugural prayer service.



Rev. Glenroy Clarke spoke on church life and direction at the UCJCI Convocation held May 5, 2024

#### 4. Interpreting the Signs of the Times

Prophets are called to interpret the signs of the times, discerning the movement of God's Spirit in the world and calling people to respond faithfully.

#### 5. Empowering and Equipping Others

Prophetic ministry involves empowering and equipping others to join in the prophetic task, building a community of prophets who can speak truth to power and challenge systems of oppression.

#### 6. Practicing Spiritual Discernment

Prophets must practice spiritual discernment, seeking to distinguish between God's voice and other voices, and to discern the will of God in complex situations.

### What is Prophecy in our church?

So what does prophecy look like now? How does it work in the 21st century in our church? What does it look like at Falmouth, Trelawny, for example? What does it look like in the life of our community? In Bible study groups? In our Sunday gatherings? Especially if prophecy is for everyone and must be weighed and discerned; especially if women are able to prophesy (1 Corinthians 11)? Prophecy does sound very much like part of what happens in preaching in our Sunday services, but perhaps preaching is more than prophecy, and prophecy is more than preaching.

To be prophetic is a risky task today and always but Christian men and women have to follow God – not the mammon, not the powers and authorities but only God. For the church to speak to the powers that be without fear or favour, it has to be prophetic and call a spade a spade without fear of falling out of favour with the powerful.

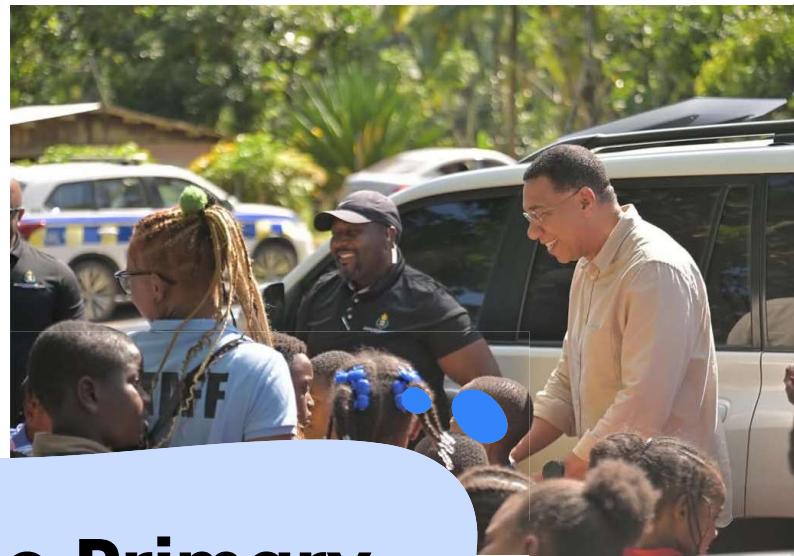


Rev. Dr. Jane Kaluba

*"Love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce"*

Pedron Arrupe, SJ





## **Blauwearie Primary gains support of Prime Minister**

Students and teachers of Blauwearie Primary School in Westmoreland took to the streets to raise funds on Friday, January 24, 2025. The walk was in aid of one of the students who will participate in the Miss 4H competition and seeks to receive the most popular sectional prize. During the walk, they caught up to Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, PC and his team.

Though the Prime Minister was in the region on a different occasion, he took pleasure in greeting the group and making a contribution to the cause. "It's always heartwarming to see our children working together with purpose, confidence and pride," he said.

The Miss 4H pageant will be held at Sean Lavery Faith Hall on January 30, 2025.



# BRAE HEAD UNITED CHURCH MAKES DEBUT AT REGIONAL SPORTS DAY



In a notable milestone for the Brae Head United Church of the Mount Carmel Charge, a team of 14 energetic youth made their debut at this year's Regional Sports Day. This first-time participation highlighted the growing enthusiasm and commitment of the church's young members.



The team, which included 6 boys and 7 girls, competed in various events such as dominoes, football, and track and field. Throughout the day, the participants exhibited outstanding sportsmanship and teamwork, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.



The group was led by Youth President Javia Ricketts and Youth Ministry Coordinator Sherlet McGhan, who played an instrumental role in preparing the youth for the day's activities. Their leadership ensured that each participant was supported, encouraged, and motivated to give their best.



