

Proposals Received

Thursday, May 21, 2026



Pacific Mountain Region - Proposal Form 2026

Submission Deadline: May 21st, 2026

Name of person submitting this proposal Keith Simmonds

Proposal Name The AC Forrest Prophetic Ministry Award

What is the issue? Why is it Important?

There are prophets among us. Some well known with wide audiences, some struggling to be heard as they work for social change. Most go unrecognized, many pass from sight without recognition or gratitude.

Establishing an award in the name of Rev. Dr. Al Forrest would at once recognize the gifts and struggles his prophetic voice brought to our church and our country and require us to attend to voices that, like his, sometimes irritate as much as they invite.

What is happening now?

Our church and our country wrestle with many issues that seem to hold competing values and thus generate 'heat' in the conversation. We are gifted with voices that call us to attend to colonization and its by-products: Indigenous Rights, climate disruption, mining justice, migrant justice, war profiteering, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, poverty shaming, trauma blaming, abundance distribution, proclamations of scarcity and many more.

Some of those voices get under our skins. Penetrating to places of unrecognized darkness they insist we confront bias, assumption, privilege and genocide in all its forms. Ear worms for justice, they will not go away. This proposal aims to lift those voices up, celebrate their presence and help us attend to the subject of their passion with an hermeneutic of thoughtful engagement.

What is the recommendation?

that the General Council of the United Church of Canada to establish "The AC Forrest Prophetic Ministry Award"; and

that the award be granted to a person exemplifying Rev. Forrest's passionate commitment, able representation and ability to - in the best tradition of Palestinian and Israeli discourse - pop a popular bubble of complacency with a thorn of pointed analysis driven by discontent with the social agreements/understandings of our day; and

that the Justice Ministers of the Regions (or equivalent) be granted the responsibility to nominate and select an annual recipient.

Background Information

Prophets are appreciated from a variety of perspectives. Sometimes, when the prophet enters the room, our eyes glaze, our minds wander, our desire to be somewhere else sets in. Sometimes we can't wait to be engaged in conversation, to hear their perspective, to read their thoughts. Sometimes we feel threatened by their insistence and we insist they mute their voices, quell their anxieties.

Our church has received and opposed the gifts of many prophets. We would be nowhere on our journey without them. Church Union, Votes for Women, AntiPoverty work, the Social Gospel, Women in Ministry, Biblical studies, Reconciliation, Racism, Colonization, Two Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, plus. All and more, taken up and championed by people who insisted on a place at the table for all.

Most recently we have been gifted by many prophetic voices calling us to attend to the situation in Palestine and Israel. A situation we can name, thanks to the prophets among us, as a Settler Colonial response to a racist European holocaust that found broad support in North America.

Rev. Dr. A.C. (Al) Forrest was one of those prophetic voices, not the first, nor the last but perhaps, in his day, the most well known, most celebrated and most villified. He spoke truth to power and used his pulpit (he was Editor of the Observer from 1955 - 1978) to speak clearly, frankly, openly and honestly about the plight of Palestinians. He generated a great deal of interest. Much of it positive. In 1973, after speaking and editing with filters removed, he was deemed to have gone too far. Censured, disowned and in someways, dishonoured, he kept his place as editor, but died in 1978. Some say he was broken by the attacks, not from without, but within.

There are many online sources to gain information about Al and his prophetic voice. Some of the best from Zionists. His book, "An Unholy Land" (1971) can be read via this link: <https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/the-unholy-land-by-rev-dr-a-c-forrest/>

Funding Implications

Some Justice Minister time? Could the award have a financial gift attached?

How does your proposal align with the priorities of the Region?

This Award would publicly acknowledge and therefore support the Region's Commitment to supporting Faithful Public Witness and Leadership (lay and ordered leaders are prophetic).

How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

This Award would lift up individuals committed to engagement around all of the church's equity commitments and those yet to be identified through their own prophetic voices.

Will you be present at the AGM to speak to this proposal? Yes



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Name of person submitting this proposal Jill Halliwell

Proposal Name Supporting DRIPA

What is the issue? Why is it Important?

The B.C. government's commitment to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) is eroding, and the Opposition Conservative Party strongly supports withdrawing the act, which was unanimously supported when first passed. Intentionally misleading information has been circulated to erode public support for DRIPA. As a church committed to justice and to reconciliation, we as the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada have a responsibility to call provincial politicians to honour their legislative promises made through DRIPA, to work honestly with Indigenous Peoples of B.C., and to uphold legal Indigenous rights to their lands.

What is happening now?

In the face of the serious faltering of the government to uphold DRIPA and its response to related Court decisions, on February 18, 2026, West Coast Environmental Law released "A Joint Call: BC must recommit to meaningful implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act," signed by more than 130 B.C. non-profit associations and individuals, including The Very Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Member Heiltsuk First Nation and Former Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and Amanda Burrows, Executive Director, First United Church Community Ministry Society, Vancouver.

What is the recommendation?

We recommend that PMRC join with these many voices from across B.C. and become a signatory to endorse the Joint Call, and encourage all United Churches in the region to do the same. The full letter can be viewed here:

<https://www.wcel.org/media-release/joint-call-bc-must-recommit-meaningful-implementation-un-declaration-rights>

Background Information

The United Church adopted the UN Declaration On the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples, and adopted Calls to the Church from the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle as the basis for a new relationship. We must be diligent to uphold our promises to walk the path of Reconciliation.

Funding Implications None.

How does your proposal align with the priorities of the Region?

