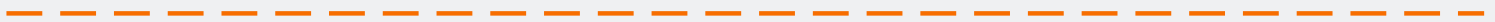


FROM THE OFFICE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

	PAGE/S
Administration of the Office.....	3
Strategic Updates.....	4-7
Spotlight on our Learning Institutions & Harrison Memorial Holistic Care Centre.....	8-11
Pastoral Credentialling.....	12-13
Installation of Pastors.....	13
Key Milestones celebrated.....	14-18
Haiti Mission.....	19
Caribbean Atlantic Assembly.....	19
The next BIG thing - 2024 Annual General Assembly.....	20

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please email us your feedback and suggestions to churchofgodinjamaica@gmail.com

CONTACT US

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN JAMAICA
35 Hope Road, Kingston 10
T: 876-578-9198 | 876-667-1654
www.cogja.org

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE

Greetings brothers and sisters!

I wish to express appreciation for those who work in the National Office and work passionately to support the ministry. Keep them in your prayers. Lest you forget them, I have taken the time to list them on the pages of this Newsletter: Annie McKoy, Monica Long, Rosie Lemard, Darren McKoy, Vivienne Marks, Sheila Hurst, Anthony Morrison, Luke Kelly, Rose Wright, Kareen Manderson and Michelle Grant.

We wish to inform you that Brother Damion Howell resigned as Treasurer of the National Church, effective August 31, 2023. We have benefited greatly from the contribution he made towards the financial stewardship, accounting standards and business ventures undertaken by the Church for which we are grateful. We wish him well in his personal and corporate endeavours.

Given the matters needing critical attention, we have engaged Pastor Michelle Grant, who is serving in the capacity on an interim basis up to December 31, 2023. By then, we hope to have a full replacement.



***Rev'd Courtney Gordon
Executive Chairman***

STRATEGIC UPDATES

Youths and Children

The Executive Council continues to offer strategic direction of the Church with clear imperatives from the Reform Agenda that was so ably birthed and tabled by our immediate past Executive Chairman, Rev. Adinhair Jones. We thank God for the rich legacies that our past leaders have left for us to build on. Other undertakings birthed by the Holy Spirit and drawn from the capacities and capabilities of our diverse giftings in the body of Christ also inform our strategic positioning of the ministry. The following are imperatives of our strategic focus.



**2023 National Youth Camp
Merlene Ottey High School, Hanover**



**2023 National Children Camp
Ardenne Preparatory & Extension
High School, Kingston**

There is increasing interest and engagement of our youth and children and these are commendable efforts. Our National Youth Directorate, NYE, Sunday School and Christian Education Department have accepted the urgency to strengthen and grow these two cohorts.

Nationally, we will need to double our efforts, our resources, and expectations for this endorsement represents a core statement of our vision for the Church. I ask us to earnestly pray, give, and support these ministries

Pastors are asked to be deliberate in making budgetary allocations in their congregations' 2024 budget preparation and also to support these ministries with advisors, mentors and caregivers. We need to be intentional in taking care of our treasures.

Church Growth

While the Church continues to mainstream discipleship, an urgent attention is to be given to church growth. Data collected on our membership shows this as a critical imperative. The Board of Evangelism and Missions, BEAM will give meaningful attention to this important area. Our strong support and rich participation on Evangelism Day held on November 5, 2023 at the Savanna-La-Mar congregation, followed by a week of meetings is a foretaste of the evangelistic drive anticipated for 2024.



The matter of pastoral stewardship in our congregations is pivotal to this growth. As such, the Ordination Committee is improving the processes involving credentialing, installation and ordination of Pastors while the General Financial Board, GFB is doing a deep dive on how we better support our Pastors.

Reform Agenda

You would have received an update on the Reform Agenda during the National Pulpit Exchange on Sunday, December 10, 2023. A consolidated Work Plan is in place and is being driven by a Project Management team which replaces the Commissions. Already we are up with the implementation of several milestones in the Reform Implementation Plan. The strategy in the execution of the Reform Agenda is informed by prioritization, resource availability, timeline and scope of work.

The following are noteworthy:

- 1. Streamlining of Key Ministries.** Steering Committees for Children, Family Life, Diaconate ministries are in place, all with representations from each Region. Some have already started to look at implementing key programmes for the enrichment of the Church. Other committees such as Diaspora Engagement, Social Outreach & Wellness and Music Institute are being finalized. The aim is to have these functioning by Assembly 2024.

2. Pastors' Welfare. This is receiving the needed attention as the General Financial Board and the Ministers' Conference are developing a better framework on how we treat matters of Pastors' Top-Up, Health, Pension and Retirement. .

