

# PCCConnect



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

[presbyterian.ca](http://presbyterian.ca)

JULY & AUGUST 2026

## 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



From June 7 – 11, 2026, over 200 Presbyterian commissioners, staff and guests gathered at York University in Toronto for the 151<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The week began with an evening of music and heartfelt worship at Vaughan Community Church on Sunday night, where the Rev. Lara Scholey was installed as Moderator.

Each day started with morning worship and featured reports from PCC committees, followed by discussion and voting on various business matters. Guest speakers included Jim Bear Jacobs, Program Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light; the Rev. Lora Nafziger, PCC mission staff in Nepal; Deacon Bassem Thabet and Nader Anton Abuamsha, from the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, Middle East Council of Churches; and Subdeacon Brian A. Butcher, Advisor for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.



of Mission Award recognized the work and ministry of UpperLVL, a

vibrant, spirit-led mission hosted within LevelTwo Nightclub in Nanaimo, BC. A Minute of Appreciation was held for Karen Plater, retiring this Fall from her role as Associate Secretary for Stewardship after 30 years of service to the PCC. View the event's photo gallery and read daily highlights, minutes, reports and more [here](#).

---

## **NEWS**

## The PCC's PWS&D Venezuela Earthquake Response

A state of emergency was declared in Venezuela after two powerful earthquakes struck on June 24. Residential and commercial buildings have collapsed, and there is considerable damage to critical infrastructure, including roads and public facilities. Heavily affected areas remain difficult to access.

Donations are urgently needed. The PCC's relief and development agency, PWS&D, is able to respond through the ACT Alliance, which has members operating in Venezuela. Immediate needs assessments are taking place with plans to respond as soon as possible. Donations made between June 25 and July 14 are eligible for matching by the Government of Canada.

Read more [here](#).



Photo: LWF Colombia/Venezuela

---

**Canadian Council of Churches Response to the Attack on Dormition (Assumption)  
Cathedral of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra**

On June 15, 2026, the Russian Federation damaged the Dormition (Assumption) Cathedral of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra during a night of missile and drone attacks across Ukraine. The cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a historic Christian site dating back to the 11th century.

Read a full statement by the Executive Committee of The Canadian Council of Churches, as well as the prayers and actions the Council has participated in since 2022 [here](#).

---

Reconciliation Recognizes Contributions by Three



## Denominations

Vivian Ketchum, who is a Survivor of the Cecelia Jeffrey Residential School, operated by the PCC, accompanied the Rev. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, to a gifting ceremony hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) on June 18, 2026. Florence Painter, who is a residential school Survivor, and Stephanie Scott, the Executive Director of the NCTR, presented the PCC with a bronze eagle feather. The ceremony was in recognition of the contributions made by the PCC, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the United Church of Canada toward the construction of the NCTR's permanent home on the grounds of the University of Manitoba.

---

### **PCC joins others in speaking out against unlawful US coercive measures against Cuba**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada added its voice to an advertisement that ran in The Hill Times on June 15, saying "no" to the injustice that is the unlawful coercive measures by the US against Cuba. Joining other churches and faith-based groups, advocacy groups and unions, those who signed the ad called on the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cuba and to work more determinedly with the United Nations and other countries to get fuel and other life-saving supplies to Cuba without delay. Read more [here](#).

---

## THE CHANGE LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **Update from the Change Leadership Team**

Members of the team attended General Assembly 2026, sharing updates on their work on Shared Resource Centres for Information Technology, Human Resources, Finances and Legal support, Regional Leaders and more. Visit their [webpage](#) for details and ongoing updates and contact the team at [changeleadership@presbyterian.ca](mailto:changeleadership@presbyterian.ca) with questions or comments.

---

## RESOURCES

### **The PCC's camping ministries change lives!**

For more than 100 years, outdoor ministry has been an important part of the life of the PCC. Today, 13 unique camp ministries operate across the country, creating spaces where children, youth, and families can encounter Christ in meaningful ways. Learn more about the ways PCC camps are impacting lives [here](#).





