

5 November 2025

The General Secretaries
CWM Member Churches

Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica: Call for Prayers and Support

Dear Colleagues in God's mission,
Warmest Greetings from the Council for World Mission (CWM)!

I am writing to you with deep concern and urgency following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica on 28 October 2025. This unprecedented storm made landfall as a Category 5 hurricane, the strongest ever recorded to hit Jamaica and among the most powerful in Atlantic history. Winds of unimaginable strength shattered homes and public buildings, torrential rainfall triggered deadly flooding and landslides, and entire communities in the southwest of the island were overwhelmed. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI), our member church, has witnessed immense suffering: families grieving loved ones lost in the storm, congregations displaced from their homes, and children left without access to essentials such as safe water, shelter, and medical care. Hospitals, schools, and church buildings have been damaged or rendered unusable, and more than seventy per cent of the island experienced a blackout following the storm's impact.

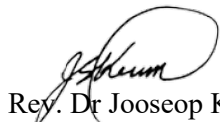
In the face of this crisis, UCJCI is courageously embodying the ministry of Christ, opening the church doors as emergency shelters, coordinating food and water distribution, and providing pastoral care to traumatised families and children. They are accompanying communities through shock and grief, even as many of their own pastors and congregations are themselves deeply affected.

As a global family of churches in mission, we deeply believe that when one member of the Body is hurt, the whole Body feels the pain. Therefore, I call upon CWM member churches to join us in prayer for UCJCI, for the people of Jamaica, and for all in the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Melissa.

In addition, I invite you to stand in solidarity through financial support. CWM is in the process of releasing an emergency Solidarity and Action Grant to assist UCJCI in their relief efforts. In addition, I appeal to all member churches to also support this effort, so that the church in Jamaica can continue to offer shelter, food, pastoral care, and long-term rebuilding support to the most affected communities.

May we be comforted by the promise of God that our sisters and brothers in Jamaica and all those affected by the hurricane will be able to overcome this crisis soon: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you." (Isaiah 43:2)

With prayer and deep solidarity in Christ's mission,



Rev. Dr. Jooseop Keum
General Secretary