

FRIENDS OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL

FARMLAND LEGACIES

Farmland Legacies have four sustaining faith communities that are part of organization. They are the faith communities of The Anglican, Roman Catholic, Mennonite Central Committee and The United Church of Canada. Each of the faith communities have appointed a director to sit on the Board of Farmland Legacies as their representative. Farmland Legacies goals are to alleviate hunger (by providing quality protein to food banks, soup kitchens, women's shelters), hold farmland in trust, linking land with farmers and work with organizations to promote & communicate sustainable values, and work with intergenerational transfer of lands.



This freezer of meat is ready to be delivered to Food Banks.

Lentils ready to deliver to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters.



The guiding principles of land stewardship which were compiled by the Land Stewardship Resource Center are the guidelines which Farmland Legacies follow. As we are all stewards of the land on which we live. We strive to understand the fundamental roles and values of the natural systems. We want to preserve the land as naturally as possible so that it is sustainable for food growth. Maintaining, building and enhancing stability in Nature- caring for the health of the land for future generations.

Farm Land Legacies manages and acquires land sites in the three Prairie Provinces, establishes a sustainable agricultural model. Currently we have holdings in Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 2023 we delivered 20,910 servings of beef protein to Saskatchewan Food Banks (of which Wynyard, Wadena and Foam Lake are part of this) and relief shelters throughout the province along with 40,240 servings of lentil protein to the "Lentils for Lunch" program. Since the inception of providing protein servings there have been 455,000 servings provided. Over the past 27 years Farmland Legacies has worked with several different organizations. One that comes to mind was Heifer International which was to help young farmers get a start on their herd of cattle. They would receive a set number of bred heifers and at the end of the first year they were required to return a set number of calves and keep the rest of the herd so they were on the path to growing their herd to the size they found manageable. We have also had farms where the leaf cutter bees were situated to help with crop pollination. We have since moved from the Heifer International and the leaf cutter bees. The bees have been transitioned to a young farmer in the area. We run a Harvest for Hunger program which is the beef-to-food-banks program that runs year-round. Mosaic is completing their sixth and final year of support the Harvest for Hunger program. As well Cargill has renewed their support for another year.

Every fall we do the World Food Day appeal and the funds gathered are used for the beef-to-food-banks program. Each fall we canvas past donors to help with this project.

Farmland Legacies livestock breeding herd reached 90 which are placed in three different locations with 10 replacement heifers being raised on the Tadmore farm.

The office for Farm Land Legacies is situated at the north end of Main Street in Wynyard (formally the Radio Shack store). You will see in the pamphlets/brochures that we have a website which you can visit to gain more information about Farmland Legacies.

Farmland Legacies held their annual general meeting on April 12, 2023.

Farmland Legacies continues the transition of used equipment to new operators at Wynyard to help them with their future farming endeavors.

Farmland Legacies works to keep its policies and administrative manuals current. Farmland Legacies plans board retreat to strategic plan for the organization and transitioning to the next Executive Director as the current ED approaches retirement.



This is the machine used to bag the lentils for food banks and soup kitchens and shelters

Submitted by Rosellen Bjarnason

KAIROS – Prairies North

Greetings from the Coordinating Committee of KAIROS Prairies North.

It's been several years now since KAIROS hosted a "Virtual Potluck", and a few of us volunteered to re-establish a coordinating committee in the Prairies North region. Our hope was to support existing networks and encourage new connections in this vast region, but first we needed to get to know each other. We began meeting online, with Shawn and Amanda in Saskatoon, and Javed and Kevin in Edmonton. Barr joined the fun later, from Lloydminster.

We've been reaching out and learning what's happening in the region. Each fall we've hosted a regional gathering (online and/or hybrid); usually around 50 people attend the meeting. Over

the last few years we've heard inspiring updates from a number of local groups, or what we call "micro-regions": there are groups working on access to housing, ecological justice, decolonization, prophetic witness, and more. We have also heard about the challenges of geographic isolation and yet a strong desire for the work of KAIROS to continue and grow in our region.

As a way to help build connection and relationship, we also launched a newsletter, and a facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=kairos%20prairies%20north>).

We remain consistently amazed at the dedication and hard work shown by KAIROS (and KAIROS-adjacent) people of faith in the KPN region. There are several very strong local groups, but even where there are just one or two individuals, the amount of advocacy, education, and witness are well out of proportion to numerical strength!

