



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

November 30, 2017

Following our practice at the General Council Office that the Wednesday chapel service is based on the lectionary for the following Sunday, we have begun Advent already.

Advent, that precious time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. We talk about it as a time of waiting, but in the inspirational words of the [Rev. Dr. Lukas Soko](#), it is a time when God invites us into the future. It is a time to receive God's message of hope for us.

Thinking of it this way, aren't we surrounded by messages of hope?



Miriam Spies (left) offers theological reflection at the Executive of the General Council meeting.

This week our Prime Minister issued a [formal apology](#) to LGBTQ Canadians in the House of Commons. Our past Moderator, Gary

Paterson, was part of the group who was involved in the wording of this apology. He was there as the voice of faith communities.

Another story that touched my heart this week was an early morning CBC report about an [autistic teenager](#) who is expressing himself and communicating with the world through art. If you look at his pictures on the web, they are beautiful!

At the General Council Executive meeting two weeks ago, the [theological reflection](#) was offered by Miriam Spies, a young minister who represents our church on the World Council of Churches. Reflecting on the 1 Thessalonians passage that ends with the words, "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing," she spoke to us of humility, belonging, and "the unlikely power of faith, hope and love."

I would love to hear about the signs of hope in our world that you are seeing in this Advent time.

Nora

[Photo: Michael Blair, The United Church of Canada]

This message has been sent to subscribers to the General Secretary's Letter, "Note from Nora."
