

President's Message

The August long weekend has passed and for some vacation is over and for others it has just begun. Visitors have come and gone and for others we still await reunions of all sorts with anticipation. The air is a bit cooler in the mornings, but the days are still warm and full of promise. Most of us pray for rain for our crops, gardens and flowers while some areas seem to have been favoured with at least some showers of blessing from the passing clouds.

This week our attention turns to Calgary and the 45th General Council. Our commissioners will travel to take up the work of guiding our United Church into its next century. We owe a debt of gratitude to all commissioners for this work. There have been online preparations in advance of the meetings and significant reading and video materials to review in advance of the in-person meetings. A hybrid model of in person and virtual attendance is being used this year.

There are a significant number of proposals to come before the court and of course this is the time when a new moderator will be selected for a three-year term. We are blessed to have several qualified candidates offering their skills, abilities and gifts.

The United Church of Canada will also offer an historic apology ([Link One](#)) for ways in which the denomination has hurt and harmed 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities within and beyond the United Church. The apology will take place in the context of a special livestreamed worship service on Friday, August 8. The service will be held at Knox United Church, 506 4 St. SW, Calgary, Alberta at 9:00 am MT.

The service is open to anyone who would like to attend in person; it will also be available on Zoom, with interpretation in English and French. Register here ([Link Two](#)). Online participants are invited to have a bowl of water and branches with them, for a blessing at the end. There will be several ways for people to participate and gather.

Please follow the United Church via their website and social media for news from GC-45 ! I would ask that you keep all those participating in GC-45 in your thoughts and prayers this week and that the Spirit will be present and guide our church in the midst of all their discussions and decisions.

Blessings to all,

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