3. Congregational Autonomy. Another pivotal area of the reform is how we treat Church governance and leadership. Greater understanding and meaningful considerations to our governance is critical if the Church is to align strategies with desired outcomes. We will engage the Church in deep discussion on the subject sometime in January 2024 for further distilling at the 2024 Annual General Assembly.

4. Data Management. A very critical enabler for the ministry is data management. This is not just a Church of God or the general Church concern but a national requirement for our country as we relate and are responsible to global standards and expectations. Here are a few undertakings being championed by the Data Management team which we are working to have in place by the General Assembly 2024, some long before that schedule:

- As such, the Executive Council and the Data Management team are constructing the required policies and operational standards and will be embarking on all island sensitization for our congregations.
- With the anticipated enlightenment, we ask that all Pastors, Leaders, Secretaries, Church Councils who are the administrators in our Church begin to position your congregation to participate wholeheartedly in this process. A roadmap of that trajectory of sensitization and compliance will come in January 2024. This is a high priority for us.

a. Data Protection Act. Legislation was passed in 2020 and the Act enforced on December 1, 2023 and expects compliance by all organizations/groups. The aim of the Act is to be better stewards/managers in handling personal information for all data subjects in our Church (National, Regional, Local, Institutions) held in physical or electronic form. This includes the collection, storage, utilisation, disclosure, and disposal of personal data. We have been given six (6) months from the enforcement date to be in full operation. Non-compliance or deviation from the Act will attract serious penalties.

- The Board of Mass Communication, BOMC hosted a two-part panel discussion for the general membership on December 16, 2023 on how this Act will impact the Church. Of note, the BOMC is scheduling other sessions for 2024.

b. National WhatsApp Communication Network. Sensitization has started through the Board of Mass Communication engaging Regional Chairmen and Heads of Auxiliaries.

c. Data Gathering and Executive Dashboard for all Ministries. This will allow us to track, assess, respond and make decisions regarding the operations of our ministries, understand growth patterns, maintain a good repository on our membership, and improve communication to all on the state of our congregations.

5. Consolidation of Training and Development. Supporting the Reform requires a strategic approach towards building the capacities of our members. As such, the consolidation of training through the collaboration of Leadership Training Institute, Human Resource and Christian Education Departments is the primary channel of deepening discipleship, equipping the saints and building Pastoral excellence. We have benefitted from a number of seminars coordinated by the Christian Education and Human Resource Departments, the Ministers’ Conference, Boards and Auxiliaries since June 2023. A few are listed below:

Pastoral Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resetting our Identity: the role and function of the Pastors in 21st Century
Christian Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a healthy congregation Dealing with Church Hurt: Its impact on the individual, the Church and our Worship Conflict Resolution: Learning to Understand Each Other
Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Church Growth Strategies
Technological Enablers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on the Church Data Protection Act Understanding the Use of the Digital Space
Financial Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the Books with Christ: Integrity in Handling Finance National Sensitization for Treasurers
Christian Discipleship & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday School Teachers’ Workshop The LGBTQIA+ Agenda and the impact on the Church

NEW THRUST BY THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE, LTI.

In addition to its current programmes, starting January, 2024, the LTI will be offering courses from its Theological programmes (Pastoral Leadership; Evangelism & Missions; Christian Education). Persons will receive either a certificate of achievement or participation, depending on their choice of programme.

Partnership opportunity with Every Nation Bible School (ENBS) in the United Kingdom. The ENBS is an accredited institution that will provide other courses, not currently offered at the LTI. The LTI will ensure it meets the academic standards and accountability to receive the endorsement of accreditation from ENBS.

Hosting of several seminars that are crucial to the Church of God membership, for example, Records Management, Preparation of Delegates for Assembly and other offerings in the Mobile Laity Programme.

**SPOTLIGHT
ON
OUR LEARNING
INSTITUTIONS AND
THE HARRISON
MEMORIAL HOLISTIC
CARE CENTRE**

**Interested in
training for
Ministry?**

LTI
The Leadership Training
Institute

Providing Training for Pastors &
Lay Leaders for the Church of
God In Jamaica.

ARDENNE PREPARATORY AND EXTENSION HIGH SCHOOL (KINGSTON)



The school received favorable passes in the Primary Exit Profile, PEP and Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate, CSEC Examinations. The Lightning Drummers have continued their high standard in performance and will be heading to the Championship in California, USA. However, there exist a number of challenges which are receiving our urgent attention.

We offer congratulations to the new Head Boy, Gabriel Haye and Deputy Head Girl, Arianna Ellis who are from the Portmore and Franklin Town congregations respectively.

