

Greetings Merging Waters,

June 30th, 2020

As we approach Canada Day, tomorrow, we are also beginning this Sunday the Combined services with our United Church neighbours on and around the West Island and GMA. Our series this summer will be looking to lifting up the ways that the United Church of Canada lives out our faith in justice and inclusion.

This week we will be looking toward work in international justice with specific attention to global mining issues. The United Church of Canada has a specific page that discusses how mining impacts people around the world as well as the environment – [Mining Resources and Extraction](#). 75% of the world's mining companies are Canadian and in recent years many of these companies have been accused of practices and policies that damage both the Earth and the people in many nations. [The Beaconsfield Initiative](#) started by Beaconsfield United has offered first hand eyewitness to the behaviour of the Canadian Mining Industry in the Philippines. The reality of Canadians profiting off of the violation of human rights and wanton destruction of the Earth brings us many questions as Christians, let us ask ourselves some:

- On June 13th we heard of the universality of our actions. Injuring others, is injury to the Divine, while caring for others is showing care for the Divine, ([Matthew 25:40-46](#)).
 - o If Christ called upon those who follow his message to stand up for and stand with the oppressed how do we do this today?
- What other actions are needed to reflect our care for all creation in how we respond to actions that destroy precious biodiversity and assault human dignity?
- If we learn that Canadian corporations or individuals are committing atrocities around the world in the name of profit what are we as Canadians and as people of faith inspired, motivated, called, or even responsible to do in response?
- What is the blessing here? Do we have a chance to be of help to all those in this situation?
 - o In what ways can we be the dreamers/imagineers who help others find ways that lead to healing from past hurts and perhaps newer practices of commerce and even resource utilisation and extraction that are less damaging?

Asking the big questions together, while lifting up the ways that we as people of faith are already striving to make the world a better place for all, is how we will journey this summer. Let's celebrate together and individually.

Peace and hope,

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