2027 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." *(Luke 12:32)*

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY

The 2027 WPCU international and Canadian resources are available to download at:
www.weekofprayer.ca (English)
www.semainedepriere.ca (French)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) is an annual ecumenical celebration which traditionally takes place between January 18th (the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) and January 25th (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul) in the northern hemisphere. In celebrating the WPCU, Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on Scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical worship services and events, and to share fellowship.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Campus Ministry

We encourage you to check out the many Canadian resources, as well as further information on the international theme and materials for 2027 WPCU, available for free download on our websites: ***www.weekofprayer.ca*** / ***www.semainedepriere.ca***.

Campus chaplains are invited to make use of these materials in a variety of ways to encourage greater awareness among students, faculty, and staff of the work of ecumenism in general and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in particular.

We encourage you to be creative in your use of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resources! While the WPCU is normally celebrated in January each year (January 18-25 in the northern hemisphere), you may choose instead to have an event at another time that makes sense for your campus, or a series of events spread throughout the school year. This year's worship and Bible study materials focus on living a communal life of radical trust, vigilant hope, and responsible service, and they may pair well with other events that your campus may host related to peace, justice, and reconciliation.

The following are three suggestions for using the 2027 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials in a campus chaplaincy context:

1. **"Eight Days of Prayer" resource**
   We encourage you to use the *Reflections and Prayers for the Eight Days* resource, which provides materials for group study and reflection on what we believe and how we express and live out our faith in today's world. You can use this resource to offer worship, or Bible Study and discussion sessions, once monthly or twice a term, rather than daily over a single week.

2. **Ecumenical Worship Service / Ecumenical Celebration**
   The WPCU worship service / ecumenical celebration itself may be organized for celebration on or off campus. We encourage you, if it suits your campus ministry, to reach out to your local parishes and congregations to see what WPCU celebrations are already being planned and what participation your campus ministry could have in these services and events! An *Abridged Order of Worship*, suitable for a campus context, is also available on www.weekofprayer.ca / www.semainedepriere.ca.

3. **Theology on Tap / Soup and Scripture / Informal gatherings**
   You could invite a speaker or speakers* to an informal social gathering such as "Theology on Tap" or "Soup and Scripture". They could be experts or people knowledgeable on the Gospel of Luke or the image of God as the Good Shepherd, including their history, theology, and how they impact Christians today. You can also invite speakers to reflect on Christian unity and how that looks across Christian traditions.

   We recommend that your speaker(s) share their insights for 20-25 minutes, followed by questions, or better yet, group discussions! This may have the purpose of starting conversations about particular projects to undertake as a result of reflecting together on this year's WPCU theme, or it may be directed simply towards raising the visibility of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the ecumenical movement overall.

   **Please note that it often takes time to find the right speaker. We suggest reaching out at least 2 months in advance of your event. You may want to check in with your local ministerial group or contact Marina Fanous of The Canadian Council of Churches at wpcu-spuc@councilofchurches.ca, and she may be able to direct you to a speaker in your area.*