

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 7, 2020

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2. **Wider Church Information:** The October 2020 Prayer Cycle for the UN International Decade for People of African Descent is available!; Let the (Choir) music ring out (virtually)
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### **1. Living Skies Regional Council News:**

#### **Registration for Living Skies Regional Council Meeting **now open!****

The moment you've been waiting for all fall (right?) is now here! Registration for the postponed meeting of our regional council is now open. If you are a delegate or plan to be a visitor, [please use this registration link](#). There is no cost. **Registration deadline is Friday, October 23.**

The meetings will take place on Zoom **Wednesday, October 28 from 7:00-9:00 PM and Wednesday, November 4, 7:00-9:00 PM**. The meetings will open at 6:30PM to allow you time for test your internet connection and get comfortable. A separate, optional Zoom orientation and practice will be available. Details such as the Zoom link, phone number, and agenda will be emailed to registrants directly, and the full docket of meeting documents will be publicly available on the website.

Many communities of faith experienced serious disruptions of their annual meetings because of spring COVID closures. In turn, this may have affected your ability to elect lay delegates to this meeting. **If your ministry has not yet had a chance to choose your lay delegate(s), please do so as soon as possible.**

Many thanks to members of the annual meeting planning committee, who moved with grace into planning a very different meeting. Together, we will make this work. Questions? Please email Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)

#### **Docket for the Regional Council Meeting**

Please watch the Living Skies Regional Council website Regional Gathering page for docket sections as they become available. You can get to the Regional Gathering page by going to the [Living Skies Regional Council website](#) and clicking on the Regional Gathering button or by [clicking here](#). All sections should be posted by the end of the week.

**Background on Remit 1 and voting on it**

Remit 1 proposes a simple but very important gender-inclusive change to the language describing who is eligible to be a minister. [Please find here a short resource](#) to help voting delegates and the wider church understand how the Remit works; what the proposed change is; why it makes a difference; and to access further resources. Please note that the wording of the Remit cannot be edited or changed in any way. Living Skies Regional Council delegates will vote on the Remit on November 4.

**Reminder: be careful with photo copyright! Here are some tips**

Photos are vital to our websites, social media, worship PowerPoints and much more. They add a lot to our online ministry and in-person PowerPoints. And they're sometimes a little too easy to take and share. So please beware, and follow good copyright practices.

Even photos shared on Regional Council or national church websites and social media may not be copyright-free, or may have paid and negotiated sharing permission that isn't obvious. This includes photos that may appear in national newsletters and related web articles. With many of our worship services now streaming on YouTube and Facebook Live, we also need to be extra careful with photos that appear in our PowerPoints. [Click here for some further information](#), resources, and ideas for copyright-free or fair use photos.

**Embracing the Spirit grant deadline coming up Oct 15**

The next Innovation & Growth Grant application deadline is coming up on October 15, which means that all of your pondering about what's next could actually be a grant application to explore what that might mean...

Thinking about a brand new idea but not sure if it's a good enough, or something worth pursuing?

That's exactly what Innovation Grants are for! You'll get between \$500 and \$5,000 to explore a new idea; it could be a garden, a program, something online, a new partnership, an idea that came from a community partner, or something that you have been thinking about for a while, but never found a good time to start. [Learn more](#).

**Gentle Covenanting pressure**

The Committee on Community of Faith Support is hoping to celebrate as many covenants as possible at the Regional Council Gathering at the end of the month. As we continue to re-gather in person, it is possible that your community of faith now has the opportunity to review and celebrate a new covenant within a new structure. If you need assistance with background information, please see [here](#). Contact Tracy [tmurton@united-church.ca](mailto:tmurton@united-church.ca) for a sample covenant if that would be helpful.

**Volunteer Chaplains**

Once again, we are grateful for the care and compassion offered by the 5 volunteer chaplains who are contacting each of the active ministry personnel for support: Cathy Coates, Joan Rennie-Laing, Deborah Smith, Jackie Van't Voort, and Heather Wyatt. This fall has seen an incredible level of stress on ministry personnel and we are hopeful that this third round of calls might be an opportunity to feel connected to the broader community. We encourage you to work with our chaplains by offering your own support and care to the ministry personnel in your community of faith.

**New guidelines for visits in health care facilities: updated September 11, 2020**

Lorna King, South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplain provided us with [the latest guidelines for visiting in hospitals and long-term care homes](#). It will still be important to talk with the nursing staff on the particular unit about how they are managing the guidelines. To see the full post, [click here](#).

**Save the Date**

Entering Advent in a Time of Crisis: Bah Humbug or Hope-Filled Anticipation? Two opportunities sponsored by the Regional Council for personal reflection and group sharing over Zoom with Marg Janick-Grayston: **Ministry personnel only – November 12, 1-4pm; Licensed Lay Worship Leaders only – November 14, 9-12pm**. Stay tuned for further information.

**Ministry Personnel gatherings**

The fall has arrived and with it the need for support. Join your colleagues in ministry on **Tuesdays**, at **1:00pm** for this optional conversation. Join weekly, bi-weekly, or whenever the Spirit moves you for an hour of connection and learning. Zoom Meeting: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/94637623120>  
Please note this gathering is **CANCELLED on October 20**.

**FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES:****The Library at St. Andrew's College**

Betcha didn't know that...

- 1) It's the LARGEST theological library in Western Canada!
- 2) It's OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and anyone can become a patron. FREE of charge!
- 3) You can request materials ONLINE and Library staff will mail them directly to you with FREE return postage included.
- 4) It has a huge collection of resources for CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, YOUTH MINISTRY, FAITH FORMATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SPIRITUAL PRACTICES, and MORE!
- 5) Katelyn is sitting at her desk waiting to hear from you RIGHT NOW!

