

From the Bishop's Desk...

Stronger Together...

These past few months I have travelled throughout the Territory, our Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon and as far as Ontario for both National House of Bishops and Council of General Synod. Regardless of where I am, the same words keep coming to the surface in conversations and in our deliberations: *We are stronger together!*

At our Assembly at the end of May we gathered in Quesnel to meet, for fellowship, to worship and pray, and to build relationships as we discerned together matters that affected all of us. We successfully updated our bylaws and some of our policies. A question was raised as to how often we need to gather in-person as an Assembly. Several options were named, and in small groups, Assembly members considered the possibilities. Everyone came back to the larger group to emphatically say: *We are stronger together!* We want to meet regularly (every 2 years), even if there is some cost associated with that. Our relationships, our time together and the work we do together in the name of Christ matters.

At the House of Bishops and at Council of General Synod, much of our time is on the Transforming Pathways Taskforce work with the six pillars of focus. This includes governance, National Church House structures and resources, Inclusivity and diversity, communications, Sacred Circle and ACIP, and Council of the North. Each group is discerning what needs to change, what needs to be upheld and protected as core values and purpose. While it is still early in the process, it is clear that the reason we are looking at how we operate as a church, what structures are to be in place, what resources are needed, and how will these changes enable us to continue to live out the gospel that we are called to embody and proclaim? We are naming that we must do this work and ministry together, collaboratively and prayerfully. Why? Because *we are stronger together*.

The same thing emerged at the recent Provincial Summit 2.0 event in Kelowna that brought representatives from all six dioceses/territory in BC/Yukon together. The first event was in November 2023 in Vancouver which allowed us to begin identifying ways that we might work together and share our resources as a Province. This 2.0 event allowed us to go deeper and to keep the conversation going while making further commitments to do what we say we are going to do. We came away from this gathering with a renewed sense of purpose and strengthened relationships allowing us to be *stronger together*.

It reminds me of the story in Luke 10 – Jesus calls more disciples to go out in pairs to preach, heal and minister to those they meet along the way. They are not to do this work alone. The pairs of disciples return from their mission with enthusiasm, ready to share stories of their adventures, describing how God had been working in and through them. They return, ready to learn more and for Jesus to continue teaching and inspiring them in their ministry. They discover they are stronger together, and that even as they are going out in pairs, they keep returning to Christ for renewal and more teaching. We are describing what it means to be the church. This is our faith, our story, what it means to be a disciple! Friends, we ARE *stronger together!*

In Christ's Service,

+Clara

Bishop's Schedule July/August

July

Jul 3-5 – BC/Yukon Provincial Summit 2.0 – Kelowna BC

Jul 5-6 – Provincial House of Bishops Meeting – Kelowna BC

Jul 13 – August 3 – Bishop Vacation (3 weeks)

August

Aug 9 – St. Paul Cathedral

Aug 10 – VST Board Meeting (Zoom)

Aug 23 – St. Paul Cathedral

Prayer Corner



- * We pray for our neighbours, families, and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
- * We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline, and Ernie Michell.
- * We pray for the Council of the North dioceses and their bishops.
- * We pray for leaders around the globe as they seek to work for the common good.
- * We pray for all who are confined by illness or isolation, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others. We pray for caregivers, for strength and encouragement.
- * We pray for places in need of peace, especially in the Middle East: Palestine, Israel, Iran, Syria, for Ukraine, Russia, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- * We pray for those who suffer through environmental disasters such as earthquakes, fire, floods and cyclones, especially Venezuela.
- * We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn.

News Around the Territory

Assembly Highlights & Reflections

We are Yeast - Brian LaPointe, Assembly Member from St. Peter's William's Lake

The 2026 Assembly in Quesnel was an excellent adventure. Our Quesnel parish people fed us well spiritually and physically. Thank you. We met many old friends and met new ones during our discussions. We reviewed some of our history and talked of plans for the future. It is confirmed. We are yeast.

Some highlights for me were:

-Each community has local support projects. When we support Alongside Hope, we are helping communities in Canada and around the world.

-Our Territory offers opportunities to grow through training sessions. Two recent graduates in a congregational development course shared their stories for us to consider.

Our First Nations members told their stories from their heart about their resilience in overcoming residential school experiences they have faced. Their faith, prayer, songs, and communities give them strength. Our continuing support and prayers are offered for all Indigenous people.

-Archdeacon Deborah Meister's presentation strengthened our connection to the Diocese of Montreal. She spoke of the stories of Quebec's history and an apparent fear of cultural change brought on by the influx of new entrants into their communities. There is a deep longing to witness and embody a different way, a better way, a table wide enough for all. God sends us to different lands, as he has with Bishop Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu, to share our stories and grow.

-We are reminded we are new creation. Bishop Clara stressed "that it's okay to take reasonable risks and to experiment a bit so that we can test our vision, mission, and goals. We know that if we simply keep doing things the way we have always done so, we will not be able to move forward into the future where God is leading us." Each table was asked to share their thoughts on changes we might try. We are left to consider changes that might work for our parishes. There were more items talked about to explore. Seeds were planted.

