

General Council 45 in Review

While it is true that General Council met in person in Calgary in August, we also met online in April, two times in June and once since, in September. This significant time commitment helps frame the United Church of Canada of the future. Thank you to our Youth Delegates: Elijah , Alex , Sheina, Heather , Scott , Tejiri, and Tobi; and our Commissioners: Eileen Antone, Linda Badke, Linda Britton, Tabitha Carey, Jonathan Forbes, Louise Hall, Keith Kaiser, Laurie O’Leary (alternate), Lilian Patey, Erin Stirling, Kerry Stover, Laura Swan, Dave Whiting, Pam Wilcox, and Brie Wohlers. Here are some of the reflections from our time at GC45.

What stood out for you about GC45?

The sense of connecting to the bigger denomination and a sense of community. The plenary sessions were full of life. Pam

The energy that the youth brought to all sessions. Good to see songs from the new hymn book, “Then Let Us Sing” incorporated into the services. Dave & Linda

The wisdom of the Youth. Louise

Coming from a small congregation with fewer youth, it made me hopeful for the future of the United Church. Keith

Great to see all parts of the church: young and old, indigenous, minorities working together and being very hopeful. Tabitha

It was refreshing and invigorating to be a part of such a gathering. I wish everyone from my home church could be a part of this. Laura

Good to see others from across the country, and to speak out against injustices like in Palestine. Lilian

We need to move away from the ABC’s as markers of a successful church. That is A – Attendance (having a few dedicated people may be a sign of a successful church); B – Building (we perhaps should not be so tied to big, old impractical buildings. After all the church is the people.); and C – Cash (While we need cash flow, it shouldn’t be the main focus.). This came from Karen Georgia Thompson, our guest speaker. Richard

The compassion showed by those at my table. Linda

What was your favourite part of the meeting?

Karen Georgia Thompson’s presentation was excellent. Louise, Pam & others

I loved that the youth spoke with boldness. Tabitha

The conscious effort by those who made up the table groups to have a diverse set of voices at each table. Keith

The Fellowship opportunities and the connection made with others. Linda & others

How did you see the spirit at work during the meeting?

The spirit was moving in conversations around the table. Pam & Tabitha

The service of apology to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Dave, Tabitha, Richard, Laura & others

The feeling of hope after meeting, discussing and being presented with so many opportunities. All participants