

Denominational News
Reported to the Trinity Shared Ministry Board Meeting on February 28, 2023

All Three Denominations

- Resources were made available for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held from January 18th to 25th.
- Following the desecration of a Christian cemetery on Mt. Zion, National Bishop Susan Johnson and The Anglican Church of Canada Primate Linda Nicholls wrote to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau noting concerns for the safety and dignity of Christians in the Holy Land. Several Canadian ecumenical leaders also endorsed the letter including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne.
- All three relief and development agencies are accepting donations to help with relief efforts in Türkiye and Syria.

Anglican

- Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholl's New Year's Day Sermon from the Diocese of Ottawa was made available.
- The Territory of the People will be holding an Electoral Assembly to choose a new Bishop from March 31st to April 2nd, 2023. This webpage, <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/collections/profile>, on the Territory of the People's website provides information. The application deadline is February 28th. From March 1st through 9th, the Nominations Committee will meet to determine the suitability of the applicants, create a list of final candidates, and share the list and candidate materials with the Metropolitan for circulation to the BC House of Bishops prior to circulation to delegates. On March 10th, the candidate information packages will be sent to Assembly delegates and the list of candidates will be published.
- St. Paul's Cathedral in Kamloops is offering weekly Lenten lectures on Thursdays which will explore the intersections between religion and our lives.
- Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls attended the United Society Partners International Consultation — Set my People Free: The Call of the Church against Human Trafficking — attended by 15 Primates and 29 delegates representing member churches from across the Anglican Communion. It was held in Dar Es Salaam and hosted by the Anglican Church of Tanzania in early February.
- Freedom Sunday was held on February 19th. It is a global movement of prayer, worship, and action to address the crime of human trafficking. In the Anglican Church of Canada, Freedom Sunday shines light on the connections between human trafficking, labour exploitation, and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ persons.

- Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls published a statement on the anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine.
- 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.
- BC Synod continues to have monthly online meetings for lay leaders.
- The Rev. Sally Azar was ordained in Jerusalem on January 22nd. She is the first Palestinian woman to be ordained in the Holy Land. National Bishop Susan Johnson, BC Synod Bishop Kathy Martin, and other ELCIC Bishops attended the service as well as being part of a twelve day informational tour in the region.
- Lutherans Connect's on-line Lent and Holy Week devotions has the theme "Before the Cross".
- 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.
- The BC Synod hosted an online Ukraine prayer vigil for peace in the evening of February 24th. There were about 45 participants.

Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran

- The Primate and National Bishop wrote to the Prime Minister following the shooting in a Jewish synagogue in East Jerusalem on January 27th. In it, they "implore you and your government to continue to advocate with the current Israeli government to promote de-escalation through a reversal of increasingly inflammatory rhetoric and policies, and to encourage similar commitments from the Palestinian Authority to advancing safety for all. Canada must live up to the entirety of its existing policies on peace in Israel and Palestine and take a more active role in the international community in affirming the necessary conditions for peace and security for both Israeli and Palestinian citizens."

United Church

- The United Church of Canada shared a prayer following mass shootings in California.
- The United Church of Canada joined with 250 organizations from 29 countries to call on the Salvadoran government to drop the charges against leading Water Defenders arrested on January 11th and to advocate for their release. The human rights and environment defenders were among leaders of the historic and successful campaign that convinced the Salvadoran legislature to unanimously pass a ban on metals mining in 2017 to save that nation's rivers. The government is reportedly considering overturning the mining ban and allowing environmentally destructive mining.
- The General Council Executive met online from February 10th to 11th.
- Treena Duncan, Executive Minister of the PMRC is taking a sabbatical from January through March, 2023.
- The PMRC continues to hold online Town Hall meetings. The January meeting included a report on campus ministries.
- The United Church of Canada has responded to the Phase One Findings at the Alberni Residential Institution. The Moderator has shared prayers appropriate for indigenous and non-indigenous people.