

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 14, 2021

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

### **1. Living Skies Regional Council News:**

#### **Important news for M&P Committees and Governing Bodies: Ethical Standards for Ministry Personnel and COVID-19 Vaccination Status - new**

Today your ministry personnel received an interpretation of the Ethical Standards for Ministry Personnel with regards to Vaccination Status. The full communication from the Office of Vocation may be found here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Expectation | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions regarding this opinion from The United Church of Canada, you may find the answer in the accompanying FAQ found on that page.

If you have further questions regarding your responsibility as an M&P Committee or governing body in this context, please contact Tracy Murton at [tmurton@united-church.ca](mailto:tmurton@united-church.ca). If you have questions regarding the decision or its impact on your ministry personnel, please contact Karen Medland, minister for the Office of Vocation, at [kmedland@united-church.ca](mailto:kmedland@united-church.ca).

#### **Conversion therapy ban petition to the SK government: **deadline October 15****

Grosvenor Park United Church and Saskatoon Affirming Ministries invite you to circulate this petition in your community of faith and wider community. This is in keeping with the Regional Council's 2020 annual meeting decision to seek a provincial ban on this harmful, transphobic and homophobic practice, which tends to be disproportionately supported by a minority of Christian groups. As Christians, may we speak out against it. Please see full details, including downloads and background, [right here](#).

#### **Celebrations - new**

As communities of faith continue to worship together, many postponed covenanting services and retirement celebrations are taking place. We ask you to hold in prayer (or take a lovely fall road trip) the following events:

- **October 17** – covenanting service with Regina: Wesley United Church and Rev Carolyn Woodall, at 3pm
- **October 24** – release from covenant service for Donna Rumpel for October 24 at 2 pm at Strasbourg United Church.

#### **Changes to benefits for active ministry personnel**

At its recent meeting, the General Council Executive approved some changes to the Benefits plan for active ministry personnel. During the regular weekly Zoom gathering on **Tuesday, October 19** (1:00 to 2:30), Mitchell Anderson and Jordan Cantwell as members of the GCE will provide some background and an opportunity to ask questions. Stay tuned for a similar opportunity for conversation for retired ministry personnel. Connection information is in the calendar.

#### **Sacraments Elder training**

The Committee on Lay Leadership Support has received a request regarding training opportunities for sacraments elders. They are trying to determine the scope of the interest before planning a learning opportunity. If you would be interested in taking the training, or if you know of someone in your community of faith who might be interested, please let Tracy know at [tmurton@united-church.ca](mailto:tmurton@united-church.ca). For more information on the process, [check the handbook](#).

## **2. Wider Church Information:**

*Our world seems smaller and more confined since COVID began. May these stories help widen it, and help us see where our prayers and actions from home can support those we may never meet in person, but with whom we are part of the Body of Christ. Most of the ministry and resources you see here are supported by our Mission and Service givings.*

### **40 Days of Engagement with Anti-Racism for all ages**

Continue the journey towards becoming an anti-racist church with this 40-day time of learning, reflection, activities, advocacy, and action. Each day from Tuesday, October 12 to Friday, November 26 (with the exception of Sundays) there will be a new reflection on anti-racism, as well as activities suitable for adults and children. These activities can be done alone, as a family, or in groups. And, every Tuesday will include a live workshop with a resource person. [Full details are right here.](#)

### **Grant Application Deadline - new**

**Friday, October 15,** 2021 is the due date for the next round of Embracing the Spirit grants.

[Innovation Grants](#) are up to \$5,000 for your ideas!

[Growth Grants](#) are up to \$25,000 for growing your ideas that already have energy.

### **The struggle against poverty: Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) worship resources**

On October 17, 2021, the church is invited to celebrate GLI Worship Sunday as an opportunity to draw attention to the need and the growing call for a Guaranteed Livable Income. Worship resources can be found on the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty worship page](#). [Watch this video message](#) from Moderator Richard Bott promoting GLI Sunday. Moderator Bott has also recorded an introduction, a call to worship, and an opening prayer that you can use in your online worship service; these will be posted soon on the worship page.

## **3. Upcoming Learning Opportunities**

### **Korean United Church: Jesus and the Marginalized      October 18, 5:30 pm (MDT)**

Theologians, clergy, and a United Church national staff person will discuss how this book relates Jesus Christ to the hopes, joys and struggles of Koreans in the United Church. The panel will assess its attempt to enculturate Christology into the Korean diaspora context in Canada, its meaning for the United Church as an intercultural church, and its contribution to Asian American theology. Non-Koreans are welcome to attend and join the conversation.

