

Denominational News
Reported to the NTESM Parish Council Meeting on January 10, 2023

All Three Denominations

- Along with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, our three denominations wrote Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser to ask for there to be a more just system for migrant workers in Canada.
- Prayers, reflections, and information were shared for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Along with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, our three denominations prepared Advent meditations involving the four leaders of the denominations having conversations on the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. They introduced the theme in a meditation on the Monday via YouTube, and on Thursdays two of them had further conversation via zoom with registrants being able to ask questions and make comments.
- All three denominations have made available their Christmas on-line gift catalogues.
- The Moderator released a Christmas message video, and the National Bishop and Primate released a joint Christmas video message from Bethlehem. There were also Christmas messages from the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

Anglican

- The Rev. Dr. Kyle Norman began his position as Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops and Dean of the Territory of the People on October 1st. His installation service was on Friday October 21st.
- Effective October 1st, The Rev. Louise Peters was appointed interim priest for the Three Rivers Ministry in Prince George.
- Dennis Saddleman, a member of the Coldwater Indian Band, read his poem "Monster" at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Ceremony in Ottawa on September 30, 2022.
- The Territory of the People held its Clergy Conference from October 17th to 21st.
- The Primate Linda Nicholls published a reflection for Remembrance Day in which she also highlighted Indigenous Veterans Day held on November 8th.
- The Territory of the People will be holding the election for a new Bishop from March 10th to 12th, 2023.

- The Rt. Rev. Christopher A. Harper, Diocesan Bishop of Saskatoon has been named National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of the Sacred Circle with pastoral oversight over all Indigenous Anglicans.
- The Territory of the People is still accepting donations for the Lytton Fire Fund and the Nicola Valley Flood Fund.

Evangelical Lutheran

- The Southern Interior Region of the BC Synod has held gatherings for clergy in the region.
- World leaders will gather from November 6-18 at the COP27 conference in Egypt to discuss their plans to address the world's global heating. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada joins with For the Love of Creation to invite groups across Canada to host candlelight vigils in their own communities on the weekend of November 11 to 13.
- The BC Synod Council has begun to publish a newsletter providing highlights of its meetings with its Fall 2022 meeting.
- Bishop Kathy Martin will be taking a sabbatical.
- At the BC Synod lay leaders' zoom gathering on Thursday, November 3rd, the BC Synod Treasurer, Jerry Nieman, provided information about compensation and benefits.
- Lutherans Connect's on-line Advent devotions has the theme "A Joyful Noise".
- At the BC Synod lay leaders' zoom gathering on Thursday, December 1st, a presentation was made about the Welcome Angels project which is a new initiative sponsored by ELCIC to help congregations connect with those planning to come to Canada or are newer to Canada. Information can be found at <https://welcomeangels.org/>.
- The BC Synod is hosting a series of eight ninety-minute webinars led by the Rev. Susan Beaumont that focus on deepening group discernment practices.

Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran

- Information was shared about the newly launched website lifting up the work towards full communion between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Anglican Church of Canada, and The Moravian Church. Here is the link to the website: <https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/partnerships/moravian-church/>
- The Primate and National Bishop released a letter prior to World Food Day, which was held on October 16th.

- The Primate and National Bishop released a statement for Transgender Day of Remembrance, which was held on November 20th.
- The Primate and National Bishop released a letter for National Housing Day, which was held on November 22nd.

United Church

- Leslie Stirling and Leslie Ross attended the lunch and Service of Celebration for the Ministry of Zion Union United Church in Ashcroft on October 8th. This was the official closing of this congregation that was formed in 1925 by the joining of the Presbyterian (1892) and Methodist (1897) congregations.
- The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Kwisa'lak, visited United Church partners in the Philippines in mid-October. She was the preacher at the United Church of Christ in The Philippines' Cosmopolitan Church on Sunday, October 23rd, which is Indigenous Peoples Sunday in the Philippines.
- Through October and November, the United Church is hosting a series of events for its 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism.
- The Pacific Mountain Regional Council continues to hold monthly online Town Hall meetings. At its November 2nd meeting, Jennifer Henry from the General Council Office shared the work the National Church is doing with regards to the Strategic Plan. We learned that after much reflection and discussions with the Indigenous Church, they are using the term "call" rather than "mission" as call and vision statements are being developed. The October guest was Ben Isac, a youth intern with General Council this past summer who specifically focused on climate change and justice and the church.
- The Very Rev. Peter Short, 38th Moderator (2003-2006), was the guest at Pacific Mountain Regional Council's December 7th Town Hall meeting.
- Treena Duncan, Executive Minister of the PMRC will be taking a sabbatical from January through March, 2023.