

Denominational News

Reported to the Trinity Shared Ministry Board Meeting on May 23, 2023

All Three Denominations

- On April 27th, there was a panel discussion on “New Developments in Israel-Palestine and the Role of Churches” at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. Anglican, Lutheran, United, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic leaders led a conversation about how churches in Canada are involved in advocating for and with partners in Palestine, and what next steps might be needed in a context of new developments in a deteriorating situation.
- On April 27th, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada and The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon, Principal Emerita, Knox College, The Presbyterian Church in Canada met with government and opposition MPs to urge Canada to further advocate for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel and to discuss several requests regarding the treatment of Palestinian children and human rights abuses in the conflict.
- On their Facebook feeds, all three churches recognize the celebrations of other faiths as well as national and international days, weeks, months that raise various heritages, celebrations, and concerns.

Anglican

- The Territory of the People is holding its Electoral Assembly to choose a new Bishop on the weekend of September 15th to 17th. This webpage, <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/collections/profile>, on the Territory of the People’s website provides information. The application deadline is June 15th. From July 25th through August 8th, 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 August 9th, the candidate information packages will be sent to Assembly delegates and the list of candidates will be published.
- The Anglican Church of Canada shared an appeal to support the Ahli Hospital in Gaza by the Most Rev. Hosam E. Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, as a result of overburdened hospitals in the region, stemming from a recent eruption of violence.
- The Eleventh Indigenous Anglican Sacred Circle will be held from May 28th to June 1st.
- The Territory of the People is still accepting donations for the Lytton Fire Fund and the Nicola Valley Flood Fund.

Evangelical Lutheran

- BC Synod continues to have monthly online meetings for lay leaders.
- The Bulletin of Reports for the ELCIC's National Convention is available. It is found under *Information for Delegates* on the Assembly 2023 website at: <https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/assembly/> .
- For the fourth summer in a row, ELCIC Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops are coming together to provide a series of sermons available for congregational use from June to September, 2023.
- On the 24th day of every month, the ELCIC joins people around the world in praying for peace in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. More information can be found here: actpalestineforum.org/apf-ecumenical-prayer-vigil/
- On Saturday, May 20th, the BC Synod held a service of confession and reconciliation at Hope Lutheran Church in Nanaimo to publicly apologize to Rev. William (Bill) Fehr, his family and friends. Over 33 years ago, Rev. Fehr was serving as a pastor when the church decided that it was inappropriate for gay persons to serve as ordained clergy. He chose to resign. Bishop Jason Zinko (MNO Synod) and Bishop Kathy Martin will offer a public apology. Retired National Bishop Raymond Schultz preached. Pastor Bill Fehr, now reinstated to the roster, presided at Holy Communion.

Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran

- The Most Rev. Chris Harper (National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop), the Rev. Susan Johnson (National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada), and the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls (Archbishop and Primate, Anglican Church of Canada) posted a message for Earth Day.
- On May 1st, the Most Rev. Chris Harper (National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop), the Rev. Susan Johnson (National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada), and the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls (Archbishop and Primate, Anglican Church of Canada) wrote Senator Kutcher to express the churches' support for *Bill S-251: An Act to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code*. It presents an opportunity to end the use of corporal punishment in Canada. This bill is in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action number 6.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada lift up the seventh Sunday of Easter as Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday.
- The Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's National Convention will be a joint gathering at the University of Calgary. The National Convention runs from June 28th to July 2nd; the General Synod, from June 27th to July 2nd. The theme is "Let there be greening".

United Church

- The Pacific Mountain Regional Council continues to hold online Town Hall meetings.
- The United Church of Canada recognized April 24th as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.
- The General Council Executive met virtually May 12–13, 2023.
- The 44th General Council authorized a remit to test the will of the church regarding the removal of structural barriers so that the Indigenous Church can determine its place and structure within the United Church of Canada. The remit requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. Information about the remit, as well as voting cards, were sent to every regional council and each pastoral charge on March 10th, either through email or Canada Post. Voting will take place between March 15, 2023, and March 31, 2024. Abstentions are considered a vote against the remit. The results will be reported to the Annual Meeting of the General Council of the United Church in October 2024.
- The General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council will be held from June 1st to 4th at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford and online. The theme is "Refining Fire. Living Stones". The keynote presenter is the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. The Rev. Bruce Chalmers, Leslie Stirling (Church of St Paul, Barriere) and Leslie Ross (Trinity Shared Ministry, Clearwater) will be representing our Parish.