Now they need to invest some yeast, fertilize, water, and nurture new growth in the Spirit of God's creation and Christ's Guidance. Put new ideas to work.

Paulet Rice – St. Hilda's mission Church on Spence's Bridge

Hello all,

This was my first ever anything on the paper side of any church. Therefore everything was very new to me. The meetings were well thought out and very interesting to me.

The speakers were well spoken and informative.

All in all the drive was lovely with Reverend Linda Lagroix and Karen Rooke.

The services and meals were so lovely. Such good people, nice to put faces to those we've been praying for.

Thank you

Paulet Rice

Clergy News

Congratulations to both Rev. Linda LaGroix and Rev. Angus Muir on their recent retirement. We wish them well in their respective endeavours, giving thanks for their ministry and presence among us.

The bishop has appointed the Rev. Martina Duncan as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Alban's Ashcroft and St. Hilda's Spences Bridge effective July 1, 2026.

The bishop has named Idowu Aina as a postulant discerning a call to ordination to the priesthood. He is based at St. Paul's Cathedral in Kamloops.

Other News

Consecration of Bishop Vincent Fenga – Diocese of Yukon – June 19, 2026

Bishop Clara joined the bishops of the Province of BC/Yukon for the consecration of Bishop Vincent Fenga in Whitehorse, Yukon. It was a beautiful service filled with joy and enthusiasm. There were several Zimbabwean clergy from across Canada who came to support Bishop Vincent and added their voices of singing and celebration throughout the service.

CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION OF
THE 13TH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF
YUKON



RT. REV. DR. VINCENT
FENGA

Provincial Summit 2.0 – Kelowna BC – July 3-5th

Representatives from all six dioceses/territory of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon gathered for Summit 2.0. This was the second gathering of the Province since November of 2023. The purpose of these Summit conversations was to intentionally build stronger relationships between dioceses/territory and to consider how we might work more closely and share resources so that we might strengthen our ability to share the gospel wherever we are. Our Territory participants included the bishop, Dean Kyle Norman, and our two Provincial Council members, Rev. Jo Ann Hinter and Marie Hays.

Here is **A Letter Home** written by Marie Hays.

Dear friends,

I write home to you as your Laity representative to the BC/Yukon Provincial Council.

This a summary (from my perspective), of what transpired at our recent weekend in person meeting in Kelowna, July 2026.

The worship services we had throughout the meeting were excellent and kept us deeply focused on the Spirit of God working among us.

There were six working sessions where many issues related to the current and future health and welfare of the Anglican Province of BC and Yukon were discussed. An experienced facilitator helped guide us through these conversations.

This following is a summary of some of the issues which I, as a lay person thought were important.

- 1) What is the heartthe core message of our Anglican faith and how do we express and live it out in our local parish, Territory and Provincially? By Loving God and by loving our neighbours as God loves us.
- 2) Where did we as Anglicans in this Province come from, and what is our past, our history?
- 3) How are we going to meet the challenges of the future especially in an era of uncertainty (even chaos) and wherein does our hope lie? How do we stay rooted in love amidst the challenges of the Climate Crisis, the onslaught of Artificial Intelligence, tariffs and other threats to our economic welfare and sovereignty as a nation, and the multiple escalating wars around the world?
- 4) How do we restore balance to the large human and financial inequities within our Anglican communion.....the divide between sparsely populated remote /rural areas of Yukon and Northern BC, and the densely populated urban centres of the lower mainland?
- 5) How might we collaborate to share our resources in a more equitable manner?
- 6) How are we progressing in lifting up and empowering ..Indigenous Nations, along our joint journey of Truth and Reconciliation?... our youth and young adults? ...and our laity?
- 7) Observations were made by some parishes, of an increase in baptisms and confirmations with more people attending church, especially young adults who seem to be spiritually hungry for a deeper meaning to their lives.
- 8) That each of us, laity and clergy, are responsible and accountable for, our own spiritual formation and that this is a lifelong calling/commitment as Christians, as lovers of Jesus.
- 9) Conversations were had about sharing bible and book studies online at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels. Some people expressed the desire to learn more about the Desert Mothers and Fathers, the Monastic and 14th Century mystics as well as other more modern-day spiritual writings

which may help us delve deeper into spiritual practices like meditation, contemplation and centering prayer.

- 10) We discussed that we are not 'alone or isolated' as parishes within the province and how it is so important for us to recognize and give thanks for the multiplicity of blessings we have received from God and from each other.

Every representative at the Provincial Council meetings was asked to make an 'action commitment' coming out of the weekend. My action was to communicate the above information back down to the all the congregants of our Territory, as soon as possible.

I believe my action has now been fulfilled.

If you have any questions about the BC Provincial Council, I would be delighted to answer them as best as I can, from a lay person's perspective.

Respectfully submitted

Marie Hay

July 10, 2026.

Laité Representative from the Territory of the People, to the BC /Yukon Provincial Council



Around the Territory – Assembly 2026 Photos





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