



The Presbyterian Church in Canada
PCCConnect Monthly E-Newsletter
May 2024

NEWS

GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE: CANADIAN CHURCHES FOR JUST PEACE

Join us today and in the weeks to come in the [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace!](#) Thousands of Canadian Christians have already, [throughout Lent, walked, rolled, and prayed together](#) for an enduring and sustained ceasefire between Israel and Hamas; an immediate flow of life-saving food, water, aid, fuel and humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the release of all captives; and the end of occupation so a just peace can begin.

This global ecumenical movement of prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza and with Palestinian and Israeli partners on the road to justice and peace continues. In your local communities, participate in the Pilgrimage by organizing or attending events, walking, praying, and letting others know. Learn more and share your events, experiences, and photos with KAIROS Canada, the lead organizer.

You are also invited to gather in Ottawa on Parliament Hill on **May 22** if you are able.

See more about our commitment here: [A Just and Lasting Peace: Palestine-Israel.](#)

SEND US YOUR STORIES!

In recognition of the PCC's 150th anniversary in 2025, the Committee on History is preparing a published collection of stories about where we have been, where we are and where we are going.

Do you have a favourite memory of singing in a choir, attending a youth group, going to a potluck supper, or attending the General Assembly—or anything else that shaped your involvement in church? What are some of the things your congregation is doing today to share the good news of Jesus in your community? And what are your hopes and dreams for the PCC as it approaches 150 years?

We want to hear from you! Please write to Ian McKechnie, project coordinator, at pcc150book@gmail.com. Submissions are being accepted through September 2024.

UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE IN TAIWAN

On April 3, Taiwan experienced a 7.2 magnitude earthquake followed by aftershocks. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT)—one of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's oldest church partners—asks for continued prayer as the country works to recover from this disaster.

A letter sent from the PCT, signed by the Moderator, the Rev. Phàng Chū-Fùng (彭志鴻), and PCT General Secretary, the Rev. CHEN Hsin-Liang (陳信良), states:

"The PCT wishes to express and reiterate our heartfelt gratitude for the many letters and messages of concern and solidarity received from our partners and friends around the world.

From our experiences dealing with natural disasters, we can all attest to how a few minutes of major trauma requires months and years of rehabilitation, recovery, and rebuilding of lives, land, and property. We ask that you continue to keep all the victims, their families and communities, and the frontline responders in your prayers for the healing of the land of our precious country, Taiwan."

REMINDERS & EVENTS

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY FOR THE I LOVE TAIWAN PROGRAM!

The Presbyterian Church in Canada invites 19-25-year-olds to apply for the I Love Taiwan program in July 2024 (arrive in Taiwan on July 4; depart Taiwan on July 19).

The application deadline is **May 6, 2024**

Join Christians from around the world for two weeks of mission work with churches of The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. If you like working with children, have an open mind, a team spirit, a faithful and loving heart, an interest in Taiwan and a call to serve, this trip is for you.

Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC covers airfare and travel VISAs (if applicable). Participants are asked to contribute \$1,000 towards the total cost and will be responsible for additional incidental costs, including travel health insurance. From July 4 to July 19, local expenses will be fully supported by The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, local host churches and organizations. These expenses include food, accommodation, accident insurance, transportation, and an exposure program.

Read more about the **I Love Taiwan** program, the proposed schedule and other information [here](#).

[Download the PCC application form here.](#)

The PCC encourages you to share this invitation widely with interested youth within your circle of friends, networks, colleagues and groups. The completed application form and your current resume should be emailed to [Beth McCutcheon](mailto:bmccutcheon@presbyterian.ca) at bmccutcheon [at] presbyterian [dot] ca by May 6, 2024.

RACIAL JUSTICE ONLINE WORKSHOP: MAY 9, 2024

Looking for a way to start conversations on addressing racism in the church and Canadian society? Sign up for an upcoming online Racial Justice Workshop. Carmen Ramirez (she/her), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's Assistant to the Bishop for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, will hold two workshops on racial justice. These are intended to be taken together.

REGISTRATION

ELCIC members: Free

Non-ELCIC members: \$50

Sign up early, as each session will be capped at 50 participants.