Ecological issues and housing have been foci in a number of places, but the one common theme which seems to thread its way through all of the groups and micro-regions is a solid commitment to decolonization and Indigenous solidarity. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, there has emerged a very fruitful partnership with the Treaty Land Sharing Network (<https://treatylandsharingnetwork.ca/>). And there has also been the development of a dedicated Decolonization Working Group, which has continued meeting regularly throughout the year. Highlights of their activities include facilitating workshops at the "Decolonizing our Churches: Reweaving our Lives" conference in Saskatoon in June and KPN's Annual Gathering in October which invited participants to think about white settler culture and how it operates, as well as considering a learning model (comfort/learning/panic) to invite reflection on settler engagement in decolonization learning. They are currently planning a "Decolonizing Ourselves" land-based event on the sacredness and stewardship of water.

The KPN coordinating committee would like to thank all the many faithful people who do the work of KAIROS in this Region, and in particular, the United Church KAIROS members of this Living Skies Regional Council. You know who you are ... thank you!

And if you, or your community of faith, would like to know more, or get involved with the work of KAIROS here in your Region, please reach out ... like Robin's band of renegade green merry-folk in Sherwood Forest: the more the merrier!

Yours in faith and goodwill,
The Prairies North Coordinating Committee
Kevin Guenther Trautwein (Convener)
Shawn Sanford Beck (Regional Representative)
Barr Huether
Javed Sommers (Treasurer)

KAIROS – Regina

KAIROS Regina is a local group associated with KAIROS Canada (<https://www.kairoscanada.org/>). KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, unites ten Canadian churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). KAIROS is administered by the United Church of Canada, one of the ten members.

KAIROS Regina is a small ecumenical group which meets monthly, most frequently via Zoom.

Most members live in Regina, some in Saskatoon. Our central program focus in education and action is climate justice. Selected examples of our 2022 - 2024 programs follow.

Our event "*Creation Care in Our Places of Prayer: Energy Retrofits and Other Faith-based Climate Action*" Saturday, October 15, 2022 was an all-day hybrid in-person and livestream event in Regina. Attendance was 26. [Creation Care in Our Places of Prayer](#) is a downloadable booklet that KAIROS Canada created based on our 2022 blog series of reflections, leading up to the event. A description of the event with links to workshop recordings and slide decks remains available through the blog post "[Never a Better Time.](#)"

KAIROS Regina joined over a dozen KAIROS local groups across Canada in holding candle-light vigils to show solidarity with the international climate change conference COP27 November 11 - 13, 2022 in Egypt and the KAIROS Canada delegation there, some of which are highlighted here: [Candles for COP27](#). Our Regina vigil was on the Albert Street bridge.

[Lent Climate Crisis Lamentations](#) is a resource created by our members Russell Mitchell-Walker and Laura Stewart for the 2023 Lenten season, that could readily be adapted to other years.

KAIROS Regina wishes to note our appreciation for new efforts we are seeing in churches to include care for the earth or reconciliation with the Earth in their weekly liturgy throughout the year, for example in lighting a candle for the Earth.

Our member Dan Beveridge was in discussions for two years with Regina city and school officials to encourage schoolyard tree planting. In June 2023 this effort paid off, as two Regina elementary schools took part in tree planting projects: Ruth M. Buck school (~65 students) and St. Joan of Arc school (~35 students). They planted approximately 40 trees, with assistance and supervision from City of Regina staff to ensure proper planting and care. Trees provide opportunity for both education and action on climate change.

In summer 2023, Laura led a working group developing a rationale for getting worship buildings off fossil fuels, with mentoring through the EDGE Network's *Theory of Change* course. She also presented a "*Carbon Footprint Stewardship*" workshop at the April 2024 UCC Regina Cluster workshop, "*Starting with Why.*"

Recognizing the growing mental health challenges arising from climate change and biodiversity loss, we marked the 2023 Season of Creation with a Facebook post series, *Self Care in Nature*.

KAIROS Regina had a table at the Sustainability Expo October 21, 2023 at the [māmwéyatîtan](#) centre in Regina.

Through our Facebook page, we encouraged engagement with the international climate change conference COP28 in Dubai.

Our event [Heat Pumps in Saskatchewan: What You Should Know](#) on Saturday, January 13, 2024 was a three-hour hybrid in-person and livestream event in Regina. In-person attendance was about 30 and 60 watching on livestream, with very positive comments.

