

Anglican Church of Canada

Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior/Territory of the People

In 2017, the Anglican Church of Canada did not meet in General Synod but the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior did, at Merritt from May 26 to 28. The most significant thing to come out of that gathering was the motion petitioning the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and the Yukon to create a new territory (to be called the Territory of the People) which would encompass the area previously known as the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) and before that the Diocese of Cariboo, and give it the right to elect a bishop through its own nomination and electoral processes. The Provincial Synod held in the Fall of 2017 did exactly that and the process is moving forward to make the Territory of the People a legal entity within the Anglican Church of Canada.

The South Rivers Deanery meets on a semi-annual basis to nurture relationships between people and parishes in this area and to address any items that impact the mission and ministry of our churches. We received some assistance this year from the Territory office to enable us to help people temporarily displaced by the wildfires that ravaged the Interior this summer. Some of those funds were used to purchase supplies for a breakfast for evacuees in Barriere.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

British Columbia Synod

2017 was a National Convention year for the ELCIC (held in Winnipeg from July 6-8) which means that the BC Synod did not meet in convention. Among the highlights of this year's convention were:

- An address by Bishop Dr. Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- An ecumenical panel discussing the significance of the Reformation (this being the 500th anniversary)
- A presentation by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Adoption of *A Statement to Muslims in Canada by the ELCIC*
- Adoption of the new resource *Encouraging People of Other Faiths - Interfaith Guidelines*

2018 will be a Synod Convention year and the BC Synod will meet in Langley May 24-27.

The Southern Interior Region met in September and began with a festive worship service commemorating the Reformation. Bishop Greg Mohr and Assistant to the Bishop Kathy Martin presented on the changes to the structure of the BC Synod and their impact on our region. Pastor Brian was re-elected Regional Dean for a one-year term while these changes take effect.

North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry Kamloops-Okanagan Presbyters Report – 2017

Congregational representatives to Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery are Halley Jones (Trinity Shared Ministry), Leslie Stirling (Church of St Paul) and Reverend Brian Krushel (minister, NTESM). Leslie Ross is a member-at-large and holds the position of Secretary. Leslie Stirling continues in her role as Treasurer for the Presbytery.

The Spring meeting was held February 17th to 19th at Kamloops United Church. The main focus of this meeting and the other meetings of Presbytery was education, discussion and voting on the Remits from General Council 42. Leslie Ross represented KOP at a Presbytery Consultation hosted by BC Conference. She and the other representatives to the consultation reported on that gathering,

BC Conference was held on the UBC campus in May. On the Friday of Conference Kamloops-Okanagan Presbyters met over lunch. At that meeting Gifts and Callings Working Unit did a wonderful job of thanking those who have served in a variety of capacities. The presbytery made covenant with Allison Rennie, Conference Minister for KOP. BC Conference was represented by Doug Goodwin.

At the rise of BC Conference Jenny Carter of First United, Salmon Arm became the chair of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. She has the difficult task of steering our ship through the implementation of Remit 1.

We had a new experience when Presbytery met for the Fall Meeting because there was not a quorum present. The folks that had gathered at Revelstoke United continued with discussions, worship and community building. No official decisions were made.

As the United Church of Canada moves forward into its new governance structure, members of Presbytery recognized the importance of the community and the connections among our congregations. Discussion is occurring as to how this support and fellowship may continue into the future.

Respectfully submitted by
Leslie Stirling