

SPACES FOR CONNECTION – INTERCHURCH AND INTERFAITH/GLOBAL AND LOCAL

Christian Interfaith Reference Group/National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee/ACC-ELCIC

The National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee brings representatives of Muslim and Christian organizations into a forum for respectful dialogue on themes of common interest. The **Christian Interfaith Reference Group of the Canadian Council of Churches**: allows Christian churches to reflect and share information on inter-religious dialogue and acts a catalyst for education, theological reflection, and relationship building.

Mapping Diversity Project - Currently, the CIRG and NMCLC are working on a “mapping project” aimed at creating an online resource whereby Muslims and Christians from across Canada could easily identify where joint collaborations and partnerships exist, or where there are possibilities for cooperation. One of those already in the data base is Vicki’s congregation, Symons Valley. If you have a partnership story to share, you can learn more and fill out a survey on the CCC website. <https://www.councilofchurches.ca/mapping-diversity/>

A Common Word Canada – a new interfaith project initiated by the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, to which the United Church will become partners. "A Common Word Canada" is an online resource for Christian-Muslim dialogue that includes a local dialogue resource kit. <https://acommonword.ca/>

North American Interfaith Network

If you are already involved in interfaith activity, or just interested, an excellent space to learn more or connect with others who are involved in local interfaith work across the continent, including Mexico, is the North American Interfaith Network. A volunteer network with significant United Church involvement, (including Lynda Trono of Winnipeg), NAIN sponsors an annual conference called “Connect,” as well as a variety of online opportunities to connect. <http://www.nain.org/>

Young Adult Formation Opportunities – watch for opportunities to encourage ecumenical formation among the younger people with whom you minister.

Global assemblies and other meetings of the **World Council of Churches** and **World Communion of Reformed Churches** have stewards programs - great opportunities to see the global church at work and meet other young adults from around the world; both organizations also have internship programs. The WCC has an ongoing youth engagement program. <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/youth> as well as other programs for ecumenical formation <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/ecumenical-formation>. The WCRC also had a number of programs focussed on leadership development. <http://wcrch.ch/leadership-development> .

There are also particular opportunities for theological students: WCRC Global Institute of Theology <http://wcrch.ch/git> and the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/geti-2021-plans-for-lively-learning-by-young-theologians-are-underway> .

The North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) has a Young Scholars program in conjunction with each NAIN Connect conference, as well as a broader program of young adult engagement. While plans for converting this year’s Connect to a digital event are still underway <https://www.nain-southbend.org/> , you can get a picture of last year’s program here: <http://www.nain.org/young-adults/> .

WCC Gender Justice network and Thursdays in Black campaign

Just Community of Women and Men program of the WCC works to keep the issue of gender equality and gender justice in our churches and around the world, through networking education and action. <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-men> . **The "Thursdays in Black" campaign**, asks that we wear black on Thursdays in solidarity and protest against sexual and gender-based violence. Post to social media along with reasons why you support the campaign. Share the message of the campaign with others. If possible, prepare prayers, religious/bible studies, theological reflection, blogs or other short resources which help to address sexual and gender based violence. Launch a Thursdays in Black campaign by inviting other persons/organisations to join in. <https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/end-gender-based-violence>

Creation Justice campaigns and resources

For the Love of Creation <https://cpj.ca/for-the-love-of-creation-2/> (includes ecumenical and interfaith organizations such as Citizens for Public Justice, KAIROS and Faith and the Common Good) - aims to engage people individually and in community, as congregations and organizations, all across the country in a climate conversation centred on three themes:

1. Theological reflection - a space for collaborative responsive theology
2. Local and congregational engagement.
3. Political advocacy.

KAIROS Migrant Justice work <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/migrant-justice>

KAIROS is committed to work addressing the causes of forced migration, while promoting a climate of dignity and welcome for uprooted people. Core to this commitment is the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the [ILO Convention #189](#), which recognizes domestic work as work.

In the context of COVID-19, Take Action! Please write to your Member of Parliament and urge the government to give all migrants in Canada immediate residence status with a pathway to permanent residency.

KAIROS Women of Courage is rooted in the understanding that while women around the world face many injustices, women are also key catalysts and agents for change when they create and exercise leadership in human rights and peace building. two primary focus areas: **Women, Peace, and security** and **Gendered Impacts of Resource Extraction**. <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/gender-justice> .

RESPONSES TO COVID-19

<https://www.councilofchurches.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/A-Message-to-Canadians-from-Religious-Leaders-in-Canada-in-Response-to-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.-Final..pdf>

<https://www.conseildeseglises.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Approved-statement-JOINT-COVID19-WCC.pdf>

LINKS TO UNITED CHURCH RESOURCES

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/interchurch-relations>

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