As part of KAIROS Canada's pilgrimages and vigils for peace in Gaza, KAIROS Regina is holding a Peace Vigil in Rotary Park in Regina at 2pm on Monday, May 20, 2024, Victoria Day.

We also are cooperating with KAIROS Canada in the climate justice focussed "*Just Transition*"

program which includes dialog and consultations with youth in four Canadian cities, including Saskatoon. <https://www.kairoscanada.org/strengthening-voices-for-a-just-transition> .

KAIROS Canada is a major participant in the ongoing Canadian ecumenical program, *For the Love of Creation*, <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/> which features three main thrusts: climate change conversations, advocacy and theological reflection. KAIROS Regina, in addition to our major involvement in 2021 in promoting local climate change conversations/discussions, participates through Dan Beveridge's membership in the Spirituality Working Group.

Submitted by
Dan Beveridge

PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM

On behalf of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the partnership that we share with the Living Skies Regional Council. I am deeply grateful for your ongoing sponsorship and



support. In this divided world, the ministry of Christian unity is more important than ever. The ministry of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism provides a vibrant witness to the unity willed by our Lord when He prayed that all His disciples would be one in Trinitarian love (John 17). Recognizing that ecumenism is an imperative for the Church, the Prairie Centre conducts a ministry of encouragement, education, and support. We encourage the close cooperation of local congregations and the ecumenical friendships that emerge in instances of common prayer, witness, and service. We support common worship and prayer, the heart of spiritual ecumenism. The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism continues to call the churches of the prairies to full visible unity in the worship of Jesus Christ, who is Lord and Saviour. Our goal is to build relationships through worship, education, and ministry.

Worship

We promote ecumenism through prayer, preaching and worship, faithful to the evangelical word of reconciliation and unity. As we *worship together*, our bonds grow closer, and our ecumenical community strengthens. We organize yearly ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*** (WPCU) events and services in Saskatoon during January and strive to encourage events throughout the year. In 2023, we also partnered with a local Saskatoon church to host "Singing into Unity" in June which showed how music connects us ecumenically. We also serve on the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Writing and Animation team* through the Canadian Council of Churches. This team reviews the international week of prayer materials and adapts them for the Canadian context highlighting a variety of Canadian resources, raising the visibility of, and engagement with, WPCU across Canada.

Education

We work to implement programs for ecumenical education and formation of Christ's faithful. *Learning together* helps us to learn about each other, which is essential when walking along side each other along the way. We organize bible studies, book studies and educational opportunities such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Online Bible Study series and the DeMargerie Lecture Series for Christian Reconciliation and Unity.

The Prairie Centre was on the planning team for 2023 *Forum on Dialogues* held in **Edmonton**,

June 8-10, 2023. The title of the event was called – ***A Gathering-Waiting Place: Voices of Indigenous Followers of Jesus in the Ecumenical Movement.*** It was organized by the Commission on Faith and Witness (CFW) of The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), the Canadian Forum on Inter-Church Dialogues is an important triennial event in the Canadian ecumenical movement.

Ministry

We strive to foster common witness to our Christian faith encouraging churches to be attentive to occasions where they can stand together in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We organize activities and partner with others to build an ecumenical community and to create a network of those interested in working and growing together.

As a part of ministry and *growing together*, this past summer, the Prairie Centre partnered with Queen's House Renewal and Retreat Centre and various Saskatoon churches to host an ecumenical vacation bible school. It was a fun-filled, action-packed week! We had so much fun learning "What Every Living Thing Needs" at our Ecumenical VBS! It was such a fun way to share ecumenically and celebrate our unity! Our 45 campers loved this year's theme which was based on Psalm 104 with the daily themes of shelter, food, water, air, and community. We really valued our partnership with Queens House and the donors, congregations, and volunteers to help make this week possible!

Ecumenical Shared Ministries

The Prairie Centre website is unique as it hosts a one of a kind Ecumenical Shared Ministries directory. The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism website currently hosts the only database of Ecumenical Shared Ministries (ESM) in Canada. There is growing need for more resources for church leaders and churches who are considering ESM as a viable option for their congregations. As churches continue to decline, especially in rural areas, it becomes necessary to think beyond the walls of each church building and find creative solutions, a process that takes time, work and understanding. Sharing resources, past experiences, and community will help those who venture down a similar path. It is our goal to improve upon this page to make it an even better resource for those who are involved with ESM's.