Registration link: [united-church.zoom.us/j/97926572021](https://united-church.zoom.us/j/97926572021). To buy the book, please click [here](#).

### **Faith Leaders for Such a Time as This: October 20 and November 3, 10 – Online**

These times continue to be disorienting, challenging and require rapid adaptation for all church leaders.

Join Cheryl Bear and Kim Uyede-Kai to dig into this call, for those of us holding responsibility for many kinds of leadership roles in our faith communities. [Register and find details at LeaderShift](#); \$50 total.

### **Exploring our Sacred Texts: A conversation about stewarding our common life**

All are invited to join this online series with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim panelists to discuss the scriptural sources for understanding generosity, hospitality, and compassion. Join us for this three-episode series, **Thursdays, October 21 (Generosity), October 28 (Hospitality), and November 4 (Compassion) at 3 pm.** **Rabbi Jeremy Parnes** (Beth Jacob Synagogue in Regina), **Rev. Amanda Currie** (First Presbyterian Church in Regina), **Imam Dr. Mohamed Masloh** (Islamic Association of Saskatchewan). *See last week's Rambler for further details about each of the leaders.*

In these days of increased social polarization and intolerance, where racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia appear to be increasing daily, dialogue between faith communities is an antidote to ignorance and hatred. Generosity, hospitality, and compassion are social virtues that can heal the wounds of our society. **Register in advance for this series:** <https://bit.ly/3iwypfm>

For further information, contact Archdeacon Cheryl Toth at [stewardship@sasktel.net](mailto:stewardship@sasktel.net)

**Updated: Zoom Young Adult Gathering (18-35 years)**

**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays every month (October 6 & 20 / November 3 & 17 / December 1 & 15 for 2021)

**More Info:** Contact Rev. Laura Fohse at [laura@mclureunitedchurch.org](mailto:laura@mclureunitedchurch.org).

**Practically Prophetic: “Pre-Recorded Sunday School?!? Come Learn About The Go Projects New Children’s Faith Formation Program!” - new**

**When:** Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm (Zoom Webinar)

**Registration:** <https://form.jotform.com/212854840896266>

**More Info:** <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/pre-recorded-sunday-school-an-intro-from-the-go-project-practically-prophetic-faith-formation-resources/>

**Description:** Alana Martin from the GO Project will walk us through a great new Pre-Recorded Sunday School program. She'll answer questions about its functionality, and share a few of the creative curriculum lessons with us as well. **Perfect for small communities who have volunteers to be with children on Sunday morning, but not enough time to plan lessons.** Be ready to pause the video to discuss and play in person!

**YAYAC Bible Trivia Night Livestream! – new**

**When:** Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm

**Where:** YAYAC YouTube Channel

**More Info:** Contact Josie at [lsyayac.josie@gmail.com](mailto:lsyayac.josie@gmail.com)

**Practically Prophetic: “Preaching Tips When The Sermon Isn’t Coming”**

**When:** Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

**Where:** Zoom online webinar

**Registration:** <https://form.jotform.com/212764711572052>

**More info/Poster:** <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/preaching-tips-structures-forms-practically-prophetic-webinars/>

**Description:** *Brian Walton* believes that many sermons are the product of ‘holy inspiration’ and almost write themselves. For those Sundays when that doesn’t happen he offers some tips for shaping the creative process. In particular this month, Brian will **focus on structural forms, explaining some of the structures and practices that can support and enhance our sermon writing.**

**Remember:** *Practically Prophetic* is a webinar series collaboration with Living Skies Faith Formation, St. Andrew’s College, and the Centre for Christian Studies. Everyone is welcome to take part!

**Stewardship Best Practices module**

**Tuesday October 26, November 2, November 9, 7-9pm SK time**

Join others in this special cohort of the Stewardship Best Practices module of **Called to be the Church: The Journey** for a 3-week program and dig into the best practices for stewardship specifically for your context. Whether a camp, inner-city ministry, chaplaincy, or some other form of Community Ministry, spend some focused time developing skills to find new supporters and better engage current donors. This module includes individual support sessions following to create and implement a plan to increase your year-end donations. To register or for more information contact [Vicki Nelson](#).

**Exploring Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan together, October 27 and November 6, 7:30PM**

Join KAIROS Prairies North and resource people to learn about Indigenous understandings and oral traditions of Treaty. [Details on the Living Skies website!](#)

**Queen’s House**

Check out their programming on their [Our Programs page](#). We are requesting that those attending in-person gatherings at Queen's House wear masks and be fully vaccinated. Please note many of our programs are also offered on Zoom, so that we are able to welcome as many participants as possible to our upcoming retreats, workshops and gatherings. Thank you.