

Report from the Chair of the Planning Committee for GC46

General Council 46 is being hosted by Horseshoe Falls Region in 2028. This is very exciting news. This gives our Region the opportunity to host people from across Canada - representatives from other regions, General Council and Regional staff, youth and children - as well as United Church partners from across the world.

The gathering will happen at Brock University in St. Catharine's, from Monday, July 31 to Friday, August 4. Several from the planning committee visited last December and were graciously given a tour. It's a great location for hosting such a large meeting and for housing several hundred people. St. Catharine's is also a great location for offering our guests opportunities to explore the area, from Niagara Falls, to wine country, as well as the experiencing the justice work done by many of the churches in our Region.

The planning committee meets once a month. From our Region, we have Mark Laird, our Executive Minister, Laura Black, our First Third Ministry Faith Formation Minister, who will lead the planning for youth, and Rev. Martha Lockwood, a longtime resident of the Niagara Region, who has taken on the responsibility of local arrangements. We are currently looking for someone to represent the indigenous people of our region. Of course, each of these people will be looking for support in their work, so if you have interest in being on the local arrangements team or Youth Forum team, or would like to help during the event, you can talk to me, or any of the others I have mentioned.

I don't have much more than that to report for now. We'll soon be able to announce a theme, and we'll send information to regions before the end of the year on voting for commissioners.

It's exciting to have General Council in our Region and I hope many of you will join me in supporting this event and warmly welcoming all those who journey to St. Catharine's. **Mark your calendars for July 31-August 4, 2028** and I hope to see you there!

Deborah Laforet, Diaconal Minister
Leading the congregation of St. Paul's, Oakville