

# GROWING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM

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## THE LAURC COVENANT

NICHOLAS JESSON

*Nicholas is the Ecumenical Officer and Interfaith Relations for the Archdiocese of Regina.*

Since 2011, the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina have shared a covenant which continues to call us to "a new stage in jointly building up the body of Christ in our dioceses." Certainly, our covenantal relationship is not our only ecumenical or ecclesial relationship. Our partnerships in local ministerials, regional ecumenical projects, interchurch coalitions, councils of churches, and shared ministries have contributed to a rich ecumenical life across Saskatchewan. We are therefore enthused to incorporate the Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses of central and northern Saskatchewan within the covenant.

The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Canada have been full communion partners since 2001. The full communion between the Ukrainian Catholic and the Roman Catholic churches occurred in 1595 and has seen a renaissance in mutual sharing and learning since Vatican II and the end of the Soviet occupation of Ukraine. The 2011 Anglican-Roman Catholic covenant envisioned a time when the Lutheran and Ukrainian Catholic communities would join us in this renewed covenant. Now is the opportune time to broaden our covenantal promises and to invite our communion partners to share together in work for visible unity.

In April 2020, the ten bishops of Saskatchewan, including all three Anglican dioceses, the four Roman Catholic dioceses, the ELCIC Saskatchewan Synod, and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, signed the covenant. For many years, the bishops of our four churches have met at least twice per year to discuss matters of common interest.

"The gathering has been called the LAURC bishops. The new covenant has therefore been dubbed the LAURC Covenant. We give our thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the gifts we have received and which we have come to recognize in each other, for the joy we have come to know in our life in Jesus Christ, and for the renewed and life-giving relationship which has come to us from the Holy Spirit. To God be the glory, in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:21)."

LAURC Covenant | Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan  
([archregina.sk.ca](http://archregina.sk.ca))





# GROWING TOGETHER ARCHIVES

## A RECIPE FOR UNITY or HOW TO COVENANT (17th Series, 2001 Volume 1)

**Something to consider when it is safe to gather again.**

### Ingredients:

- 2 or more congregations or parishes
- An openness of mind and heart
- Generosity of spirit
- Interest in other human beings, their beliefs and traditions
- Willingness to take time to visit
- Desire to make God smile

**Method: Mix the above ingredients as follows:**

**Visit one another.** Send bulletins, newsletters, interesting information about who you are and what you do. Become familiar with each other's building. Invite the other's staff to lunch regularly. Worship with the other.

**Eat together often.** Christians and food seem to be complementary ingredients. Enjoy potluck suppers. Share your traditions around food.

**Tell your story.** Begin discovering your own story. Make a time line from the beginning of your congregation's history by drawing a line lengthwise across the middle of a long paper. Note the significant events for your church family according to date and as you remember them. You don't have to dig into history books. Underneath the line record events that were happening in the world. Using another colour, describe where God was during each event. How was God leading you? Then come together with your partner/s. Share your stories. Together focus on how you perceive God has been acting in your histories. Finally, make 3 charts: God's Actions with us, Our Differences, Our Similarities.

**Pray together and for each other.** Become aware of the Spirit's activity in your midst.

**Celebrate.** Enjoy what you can do together. Recognize what you can't.

Make banners and parties. Sing one another's music. Make sure the officials of your denomination are aware of what you are doing. Don't keep your relationship a secret!

**Work together.** Discover the needs in your community. Determine how to remove the causes of those problems. Invite people with knowledge to help you choose activities for social change.

**Covenant.** When you and your partner/s have developed a deepening relationship over time, you may want to declare that relationship publicly. Committing yourselves to a holy friendship. Decide and state clearly how you will live out this friendship: prayer, Bible study, discussion groups, community projects, socializing. Come together to celebrate and announce this covenant in a special service.

**Serves a multitude! Be prepared for others to want the recipe.**

### PICTURE THE RESULTS!

*Your parish/congregation becomes enthusiastic. You do not lose your identity! You add a fresh dimension to your relationship with God and your Christian neighbours. You value differences as gifts and together you face important and difficult questions. Church has new meaning!*



# GROWING TOGETHER ARCHIVES CONTINUED

## ABUNDANCE AND SCARCITY IN A CULTURE OF FEAR

This article, originally written in 2010 in response to H1N1, is applicable to today with COVID-19.

Not enough! We have heard that phrase a lot in the last year. There isn't enough vaccine! There isn't enough protection! There isn't enough time to get everyone vaccinated in order to stop the spread.

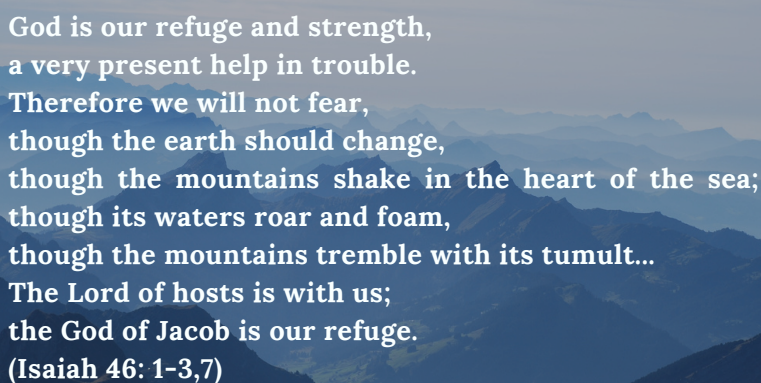
Last fall, the H1N1 panic demonstrated how possessed we are by the media. Television and the internet constantly suggest that we must be afraid of everything that might get us, dupe us, harm us - even kill us. We are kept in a constant state of anxious high alert - whether it be financial, social, or health-related. H1N1 dominated the television and internet news for weeks, bumping aside the ongoing genocide and poverty plaguing millions of people around the world.