Happy Pride! As communities across the country gather to celebrate 2SLGBTQI+ people throughout the summer, we wish everyone a safe and joyful time for connection and advocacy. We would love to hear how your congregation is supporting or participating in your local Pride festivities. Details about how to send in photos and consent forms [here](#).



### **Becoming Intercultural: 9-Week Online Course**

Join us this Fall for the first course of the Intercultural Office's 3-part series, *Becoming Intercultural*. During the course, you will develop intercultural awareness and learn about *unconscious bias* and *power dynamics* as you work through the theology and biblical foundations necessary to become intercultural. There are also real-life practice scenarios & intercultural tools. This course is self-paced with three online group meetings.

**Dates:** September 25 – November 29, 2026

#### **Who can sign up?**

You! Sessions, congregants, ministers, presbyteries & anyone in your community! Bring a group or we will find you one!

#### **Ready to register?**

Fill out this [expression of interest form](#) to hold your spot!

#### **Want to learn more about our work and programs?**

- [Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)
- [Watch a video about our work](#)
- [Visit our website](#)

---

### **NEW! Adult Education Webpage**

A new Adult Education Webpage includes information on upcoming initiatives for the coming year, along with resources from previous studies, such as Presbyterians Read. You can find the webpage [here](#).

#### **Some new initiatives:**

**[What Does the Bible Say About...?](#)** This new series features short discussions on topics of interest to today's church. Study sheets for each topic explore the passages in the Bible that

relate to the issue at hand, explaining how frequently cited passages may or may not pertain to issues in current society. These writings provide material for sermons, adult class discussions, and individual theological reflection and growth. Find the first two webinars, "Jesus' Miracles" and "Satan and the Devil", in the Webinar section of this e-newsletter. Other topics include hell and heaven, baptism, and the end times.

**Context Clues for Preaching** These webinars focus on a single biblical text and help participants uncover the socio-cultural background, theological themes, distinctive language, and the vision and purpose of the communities who composed the biblical books. Each webinar will include instruction, allow for Q&A, and provide a study sheet with key items of interest for use in preaching, teaching, and group Bible study. This series includes "Preaching Paul: Avoiding the Pitfalls" and the upcoming "Preaching Mark: The Curious Case of Good News" (register [here](#)).

**Theological Reflections** These short essays provoke new thought on familiar religious topics, days in the religious calendar, or timely issues of the day. Designed to offer a fresh take on issues of concern to the church, they provide material for sermons, adult-class discussions, and individual theological reflection and growth.

**Presbyterians Go to the Movies** This program is designed for adult theological reflection and discussion of selected films. Custom guides include instructions for viewing, plans for leading a film study group, specific questions for each film, and tips to enhance interpretation. Films are organized by theme but can be studied individually at each study group's pace. You will find the upcoming webinar, *An Introduction to "The Church from the Outside" Series*, in the Webinars section of this newsletter.

Sign up for Adult Education updates [here](#). Make sure you check the box that says "Adult Education Opportunities."



Across the PCC, committed people are doing the important work of faith formation—often without connection to others doing the same work. That’s why the Christian Education Exchange exists.