L-Gabriel Haye - Head Boy
R - Arianna Ellis - Deputy Head Girl

ARDENNE PREPARATORY SCHOOL (MANDEVILLE)

The 2022 - 2023 school year closed with the graduation of 14 students. The PEP results presented no surprises, and most students were placed in the school of first choice. Given the financial constraints which represent a major challenge for the school, an appeal to the Church of God membership across the regions for urgent assistance is the cry. The Region 2 congregations continue to play a major role in this regard but the demand is great.

ARDENNE HIGH SCHOOL

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the institution continues to offer the same programme bolstered with modern technological support and investment and improvement in staff quality. The school is anticipating a marked increase in performance at the 2024 sitting.

In the last academic year the following results are noteworthy:

- Eighteen CSEC (18) subjects with 80% or more passes.
- In real numbers, of 2,402 entries there were 2,095 passes.
- 200 students passed the English Language at Grade 1.
- CAPE performed very well with all subjects performing above 90%

Health and Wellness Centre Ardenne High Alumni Foundation

As an integral part of the Ardenne Alumni Association, the Ardenne Alumni Foundation which is currently being led by Sister Flo Darby is advancing their flagship project, the Ardenne High School Health & Wellness Centre. It will cater to the physical and mental wellness of students and staff of the institution. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024 at an estimated cost of \$60 million.

Their inaugural Optima Run, a 5K run and walk event, on November 4 was a success and represents a good partnership between the school and the Church as several members of the Church participated alongside the various stakeholders of the school.

Highlights of the Inaugural Optima 5K Run & Walk event



EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE

The Early Childhood Institute continues to serve our country well in the various Basic Schools across our congregations. Administrators of the schools are responding ably to the increased policies, standards and regulations required by the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) for early childhood care. Some are working hard to overcome the post Covid-19 impact on the number of registered students. Some of the needs are: human and financial resources, infrastructural and classroom facilities, for example furniture and equipment. Please help the Basic Schools in your reach.

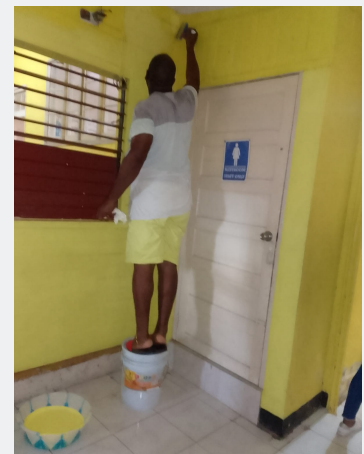


HARRISON MEMORIAL HOLISTIC CARE CENTRE (HMCC)

The Centre is now operating at full capacity, thereby enabling us to meet the financial obligations such as salaries, statutory deductions and utilities. However, there is an urgent appeal for the services of a Registered Nurse to work 12 hours for the month. Deacon Neslie Wright, the Project Manager has completed one phase of the renovation project at the Centre.



Men at work at the Centre



PASTORAL CREDENTIALLING

In addition to the seven (7) Pastors credentialled in June 2023, the Ordination Committee has accepted the following persons as Pastor to whom we offer our congratulations:



Pastor Richard Dacres

He graduated from the Leadership Training Institute (LTI). He provides ministerial support to Rev'd Lena White at the Coffee Grove and Cumberland Circuit in Region Two (2). Pastor Dacres who serves as President of Region Two (2) Youth Fellowship is also a Justice of the Peace.



Pastor Ricardo Glave

He graduated from the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) with a Diploma in Pastoral Care. He is currently the Pastoral Lead at the Jointwood congregation in Region Two (2).



Pastor Clinton Hall

He graduated from the Jamaica Theological Seminary (JTS) with a B.A. in Theology and is currently the Pastoral Lead at Oxford congregation in Region Six (6). He also gives pastoral support at the Portmore congregation in Region Five (5).



Pastor Byron Hamilton

He graduated from the Jamaica Theological Seminary (JTS) with a B.A. in Theology, the Mico College with a Diploma in Education and the Wycliffe College, University of Toronto with a Master of Theological Studies in Urban and International Development. He is currently offering support to the ministry at Olson Memorial in Region (5).



Pastor Rosetta Martin

She graduated from the College of Theological Interdisciplinary Studies (CTIS) with a Diploma in Counselling. Originally from the Baillieston congregation, she now serves as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent at Portmore in Region 5 and the Coordinator of the National Children's Ministry.