Prior to this health crisis, the media used many other frightening situations to keep everyone glued to the source of all such information. We saw it in the bombing of the Twin Towers when American news reports dominated every television channel for weeks. Even as we were told that we must be vaccinated, the vaccine was not to be available for several weeks. To have patience at a time of uncertainty and fear is no easy task. Of course, Christians know all about waiting and can handle it well, right? Perhaps! Having faith in God does help us understand that we are not in complete control of our lives, giving us strength to get through whatever trials we have to face. But, despite our faith, waiting in fear and uncertainty sometimes overwhelms us.

Accustomed to having control, we may use God as a crutch only when we have run out of more attractive options. Many of us, Christians included, do not know how to truly surrender ourselves into God's care.

When we feel that all control is lost, we often try to find someone or something to blame. By allowing media coverage to determine the severity of a crisis, such as H1N1, it is easy to lose a sense of proportion when the pandemic is compared to the many other ongoing crises in the world. What does our faith tradition have to say in the midst of a crisis such as the H1N1 pandemic? If Jesus had words for us, what would they be? The scriptures remind us that God is in control, overseeing all that happens! Trust the scientists, doctors and nurses who are working to prevent the spread of H1N1. As well as they can, they are doing the work God expects them to do. Meanwhile, if we must wait or even if we succumb to the disease, we trust in God, who is there with us - in the person of Jesus.

In the midst of frustration and fear, Jesus walks beside us supporting us along the way. There is the hope and faith we are given to get through time such as these.



God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult...  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
(Isaiah 46: 1-3,7)



**Save the date:**  
**Cross-Canada Service of  
Prayer for Christian Unity**  
**"Abide in My Love"**

*(cf. Jn 15:5-9)*

Saturday, June 5

3pm EDT/1pm in Saskatchewan

*Further details will be coming soon.*



## SUPPORTING THE PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM

Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20 by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, charitable B/N registration #1075 6633 RR 0001. Please feel free to contact us at [admin@pcecumenism.ca](mailto:admin@pcecumenism.ca) for further information.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

**ONE TIME GIFT** - May be made by cash, cheque or credit card by calling the Prairie Centre office at (306)653-1633 or online through Canada Helps

### MONTHLY PRE-AUTHORIZED

**GIVING** - The Prairie Centre's monthly donations are administered by the United Church of Canada's PAR Program

### MISSION AND VISION

The Vision of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism is the full visible unity of the Church – one body with many members.

At the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, we seek to call all Christian churches, regardless of denomination, to the goal of visible reconciliation and unity for the world's sake, expressed in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship in Christ (cf. Eph. 4)

### STAFF AND BOARD OF THE PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM

#### Staff

**Cathryn Wood** - Program Coordinator

#### Board members

**Mary Nordick**, Board Chairperson - Roman Catholic

**Larry Mitchell** - Anglican

**Michael Williams** - Anglican

**Brian Maitland** - United

**Martha Fergusson** - Presbyterian

**Roberto DeSandoli** - Presbyterian

**Murray Patzwald** - Lutheran

**Stewart Miller** - Order of St Lazarus

## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

*(Each issue will feature one of our board members!)*



**Murray Patzwald** serves our board as the Lutheran lay representative and is the head of the personnel committee. He currently lives

Regina with his wife Bernadine. They have two children, Marina and Jordan (Alana) and two grandchildren, Samuel and McKenzie. One of his favorite Bible verses is Isaiah 43. 1 "Fear not, I have called you by name,.. you are mine."

He was born in the small farming community of Balcarres, SK and then later moved to Regina with his family. A strong commitment to church attendance and living out his faith has always been an important part of his life. He had thoughts of becoming a Lutheran minister but God had other plans for him and called him to be a social worker. During his 29 years as a social worker, Murray worked in many different programs with the Ministry of Social Services.

He had the opportunity to provide direction and leadership to community members in the development of promoting equity, fairness and diversity through employment opportunities.

For the last 25 years he has been very involved with sharing his faith at local, provincial, national and international levels. He was also one of Saskatchewan Roughrider chaplains for 10 years.

Over the last 15 years he has had the pleasure and privilege of leading worship for parishes in the southern part of the province, bible study leader, presenter at various workshops and a facilitator for the Strengthen Ministry of the synod where pastors/congregation were going thru conflict. He has been a resource person and speaker at various workshops and has recently been approved as an authorized lay minister for the ELCIC (Sask Synod).

He feels extremely blessed to be used by God to share and use his gifts for his Glory!



Farewell to 40 days of Lent and  
Welcome to 50 days of Easter joy!  
May the resurrection of our Saviour be a  
constant reminder of His love and  
promise of eternal life.  
Easter blessings and prayers  
from the board and staff at the  
Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.



Find us on Facebook and Instagram  
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Instagram @pcecumenism



### CONTACT US

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