Phone: 306-966-8983 ; E-mail: [help.stulibrary@usask.ca](mailto:help.stulibrary@usask.ca) ; Website: [www.stu.usask.ca/library](http://www.stu.usask.ca/library)

**UCRD: United Church Bookstore**

Have you been to the **United Church Bookstore** lately? Lots 'n' lots of denominational materials, inspirational resources, powerful stories and a bunch of other living-faith-stuff that you didn't even know existed! <https://ucrdstore.ca/> Or follow them on Instagram at: [https://www.instagram.com/faith\\_in\\_our\\_books/](https://www.instagram.com/faith_in_our_books/)

**2. Wider Church Information:****The October 2020 Prayer Cycle for the UN International Decade for People of African Descent is available!**

One of the ways the church is engaging with the Decade is by doing targeted work towards combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerances faced by people of African descent. We know that prayer has the power to transform and amplify our actions. We invite people to pray during this midway point in the Decade for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent. [A daily schedule of intercessions is here](#). These daily prayers are one way of engaging with the UN International Decade for People of African Descent. The prayers are related to anti-Black racism and the realities of Black peoples in Canada and around the world.

**Let the (Choir) Music Ring Out (virtually!)**

The folks at [PRC - Practical Resources for Churches](#) have created a great library of webinars & resources in support of innovative ministry. In particular, we'll highlight a few upcoming webinars about Christmas Worship in the coming days & weeks.

In the meantime though, check out some very cool & exciting stuff about **Creating Virtual Choirs** below: <https://www.prcli.org/on-demand-webinars/worship-2/>

**3. Upcoming Learning Opportunities – this week, summer and fall:****United in Learning online fall workshops announced**

In the midst of COVID, it's perhaps a relief to actually focus on something else. United in Learning is here to help us with that. From racial justice workshops to discerning calls to ministry, preaching to respecting boundaries, this fall's line up has it all. [Please have a look](#).

**CCS Fridays**

Join the Centre for Christian Studies for CCS Fridays—online conversations to help us all to respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested. Each session will be on a Friday from 12:00 to 1:00 CT and in the form of a Zoom workshop. There will be a presentation that will be recorded for future viewing, plus opportunities to engage with the ideas in small groups.



**Mapping Our Lives – Exploring a Map of Human Experience – A Free Flow Wellness Retreat to be held at First United Church, (223 Third Ave. NE) Swift Current, SK S9H 2G6 Registration Deadline: Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>/20 Thursday, Nov. 5 (5:30pm supper) – Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020 (12:30pm)**

In this retreat we will be exploring a typical looking map that substitutes the names of cities, rivers and seas for concepts, feelings and everyday human experiences. We will find beautiful regions and desolate ones. Through an exploration of this map, and creative processes to fire the imagination, we will be invited to discover where we are in life presently, where we want to go, and map out our route for getting there. Come and join us for this unique adventure as we explore a map of human experience that has something for everyone. **Leadership:** Marg Janick-Grayston; Expressive Arts, Reiki and Quantum Touch practitioner, Spiritual Mentor, Retreat Leader, and Business Owner of Free Flow Wellness **Number of Participants:** 5 – 12; **To Hold a Spot/Register:** Send a \$75 cheque along with any necessary dietary needs to: *First United Church* (address above). (Includes Thursday supper, and Friday lunch and supper, as well as materials) (Accommodation, breakfasts, and Saturday lunch are the responsibility of each participant) **Facilitation Donation:** Suggested Range \$110-\$150 (Paid directly to Marg Janick-Grayston during the retreat. This amount is over and above the Registration fee listed above). **Cancellation Policy:** Full refund up until Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> or if leadership cancels the event. For more info, see <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats> or Email Linda Stumpf at [lgstumpf1@hotmail.com](mailto:lgstumpf1@hotmail.com) or call her at 306-629-3948.

#### **Queen's House re-opening**

After such a long time of silence...Queen's House is gradually re-opening their doors to the public, and like everyone else they are trying to find ways to move forward into the coming year. Their programming formats have significantly changed – while occasional programs will be offered in-person at the retreat centre, following all safety protocols, much of their programming will be offered through Zoom. To see Queen's House programming, please see their [Our Programs page](#).

## **4. Reminders:**

### **Put your community event on our website!**

You can still promote your local event through our website. Regular worship should be registered with the national church's map and listings, but everything from bible study to a workshop to drive up pie or bannock fundraisers can be shared on our Communities of Faith events calendar through our [community form](#). The event needs to be a United Church event open to the public. Give it a try!

### **New video for the Season of Creation: The Weight of a Grain of Wheat**

The Weight of a Grain of Wheat is a Korean song by Soon-Gwan Hong. Now, during the Season of Creation, we have a made in SK version! It's translated by Yoonjoo Shin and produced by Hoeun Lee. They invite you to enjoy and share this meeting of Korea and Canada as we honour the abundance of God's gifts: <https://youtu.be/k1r8IS0odXY>

### **National call to action: Create a universal basic income program**

Poverty is a reality for too many Canadians. A universal basic income would help address the persistent inequities within our country. Please see full information from both the national church and perspectives from Saskatchewan [here](#).

Some pandemic-related relief programs (such as CERB) are scheduled to wind up at the end of September. [Moderator Richard Bott has written](#) to elected officials encouraging them to seize the moment to roll out a guaranteed liveable income (or universal basic income) program in collaboration with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership. A number of past Moderators have added their voices to the call: [you can access all the videos here](#).

Here's a [guide for your letter to the federal government](#). Change it to add your own thoughts as you're able!