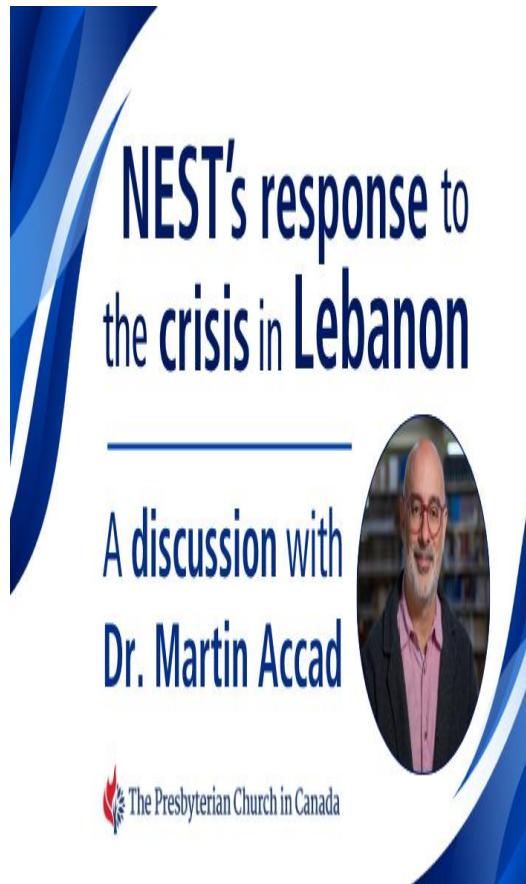
We connect, encourage, and equip those who care deeply about helping people grow in faith. Each month, we gather online to learn together, share our joys and struggles, and exchange ideas for real ministry contexts. It’s a space to reflect on where God is leading, explore new approaches, and be reminded that this work matters.

Whether you're a minister or a lay leader, a volunteer or paid staff, a seasoned veteran or just beginning, or a retiree who continues to serve—and whether you work with children, youth, young adults, adults, families, or across generations—you are welcome here.

For more information and to sign up for notifications about upcoming opportunities, visit the [Christian Education webpage](#).


---


## WEBINARS



**NEST's response to  
the crisis in Lebanon**

A discussion with  
**Dr. Martin Accad**



 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

### **How NEST is Responding to the Current Crisis in Lebanon**

This webinar is a conversation with Near East School of Theology (NEST) President, Dr. Martin Accad. Dr. Accad's areas of specialization include Islam, Middle East Christianity, Christian-Muslim Relations, Peacebuilding, Reconciliation, and Public Theology. During the webinar, he will speak about the complexity of ministry in the Middle East amid its instability and how NEST continues, with vision and purpose, to serve the church and society.

**Date:** July 9, 2026

**Time:** 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

**Register** [here](#).



## Meet the PCC's Mission Staff in Nepal

The Rev. Lora Nafziger  
& Mitch Rhodes



### Meet the PCC's mission staff in Nepal

Come and meet the Rev. Lora Nafziger (PCC staff) and Mitch Rhodes (Mennonite Mission Network), as they share stories of faith and how God is working in Nepal. Lora serves as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN), providing spiritual care and emotional support to expatriate staff and their families. Mitch serves as UMN's Expatriate Coordinator. UMN strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Lora, Mitch and their two younger children have been serving in Nepal since 2024.

**Date:** July 22, 2026

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. (Eastern)

**Register** [here](#).

---



## **Presbyterians Go to the Movies: An Introduction to "The Church from the Outside" Series**

Planning adult education for your church group this fall? Explore religion in film with a study guide for individuals or groups, featuring easy-to-follow instructions for viewing and discussion. This fall's theme is "The Church from the Outside," and it includes three films: *The Mission*, *Smoke Signals* and *Places in the Heart*. Choose one or all three! Join Dr. Lee Johnson for a free orientation.

**Date:** September 16, 2026

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)

**Download the Study Guide and register [here](#).**

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE

SAY ABOUT...?



Jesus' Miracles



What Does the Bible Say About...? is a new series of short discussions on different topics of interest for today's church. The first in the series is *Jesus' Miracles*, which explores the remarkable activities of Jesus as reported in the four gospels, with attention to the cultural context and impact of Jesus' actions. The webinar will allow for Q & A. A study sheet will be available following the webinar.

**Date:** September 23, 2026

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)

**Learn more and register [here](#).**

---

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE

SAY ABOUT...?



Satan and the Devil



The second webinar in the “What Does the Bible Say About...?” series is Satan and the Devil, which explores the views of the person and work of Satan/the devil across the Hebrew Bible and through the New Testament writings. The webinar will allow for Q & A and a study sheet will be available following the webinar.

