

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



February 23, 2022 - News

*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).*

Church office workers, please feel free to use these announcements in your church bulletins or newsletters.

1. Living Skies Regional Council News:

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 32](#) - new

Updates from each of the support committees, including information about annual reports.

Provincial guidelines lifted - updated

Effective February 14, the provincial government lifted all requirements for proof of vaccination in the province. This means that while places of worship could choose to maintain the requirement for all church-related activities, there is no longer a requirement for outside groups to do so. Masking remains a requirement until February 28 and then again, places of worship could choose to continue to require them if they wish. For further information, see [this notice](#) from the government; for guidance from Tricia Gerhard, chair of the Regional Council Executive, see [this letter](#).

Annual Declaration information from Karen at the Office of Vocation

We are now into February and you may have noticed that the Annual Declaration (AD) is now open. After some consultation about when is the best time to complete the AD, it is now active from **January 1 to May 15 this year**. It is hoped that this will be a more convenient time to complete this. You do not need to get a new police records check done each year. A new police records check is only required if you are declaring new criminal charges or if your police records check is older than 2011. If you need assistance with completing your AD please contact me at kmedland@united-church.ca.

PIE Day video (and homemade pie) from the Moderator; Regional newsletter - new

Why PIE? PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. Those are the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to live into being Affirming people and communities by, for, and with Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people. This year's PIE Day theme for March 14 is "Everyone Gets A Slice!" The Moderator, Rt Rev Richard Bott, gets into some [pie making and PIE reflection in this video](#). An [update on PIE and other Affirming goodness](#) was sent last week to the Regional Council Affirming list. This list includes not only Affirming ministries, but those who are in process, curious about the process, or supportive. Individual subscribers also welcome! If you would like to be added to the Affirming contact list, please contact Julie Graham at jgraham@united-church.ca

Youth & Young Adult Communications - new

- 1) Have you subscribed to the YAYAC newsletter? Get ahold of Josie at lsyayac.josie@gmail.com
- 2) Got some info that you'd like to share with the rest of the Region? Refer to the YAYAC Newsletter above, and get ahold of Josie at lsyayac.josie@gmail.com
- 3) Are you following YAYAC on Instagram? Check it out at "LSYAYAC", and just for the heck of it, get ahold of Josie at lsyayac.josie@gmail.com.

Upcoming Covenanting Service: Sunday, March 13 at 2:00pm.— covenanting with Regina: Lakeview and Yellow Grass United Lutheran Partnership and Carla Blakely

Planning & Leadership for Youth Events! -new

Looking for great opportunities to share in ministry leadership & finally hang out in-person with some great youth & young adults? Of course you are!

Contact Josie at lsyayac.josie@gmail.com or Kent at kmohn@united-church.ca to join the planning teams for the Youth Confirmation Weekend (**April 1-3**) and/or Spring Youth Retreat (**May 13-15**)!

Ministry Personnel Lenten event online March 17-18 - updated

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support in Living Skies Regional Council and St. Andrew's College are partnering again to host an online Lenten event on **March 17-18**. A prepared worship service will be provided for March 20 to enable ministry personnel to fully engage in this continuing education event.

Details on the event may be found [here](#); registration information [here](#).

Youth Forum At General Council 44 - Youth Delegate & Home Group Leader Applications

Summer employment is part of Youth Forum at GC44! You will be paid for your participation, leadership, and dedication to General Council throughout the summer. More at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/youth-forum-at-general-council-44-delegate-home-group-leader-applications/>

Summer Will Come...With Volunteer & Paid Opportunities At United Church Camps! - new

Our incredible camps can't wait for a summer of outdoor ministry & outreach. Employment & Volunteer positions are now posted for many of our camps, and Camper Registration is also just around the corner. Please hold our camping communities & their leaders in thankful prayer and consider ways to support their ministry:

- Camp Shagabec
- Lumsden Beach Camp
- Camp Tapawingo
- Camp Christopher
- Camp Woodboia
- Wellman Lake United Church Camp

For contact info & links for all of our UCC Camps, just click: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yayac/camps/>

Executive support for restorative justice initiative; invitation to your congregation

At the end of March, federal funding for Circles of Support and Accountability comes to a close. This vital program provides a community-based circle of volunteers to support and hold accountable sex offenders as their sentences end. Our Restorative Justice partners who are supported through Mission and Service and the people of our Regional Council are Parkland Restorative Justice and Micah Mission; they are working together with CoSA Canada to mobilize a letter writing campaign to the federal government advocating for funding COSA. [To learn more, please click here](#). The Regional Council Executive has also voted to send a letter of support.

