

Denominational News
Reported to the NTESM Parish Council Meeting on January 9, 2024

All Three Denominations

- All three denominations have given statements, written letters, and shared prayers regarding the war between Israel and Hamas. Some of these were done jointly with other faith organizations. They have also provided ways to donate to their partners providing humanitarian relief in the region.
- Responding to the call of the World Council of Churches, our three denominations encouraged everyone to join in a Day of Prayer and Fasting on October 17 that was hosted by the Jerusalem Heads of Churches. Prayers were sought for all who have suffered, for grieving families, and for a de-escalation of the war to save innocent lives.
- Information and resources were provided for National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th.
- The three denominations have written letters to the Prime Minister Trudeau urging the Canadian government to advocate for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. The letter, dated November 17th, from The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, included references to United Nations General Assembly resolutions to which Canada voted against. In a letter dated November 18, 2023, the General Council Executive, its corresponding members, and the members of the National Indigenous Council cited the view of United Nations legal experts that genocide is currently taking place. Both letters are available on the Parish's website.
- All three denominations have their new gift catalogues available.
- All three denominations made statements for Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th.
- All three denominations are involved in a variety of ways with COP28.
- All three denominations provided resources and leaders gave either print or video statements for Advent and Christmas.
- The three denominations have written letters to Prime Minister Trudeau expressing gratitude for Canada's support of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada wrote a joint letter on December 14, 2023. The United Church's letter, also sent on December 14th, was written by Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and Leeann Shimoda, Chair of the National Indigenous Council.

Anglican

- The Territory of the People held its Clergy Conference from October 16th to 19th.
- The Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Canada met in Halifax from October 2nd to 5th.
- Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls issued a call to join Armenian Christians in prayer, on October 1 or otherwise, after the latest attack in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), which resulted in many deaths and thousands of Armenians in the region fleeing their homes.
- The Council of the General Synod met from November 23rd to 26th in Mississauga, Ontario. Summaries of each day of the meeting are available on the Anglican Church of Canada website.
- Bishop-elect Clara Plamondon of the Territory of the People will arrive in Kamloops around December 7th. The Consecration Service is set for Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Evangelical Lutheran

- BC Synod continues to have monthly online meetings for lay leaders. In October, they watched and discussed a recap video of the National Convention held this summer. The video will be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_aQser6OCs
- BC Synod held a prayer vigil for Israel and Palestine and peace in the world via zoom on October 19th.
- The ELCIC made announcements for the International Day of Prayer for Peace on September 21st, World Food Day on October 16th, and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17th.
- The BC Synod has updated its website.

Anglican and Lutheran

- On November 16th, Archbishop Linda Nicholls of the Anglican Church of Canada, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry of The Episcopal Church, National Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met virtually with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land for a time of solidarity and prayer.
- The leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, The Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shared an

Advent cycle of prayer featuring prayers for each day throughout the season for specific congregations, ministries, and outreach initiatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

United Church

- The Pacific Mountain Regional Council continues to hold monthly online Town Hall meetings. In October, the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, who was the guest speaker at the PMRC's Annual General Meeting, was present to provide a follow-up. In November, Adele Hallday, Anti-Racism Equity Lead, and Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator, both from General Council provided information about Remit 1. The December meeting was an advent worship service.
- On September 22nd, The United Church of Canada made a statement on the information shared by the Stó:lō Nation on September 21st about missing children and unmarked burial sites at All Hallows' residential institution (Yale, BC); Coqualeetza residential institution (Chilliwack, BC); St. Mary's residential institution (Mission, BC), as well as the Coqualeetza Hospital, which operated out of the former residential institution buildings until its closure in 1969. Coqualeetza was operated by The United Church of Canada from 1925 to 1940.
- The General Council Executive (GCE) met virtually Sept. 22–23, 2023.
- The 44th General Council met virtually on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. Along with much other work, the General Council adopted a set of Social Justice Principles and addressed the role and functioning of Designated Lay Ministers.
- Kamloops United Church, Plura Hills United Church, and Mount Paul United Church have formed one congregation. Sunday, October 29th will be the last services held at Plura Hills and Mount Paul.
- Through the fall, the United Church ran a programme titled "40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism". The events were available on-line and were recorded. They will be found on the United Church's YouTube channel.
- The United Church of Canada, working with Mission and Service partner, the National Council of Churches of Kenya, are part of a new innovative programme to address the impacts of climate change. Through the new Nature+ programme with support from Canada's International Development – Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank will be working with twelve locally-based partners to help revitalize food systems and build more resilient communities in a set of natural landscapes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.
- The General Council Executive (GCE) met in person in Mississauga, Ontario from November 16th to 18th. A summary of the meeting can be accessed from a post on the

Parish's website.

- Moderator Carmen Lansdowne signed a joint letter to President Biden with Rev. Dr. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada, and Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, both based in the United States, in which they write "We call on you to unequivocally hold Israel to account for its legal obligations under international law as an occupying military power. We further call on you to fully and unequivocally support an immediate and independent investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by both Israel and Hamas since October 7, 2023."