Your generous support of our important initiatives allows the Prairie Centre to continue to grow into ministries that will reach more people. We are looking forward to carrying out our goals from our strategic plan of building relationships, promoting ecumenism, implementing education, and fostering common witness.

As partners in ministry and supporters of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, Living Skies Regional Council is entitled to have two representatives on our board of directors, one representing the clergy and one a lay person. We are very grateful for the ministry of the Rev. Brian Maitland among us! The lay position, however, is currently vacant. We would welcome the addition of a second person representing the United Church on our board. If there is someone that you would like to appoint, please contact me at cwood@pcecumenism.ca.

We are truly grateful to have you as partners in our ministry. Thank you!

Cathryn Wood
Executive Director

Saskatoon And Area United Church Cluster Group

Participating United Churches and Related Ministries:

Grace-Westminster, Grosvenor Park, McClure, St. Martin's, St. Paul's, Knox, Mayfair, Mount Royal Emmanuel, St. David's Trinity, St. Andrew's College, Oliver Lodge, Integrated Community Ministry, Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, U of S Ecumenical Chaplaincy, Saskatoon and Area Youth Ministry, Deslisle-Vanscoy PC

In July, Grosvenor Park United Church invited United Churches and related Ministries in Saskatoon and Area to reignite the Cluster meetings of pre-pandemic times. Given there were many challenges and changes for congregations throughout and since that time, the first meeting was dubbed 'Cluster 2.0'. The group met twice in what remained of 2023. Each meeting progressed toward further discernment of the role of the United Church in Saskatoon and Area through meaningful Cluster meetings in 2024.

Meeting #1: Sept. 27th

Host - Mayfair United Church

Worship and Facilitation - GPUC

The meeting began with a check-in, each Community of Faith sharing where they find themselves. Reflections included: current energy levels, attendance trends, aspirations for growth, financial health, planning and actions around buildings, ministry sustainability for mission. Related Ministry reflections included: lack of regional council grants require fundraising efforts, restructuring of denomination, Saskatoon Theological Union efforts toward sustainability. All felt that the cluster gathering was an important step towards deeper collaboration for mission.

The cluster then turned to the General Council's strategic plan and our awareness of it. Conversation turned to the plan of growth within the document. What does that mean for us? What would it take for the United Church in Saskatoon to experience and participate in growth? Deep spirituality was discussed as to what that is for us, how it is changing and evolving for us and living the way and story of Jesus in our time.

Using the plan as background, breakout groups focused on ideas for cluster collaboration, generating several, preliminary ideas to create and enhance a UCC presence in Saskatoon and knowing we are better together. A few of the ideas included:

- Shared commitment to sharing the Gospel in Saskatoon and area, reconciliation efforts
- A collective commitment to outreach and social justice; embodying God's love in the world
- Using our assets, including buildings for community benefits
- Improve cluster in-house communication

Meeting #2: November 16th

Host - St. David's Trinity United Church

Worship - Delisle-Vanscoy United Church

Facilitator - Grace Westminster

This meeting included a check-in and breakout sessions for generating more collaborative initiatives. Three groups brainstormed about Outreach common denominators, which included: youth, music, communication task group and potential tools, finances, justice activity.

Three related Ministries presented, in keeping with our Outreach theme: Riverbend Integrated

Ministries, Ecumenical Chaplaincy and North Saskatchewan Chaplaincy. The purpose was to remind and inform the group, that Saskatoon and Area UCC ministry outreach groups exist, with which our Communities of Faith can actively engage. The need for support, in every way, is greater than ever.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Phillips
Grosvenor Park United Church

UNITED NETWORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN PALESTINE ISRAEL

Who We Are:

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine Israel (UNJPPI) was created in 2012, with the encouragement and support of The United Church of Canada (UCC).

UNJPPI is a cross-country grassroots network of UCC members and friends working for a just peace in Palestine Israel.

UNJPPI plays a dual a role:

- a) It **supports UCC efforts** in working for justice for all who live in Israel and the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, and for Palestinian refugees.
- b) It **encourages the UCC** to take bolder action to help achieve that justice.

