

## Partner Council

The Partner Council is accountable to the Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry (PCPMM). Its role is to

- provide advice during the planning of United Church mission/ministry priorities
- 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 the 2016–2018 triennium:

- **Jennifer Henry**, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Canada
- **Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde**, United Church of Zambia, Zambia
- **Reuel Marigza**, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Philippines
- **Horacio Mesones**, Regional Ecumenical Advisory and Service Centre (CREAS), Argentina
- **Necta Montes**, World Student Christian Federation, Global Ecumenical

Two global partner representatives are corresponding members of the Permanent Committee, Programs for Mission and Ministry (PC-PMM). The global partners currently appointed are

- **Horacio Mesones**, Regional Ecumenical Advisory and Service Centre (CREAS)
- **Cheon Min Heui**, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

### Partner Council 2016–2018

KAIROS Canada,  
Toronto, Canada

Jennifer Henry

**KAIROS** 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 current Executive Director of KAIROS Canada. She has worked for KAIROS and its predecessor coalitions for almost 20 years, and currently serves on KAIROS staff as the Manager for the Dignity and Rights and Fundraising Teams.

World Student Christian Federation

Global Ecumenical

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. We encourage a culture of democracy to mobilize youth to become proactive in society, promoting positive change through dialogue and action between different traditions and cultures. 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**, appointed as the federation's new Secretary General in January 2016, will oversee the

implementation of Strategic Plan that makes clear WSCF's commitment to work for ecological justice; identity, diversity and dialogue (IDD); peace building and dialogue; and higher education. Montes believes the implementation of the plan is key to the organization's transition from an "organization that was heavily focused towards itself, its own survival to an organization that is oriented towards its mission to the world." Montes went on to say, "I have no doubt that as [a] generation of young and committed SCMs take part in God's work for justice and peace in different parts and context of the world, WSCF's legacy of building ecumenical leaders will continue."

#### The United Church of Zambia, Zambia Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde

Founded in 1965, the **United Church of Zambia** is a united and uniting church formed by a union of four denominations established by missionaries in the late 1800s and early 1900s. UCZ is Zambia's largest Protestant church. It has been at the forefront of providing quality education; theological training for its leadership; health services in rural Zambia; training in agriculture; and development programs for the people across the country. The United Church of Canada has been partnered with UCZ since it first began. The UCZ is committed to the spreading of the gospel to reconcile the world to God through love, provision of sustainable spiritual and physical growth of people, and respect for God's creation.

**The Rev Dr. Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde** is an ordained minister in the United Church of Zambia, currently serving as the first female General Secretary of the UCZ. Peggy has a long and abiding interest in gender justice issues in church and society and has been involved with many organizations working with these, and other social justice issues in Africa and globally.

#### CREAS Argentina Horacio Mesones

Founded in 2000 **CREAS—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 non-governmental organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the years 2005–2013, CREAS was a beneficiary of successive co-financing programs of The United Church of Canada and the former CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency.) CREAS has been a global partner of the United Church since 2000.

**Horacio Mesones** is the current Coordinator for Training and Advisory Services at CREAS. A Methodist from Uruguay, Mesones has been involved with the Student Christian Movement for most of his life, first in his native Uruguay, and later as the Regional Coordinator for the WSCF—Latin America & Caribbean. He is the immediate past president of the WSCF and is also a member of the Permanent Committee, Programs for Mission and Ministry of The United Church of Canada.

#### United Church of Christ in the Philippines Philippines Bishop Reuel Marigza

*"A transformed church and society towards an abundant and meaningful life for all."* **The United Church of Christ in the Philippines** has been a model of bold, prophetic witness. Believing the church exists for mission, the UCCP equips its members to engage in active ministry with the whole community, with a particular focus on human rights, democracy, just and lasting peace, and economic and ecological justice. The UCCP is a Protestant mainline group with around a million members and 2,218 pastors in 3,112 congregations. The United Church of Canada and United Church of Christ in the Philippines have a long history of relationship and cooperation.

**Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza** is the General Secretary of the UCCP, serving as Bishop, Church Administrator, and beloved Pastor among pastors. His ministry has had a life-long impact on young people. Living out the prophetic calling in his defence of human rights and civil liberties, Bp. Marigza has provided strong leadership to UCCP and its human rights work and formally filed six cases of human rights violations committed against UCCP members. Prior to his election as General Secretary of UCCP, Bp. Marigza taught at the Divinity School of Silliman University.