SESSION 1—MAY 9, 2024

11:30 am EST to 2:00 pm EST

[Click here to register](#)

SESSION 2—MAY 9, 2024

3:00 pm EST to 5:30 pm EST

[Click here to register](#)

PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUNG ADULT GLOBAL ECUMENICAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Are you interested in experiencing young adult ministry in an ecumenical context and 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) along with 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 make connections, share gifts and wisdom from unique contexts throughout Canada, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea and jointly develop a workshop to lead at [uplift 2024](#) under the banner of **Audacious Hope** while participating in the full event (July 3-7). Members of the Learning Community will stay at Brock University in St Catharine's, Ontario, from June 29 to 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 people will be selected to represent the PCC. **Apply by May 10.**

To find out more or to apply, contact [Beth McCutcheon](mailto:BMcCutcheon@presbyterian.ca) at BMcCutcheon [at] presbyterian [dot] ca.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY: 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 Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher Walls](#) is the nominee for Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly. 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 ...](#)

WORKSHOP ON THE CHURCH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries is this year's recipient of The Cutting Edge of Mission Award. Daniel Whitehead, CEO of Sanctuary, will unpack their unique approach and integrated vision of personhood and the role of spiritual friendship as a vital component in recovery and human flourishing.

Come to this free workshop and explore practical ways and useful tools that you can use to make a difference in the Church when it comes to supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Date: Sunday, June 2, 2024

Time: 2:30 – 3:45

Place: Knox Presbyterian Church

50 Erb St. W. (at the corner of Erb & Caroline in Uptown Waterloo)

(Access to the Knox Parking lot and Main entrance to the building is off of Dupont St.)

GATHER FOR uplift2024!

PCC uplift 2024 will be a place to come alive, learn to discover beauty amid brokenness, and be inspired towards bold facts of faith.

Learn more about uplift2024 by [downloading the brochure](#), which is packed with information about the July event. You can also order a copy online from the [PCC website](#)—the brochure is easily available in the featured resources section of the order form. Join us on a wonderful journey to new perspectives and friends, refreshed hope, and a week of fun.

Registration is open until **May 31, 2024.**

Travel Tips and Information

For those attending uplift 2024, here are some travel tips for getting to and from the airport to Brock University. Getting to and from Toronto and Hamilton Airports to Brock University takes time, and you have several (less than perfect) transportation choices. View or download travel advice and guidance to get to Brock University in St. Catharines in the best way possible.

Download info [here](#).

RESOURCES

NOW AVAILABLE: HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY (MAY 26, 2024) WORSHIP PLANNER

Healing and Reconciliation Sunday was designated by the 2006 General Assembly, recognizing the need for healing and relationship building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada. In 2024, it falls on Sunday, May 26, and this worship planner can be used then, or on any date, to mark Healing and Reconciliation Sunday.

Download the planner [here](#).

Healing and Reconciliation Sunday bulletin covers (no. 260524) are available and may be ordered [here](#).

To learn more about healing and reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples, visit the [Social Action Hub's Indigenous Justice page](#).

THE CONFESSION TO GOD AND LGBTQI PEOPLE: NOW AVAILABLE AS A BOOKLET

The Confession to God and LGBTQI People is available to order in a new booklet format (8.5" X 5.5"). These booklets are ideal for use during worship, as bulletin inserts, or for people to take home when visiting PCC ministries. Order a free booklet [online](#) or download it [here](#).

THE PCC'S CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada invests in a pooled investment mutual fund known as the Consolidated Portfolio (the Fund). It is non-regulated and available only to selected investors associated with the PCC, including congregations, presbyteries, synods, and camps, who can become Unitholders. It is not offered publicly for investment. (Individuals are not eligible to invest.)

Unitholders are provided with a quarterly investment statement that shows the investment's Net Asset Value (NAV) and the change in NAV composition from the previous quarter. They are also provided with access to Eckler's Quarterly Performance Reviews.

Fund returns are not guaranteed. For 2023, the result was an increase of approximately 12%, although an individual unitholder's performance calculations will differ if they deposited or withdrew funds during the year.

For more information, please get in touch with [James Waddell](#), Interim Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, at [jwaddell \[at\] presbyterian \[dot\] ca](mailto:jwaddell@presbyterian.ca).