UNJPPI and its coordinating team include active and former UCC clergy. Many served as ecumenical companions (EAs) in Palestine with the UCC's EAPPI program. Others went on "Come and See" tours.

UNJPPI does not file a formal annual report, but UCC members can keep up with its work by reading the monthly newsletter published on the unjppi.org website. Meant for those interested in learning more about Palestine Israel, it is a well-designed newsletter which gives you all you need to know for taking action. UNJPPI has Natalie Maxson and Curtis Marwood to thank for their excellent work.

UNJPPI's coordinating committee meets monthly. A representative of UNJPPI also joins monthly meetings with the Palestine Advocacy Network (PAN) which includes organizations such as OXFAM, Amnesty Canada, Independent Jewish Voices Canada (IJVCanada) and Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME). The network also includes experts such as former UN Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk, who advises on international law. It ensures UNJPPI's work is informed and does not have a restricted view.

This report does not attempt to include all that UNJPPI has been engaged in since last year's Living Skies Regional Meeting, but it provides some insight on UNJPPI's work and why it has taken its actions and stances.

The UCC and Palestine:

With the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, continued attacks on Christian churches in Jerusalem and the accelerating ethnic cleansing of the West Bank, it is relevant to revisit UCC's historical response to apartheid. Canadian churches were among the first to publicly protest against apartheid in South Africa. They persisted in pressuring Canada's government to take action against South African apartheid until Brian Mulroney's conservative government implemented trade sanctions (1986).

In 2009 Christian Palestinians, "in the absence of all hope" published a document "A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine ", which asked the world's churches to take a stance *against* apartheid and *for* justice in Palestine and Israel. It asked churches to apply "the same non-violent economic, political and diplomatic measures that led to the end of apartheid in South Africa."

In other words, recognizing the existence of apartheid and using the non-violent strategy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to pressure the Israeli government to end the occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and to respect international laws and conventions.

Today, students on campuses worldwide are asking for the same things.

In 2010, UCC recognized the Kairos Palestine document. In 2012 the church responded by adopting several resolutions on Palestine and launching the "Unsettling Goods" campaign, which encouraged a boycott of goods manufactured in Israeli settlements in the militarily occupied territories of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. These settlements are illegal under international and Canadian law. The Israeli settlements violate the Conventions which were adopted after WWII in order to prevent another Holocaust. The Canadian Centre for Israeli and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) responded with a moratorium on dialogue and partnerships with the UCC. Presently, the Unsettling Goods campaign is no longer active on the UCC website.

In July 2020, Global Kairos for Justice and Kairos Palestine reiterated their call "from the heart of Palestinian suffering" with "A Cry for Hope: a Call to Decisive Action."

Sadly, the UCC and other churches responded they could not fully answer this call.

General Council meeting (GC44):

It is UNJPPI's role to help UCC fulfill the commitments made in 2012. In General Secretary Michael Blair's words UNJPPI is: "to hold our feet to the fire."

The United Church has declared itself to be an antiracist church embracing '*deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice.*' UNJPPI was particularly frustrated therefore that at GC44 the voting on proposals in support of the Palestinian church from various regional councils was put on hold. These proposals included calls for the UCC to protest Palestine's occupation by calling the Israeli government 's actions "apartheid" and encouraging divestment from Israel. (BDS). This was almost two years ago.

UNJPPI Coordinating Team members who are commissioners reported that, despite UNJPPI's attempts, in the year leading up to GC44, to educate commissioners on the reality in Palestine Israel, commissioners in their GC44 discussion groups were not interested in listening, learning, or changing their positions on Palestine. The meetings took place on a virtual platform and UNJPPI commissioners noted this made it difficult to communicate with others.

Antisemitism:

Proposal GS14 on challenging antisemitism in the UCC did get approved at GC44 and this work has been referred to the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith (TICIF) committee. All members of UNJPPI's coordinating team have taken antisemitism training provided by Independent Jewish Voices Canada (ijvcanada.org).

In April 2023 UNJPPI reminded the TICIF committee of the "Bearing Faithful Witness" statement, adopted by the United Church in 2003, which stresses the importance of "distinguishing legitimate criticism of the actions of the state of Israel from illegitimate assault

driven by concealed prejudice." UNJPPI strongly advised the committee *not* to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism (IHRA WD). UNJPPI urged the committee to use the Jerusalem definition, rather than the bias of the IHRA WD, which considers any criticism of the Israeli state to be antisemitic. This definition includes the rallies calling for ceasefire, an end to genocide and upholding international humanitarian law. The Jerusalem definition states: "Antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice, hostility or violence against Jews as Jews (or Jewish institutions as Jewish)."