Pastor Rose Wright

She graduated from Luther Rice University and Seminary, Lithonia Georgia, with a Masters of Divinity having received a Bachelor of Science Degree and a MBA from Nova Southern University, Florida. She served as Deacon and Assistant Pastor at the then Sav-La-Mar / Three Miles River Circuit of Churches. She is currently at the Roadside congregation, giving well needed pastoral support to Student Pastor Norman Wright. She currently serves at the National Office as the Human Resource Director.

INSTALLATION OF PASTORS

Congratulations to Rev'd Raston Edwards and Pastor Alphanso Bryan who were installed as Pastors at the Savanna-La-Mar and Lewis Store congregations respectively in the month of October 2023.

KEY MILESTONES CELEBRATED



**New Longville congregation
65th Church anniversary (July 2023)**

We celebrated with some of our congregations in special services to commemorate their anniversaries. Congratulations must be extended to the past and present leadership, and membership for their stewardship over these fellowships. Those that were brought to the attention of the National Office are:



**Lluidas Vale congregation - 109th Church anniversary
(August 2023)**



**Grove Place congregation
100th Church anniversary
(August 2023)**

Westphalia congregation - 100th Church anniversary (September 2023)



**Whitfield Town congregation
95th Church anniversary (October 2023)
and
Multipurpose Centre Ground Breaking Ceremony**



Cutting of the Anniversary cake by Host Pastor, Rev'd Dr. Dave Gosse and Youth Fellowship President, Sister Crystal Levy Goss



L-R: Host Pastor, Rev'd Dr. Dave Gosse, Executive Chairman, Rev'd Courtney Gordon and Rev'd Joseph Gordon

George Cohen Basic School (Port Antonio)
52nd anniversary (September 2023)



ADM Buy a Book

ORDER NOW! AVAILABLE ON amazon

Get your kindle or paperback copy today on Amazon or by contacting the author!

CONTACT THE AUTHOR
@winston.peccoo.58
+1 876-328-9943

A must read for every couple who wants to honor God with their bodies. Husbands your wives are enough for you and wives be everything you can be to your husbands.

New Book Alert: "Men, One Woman is Enough"

We offer congratulations to Rev'd Winston and Deacon Dian Peccoo for the launch of their book on October 28, 2023. The book provides a good reflection on God's plan for marriage and the discipline required for healthy and loving relationships. Please give your support.

Commendation is in order for Rev'd Bancroft and Sister Loraine Myers for over 17 years of Pastoral service to the Leeds/Schoolfield Circuit in Region Two (2). The Circuit thoughtfully executed a well supported Appreciation Service on September 3, 2023 at the occasion of their retirement from ministry. We give thanks for the selfless and sacrificial stewardship they have given to the Church.

L-R: Rev'd Bancroft Myers, Ministers' Conference Chair, Rev'd Ryan Hewitt and Sister Loraine Myers



Region Two (2) expressed appreciation for one of their giants, Rev'd Phillip Neil at the closing of their Regional Convention on July 16, 2023. We continue in love and prayer for God's servant.

Rev'd Phillip Neil seated in wheelchair

Region Five (5) expressed appreciation to four stalwarts of the Church in their Annual Convention held September 17, 2023. They are Rev'ds Basil Walters, Wilmer W. Jackson, Joseph Gordon and Alli Morgan. We are grateful for their outstanding services and wish them, and their families divine favour in their retiring years.



L-R: Rev'ds Joseph Gordon, Wilmer W. Jackson and Alli Morgan



Rev'd Basil Walters

HAITI MISSION

We continue our communication with Missionary Phyllis Newby in Haiti. There are still unsettling times in Haiti which bring its share of restriction to movements in some areas of the ministry. Mindful of the grace of our sister and the passion she carries for the brothers and sisters in Haiti, let us continue to give our support to the Haiti mission and remain in fervent prayer for God's servant and ministry.

On October 24, 2023 our veteran Missionary celebrated her 85th birthday. See an expression from her Haitian family that speaks to the godly heroine in their lives.



CARIBBEAN ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY



Let us begin to make preparation for the Caribbean Atlantic Assembly and register for this anticipated time of refreshing in Trinidad. Your strong support will send a statement of the strength and unity of Church of God in the Region.

WHAT'S THE NEXT BIG THING?



Key Activities

- Pulpit Exchange (promotion of the Assembly) - March 17, 2024
- Delegates' training - March 2024
- Book of Study - Romans (chapters 6 - 8)
- Holy Communion Service
- National Conventions- Men, Women, Youth & Children
- Delegates' Welcome Reception
- Leadership Conference - "Congregational Autonomy"
- Service of Installation for the Executive Chairman

**Special appeal for Rally Contributions to
come in by February 2024**