

The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
**PCCconnect Monthly E-Newsletter**  
April 2024

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## NEWS

### **NOMINEE FOR MODERATOR OF THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCED**

The Committee to Advise with the Moderator will present the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls as the nominee for Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Pat has been involved in service to the church throughout her career. She is an active session member and minister-in-associate with Trinity Church, a three-congregation amalgamation and transformational ministry in New Westminster and Burnaby, British Columbia. She retired as Professor of Hebrew Bible and Dean of the Faculty at Vancouver School of Theology on July 1, 2021. Read her short biography [here and learn more in a Question and Answer section](#) about her faith, her most memorable experiences in serving the church, her image and vision for the church at its best, and how she understands the role of moderator.

### **APPLY NOW: YOUNG ADULT GLOBAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Are you interested in experiencing young adult ministry in an ecumenical context? Connecting with global church partners? This learning community is jointly hosted by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada and will comprise eight Canadian young adults ages 19-25 (four from the PCC; four from the UCC) and young adults from The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, The Korean Christian Church in Japan and The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

The Learning Community will gather from June 29 to July 7 to create community, share gifts and wisdom from unique contexts throughout Canada, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea and jointly develop a workshop to lead at the PCC's youth, young adult and church leaders gathering, **uplift 2024**, under the banner of **Audacious Hope** while participating in the full event (July 3-7). The Learning Community will stay at Brock University in St Catharine's, Ontario, from June 29-July 7.

**Cost:** The Presbyterian Church in Canada will cover all travel, accommodation, program and food costs, including registration for uplift2024.

**Space is limited.** Only four persons will be selected to represent the PCC. To find out more or to apply, contact **Beth McCutcheon** at [BMcCutcheon\[at\]presbyterian.ca](mailto:BMcCutcheon@presbyterian.ca).

## REMINDERS & EVENTS

### PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (JUNE 2-6)

The General Assembly will begin with worship and communion on Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, Ontario. All other Assembly activities will be held at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. The General Assembly page is updated frequently, so stop by for updated information on participation and registration, reports to the Assembly, Q&A sessions and much more. [Learn more here ...](#)

### UPLIFT 2024

Registration for the PCC's uplift 2024 opens on April 15! uplift 2024, a gathering of youth, young adults, and church leaders under the banner of Audacious Hope, along with participants representing the United Church of Canada, will take place from July 3-7 at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. [Learn more ...](#)

### A CONVERSATION ON HEALTH IN MALAWI

Malawi faces serious challenges like hunger, climate change, and health issues. You're invited to hear from PWS&D global partner Mphatso Nguluwe-Chikhwaza, Director of the Synod of Livingstonia Health Department in northern Malawi. Mphatso will share how PWS&D projects are helping address these health challenges. To join us for one of three opportunities—online or in person in Toronto or Ottawa—visit [this link](#).

## RESOURCES

### WEBINAR RECORDING: PCC DECISIONS REGARDING LGBTQI2+ INCLUSION

The 2021 General Assembly adopted recommendations to guide The Presbyterian Church in Canada to acknowledge the harm caused due to homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism and hypocrisy, to respond appropriately to that harm and to ensure that harm does not continue. In the same year, the denomination adopted changes to its theology and practice regarding marriage and ordination. On March 13, 2024, national office staff hosted a webinar to review the PCC's decisions about LGBTQI2+ inclusion and answer questions. A recording of the webinar is available to [watch on YouTube](#).

### LENT AND EASTER REFLECTIONS

Celebrating Easter this past weekend reminds us that the Easter story is about a time of darkness and despair but also about holding on to hope. If you haven't read the Rev. Mary Fontaine's Lent and Easter reflection, in which she reminds us that "*We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another*" (1 John 3:16), find it [here](#). Mary tells the story of Chanis and her people as a reminder that "we are all related [and that] it is good to know and to love our relatives in the heavenly way."

The 40-day Lent journey, culminating in Easter, reminds us we are called to “be agents of peace, justice and reconciliation.” This year, the violence continued as people prepared to celebrate Holy Week in Palestine-Israel. For centuries, pilgrims have come to Jerusalem to mark the events of Holy Week, wave palm branches, pray at Gethsemane, lament on the Mount of Olives, and trace Jesus’s steps along the stations of the cross.

This year, Palestinian Christians from the West Bank were prevented by Israeli authorities from entering the occupied city of Jerusalem to participate in Palm Sunday devotions. Christian Palestinians are required to obtain special permits to pass through military checkpoints surrounding Jerusalem and go to places of worship, especially the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Read the full reflection, prayer and ways to engage in advocacy on our [Just and Lasting Peace](#)—Palestine-Israel page.

Learn more about the PCC’s response to the conflict in Gaza through [Presbyterian World Service & Development](#).