

Regional Rambler - Summer Edition

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



July 13, 2021

*The **Regional Rambler** is our primary resource for sharing information across the Regional Council. To be added to the list, please email Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca).*

Reminder: Clarity on reopening rules re July 11

A message was sent to all ministry personnel regarding provincial re-opening. [You can find it here.](#)

Decolonizing Ourselves: Land and the Spirit of Treaty, in person gathering August 7

The KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Group and the Treaty Land Sharing Network welcome you to this exciting land-based event: Decolonizing Ourselves: Land and the Spirit of Treaty on Saturday, August 7th at Fort Carlton, SK in Treaty 6 Territory. We will learn the truth about Crown land through the lens of law and Treaty, and from the experiences of First Nations, Métis and settler people. We will hear from a range of speakers including Eleanore Sunchild, lawyer for Colten Boushie's family.

This is an outdoor interactive learning event that will proceed rain or shine. Food will not be provided; attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch/snacks/drinks. Attendees are welcome at 12:00pm for a picnic lunch, with the program to run 1:00-4:00pm. Provincial Park fees are required: \$9/family, \$4/adult, \$1/child. Otherwise, the event is free, although donations will be gratefully received. If needed, accommodation is available at a nearby campground and motel. Attendance is limited and a wait list will be kept. [Register here.](#)

Moderator's message: Doing our work as the non-Indigenous church

On June 29, the Moderator offered a message in the wake of more confirmation of graves associated with residential schools. He said, "Over the past few days, I've been hearing a number of settler communities of faith who are looking for contacts with Indigenous communities and their Elders. Often this has come with an explanation that the settler communities would like to ask for guidance in some way.

I'd like to make a really strong suggestion. Stop it.

I think one of the things those of us who are of settler/colonizer/newcomer descent need to recognize is that this is *our* stuff to deal with. Even if the community of faith I was a part of had an ongoing relationship with an Indigenous community and their Elders, this is *not* the time to ask for guidance."

[Please click here for his full message.](#) If you need advice or support when working with a memorial or other initiative related to residential schools, please contact the Regional office, and we can talk through options together. We are striving to recognise and honour the intense pain and retraumatization currently facing Indigenous communities and church members, as more announcements of unmarked burials are absorbed and anticipated. This includes giving Indigenous communities and people space, even as non-Indigenous people consider what our responsibilities are.

Global equity for vaccines: action and donation opportunities

As many Canadians begin to see the way out of the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccines, The United Church of Canada is adding a [vigorous advocacy campaign](#) to its [COVID-19 Global Response](#) and continuing to ask people to financially support global partners dealing with the ongoing pandemic. ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches, notes that Global South nations will reach herd immunity levels only in 2024, if ever.

The new chapter of the COVID-19 Global Response appeal asks people to:

- [advocate](#) with the Canadian government for more vaccine sharing
- [donate](#) to the ongoing appeal
- show solidarity by [buying a vaccine](#) for someone in the Global South
[Here's the full article](#). Please share and consider prayerfully what you or your community of faith might offer.

Emancipation Day August 1 national event

The Black Clergy Network of The United Church of Canada presents “**Challenging Colonial Legacies through the Commemoration of Emancipation**”, a panel discussion on Sunday August 1, 2021, at 5:00 PM SK time on the [Black Clergy United Church YouTube Channel](#).

Course available--Growing in Wisdom: Seeking Deeper Generativity.

This is a two-year ecumenical program designed for those seeking to engage in their maturing years with wisdom and grace. First sessions begin in September. [Please click here for details](#).

STATCAN request

Statistics Canada has asked us to let folks know it's not too late to complete your census (if you haven't already done so) and send it in. Census data helps governments at all levels plan for libraries, schools, transportation, community centres, and recreational activities. Data from the 2021 Census will be even more crucial, because it will help to evaluate the impact of the pandemic and to better plan for the future. You can quickly and easily complete your census questionnaire at www.census.gc.ca using the access code you received in the mail. If you need assistance, or would like to have a paper (or alternate format) questionnaire, please call the Census Help Line at 1-855-340-2021. Thank you for doing your part to help plan for a better future for all Canadians.”