

2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” (John 15:5-9)

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE IN CAMPUS MINISTRY SETTINGS

At the time of writing this resource, our nation is facing the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and a wide variety of physical distancing measures. Any of these suggestions can be adapted to online sharing as necessary.

Chaplains are invited to make use of these materials in a variety of ways to encourage greater awareness of the work of ecumenism in general and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in particular.

While the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is normally celebrated in January each year, you may choose to have events leading up to this week spread throughout the school year. The week itself (January 18-25, 2021) provides an important opportunity to pray together as Christians for the express intention of unity.

We encourage you to check out the many links to resources on our websites, www.weekofprayer.ca / www.semainedepriere.ca, including further information on the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, a group of religious sisters from different churches and countries who were responsible for the international materials this year: <https://www.grandchamp.org/en/community/>

The following are three suggestions for use of 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials in a campus chaplaincy context:

1. **Biblical Reflections and Prayers for the Eight Days**

This resource may provide material for an ongoing reflection on ecumenism by offering 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 worship service itself may be organized for celebration on campus (this year's worship service has a contemplative, retreat-like feel and may lend itself to an evening prayer service) or you could reach out to the local parishes and congregations to see what participation your campus community may have in a WPCU celebration hosted by your local community.

3. **Theology on Tap / Soup and Scripture / Informal gatherings**

You may use the topic of ecumenism to highlight the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for your community in the informal or social gatherings you normally host by inviting a speaker on the topic. Your speaker could share insights for 20-25 minutes, followed by

questions, or better yet, group discussions. This may have the purpose of beginning conversations about concrete actions towards particular projects that may be undertaken as a result of reflecting together on this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme, or it may be directed simply towards raising the visibility of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the ecumenical movement. Please note that it often takes time to find the right speaker. We suggest reaching out at least 3 months in advance of your event. You may want to check in with your local ministerial group or contact Maria Simakova of The Canadian Council of Churches (simakova@councilofchurches.ca), who may be able to direct you to a speaker in your area.