Social assistance concerns continue; new report with details of the impact

In November we shared an action detailing great concerns with the SK government's changes to social assistance. ([Click here for that action](#), which is, unfortunately, still up to date, and welcomes your participation.)

Peter Gilmer, ministry staff with the Regina Anti Poverty Ministry, points us to a report detailing the results of grassroots listening circles which talked about social assistance and homelessness, to help us see the changes from the experience of those facing the impact. The report was prepared by Meara Conway and team; she is an NDP MLA, and is the opposition critic for Social Services, Housing, Human Rights, and Community-Based Organizations. It is in the latter role that we recommend the report for reading. [The full report is here](#). [The summary report is here](#).

Appeal for Tonga after massive volcanic eruption

Three weeks ago the Pacific island nation of Tonga experienced a devastating volcanic eruption. We think especially of the impact on Rev Salesi Takau and Amelia Takau, Abbey-Lancer/Portreeve Pastoral Charge, and their loved ones. [This article details some of the devastation](#). The United Church is a member of the ACT Alliance, and one of its members, Act for Peace, is raising funds for Tonga. [Please click here for full details](#).

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.

Anti Racism Common Table letter on hate symbols at recent protests – new

The recent protests and border blockades have made for a very tense few weeks. This [open letter from the General Council's Anti Racism Common Table](#) asks us to accept the reality, and the impact, of the documented presence of white supremacist, racist symbols at a number of the protests. You're invited to read it with an open heart for the experiences of Black and Indigenous people, and people of colour, targeted by the beliefs behind these symbols.

Tony Snow, a member of the Indigenous church and Regional Minister in Chinook Winds, also [offers us this reflection from his perspective](#). May God give us the heart to absorb these words.

Nominations for many General Council openings; please bring your discernment - new

Tis the season when the wider church looks for people to fill many and diverse openings across our governance and task groups. General Council (the national church body) has now sent out its list of openings, with March 22 or 28 deadlines. [Please have a look at the opportunities here](#) (scroll down past jobs for elected/ volunteer positions). You can nominate yourself, and we are also invited to nominate others, after checking with them first.

Black History Month continues- Around the Table personal reflections – new

This blog is full of food for thought that can be used in worship and everywhere else. Have a look! For Black History Month, [this week Albertine Chokoté Naoué](#) asks what each of us can do to deconstruct thoughts and behaviours that are harmful. This may feel especially timely as we think about the enormous tensions surrounding the recent protests. "As a disciple of Christ striving to follow in his steps, what should my contribution be to help deconstruct erroneous thoughts, misperceptions, prejudice, and other realities that produce and maintain behaviours that are harmful to one's own self or others?"

St. Andrew's College Opportunity

St. Andrew's College invites applications the full-time position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), commencing 1 March 2022. For more information, [have a look here](#).

3. Learning Opportunities:

Community of Faith Calendar

Reminder: our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events! As long as the public is invited, you can post it. From workshops to worship, go for it. [Here's the handy form](#) .

United in Learning January 2022 online learning opportunities [are detailed here](#).

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre

Welcome! Our programming combines in-person and online events using Zoom. Please visit [Our Programs page](#) for a list of all upcoming programs and to register for all programs. **Nourish Your Mind and Nurture Your Spirit at Queen's House!** *We are requesting that all those participating in our in-person programs wear a mask and be fully vaccinated. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone as healthy as possible.*

4. Reminders:

Subscribe yourself for the Regional Rambler – News and Events

Hopefully, you are finding the *Rambler* helpful in reporting to your congregations/boards and councils about what is going on within Living Skies Regional Council. If you have just discovered the Rambler and would like to receive it, you can subscribe yourself. The form is on our website, on the [Newsletter Archives page](#).