**Date:** October 7, 2026

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)

**Learn more and register [here](#).**

---

## EVENTS



### **PYWA: Come to the Mountains**

The PCC has recently established a relationship with The Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association (PYWA) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and we have been invited to their "Come to the Mountains" retreat in Montreat, North Carolina. We are offering 3 scholarships to cover a youth worker's registration fee, housing, meals and return flights. This opportunity is open to volunteer or paid staff who serve at the congregational, presbytery, or synod level. If you are interested, please visit the [Christian Education webpage](#) to apply.

Details about this event are available [here](#).

---

## OPPORTUNITIES



## **New Deadline: October 1 for Grant Applications**

Looking for funding to support your ministry idea? The Presbyterian Church in Canada has moved the fall grant application deadline forward. Applications for both our main program funds and the Supporting Ministry Grants (which help supplement a minister's stipend) are now due by **October 1**. Please mark this date on your calendar.

To view the full list of funding opportunities available through the PCC, click [here](#) or contact [Jennifer Astop](#) for more information.

---

## **Two summer student positions available at the Canadian Council of Churches**

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) has two openings for Project Administration and Research Officers

**CCC Project Administration and Research Officer** position works with program and communications staff to assist with program activities in faith and witness, justice and peace, and communications media.

**FILL Project Administration and Research Officer** works with program staff to assist with program activities in intercultural and ecumenical learning.

See more details [here](#).

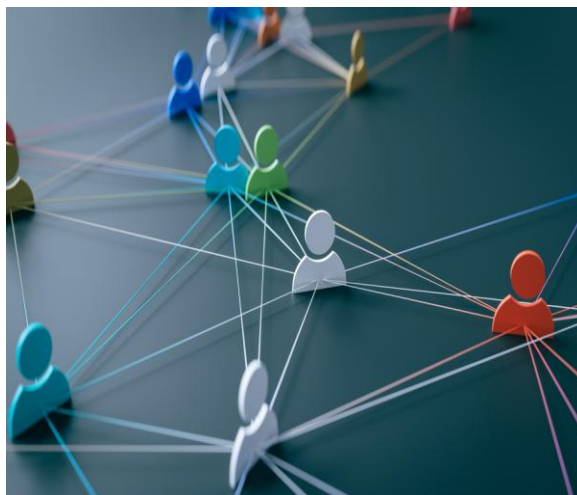
---

## Let's Stay Connected

Looking for information about PCC events, webinars, resources and more? We regularly post news items on our [website](#) and share information on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

If you haven't already, please follow or like our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube), and engage with our content! Comment on, like or share our posts.

Remember, we are also a direct message, email or phone call away. The most important thing is to stay connected.



**Atlantic Mission Society:** <https://pccweb.ca/ams>

**Women's Missionary Society:** [www.wmspcc.ca](http://www.wmspcc.ca)

**Crieff Hills Retreat Centre:** [www.crieffhills.com](http://www.crieffhills.com)

**Presbyterian College:** <https://presbyteriancollege.ca>

**Vancouver School of Theology:** <https://vst.edu>

**Knox College:** <https://knox.utoronto.ca>

**- Knox College Ministry Forum:** <https://ministryforum.ca>

**St. Andrew's Hall:** [www.standrews.edu](http://www.standrews.edu)

**- St. Andrew's Hall Centre for Missional Leadership Ministry:** <https://thecml.ca>

### **Presbyterian Camps**

A complete directory of PCC Camps can be found here:

[www.presbyterian.ca/contact/camping/](http://www.presbyterian.ca/contact/camping/)

---



Happy Summer from the PCC Comms team!

Enter text for your email here.

[Social Action Hub](#)

[Church Finder](#)

[Worship](#)

[Contact](#)

[Donate](#)

[Order](#)



**To update your information or unsubscribe, reply to this email,** and we will update our database. We can customize your emails with the type of information you are interested in receiving. (Using the unsubscribe button at the bottom will unsubscribe you from ALL informational emails from the PCC and PWS&D.)

**Interested in more e-news from the PCC?**

**[Click here for our email sign-up form and make sure you're getting all the news and updates you need!](#)**

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[The Presbyterian Church in Canada](#)

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