The event provided a fantastic opportunity for the young people to interact with peers from other communities, while proudly representing Brae Head United Church. This experience further deepened the church's commitment to nurturing youth involvement in both faith-based and recreational activities. Looking ahead, the Brae Head United Church eagerly anticipates future events that will continue to strengthen the bonds of community and faith among its youth.



# NERMC YAAM CELEBRATES AT DUKE STREET



NERMC Young Adults Action Movement Steering Committee, flanked by Chair of Council Mrs. Jennifer Martin and Regional Deputy General Secretary Mrs. Rose Wedderburn.  
(Left to right: Miss Tayesha Pearson, Mrs. Sadeka Graham-Chisholm-Committee Chair, Miss Anisea Bremmer and Serena Johnson. Not pictured: Mr. Jason Notice and Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts (Advisor))

The North-Eastern Regional Mission Council Young Adults Action Movement held their Regional Church Service at Duke Street United Church in celebrations of young adults' month.

During the service, the YAAM executive of the Duke Street congregation were duly installed.

The service was attended by NERMC Chair of Council Mrs. Jennifer Martins and Deputy General Secretary Mrs. Rose Wedderburn with Rev. Paul DaCosta-Pinto as the preacher.



Greetings to the region's young adults from Chair of Council Mrs. Jennifer Martin



Reverend Paul Dacosta-Pinto delivering the word on the theme: Grounded in faith, Growing to serve.





# TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WESLEY WATLER (CHARLIE)

*from the Savannah United Church, CIRMC*



*Charles Wesley Watler (MBE, CCI, JP)  
1942 - 2025*

In the tapestry of life, there are a few outstanding people who shine brighter than the rest. Charles Weslie Watler, affectionately known as Charlie, was one such person. He was a man of unwavering faith, boundless generosity, and profound love. His life was a testament to the teachings of Christ, embodying compassion and selflessness in every action.

Charlie was not just a man who attended church; he was the church in action. Serving as Congregational Secretary, Elder, and a member of the Finance Committee for many years, he made countless significant contributions to both the church and the broader community. He was deeply involved

in ensuring the church was not only a place of worship but also a force for good in the world. His commitment to service extended far beyond the church walls, he extended his hand to anyone in need and was always there with a listening ear or a word of encouragement.

Charlie's legacy of generosity is woven into the very fabric of the church and the community it serves. Together with his family, they led the way in providing a playground that continues to serve the youth of the church and the surrounding community. He was also one of the founding contributors behind the Community Benevolent Fund, a vital initiative that continues to support those in need. His visionary, forward-thinking spirit didn't stop there—he was passionate about ensuring the church's sustainability and future. In a remarkable act of foresight, Charlie donated solar panels to the church, and the rebate from this initiative is used to fund programs for the youth of the church, ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come.

He was a wealth of knowledge, not only about the church's growth and development but also about how it could continue to flourish in the future. He was always at the forefront of efforts to push the church forward, inspiring others to carry on his work.

His journey with us may have ended, but his impact remains eternal. May we all strive to live as Charlie did, with open hearts and generous spirits, by being found faithful to His Lord as he has been. May he find eternal rest.



# *Happy Birthday!*

January 29-February 4



**MRS. ANNIE LYEW**

January 30



## *Let us Pray Together...*

- Families and friends of the children who perished in the fire in St. Ann.
- Families affected by the wildfires in Southern California (Loss of lives, property, income) and the environmental impact
- Ongoing conflicts in Haiti, other parts of the Caribbean and the wider world.
- The family of Mrs. Phyllis Mitchell who passed
- Rev. Kevin 'Nana Moses' Calvert whose father passed
- Safety and peace in Jamaica
- The upcoming 44th Synod of the United Church
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
  - Dr. Norma Smellie
  - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
  - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
  - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and  
saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34: 18*



# EVENTS PAGES



## SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND PRESENCE

The following pages carry notification of events. Please send your posters and flyers in pdf, jpeg or png format to [citc@ucjci.com](mailto:citc@ucjci.com) for promotion in the UCJCI Update.



UNITED CHURCH YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP



# SYNODICAL SPORTS DAY



Launch into the **D.E.E.P**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025**

**VENUE**

**NORANDA SPORTS CLUB**

**ADMISSION:**

**Adults: \$300, Children under 12: \$150**

**GATES OPEN AT**

**8:00 AM**





# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

# Training in Mission

# Diploma in Mission Studies

# 2025

**Late April to November 2025**

Gain a new practical and radical understanding of what witnessing to Christ means through 26 weeks of intensive mission training.

