



## Preparing for The United Church of Canada Centennial

Prairie to Pine Regional, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit Regional Councils, Summer 2024

### Monthly Themes

June 2024	Love is Louder (2SLBGTQ2IA+)
July 2024	Ministry with Children and Youth
August 2024	Arts, Architecture and the Church
September, 2024	The Indigenous Church
October, 2024	Food Security, Justice and Sustainability
November, 2024	Justice and Advocacy
December, 2024	Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Partnerships
January, 2025	Emergency Relief and Disaster Response
February 2025	Becoming an Anti-Racist Church
March 2025	Celebrating the Ministry of Women
April 2025	Climate Justice
May 2025	Making a Difference through Public Engagement
June 2025	The United Church of Canada: A Faith for Today

### Activity Suggestions for Communities of Faith

#### 1) Storytelling

Based on the Centennial Monthly Themes, hold storytelling times with your Community of Faith. Gather together in a circle or at a podium, in small groups or all together, and share the stories that resonate from your own past and the past of family and friends who are no longer with us. What memories and emotions do these themes bring up? How has your Community of Faith lived these themes? What stories do you want to share just with the people in the room, and what would you like to share with future folks?

If there is interest and ability, consider having a designated Storyteller(s) whose job it is to collect some or all of the stories in their entirety or in snippets. If you record the stories, then consider gathering volunteers to create written summaries or transcripts of them, so they can be preserved for future generations.

## 2) Photo Share

Does your Community of Faith have photos of the present and the past? If you do, are the photos described with the 5 W's: Who? What? Where? When? Why? Gather together, pour a cup of tea, and try to name the people in your photos.

Bring in personal photos that you or your people have taken that embody Church life to you (and/ or the Monthly Themes), and share them with your community. Pass them around in a circle, post them on Facebook, make a PowerPoint, print a copy and tape it to a wall... there are lots of ways to share and collectively remember moments from our past. Consider contacting your provincial or territorial archives for photos of your community and church; look at the wider historical context of your area, or the country, as you investigate specific periods in your church's history.

Consider selecting some, describing them in detail, and sending a physical print copy (or the originals) to the Archives.

## 3) Review Your Archives

What archival records are held at your Community of Faith? Maybe folks would like to see old Bulletins, newsletters, or minutes? **Remember that baptism, marriage, and burial records should not be shared publicly, for privacy reasons.** Are records stored safely at your Community of Faith? If not, this year may be a good year to transfer them to the Archives. Contact the Archivists for further information about organizing records.

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## Other Resources

General Council's Centennial website, which includes a newsletter: <https://100unitedyears.ca/>  
Your Regional Council will hold Centennial meetings or special events over the next year.

### What Can the Archives Do?

Summer 2024 is a great time to get in touch with the Archives while there is extra help. The Archives can likely do some scanning of records and a little bit of research for you, but time is very limited. The Archivists work part time so please be aware of capacity limits, and get your requests in! A starting place is to ask what the Archives already holds for your community of faith or ministry.

### Share Your Ideas

What ideas have come up in your Community of Faith? What might you want from the Archives/ Archivist? Any ideas to share? Please reach out to the Archives so these can be shared!

### Contact Information

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