

## The Partner Council 2019–2022

The Partner Council of The United Church of Canada was established in 2011 as part of the United Church's commitment to live into its partnership principle of mutuality and accountability, "[Reviewing Partnership in the Context of Empire \(2009\)](#)." It enables partner voices and input to be heard at all levels of the church, including governance structures, and affirms the importance of global partner accompaniment of the church as we continue to live out God's mission in Canada and globally.

The Partner Council reports to the Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada.

### The Partners Advisory Council is intended to:

- Connect to various ministries, regions and structures of the United Church bringing global perspective, wisdom and experience.
- Deepen understanding of United Church context informed by global perspectives.
- Reflect back to the United Church their perspectives of United Church ministry in Canada and globally.
- Offer advice on how to effectively engage in partner consultation.
- Offer advice on General council programs that may benefit from a global perspective
- Be a lens for checking United Church policies and practices to ensure consistency with partnership principles
- Bring to the United Church's attention critical global or regional issues that might have an impact on our common mission/ministry work
- Serve as a mechanism for feedback regarding specific United Church policy decisions that might have an impact on global partners

### The following are the council members for 2019–2022:

- **Kangwa Mabuluki**, General Secretary - All Africa Theological Education by Extension Association
- **Parul Chaudhary**, Program staff - ASTHA Sansthan (India),
- **Mara Manzoni Luz**, Centro Regional Ecu mico de Asesor a y Servicio (Argentina)
- **Samer Laham**, Director of Emergency Response Services - Middle East Council of Churches
- **Necta Montes**, General Secretary -World Christian Student Fellowship
- **Jennifer Henry**, Executive Director - KAIROS-Canada

### Partner representatives

**Africa: All Africa Theological Education by Extension Association (AETEA)**

**Kangwa Mabuluki (Zambia)**

Based in Lusaka, Zambia, AETEA is an association of institutions offering distance theological learning for 25 countries in Africa. AETEA acts as a coordinator for programs, encourages

member engagement in critical social issues offering seminars and training related to key social justice issues such as ecology and HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ2S rights. AETEA focuses on for training grassroots leaders.

**Kangwa Mabuluki** is the Director of AETEA. He has been involved in ministry and the ecumenical movement for more than 30 years.

### Asia: Astha Sansthan

#### Parul Chaudhary (India)

Astha Sansthan works to enable marginalized and deprived people to mobilize themselves around issues that concern them including women's empowerment (particularly for single women, and women involved in local governance structures), land/forest rights, livelihood, issues of tribal people and people who are differently-abled. Astha Sansthan takes a rights-based approach to programming.

**Parul Chaudhary** is a program staff person in Astha Sansthan. She has worked loosely with grassroots women's organisations, supporting capacity building and leadership development efforts.

### Latin American and the Caribbean: Centro Regional Ecumenico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS)

#### Mara Manzoni Luz (Argentina)

Founded in 2000 and based in Argentina, CREAS, the Regional Ecumenical Advisory and Service Centre, is a regional network of professionals that offers training and consulting relating to planning, communications, financial reporting, governance, and structures to nongovernmental organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Mara Manzoni Luz** is Regional Director of CREAS. She is a lay leader of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil with decades of global ecumenical experience, grounded in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Middle East: Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)

#### Samer Laham

The Middle East Council of Churches is a fellowship of 27 churches in 12 countries in the Middle East. The MECC strives to be a true and credible witness to justice and peace in the Middle East, building fellowship between member churches and building relationships of understanding and respect between Christians and peoples of other faith. A key MECC focus is response to humanitarian crisis in the region.

**Samer Laham** is the Director of Emergency Response Services for the MECC.

## Global Ecumenical: World Student Christian Federation

### Necta Montes

The World Student Christian Federation is the oldest international student organization, founded in 1895. As a federation of student movements, the WSCF empowers and connects responsible young leaders around the world in their path to changing tomorrow. WSCF describes its mission as “empowering” students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world by being a space for prayer and celebration, theological reflection, study and analysis of social and cultural processes, and solidarity and action across boundaries of culture, gender, and ethnicity.

**Necta Montes** is the Federation’s outgoing Secretary General, and has served in that position since 2016.

## Canada: KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

### Jennifer Henry (Toronto, Canada)

KAIROS Canada is a coalition of Canadian churches, church-based agencies, and religious organizations dedicated to promoting human rights, justice, and peace, viable human development, and universal solidarity among the peoples of the Earth. It is a decisive and faithful response to God’s call for respect of the Earth and justice for its peoples.

**Jennifer Henry** is the Executive Director. She has worked for KAIROS and its predecessor coalitions for 20+ years.