Graduates of TIM will possess qualification which recognizes applied leadership skills in mission and education to enhance employment opportunities or to work in a voluntary capacity.



## Criteria

- ★ Be 20 to 29 years old at the start of the Programme, single, and not an ordained minister
- ★ Be able to spend up to 5 months away from home
- ★ Be an active member of UCJCI committed to serve the church upon return
- ★ Have paid or volunteer experience and/or involvement in project work
- ★ Have demonstrated educational capacity
- ★ Be interested in exploring mission issues in an international and multicultural context
- ★ Be able to relate well with others and mature enough to cope with stress, be of exemplary behaviour and character
- ★ Be proficient in spoken and written English, as this is the main language of communication

## Destinations:

Philippines

Jamaica

## For more information



876-926-6059



[hmr@ucjci.com](mailto:hmr@ucjci.com)



[cwmission.org](http://cwmission.org)



# Join the CWM Team



## COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

### Project Manager for MSP

---

#### About this Role:

The Project Manager for MSP (Mission Support Programme) role reports to the **Mission Secretary for Mission Programme and Partnership**. Based in Singapore, this role involves international travel.

The role is part of the programme team, which works closely with CWM member bodies across 41 countries, governing bodies when called upon, CWM ecumenical partners, youth and civil societies, and other interest groups to accomplish common mission.

#### Job Purpose:

The Project Manager for MSP coordinates the Mission Support Programme to guide CWM in its support of member churches' mission work. He/she works collaboratively with regional and finance colleagues to facilitate planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting (PMER) of the Mission Support Programme of CWM's 32 member churches.

#### Key Roles & Responsibilities:

- To work collaboratively with the Mission Secretary in conceptualizing and strategizing engagement with member churches' mission programmes in line with CWM's missional focus.
- Implement project management through mission consultation and roundtable meetings with member churches supported by regional colleagues to discern and determine optimal approaches and best practices.
- Maintain proper implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of ongoing MSP projects by field visits.
- Ensure systematic and updated records management and e-filing of MSP-related documents.
- Facilitate and enhance MSP work processes across the CWM departments (i.e., office of GS, finance team and regional offices) and member churches.
- Coordinating member churches' project reporting (narrative and financial) by providing direction to regional and finance colleagues.

How to apply:

Please email your detailed CV with current and expected salaries to [hr@cwmission.org](mailto:hr@cwmission.org).

For more information visit [cwmission.org](http://cwmission.org)



WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

## DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTE

### TEACHING MODULE 5

# EVANGELISM

<https://forms.gle/b1LeYyPzdZdD7qiq7>

FACILITATOR

**Rev. Lembe Sivile**

Senior Minister, Meadowbrook United Church

**JANUARY 14, 2025 TO MARCH 13, 2025**

Join on  zoom

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS EXCEPT FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAYS

6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.







COMING IN THE NEW YEAR

# TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS

**MODULE 1  
FEBRUARY - AUGUST**

- **ORIENTATION  
SESSION**
- **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1,  
2025 10:00 A.M. VIA ZOOM**



**PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS  
AND MINISTERS/LAY  
PASTORS WELCOME**

**MORE INFORMATION SOON**



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

# **44th Synod**

**April 23-27, 2025**

**In the North Eastern Regional  
Mission Council**

**"Launch out into the D.E.E.P"**

(Discipleship, Evangelism, Edification  
and Prophetic Ministry)

In an effort to make the Synod more affordable for all, we will not gather at a hotel. Instead, we invite delegates to make personal arrangements for accommodation in Kingston or surrounding communities.

---

**\$30,000 per delegate**

Stay tuned for more  
information

Online registration  
will begin in January  
2025

**Come for Worship, Witness, Business and Fellowship**





# NEED A RECORDING STUDIO?

**The United Church's Recording  
Studio is available**

**12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10  
Mondays to Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m**



 : **876-926-6059 or 876-843-3244**

Recording of radio programmes, and voice overs for  
commercials and other types of broadcasts.

Cost: \$3,500 per hour for  
recordings and editing



**THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
(Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

**SYNODICAL THEME:**

**Launch out into the D.E.E.P**

(Discipleship, Evangelism, Edification and Prophetic Ministry)

**OUR VISION**

*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples,  
Seeking Transformation through Christ*

**MODERATOR**  
**Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**

**GENERAL SECRETARY**  
**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

**REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES**

Cayman Regional Mission Council  
**Rev. Donovan Myers**

Southern Regional Mission Council

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Maureen Henry**