

PCCconnect



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

MARCH 2025

Webinars and Workshops

LGBTQI2+ Inclusion 101

As ministries in The Presbyterian Church in Canada continue to adapt to decisions the denomination has made about marriage, ordination and LGBTQI2+ inclusion, this webinar is intended to explore ways to define inclusion and how congregations can take steps to become more inclusive of LGBTQI2+ people and their families. The presentation, hosted by Carragh Erhardt, PCC Program Coordinator, Sexuality and Inclusion, will be followed by a time for questions and answers.

Please join us on **Thursday, March 6, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Eastern)**

Register [here](#).

Presbyterians Read: Online Discussion and Book Study – Sign up TODAY!

It's just one week away! Join the Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset online to discuss this year's Presbyterians Read book, "The Niebuhr Brothers for Armchair Theologians" by Scott R. Paeth. The first online discussion session takes place on **Wednesday, March 12 from 6-7 p.m. (Eastern)**. The group will continue to meet online on **Wednesdays through to April 16**. Order printed copies of the study guide [here](#) or download the full study or text-only version [here](#).

You can also host your own study series without participating in the online sessions.

Learn more and register for the online discussion [here](#).

The Candidacy Process

Part One:

The first of a two-part webinar series, The Candidacy Process: Part One, will provide an overview of the pathway to ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacraments in the PCC. It will also focus on the first steps leading to the presbytery's certification of a student candidate for ministry. The Rev. Tim Purvis and Liz Brewer of Ministry and Church Vocations will host this webinar.

Tuesday, March 18, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Register [here](#).

Part Two:

The Candidacy Process: Part Two, the second of a two-part webinar series, will cover the Guidance Conference and psychological testing, both mandatory components of the discernment process for presbytery-certified student candidates for ordained ministry. The Rev. Tim Purvis and Liz Brewer of Ministry and Church Vocations will host this webinar.

Tuesday, March 25, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Register [here](#).

Virtual Meet and Greet with the PCC's New Intercultural Liaison

Join us for a virtual meet and greet with the PCC's new Intercultural Liaison, Pablo Kim Sun! Pablo will share the vision behind his new role, discuss how churches engage interculturally across four key levels, and more. He will also introduce the Intercultural Development Inventory, a helpful tool we plan to launch this Spring in collaboration with the Tyndale Intercultural Ministries Centre, designed to support churches on their journey to becoming vibrant, intercultural communities.

Please join us on **March 26 from 2:00–2:45 p.m. (Eastern)**.

Contact [Pablo Kim Sun](#) for the Zoom link.

Safety Policies

Facilitated by the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, the General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, this 50-minute webinar will review the basic principles of the Leading with Care Policy, Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church, and Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

Join us on March 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

The event will be recorded and posted online as a resource.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Recognizing Disinformation and Misinformation

This one-hour webinar will explore the concepts of disinformation and misinformation. How are they being used in our society and media? Who is impacted? Why is it essential for us to pay attention? What can we do if we encounter it in our faith life and community? The presentation will be hosted by Sara Speicher, Deputy General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication.

Join us on **April 2 at 12:00–1:00 p.m. (Eastern).**

Register [here](#).

Preparing for Pastoral Listening about LGBTQI2+ Inclusion

Having conversations about gender and sexuality can make people nervous about the possibility of judgment or conflict. As The Presbyterian Church in Canada continues to navigate changes to our understanding of marriage, ordination and the inclusion of LGBTQI2+ people in the church, pastoral listening is an important practice that can help people feel heard and improve the outcomes of congregational discernment. This webinar will focus on equipping ministers, elders and other pastoral care providers to plan and carry out processes for gathering input about LGBTQI2+ inclusion from their congregations. Participants are invited to bring questions for the Q&A following the presentation. Carragh Erhardt, PCC Program Coordinator, Sexuality and Inclusion, will host this webinar.

Please join us on **April 10, 2025**, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Register [here](#).

Recorded Leadership Webinars

Did you miss a webinar or want to watch one again? You can find recorded webinars on our Leadership Webinars page [here](#). You can read through the entire list or search by theme.

News

Cuba: Call for Increasing Humanitarian Aid and Development Assistance

Canadian churches, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations are working together to encourage the Government of Canada to increase aid to Cuba in this time of exceptional need and ensure humanitarian aid and development assistance is not restricted by U.S. sanctions and other measures.

Cubans describe their living conditions as the worst they have experienced before the 1959 revolution. Cuba is still suffering an economic slump provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effects of the downturn are magnified by the decades-long imposition of sanctions (sometimes referred to as the “embargo” or the “blockade”) by the United States. Between 2007 and 2022, Cuba has dropped 30 places in the Human Development Index (from 53 in 2007 to 83 in 2022). In 2024, UNICEF placed Cuba—for the first time—as a country where a third of the country’s children are living in poverty. This year, also for the first time, Cuba requested support from the

World Food Program for powdered milk for children under seven. Read more about the call on our [Social Action Hub](#) and sign the [petition here](#) .

