

Learning Pilgrimage Delegation – Latin America and the Caribbean

The United Church of Canada Learning Pilgrimage delegation to Latin America and the Caribbean will be visiting Mission and Service partners in Cuba in June 2025.

Lisa Byer-de Weaver



Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, I attended the Centre for Christian Studies and am graduating this March 2025. As someone who has navigated the many worlds of color, culture, gender, and language my whole life, I am passionate for creating space for dialogue, learning, and deep listening where everyone has the opportunity to share their authentic self.

Widowed and mother of three, I identify as having mixed West Indian and Indigenous heritage. As a student of diaconal ministry in The United Church of Canada, I have served as the minister for Kahnawake United Church in a First Nations Reserve, as the Executive Director to Saint Columba House, a community ministry of the United Church and, more recently, Merging Waters United Church in the West Island of Montreal. I co-chair our Region's Right Relations circle and have been a social justice activist for as long as I can remember.

In a world where siloed narratives and resistance to the “other” is the norm, I believe we have the opportunity and responsibility to not only foster coexistence but co-resistance. Not only because our faith invites us to do so but our humanity compels us to.

E.K. Murray



E.K. Murray lives on the unceded territory of the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, and Syilx peoples, and has been involved with The United Church of Canada since 2009. Currently, they are working with Campus United in Pacific Mountain Region as a Community Connector. They studied intercultural communications at Busan University of Foreign Studies, and are currently in the Peace and Conflict Studies program at Selkirk College.

Outside of the church, E.K. has participated in delegations and diplomatic missions in both Central America and Asia. They are passionate about international relations and peacebuilding and are slightly obsessed with collecting small musical instruments.

Lucy O'Brien



Lucy O'Brien (she/her) is a youth ministry worker from Vancouver Island, BC. She has been a passionate leader in First Third Ministry in BC since 2008. She is currently working at Broad View United Church in Saanich and The Abbey Church, a church plant in downtown Victoria.

She lives with her partner, their four-year-old daughter, and an elderly cat named Lola in Victoria. She is also pursuing a BA in the Religion, Culture, and Society program at the University of Victoria. She sits on the Board of Directors at Camp Pringle, a United Church camp on

Vancouver Island, and is very enthusiastic about camping ministry. She is also an avid gardener, a bicycle commuter, and a very amateur knitter.

Thea Sheridan-Jonah



Thea Sheridan-Jonah (she/her) is a White settler with mixed European ancestry who grew up on unceded Mi'Kmaq land in New Brunswick, then in Treaty 14 and the Head of the Lake Purchase in Ontario. She currently lives on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations in Vancouver.

Thea is an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Indigenous Studies. Thea is passionate about working within and beyond our

systems to advocate and make change rooted in community care and radical love.

As the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors and the co-president of the Vancouver chapter of Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP) she advocates for sensible policy, recognizing the harm caused by the colonial legal system. She has worked at the UBC Wellness Centre as the Substance Use Health Project Assistant for three years, facilitating harm reduction services, awareness campaigns, and scoping policy reviews. Thea is also the Treasurer of the Pivot Legal Society, a law firm that is committed to legal reform and community organizing for drug user liberation, sex workers, and against poverty and the housing crisis.

Within the church, Thea serves on the General Council Executive, General Secretary Supervisory Committee, and the Pension Committee, as well as regionally on the Pacific Mountain Regional Executive and Centennial Planning Committee. Thea has also worked for the United Church on summer contracts for the past four years as the General Council 44 Youth Forum Coordinator, then the Climate Motivator Program Co-Coordinator for two years, and most recently as the Youth Leadership Animators Co-Coordinator, she has been hired for this role again for the summer of 2025. Thea is proud of this work because working for justice is a central part of her faith.