Denominational News

Reported to the Trinity Shared Ministry Board Meeting on June 11, 2024

All Three Denominations

- All three denominations shared information about the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage. This ecumenical initiative invited local faith communities and leaders to walk as a way of praying for a ceasefire and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. National church leaders took part in the final leg of the pilgrimage, converging on Parliament Hill on May 22nd. As well as giving a press conference, they met with MPs.

Anglican

- Senior leaders of the churches of the Anglican Communion met in Rome for the 2024 Primates' Meeting (April 29-May 3), which is conceived as a pilgrimage. They will pray and study Scripture together, visit holy sites in Rome, and reflect together about the mission and witness of the Church in the world.

- Bishop Clara Plamondon visited the North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry on May 5th, the Sixth Sunday of Easter. She worshiped, including giving the sermon, and enjoyed fellowship time with both congregations.

- Archbishop Chris Harper, National Indigenous Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, shared a Pentecost prayer for courage and bravery.

- At its Provincial Synod held May 23rd to 26th in Calgary, the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land changed its name to the Province of Northern Lights effective June 1, 2024.

- The Territory of the People held its Assembly at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Williams Lake from May 24th to 26th. The theme of the Assembly was "Sing a New Song". It was the first Assembly with Bishop Clara Plamondon. The Rev. Bruce Chalmers attended. His overall sense of the Assembly using one word was "hope". For over one quarter of the delegates, this was their first Assembly. The one resolution that was approved was for St. Paul Cathedral to become a member of the Community of the Cross of Nails through Coventry Cathedral in Coventry UK. In the Bishop's Charge, Bishop Clara reflected on her response when the pastoral elders led the procession to her ordination as Bishop with drumming. She thought "One heartbeat, one people". She has already incorporated part of the response to the Charge made by two delegates, one being Rev. Chalmers, in the latest *Territory Bulletin* in which she reports on the Assembly and concludes with "As we come away from Assembly, my hope is that we will continue walking together, learning, growing and finding ways to collaborate, and share in life and ministry. We will be stronger together! One Heartbeat, One People, God's People." There are pictures on the Territory's website.

- The Council of the General Synod (CoGS) held its spring meeting from May 31st to June 2nd at the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. Highlights of the meeting will be found on the Parish's website. Of particular interest, on the Saturday, The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman spoke about proposed new guidelines for confirmation in shared ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Anglican Church of Canada, who are full communion partners. In a resolution, CoGS approved the

guidelines for Anglican and Lutheran bishops, priests and pastors regarding confirmations in shared ministry congregations for use where permitted by the ordinary.

Evangelical Lutheran

- BC Synod continues to have monthly online meetings for lay leaders. At the May 2nd meeting, Bishop Kathy Martin reported that three bishops are retiring or not choosing in continuing in the position of bishop. Combined, these three have fifty-four years of experience. Most of the meeting consisted of hearing the results of the feedback regarding the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats gathered earlier in the year and having some discussion regarding the report. Rather than a meeting on June 6th, there was an opportunity to attend the carbon footprint webinar at 7 pm.

- The Global Christian Forum (GCF) held its 4th global gathering on April 15-20 in Accra, Ghana. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's Bishop Larry Kochendorfer attended, representing the LWF North America region and presented one of the Bible studies.

- For the fifth 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 May to September 2024.

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has announced its new logo and tagline, inspired by a new vision statement which was developed through extensive consultation with members across the church. Our Parish's website has a post that provides an explanation of the imagery in the logo.

- Delegates to the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, held from May 24th to 26th, re-elected Rev. Jason Zinko as Synod Bishop on the first ballot.

- On Friday, May 31st, the Saskatchewan Synod elected the Rev. Dr. Ali Tote as the new Bishop. Bishop-elect Ali has formerly been serving as an Assistant to the Bishop. He will be taking over from Bishop Sid Haugen.

- BC Synod will be holding its Triennial Convention from June 20th to 23rd at Walter Gage Residence on the UBC campus in Vancouver. The theme of the convention is "*One Body, One Spirit, One Hope*." This was the theme of the 2023 LWF Assembly in Krakow, Poland. The Rev. Bruce Chalmers and Leslie Ross will be attending.

Anglican and Lutheran

- The two denominations hosted a webinar on May 7th on the theme of church engagement for social and ecological justice work: from discernment to action.

Anglican and United

- The United, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches have signed leases to share national office space at the redeveloped site of Bloor Street United Church at 300 Bloor St. West in Toronto.

United Church

- Rather than the Pacific Mountain Regional Council's online Town Hall meeting in May, they held a Lay Leadership online gathering. The purpose of this gathering was for the PMRC Lay Leadership Support Team to share information about its work and purpose, for lay leaders to talk and connect with others, and for hearing more about the work and experiences of lay leaders across the region. There was no Town Hall meeting in June.

- Moderator Carmen Lansdowne shared video messages for both Pentecost and Pride Month.

- Prior to the PMRC's Annual General Meeting, a Financial Forum was held via Zoom. Leslie Ross attended it. Information about the 2023 Audited Financial Statements, investments, and property development was presented. The conclusion is that the PMRC is in a healthy financial position in which assets increased, investment performance improved, and 2023 ended with an operating fund surplus.

- The Pacific Mountain Regional Council Annual General Meeting was held virtually and in person at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in Vancouver from Thursday, May 30th to Sunday, June 2nd. Our representatives, Leslie Stirling (Church of St Paul) and Leslie Ross (Trinity Shared Ministry) attended virtually. The theme was "Connecting, Collaborating, Cultivating" based on Ecclesiastes 4: 12. In *The Message*, it reads "By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped."

  The keynote speaker was Patty Krawec, an Anishinaabe/Ukrainian writer and speaker belonging to Lac Seul First Nation in Treaty 3 Territory and residing in Niagara Falls. Through Friday and Saturday, she made four presentations. The Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister for the Church in Mission Unit of the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada, preached at the opening worship on Thursday night, presented a report from General Council on Friday afternoon, and presided at the Celebration of Ministry service on Sunday.

  Four proposals came to a vote. All passed.
  - PMR WF24-01: Truth Telling and Reconciliation Action
  - PMR WF24-02: Emerging Communities of Faith in The Manual
  - PMR WF24-03: Facing Every Emotional Limit (FEEL)
  - PMR WF24-05: Non-Violent Economic Advocacy Responses

  The meeting concluded with Sunday morning's Celebration of Ministry worship. During the service, The Rev. Simon LeSieur was installed as President of the PMRC. It is available to watch on the PMRC's YouTube channel.

  The next Annual General Meeting will be held in Nanaimo from May 29th to June 1st.

- There was a national worship service on June 9th to start a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. This 100th Anniversary kick-off service was held at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto at 4:00 pm EDT. It was also live streamed.