Clerks' Consultation 2025: April 29 – May 2

Presbytery and synod clerks from across the denomination will gather at the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, for worship, educational presentations, conversation, food, fellowship, and laughter. Participants will learn from each other how to better serve this church as clerks. Friendships made will continue to provide support and encouragement long after goodbyes are exchanged.

While the General Assembly Office takes the lead in hosting this event, they are well supported by other national office staff, including Tim Purvis (Associate Secretary, Ministry and Church Vocations) and Pablo Sun Kim (Intercultural Liaison), who will be available to talk about their work and hear from the clerks. Others will drop by for a presentation or two. As consultation chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, a former Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, will lead the clerks in daily worship and be available for pastoral care.

Aside from the COVID disruption, this yearly consultation has taken place for decades. Please remember your clerks in prayer.

PCC Job Opportunities

Position Available: Associate Secretary for Canadian Ministries

The Life and Mission Agency Committee is calling for nominations and applications for the Associate Secretary for Canadian Ministries position.

Nominations must be submitted to the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald by email at imcdonald@presbyterian.ca or by mail at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON, M3C 1J7, by **March 24, 2025**.

Please contact the person you wish to nominate to obtain their consent before submitting their name. Each nomination should include the full names and complete contact information of the persons you nominate.

This position is not necessarily based at the national offices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in Toronto. However, the position requires the incumbent to be in the offices periodically and undertake other travel.

[View the position description here.](#)

Resources

Adding a Thank You to Year-End Donation Letters

As your congregation prepares to send out tax receipts for gifts given in 2024, you may want to include a thank-you letter. The Rev. Jim MacDonald, minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Markham, Ontario, has used his experience working in the PCC's stewardship department to craft his 2025 thank-you letter – and has kindly offered to share his letter with you!

Feel free to use or adapt Jim's letter or any of the templates found in our [Tips and Templates](#) resource to help you write your own thank-you letter. Check out the PCC's [Saying Thank You](#) page for more ideas on how to say thank you.

2024 Annual Report Covers: Order now for your annual meetings!

Order the Presbyterians Sharing Annual Report Cover for your annual reports [online](#), by [email](#) or call 1-800-619-7301. It is also available for customizable download at presbyterian.ca/sharing. This report cover shares information about Presbyterians Sharing and quotes from ministries in Canada and around the world—all supported by your generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing in 2024.

Now Available: Moderator's Toolkit to Run a "Narratives of Hope and Possibility" Workshop

Earlier this year, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly of the PCC, held an online workshop that considered biblical stories of hope from the Bible and how they lay a foundation for our own stories of hope and possibility. The online workshop is now available as part of a toolkit to help congregations and groups hold their own workshops, guided by a "How To" video and handouts.

You can access the [toolkit with the videos and handouts here](#).

New Resource: Leading with Care Poster

Let people know that your church is a safe space by posting this new Leading with Care poster. Order yours online today at <https://form.jotform.com/Presby/pcc-order> or download and print your own [here](#) (go to Additional Resources: Leading with Care Policy).

Clerks' Corner

Attention Clerks of Presbytery and Synod!

Did you know there is a section on our website just for you? Clerks' Corner contains resources, guidelines, directories and more, all designed to help you carry out your work efficiently and effectively. Check out Clerks' Corner [here](#).

Presbyterian Connection: Issue 33, Spring 2025

The latest issue of the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper is currently being delivered to all congregations and subscribers. This edition is again packed with articles and photos from Presbyterian congregations, individuals, ministries and groups across Canada.

The latest issue can be found online [here](#).

New CJP Resource: Journeys to the Well – An Ecumenical Devotional Towards Anti-Racism

The Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP), an ecumenical body within the Canadian Council of Churches, has released a devotional resource entitled *Journeys to the Well – An Ecumenical Devotional Towards Anti-Racism*. This devotional addresses racism as a central issue for the church. The contributors, mostly Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, are from diverse denominations, ages, and locations across Canada. They were invited to reflect on self-selected scriptures and their personal experiences, and a minimal editing approach was taken to centre the authors' authentic voices. The devotional aims to connect faith with anti-racism action, encouraging readers to engage with scripture and prayer as a foundation for working towards racial justice. It is intended for flexible use, allowing readers to engage with the reflections in whatever way resonates with them.

View the complete resource [here](#).

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a member of The Canadian Council of Churches.

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.