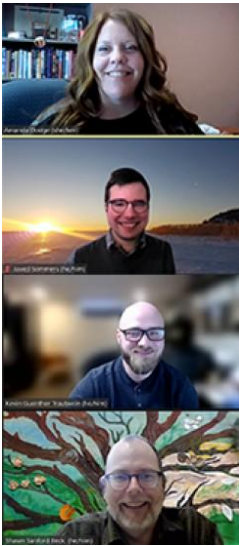


February 2023



KAIROS PRAIRIES NORTH NEWSLETTER



From the Coordinating Committee: Help wanted!

The KAIROS Prairies North (KPN) Coordinating Committee (“Co-Co” for short!) is always looking for volunteers to join the Co-Co or help in other ways.

The Co-Co meets around 10 times a year and our main responsibilities involve coordinating the KPN annual gathering, this newsletter, and generally “animating” KAIROS activity throughout the region (Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories).

We welcome anyone, whatever your age, connections (or lack thereof) to KAIROS —if you have energy for this work, we want you! In particular, this could be a great opportunity for young people with an interest in getting involved in social justice and/or getting some “low-stakes” governance experience.

If you’re interested or want to learn more, please email us at: kairosprairiesnorth@gmail.com.

Yours in faith and goodwill,

The Prairies North Coordinating Committee
Kevin Guenther Trautwein (Convener)
Shawn Sanford Beck (Regional Representative)
Javed Sommers (Treasurer)
Amanda Dodge (Secretary)

Regional Highlight: Calgary



Activating Hope Through Wild Church

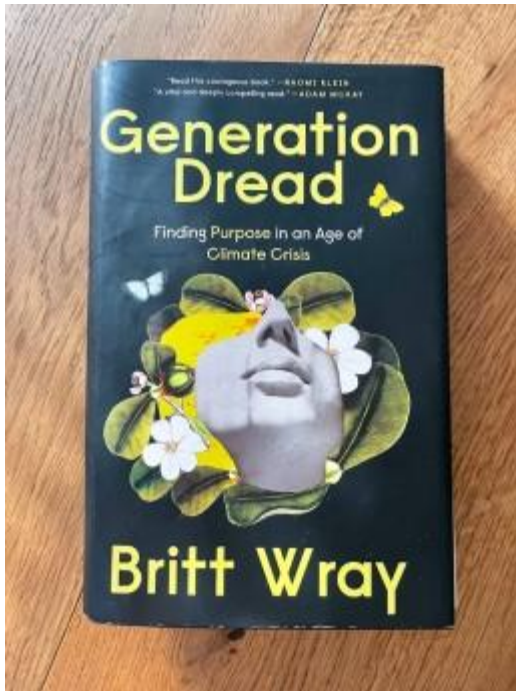
by Robin Galey, Wild Church Calgary

At the KAIROS Calgary meeting in October, we considered ways to activate hope for the future, and Wild Church offered one option. Wild Church activates hope by inviting people to reconnect with creation through direct experience, rather than explanation. Like mushrooms on the land, Wild Church gatherings are popping up in communities across Canada, offering a hopeful response to some societal problems. In response to increasing social isolation, Wild Church supports connection with the larger-than-human world on which we depend. In response to the dis-embeddedness of modern life, Wild Church invites us to reestablish, as Norman Wirzba says, “sacred ties of kinship and community with land and life.”

We come together in wild spaces and practice embodied presence. By being still and listening well, we can reinhabit—re-member—our place in the natural cycle of life, and re-form reciprocal relationships with the land, forests, creatures, and watersheds that contribute to the ecological well-being of this beautiful green and blue jewel called Gaia, our living earth.

To learn more, email: wildchurchcalgary@gmail.com; visit: www.wildchurchbc.org and wildchurchnetwork.com or read: “Church of the Wild” by Victoria Looz or “The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age” by Norman Wirzba. Hope to see you in the wild!

Photo credit: wildchurchnetwork.org



Living Water...Living Faith

This online community explored the effects of climate change on mental health and the significance of the incarnate Body of the Christ.

The Lutheran congregations of the Alberta synod have been reluctant to engage the climate crisis and the need for climate justice. There are many identified reasons. Most congregations were stuck at prayers and conversations. Becoming aware of the work of Britt Wray and others, a theory appeared that congregations were not prepared to engage the external work of climate justice without first engaging the inner work of their individual and corporate climate grief.

The following process was designed and implemented: The group met once a week for 75 minutes on Zoom during a 6-week period in Oct-Nov, 2022. The session topics were: Building Sanctuary; Climate Anxiety and Grief; Grieving Well; Imagining What If?/What Next?; and What Can We Do Individually and as Community?. The foundation for the series is the book "Generation Dread: Finding Purpose in an Age of Climate Crisis" by Britt Wray, Ph.D. The process was sponsored by the CARE Committee of the Alberta Synod of the ELCIC and Camp Kuriakos.

The process was structured around solid research regarding climate grief and anxiety. The response of the Christian Community is grounded in the biblical story of incarnation, suffering and death, rising to life, and being sent into the world for its healing and fulfillment. There was an experienced dynamic of grief reacting with fright or flight, embracing that risk in community, and finding support for transformation, moving into a different kind of risk in mission strengthened by love, hope, and community.

To learn more and/or engage in similar process, contact: Rev. Dr. David Saude, elcicsaude@gmail.com or 204-806-9004.

Photo credit: [Miss COCO Photography](#)

Upcoming Opportunities



A Stellar Resource!

KAIROS elder and friend Rev. Bob Haverluck has made available several copies of his amazing book "The Court Case of the Creatures". Told from the point of view of our more-than-human neighbours, and illustrated with Bob's characteristic zany zeal, this book will enchant the young and old alike. Supplementing the story itself are songs and worship resources which can enhance your eco-themed sermons and study groups. KAIROS Prairies North would like to send you a copy of this book to add to your church's resource room, your local community's library, or your activist circle's book club. To request a copy, simply send an email to kairosprairiesnorth@gmail.com with your mailing address and a short description of how you plan on using the book. We'll be happy to send it your way!

decolonizing our churches, re-weaving our lives: experience, reflection, transformation

Greetings, friends! Mark your calendars now for the second annual "Four College Summer Conference" to be held in Saskatoon from June 20th through 22nd, 2023. This year, as promised, we will be exploring the theme of decolonization with a particular focus on the role and responsibility of our various churches in working toward truth, reconciliation, right relationship, justice, and healing. We have chosen dates around National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) as a way to step out of our ecclesial comfort zones into the vibrant learning-spaces of local community celebrations. And as we tend to the work of decolonizing the church, we may just find ourselves gifted with the re-weaving of our own lives as well...

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KAIROS Canada

faithful action for justice