CIJA, represented at GC44 and a strong proponent of the IHRA WD, claims to speak for all Jewish Canadians, but Canadian Jewry is not a monolith and there are numerous progressive Jewish voices, such as Independent Jewish Voices Canada, who do not equate criticism of Israel's actions with antisemitism. See the resource: [How Not to Fight Antisemitism](#). In fact, a 2023 survey showed 31% of Jewish Canadians wanted CIJA to be more critical of Israel and 59% thought Israel was moving the wrong way. Young Jewish Canadians' voices have been prominent: in the streets, on campus and inside MPs offices since October 7th.

Advocacy:

UNJPPI continuously advocates for Palestinian rights by communication with UCC and Canada's leadership: Numerous letters were sent to UCC's executive and Canada's leadership, all calling for action rather than words. We urged the UCC leadership to follow the example of other churches, in the US and in Canada, who have already answered the "Kairos Cry for Hope." UNJPPI also endorses campaigns, petitions and letters prepared by other Palestine advocacy organizations such as Project Ploughshares.

New Resources We Developed:

UNJPPI's worship committee created an advent worship resource with a Palestine focus. People who are wondering why the crisis between Gaza and Israel has erupted can read [Why is this Happening](#), by UNJPPI member Philip Sherwood, and [Understanding the Basics: Israel Palestine](#) compiled by UNJPPI Natalie Maxson.

UNJPPI and UCC members in Halifax collaborated with the Mennonite Central Committee to create a Land Exercise. It is similar in format to the Blanket Exercise. Training will be offered at the UNJPPI gathering in Toronto in October, which is open to everyone who is concerned about human rights in Israel and Palestine. Considering the urgency, materials and instructions for do-it-yourself training are available upon request. (Contact Renee Nunan-Rappard at nunantr@gmail.com)

Resources in Progress:

UNJPPI hosted a webinar on our BDS Strategy which we developed last year at the request of those present at our annual gathering. The strategy is on the unjppi.org website. We are now working on detailed information on what to boycott and why, starting with the companies that were part of the Unsettling Goods campaign.

UNJPPI's work is directed by the outcome of GC 44. Education of commissioners is put on hold while we concentrate on including progressive Jewish voices in UCC's antisemitism work and empowering congregations to use BDS to stop Israeli apartheid and end the occupation.

UNJPPI and UCC members were much moved by the Rev. Munther Isaac's message to churches around the world. On Dec 23, 2023, Canadian pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Ferguson, a UCC theologian, and social justice advocate, was part of the delegation led by South Africa to this Bethlehem service in support of the Palestinian Christian church. This service and Rev. Isaac's message is available to view on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/aEGiANa0-ol>

This is what UNJPPI CT members see:

In Canada:

UNJPPI and UCC members pushing their church to speak up and take action; organizing webinars; and educating themselves on what is – and what is not – antisemitic.

In Saskatchewan:

- In Saskatoon UCC and MCC collaborated on the Lenten Ceasefire pilgrimage, a 41 km long (the length of Gaza) meditative walk.
- One of the UCC churches hosted a three- part weekly documentary film series on Palestine during advent. This was so well received by audiences that it was followed by another weekly series after Christmas. Films screened included *Roadmap to Apartheid*, *Born in Gaza*, *The Occupation of the American Mind*, and *Israelism*. Interviews with Jewish Israeli modern historians Avi Shlaim and Ilan Pappé were also shown. The church followed up by reaching out to other denominations and succeeded in setting up monthly screenings rotating between the three different churches.
- A 4-hour online antisemitism training workshop with IJV Canada.
- UNJPPI and UCC participation in weekly rallies and marches for ceasefire and
- UNJPPI and UCC members talking about human rights violations in Palestine wherever they can.

Future Plans:

- Apartheid Free Zones
- Guidelines for boycotts
- Land exercise
- UNJPPI in-person gathering in Toronto, October 2024, open to all.

Stay informed by reading the UNJPPI Newsletter.

Submitted by
Renée Nunan-Rappard
Member, UNJPPI Coordinating Team
Lanigan,SK
nunantr@gmail.com