Denominational News

Reported to the Trinity Shared Ministry September 10, 2026 Board Meeting

All Three Denominations

- All three denominations made statements, provided information and resources, and/or held events for Emancipation Day and Emancipation Sunday, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, and the restarting of schools after the summer break.

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

- All three denominations have provided statements and prayers for several natural disasters including the earthquakes in Venezuela and Columbia, wildfires in Canada and elsewhere in the world, and the landslide and resulting floods in Nepal. Their relief agencies have provided ways to be able to provide financial support.

- The situation in the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon has been highlighted by all three denominations. Information, prayers, and possibilities for action have been shared.

- The Shared Ministry Network will resume monthly meetings in September. There is a plan in the fall to look at governance documents.

- Each denomination shared that the Consultation on Common Texts, an ecumenical body that oversees the Revised Common Lectionary in North America, has approved a new Festival of Creation in Christ (or Feast of Creation) for trial use in the Revised Common Lectionary. This is the first new feast added to the church calendar since 1983. It is to be celebrated on September 1st or the following Sunday.

- All three denominations are providing resources and links for the Season of Creation that occurs from September 1st to October 4th. They encouraged people to attend the online World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to be held on September 1st at 9 am PT.

Anglican

- The Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon held its second Provincial Summit in Kelowna from July 3rd to 5th. Bishop Clara Plamondon, Dean Kyle Norman, and Provincial Council members the Rev. Jo Ann Hinter and Marie Hays attended.

- The Territory of the People is participating in the Alongside Hope Wild Ride. The team is the Territory of the People Light Seekers. They will be biking and walking to raise money for solar power projects at St. Luke's Hospital in the West Bank.

- As reported in *The Anglican Journal*, Alongside Hope is working with the Episcopal Church of Cuba (ECC) and other partners to alleviate the current humanitarian crisis in Cuba. Along with supporting programmes to provide electricity and safe water, Alongside Hope is calling on the Canadian government to vocally oppose the United States fuel

blockade and to provide more humanitarian support.

- The Anglican Primates of the Americas met in São Paulo from August 10th to 12th. They published a joint letter on August 13th that will be found in a post on the Parish's website.

- Throughout this year, the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Anglican Church of Canada is being celebrated with different events across the country. The Diocese of BC will be hosting an event on November 24th and 25th in Victoria.

Evangelical Lutheran

- The BC Synod lay leaders gathering in May looked at the funeral liturgy and how to lead a funeral when there is no pastor available. Pastor Katrina Vigen (Redeemer, Vancouver) guided us through the liturgy. The gatherings will take a break through the summer and continue in September on the evening on the first Thursday of the month via zoom. Leslie Ross usually attends them.

- On May 24th, the ELCIC held its online Conversations Across the Church. National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer facilitated a time of worship and conversation with its Global Mission partners: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida, and Iglesia Luterana del Perú (IL-P). They reflected on a shared question: Where do you see life in your church?.

- As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's 40th anniversary, the ELCIC held a Day of Action on May 31st. Congregations across the ELCIC were invited to step beyond their church walls and engage in acts of service in their communities. Many reports and pictures of events were posted to the ELCIC Facebook page. On June 25th, an online wrap-up of the Day of Action was held.

- National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer published a video reflection on the Friends of Creation Lake Chad project following a visit by him, Saskatchewan Synod Bishop Ali Tote, Eastern Synod Bishop Carla Blakley, and Canadian Lutheran World Relief staff to Chad and Cameroon. Information and a link to the video will be found on the Parish's website.

- Lutherans Connect is producing a daily online devotional titled *The Winged Word* from September 1st to 12th to mark the Season of Creation. It will focus on the birds of the Bible and birds that are at risk in our contemporary world. Information and links to access the devotionals are on the Parish's website.

- The ELCIC will be hosting its third online Conversations Across the Church on September 13 at 3:00 p.m. PT. The online gathering will focus on the Season of Creation and bring participants together in prayer and action for creation. Bishop Kochendorfer will be joined by three speakers who will share why creation care and climate justice are priorities for the church. More information and links will be found at https://elcic.ca/partnerships/conversations-across-the-church/.

Anglican and Lutheran

- On July 6th, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrated having been in full communion for twenty-five years.

Anglican and United

- In June, the Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada joined other Canadian churches, labour organizations, and civil society groups calling on the Government of Canada to publicly reject the United States' escalating actions against Cuba, including threats of military intervention and measures that are causing the mass suffering of the people of Cuba. See this post on The United Church website for more information: https://united-church.ca/news/we-say-no-us-threats-war-cuba-why-doesnt-canadian-government

- On June 18th, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and The United Church of Canada collectively gifted the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation 1.5 million dollars in support of its new permanent home on the grounds of the University of Manitoba.

United Church

- As part of Asian Heritage Month in May, the Pacific Mountain Region Archives shared information about and a video interview with the Rev. Sang-Chul Lee, the first person of Asian descent to be elected Moderator of The United Church of Canada. He served as the 32nd Moderator from 1988-1990.

- On August 15th, the 40th anniversary of the 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples by The United Church of Canada was commemorated in Sudbury, Ontario. The Apology was delivered in Sudbury in 1986, at the 31st General Council by Moderator The Very Rev. Robert Smith. It followed an urgent call made the previous year by Alberta Billy, Laichwiltach We Wai Kai Nation member and then-representative of the Native Ministries Council, to apologize for the church's role in colonization, residential schools, and the loss of Indigenous languages, culture, and spirituality. For more information see this post on The United Church of Canada website: https://united-church.ca/news/40th-anniversary-church-apology-indigenous-peoples-commemorated-sudbury

- As wildfires forced people from their homes across the Okanagan in mid-August, Naramata Centre chose to cancel all planned summer programming and accommodations and open their rooms to people who had nowhere else to sleep. They have welcomed evacuee families, created free programming for children and youth, and opened a food pantry for evacuated households in the area.

- Harm Reduction Sunday was observed on August 30th as a result of the August 2025 decision by General Council 45 to support observing a Harm Reduction Sunday across the United Church.

- On September 2nd, The United Church of Canada joined over 250 other organizations to support four demands arising from an incident involving international students from Portage College in Calgary. On August 12, ten people were handed removal orders after being identified at a protest, the first time Canada's federal immigration enforcement has targeted people at a protest. One of the demands was the immediate suspension of the removal orders. The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, said "There is something profoundly unjust about people raising their voices because they have been treated unfairly, and then facing immigration enforcement for doing so." On Sunday, September 20, migrants and allies will take action across Canada against deportations, exploitation, and migrant scapegoating, and for permanent resident status for all.

- The United Church of Canada is encouraging participation in and support for the Grassy Narrows 2026 River Run Rally in Toronto. This Rally is to amplify the work to right the wrongs of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows First Nation.