# Denominational News
## Reported to the Church of St Paul May 4, 2026 Board Meeting

### All Three Denominations

- All three denominations made statements, provided information and resources, and/or held events for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; International Transgender Day of Visibility; Earth Week; and National Day of Awareness for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls an Two-Spirit People (Red Dress Day)**.**

- All three denominations recognized major celebrations in other denominations and religions.

- The Shared Ministry Network met via zoom on March 24th and April 28th. Leslie Ross and Leslie Stirling attended. The March meeting focused on worship. At the April meeting, discussion centred on judicatory general meetings with a focus on the benefits of attending while recognizing some of the complexities for congregations and clergy such as costs, finding representatives, and time commitments. It was noted that not all of these meetings occur annually. Some conversation regarding the need for judicatories to look at the polity regarding voice and vote for representatives, both lay and clergy, from shared ministries.

- All three denominations provided written or video statements, resources, and devotional materials for Lent and Easter. The video series *Songs of Suffering/Songs of Hope* provided by St. George's College, an Anglican institution in Jerusalem, told the stories, provided background, and showed locations of Holy Week and the Resurrection as well as giving a sense of the impact of war in the Middle East.

### Anglican

- The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally was installed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March 2026. She is the first woman to hold the office in the Anglican Church's 1,400-year history.

- The Anglican Church of Canada has convened a panel of clergy and bishops to study proposed reforms to the structure of the worldwide Anglican Communion known as the Nairobi-Cairo Proposals.

- Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally and Pope Leo XIV discussed a "vision of the common good" during the archbishop's visit to Rome from April 25th to 28th.

- Bishop Clara Plamondon led worship at Trinity Shared Ministry on Sunday, May 3rd.

- The Territory of the People will hold its Assembly from May 29th to 31st in Quesnel. The theme is "We thrive for the glory of God". Leslie Ross will attend.

**Evangelical Lutheran**

- The lay leaders gatherings continue in the evening on the first Thursday of the month via zoom. Leslie Ross usually attends them.

- The Voices for Justice group of the BC Synod, of which Leslie Ross is a member, has been working on holding a Across the Border Friendship Gathering with members of the Northwest Washington Synod. There is now a joint planning group. It will be held on Sunday, June 14th from 2 – 5 pm at the Campbell Valley Regional Park in Langley.

- ELCIC's National Church Council met on March 14th and 15th in Calgary.

- On March 17th, National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer shared a statement to the church following several incidents of Synagogues being attacked in Canada and the United States including several involving gun violence.

- Bishop Kathy Martin's first full day back in the office following her sabbatical will be May 20th.

- BC Synod will be holding "We Are One Body – Part 2" from June 5th to 7th in Coquitlam. This is a follow-up gathering from the one held last year. Alex McGilvery will attend.

- Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops will be offering weekly sermons for congregational use, available from May through October.

- The Board of Directors of Canadian Lutheran World Relief has appointed Darryl Loewen as the organization's next Chief Executive Officer effective June 1, 2026.

- As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's 40th anniversary, it is holding a Day of Action on May 31st. Congregations across the ELCIC are invited to step beyond their church walls and engage in acts of service in their communities.

**Anglican and Lutheran**

- May 17th is Jerusalem and Holy Land Sunday. The Seventh Sunday of Easter is observed by the two denominations as a time to stand in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land.

- Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering will be happening from August 19 – 22, 2027 at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo.

**United Church**

- The Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive met from March 5th to 7th at Trinity United Church in Vernon.

- The United Church of Canada joined the World Council of Churches and partners in Palestine and Israel in calling on states to hold Israel accountable for repeated violations of

international law in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank. A global campaign entitled From Condemnation to Consequences, launched March 4th, calls on states, including Canada, to hold Israel meaningfully accountable for its ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine.

- On March 11th, Moderator Kimberly Heath wrote to to Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, Temple Emanu-El, and Shaarei Shomayim to express solidarity and deep concern on behalf of The United Church of Canada over recent shootings at these three synagogues in the Greater Toronto Area, wanting them to know that she and United Church members across the country are holding these communities in prayer.

- Treena Duncan and Kathy Davies have been hosting regional meetings and will hold an online one to explore The United Church of Canada's "Toward 2035" vision.

- LeaderShift hosted Festival of Faith North from April 17th to 19th at Trinity United Church in Prince George. The theme "Stronger Together: Cooperative Ministry" was explored through keynote sessions, workshops, and worship.

- Moderator Kimberly Heath published video messages for National Affirming / PIE Day which is held on March 14th, Earth Week which is held from April 19th to 26th, and National Volunteer Week which is held from April 19th to 25th.

- The Rev. Michael Blair, general secretary of The United Church of Canada, was part of a high-level international ecumenical delegation initiated by the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) that was in Havana from March 28-31, 2026, on a solidarity visit aimed at responding to the island's deepening humanitarian crisis and growing global concern over the impact of economic sanctions on its people. The Parish's website has a post about the visit and one that includes the statement made by the delegation following its visit.

- For Easter, The United Church of Canada Foundation encouraged people to support rural communities by making donations to the Mission & Service Fund.

- The Pacific Mountain Region held its second Town Hall of 2026 on April 21st. After a time of worship, members of the Regional Executive and staff provided updates and answered questions.

- General Secretary Michael Blair took part in the World Council of Churches World Mission and Evangelism 2026 Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, April 16-21, reflecting on the future of Christian mission with other church leaders, theologians, and ecumenical partners from around the world.

- The Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu Executive Minister, Church in Mission Unit of The United Church of Canada wrote Minister Anand on April 24th to convey The United Church's "serious concern regarding reports of Philippine military operations carried out by the 79th Infantry Battalion on Negros Island on April 19, 2026, which are reported to have resulted

in the loss of 19 lives and the displacement of 653 residents from 168 households in peasant communities. These developments raise significant questions with respect to adherence to international human rights standards." In questioning the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement, four requests for action by the Government of Canada were made.

- Camping Sunday was celebrated on April 26th. In the United Church of Canada, Camping Sunday is traditionally celebrated on the fourth Sunday in April. The special Sunday lifts up the church's outdoor/camping ministries and draws attention to local United Church camps, helping people recall their memories and experiences of church camping.

- The United Church of Canada released its 2025 Strategic Plan Report on April 30, 2026. It highlights the global and local work the church is doing, and overall progress on the church's strategic objectives. For more information and to download the report, go to https://united-church.ca/news/strategic-plan-report-highlights-united-churchs-dedication-justice-growth.

- On May 13th, The United Church of Canada will hold another Cross Country Check-in. This is an opportunity to spend time with members of the General Council Executive in a "town hall".

- The United Church is encouraging congregations to be involved in the Moose Hide Campaign Day on May 14th.

- The Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council will be held from June 4th to 7th at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. The theme is "The Shape of Hope". The special guest speaker is the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Leslie Ross and Leslie Stirling will attend. There will be an online Financial Forum on May 27th.

- Collective 2026 is being held August 12 – 15, 2026. Sponsored by The United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Canada, it is a gathering for youth, young adults, and leaders. It will be held at Brock University in St. Catherines, Ontario.