Completely aligns: the United Church of Canada supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples of Canada, and DRIPA helps enable justice related to stolen, unceded land.

How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

This proposal is fully consistent with our commitments on equity, by persisting in calling government to just actions towards full reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and First Nations. There remains much work to be done, and this is another step reminding us to walk in humility with Jesus.

Please provide a name and contact information of someone that will be present at the AGM to speak to this proposal. Nancy Painter, Minister, Ladner United Church



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Name of person submitting this Keith Simmonds

Proposal Name Kairos II

What is the issue? Why is it Important?

November 16, 2025 marks an historic event in Palestine - the release of Kairos Palestine II: "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide." Palestinian Christians initiate a theological and political declaration about their lived reality and address the global ecumenical family.

This document represents the call and the cry of Palestinian Christians in which Palestinians are "living in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing, settler colonialism and forced displacement". It details the catastrophic assault that the Israel government has inflicted on Gaza, even while in the West Bank, Israel supports the confiscation of land, the expansion of settlements and outposts, the unchecked violence inflicted by settlers, the multiplication of checkpoints and other restrictions. Palestinian existence has become "a living hell."

Kairos Palestine challenges the global church, asking, "How can one speak of Christian Fellowship or communion while denying, supporting, justifying or remaining silent before genocide." United Church and other ecumenical partners present bore witness to the lived realities in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, a situation that is worsening every day. Palestinian Christian siblings caution that a global church that remains silent is a church that has lost the understanding of its role in God's mission.

Why is the issue important?

This Kairos Palestine II statement follows previous declarations, including the initial December 2009 document, "A Moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering," and the July 2020 letter, "Cry for Hope." These documents make clear the challenges Palestinians face. The faithful witness of Palestinian Christians in the midst of such hardships appealed for global Christian solidarity. "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide" is a letter to the church amidst the devastating catastrophe of genocide and carries a particular urgency that must not be ignored. This proposal echoes to Pacific Mountain Region the words of the December 11, 2025 Global Ministries' Joint Statement on the Kairos Palestine II document: "We are grateful for the efforts of our members in this shared work. Now we urge you to continue to do what is necessary to effect change."

What is happening now?

The genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestine and now Southern Lebanon continues to grow in size and character. With no signs of abatement Palestinians, wherever they are are, under constant and ongoing assault. The government of Israel, no longer content to moderate its methods has kidnapped advocates for peace, tortured and sexually assaulted those who struggle against the occupation, displaced thousands from their lands and has now approved the death penalty for Palestinian prisoners.

The government of Israel, funded by and under the direct oversight of the Government of the United States, with the support of the government of Canada, among others, attacks peace and human rights advocates wherever it finds them. With all Palestinians under threat and direct attacks against Christians, Muslims and other human rights defenders growing daily, it is time to pay heed to the voices of the oppressed who, in Kairos II, cry out for justice and lay out steps we can take alongside them.

We conclude with the affirmation from Kairos Palestine Document II:

“From the land of the Incarnation, the Cross and the Resurrection, we renew our word of hope in the God of the poor, the oppressed and the downtrodden. The genocidal war has sought to strip us of our hope and faith in God’s goodness and in life upon our land. Yet we declare our adherence to our faith in a holy and just God, and in the right God has given us to live with dignity on our land and the land of our ancestors. This is our hope. This is our steadfastness. This is our resistance.”

What is the recommendation?

That Pacific Mountain Region endorse, take up the actions of the General Council Executive of the United Church of Canada by:

1. Receiving Kairos Palestine II “A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide” and endorse it for study, reflection and action by the Region, United Church of Canada people, Communities of Faith and other ministries;
2. Endorse for engagement by the Region, United Church people, ministries, communities of faith and the Governments of Canada, British Columbia and Yukon (as relevant) the actions in Kairos Palestine II including but not limited to those calling on people of conscience to:
 - name the reality truthfully;
 - To work for the creation of an alternative, just and humane world order as the present global system has failed in its most important responsibilities: to defend the weak and to preserve international peace and security;
 - advocate for accountability and international law
 - reject theologies that justify oppression: reject and refuse to legitimate hateful ideologies such as Christian Zionism, Islamophobia and antisemitism;
 - encourage courageous and costly solidarity with the people of Palestine and especially the diminishing Christian community; and
 - support creative, nonviolent resistance, specifically but not solely boycott, divestment and sanctions.

Background Information

Our Region has adopted and is living into becoming an Apartheid Free Community. A key principle in justice work revolves around and has embedded within it a preferential option for the lived experience and thus the voices of the oppressed. In Palestine and Israel, Christians are a significantly oppressed people who, in Kairos II, call the international church to account for our historic support of the Government of

Israel and to stand with them and all Palestinians in this time of Genocide. To recant, renew and reapply ourselves in solidarity with them. Being Apartheid Free is a step, Kairos II is the rationale, a list of tools and a prophetic outcome.

Funding Implications

Social Media and Website placements. Other campaign materials as deemed helpful by the Region through its advisory bodies.

How does your proposal align with the priorities of the Region?

This proposal gives guidance, support and assurance to Communities of Faith, Ministry Personnel and those seeking a lived response to the justice issues of our time. It aligns well with the Region's support to faith communities, leadership and faithful public witness.

How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

This proposal deepens the ways in which the church lives out its Creed, its expressions of faith and its commitments to partnership, anti-racism and anti-oppression. It calls for deepened engagement with oppressed communities facing genocide, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing

Will you be present at the AGM to speak to this proposal? Yes