

MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL
Annual Report to the Prairie to Pine Region 2024

Manitoba Multifaith Council continues its partnership with the wider United Church community, through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We embrace this opportunity to honour this relationship.



Meetings: The Manitoba Multifaith Council continues to meet regularly. Most meetings are held in person. The Annual General Meeting for 2024 was held on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Cambridge Street.

Guest speaker, John Longhurst has been the faith page columnist at the Winnipeg Free Press since 2003. Earlier this year a collection of his columns in the Free Press was published, titled **Can Robots Love God and Be Saved: A Journalist Reports on Faith**.

Here are a few highlights of the year.



Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding

Loraine Mackenzie Shepperd, a retired United Church minister was the 2023 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding. Loraine has worked extensively with many faith communities to promote and develop inter-religious understanding within some of the faith communities that co-exist within the city

of Winnipeg.

Multifaith Leadership Breakfast

Premier Wab Kinew was the speaker at the leadership breakfast held on April 11, 2024, at the RBC Convention Centre. In his remarks the premier said that the Speaker of the House recites a prayer at the start of every legislative session. This prayer was adopted around 1937 and has not changed. Many of those present felt that the prayer of 1937 does not reflect the multifaith community that exists today. The *Premier's Prayer summit* is meeting soon to address this concern.

The various committees, Community Relations, Education, Justice and Corrections and Spiritual Health continue to hold events which address the needs of the community. In November, the Spiritual Health Care committee hosted a half day workshop on *Positive Effects of Spirituality and Religion on Mental Health*. There were 36 participants at this event.



Multifaith Calendars 2025

In the 2025 **Multifaith Calendar - Pathways to Peace** artists were invited to reflect deeply on these perennial questions and to channel their visions of peace into artwork that soothes the spirit, uplifts the soul, inspires others to action, and ultimately offers solace to a divided world. We hope you find that the included art evokes a sense of both comfort and optimism. Now

available for purchase.

Submitted by Diane Dwarka

Board Member, Manitoba Multifaith Council