

The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada

3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200 Toronto ON M8X 2Y4 Canada 416-231-5931 | 1-800-268-3781 united-church.ca | egliseunie.ca

100 years, 100 Tables: United Church invites Canadians to the table with Centennial initiative

Toronto, ON (June 9, 2025) – To mark its 100th anniversary on June 10, 2025, The United Church of Canada is launching 100 Tables, a national initiative inviting communities across the country to transform a picnic table into a site of welcoming that reflects the church's century-long commitment to justice, compassion, and inclusion. These gatherings are visible signs of a continued promise: to meet people where they are, both spiritually and physically.

The launch comes at a time when many Canadians are reimagining their relationship with faith. A new survey by The United Church of Canada found that 49 percent of the Canadians surveyed believe in God or a higher power, but only 11 percent shared that they attend worship services at least once a month.*

The survey also revealed that 45 percent of respondents identify as spiritual but not religious, and 63 percent are more drawn to community-based church activities than traditional worship.* Young adults in particular are reimagining their engagement with spirituality. While less likely to attend weekly worship, those aged 18–34 report relatively stronger involvement through personal reflection, volunteering, and local events.*

"By bringing faith into everyday spaces, we honour this diversity and offer new ways to belong," says Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada. "We meet so many people longing for connection. Churches remain one of the few places where you can walk in and be welcomed just as you are. 100 Tables brings that welcome into the heart of our communities."

The themes of each table are shaped by local needs and priorities. Some will focus on food security or environmental stewardship, while others will celebrate 2S and LGBTQIA+ inclusion or deepened relationships with Indigenous Peoples through acts of Reconciliation. Whether rooted in justice, healing, celebration, or connection, each table is a meaningful and transformative expression of faith in action.

These gatherings build on the church's legacy of inclusion—from ordaining women and affirming 2S and LGBTQIA+ people, to its 1986 apology for its role in colonization and residential schools, and its commitment to becoming an intercultural and intentionally Anti-Racist church.

"As The United Church enters its second century, 100 Tables is both a celebration and a call to action," says the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada. "In a time of growing polarization and disconnection, these gatherings boldly proclaim that another way is possible, one rooted in justice, peace, and radical belonging. Having a place at the table means being seen, heard and valued—not just present, but empowered to help shape what comes next."

Rolling out throughout 2025, 100 Tables is a living expression of The United Church of Canada's centennial theme: Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice. Closely linked to the church's recent <u>A Place at the Table</u> initiative, which was a photographic reinterpretation of *The Last Supper* created to affirm a commitment to radical belonging, 100 Tables continues the centennial celebration by embodying inclusion and justice in action.

To explore stories, find a table near you or learn how to host one, visit our website.

* An online survey was conducted by Callosum among 1,048 Canadians between March 27 and April 6, 2025. Respondents were men and women aged 18 and over who were not practicing members of a non-Christian religion and who did not express strong opposition to or strong favourability toward attending church worship services or activities

For media inquiries, please contact: Halli Gallo Halli.Gallo@mediaprofile.com Consultant, Media Profile 647-654-1550