

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



March 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:

NEW - Pastoral Relations Ponderings – [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 33](#)

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

NEW - Three cheers for the Property Commission and their help with the Self-Assessment checklist!

The Property Commission has offered a correction to the Self-Assessment checklist to more accurately reflect the policy and practice within our Regional Council regarding trustees. The correction offered is on p. 3 – “remove question 31”. According to the Property Commission, the work and expense of updating the Land Title every time there is a change in trustees is not worth it and is only required when selling or mortgaging property. If you have not begun this work, please use the versions found [here](#) - look in the file on Committee on Community of Faith Support. This information has been shared with ministry personnel and Pastoral Charge Supervisors – if you are the chair of your governing body, please contact Tracy Murton tmurton@united-church.ca so you can be added to the list!

NEW - Annual reports are fun!

The gift of the annual report is a means to celebrate the ministry of your community of faith. Please ensure that someone has sent a copy to Tracy Murton – by email at tmurton@united-church.ca, preferably – for review by the Committee on Community of Faith Support. The bonus is completion of the Self-Assessment checklist includes the annual report so it is one further step along the pathway of accountability!

NEW - Children’s Ministry Chatgroups - Faith Formation, Ideas, Resources, Discussion, Creativity, and Fun

Looking for a connection with people who share your passion for Ministry with Children? Let's build a community to share our ideas, resources, and discussions together. Join us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/303460978552514>

NEW - New Hymn Addresses the Invasion of Ukraine

Walter Farquharson and Richard Hall have written a hymn, addressing the Ukraine invasion: "[I Will Sing To Our God](#)". Walter has written new lyrics for the music, composed in 1985 by Richard. The biblical inspiration is Exodus 15, The Song of Moses & Miriam. The current inspiration is Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the situation in Ukraine is timely, they are sending the hymn with the invitation to use and copy freely if it is useful. They are not seeking royalties. Please feel free to forward it to anyone who might have use for it.

Planning & Leadership for Youth Events!

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**)!

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/>

Updated: Youth & Young Adult Communications

- 1) Subscribe to YAYAC's monthly newsletter to stay up to date on all of the events we have planned for youth and young adults! To subscribe, you can either email lsyayac.iosie@gmail.com with your email, name and congregation or you can sign up on the region's website under "Stay in touch" in the youth and young adult section. You can also follow us on Instagram @Lsyayac!
- 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.iosie@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.iosie@gmail.com.

Summer Is Almost Here...With Volunteer & Paid Opportunities At United Church Camps!

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

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

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

Annual Declaration information from Karen at the Office of Vocation

The Annual Declaration (AD) process for ministry Personnel remains open until **May 15**. 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.

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.

NEW - General Council learning sessions this week

Wednesday learning sessions that are open to all continue. [Full information is here](#). Session 3 on **March 23** will include worship and will discuss proposals grouped under the theme of one of the five strategic objectives—Invigorate Leadership: Innovating for Bold Discipleship. There will be two sessions on this theme. In this first session, there will be a discussion of proposals related to ministry leadership and theological education. To access all proposals and agendas, [please click here](#). You will need to look through the file tree to find the documents you need.

NEW - Reflections on racism

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was this past Monday, commemorating the 1960 [Sharpeville Massacre](#) of over 180 people in apartheid South Africa. The national church's [Round the Table blog](#) offers personal reflections from church members on social justice and intercultural themes all year long, and this week focuses on the impact of racism. All of these can be used from the pulpit, on social media, and more.

UPDATE Korea Peace Appeal continues

The United Church of Canada has heard from our colleagues at the [Korea Peace Appeal](#) in Korea that the number of **Canadian signatures** collected since the January launch of the United Church Korea Peace Appeal is **690**. That's 7 percent of our goal of 10,000 by July 2022, and considering each sign-on will encourage others—we are well on our way! [Sign the petition here](#). See a new video and [the full update here](#). What is the continued impact of a war that never really ended? Rev. Dr. Kyongja (Kay) Cho [shares here the story of two Korean brothers](#) forced into the military on different sides during the Korean War.

National Statement for Peace in Ukraine and Donations Link

The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. The United Church has joined with partners who witness and work for peace and justice in the world, by issuing a statement condemning the invasion of Ukraine. You can see the [statement and other information here](#), and find a link here to make a [donation to support United Church Mission & Service partners](#) responding to rapidly emerging needs. We add our prayers of concern and support for the people of Ukraine, and for their families and friends here and throughout the world.

Looking at Guaranteed Livable Income through the window of Lent

Lent is the season for truth-telling and repentance. It calls us to deep reflection on how we might address the persistent inequities in our country. Since 1972, The United Church of Canada has advocated a policy of guaranteed annual income that is more equitable and effective than existing government support programs.

[In a new guide available here](#), resource people from Pacific Mountain Regional Council offer ideas for Lenten liturgies, prayers, study groups or outreach committees. Each segment contains a suggested scripture, hymn ideas, a reflection or implication for GLI advocacy, and an action idea. The guide also includes action suggestions.

Give it up for the Earth campaign! March 2 - April 14

To mark the season of Lent, join Citizens for Public Justice and For the Love of Creation ecumenical group, and participate in the faith-in-action climate justice campaign, **Give it up for the Earth!** [To register for materials and more, click here](#).

3. Upcoming 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](#).

NEW - An invitation to 'Caging Childhood' - Online via Zoom, Wednesday, March 30, 6:30 to 7:45pm.PT

Can you imagine a 13 to 17-year-old child arrested on the suspicion of throwing a stone? Then detained in an interrogation centre unknown to their family? Interrogated without a parent or lawyer present?

Each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years old, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system. The most common charge is stone-throwing. To learn more about the reality on the ground for Palestinian children and their families, please join us for a short film screening of *Caging Childhood: Palestinian Children in Israel's Military Detention System*.

The documentary shares the stories of three Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank and their experiences being detained, interrogated, prosecuted, and imprisoned in the Israeli military detention system.

It was produced by Defence for Children International – Palestine (DCI:P). DCI-P is one of our overseas partners supported by the Mission and Service. The screening will be followed by a discussion and letter writing event. Shaina Low, the Advocacy Officer from DCI:P will join us to respond to questions and provide an update.

Pre-registration is required on Eventbrite: <https://cagingchildhood.eventbrite.ca>

This event is co-hosted by *Amnesty International Okanagan* and *CJPME: Okanagan*. Questions?? Please send an email to cjpmeokanagan@cjpme.org or me if you have questions.

United in Learning *upcoming* online learning opportunities [are detailed here](#).

NEW - Upcoming Youth Events

Check out next week's Rambler: Events edition for details about the upcoming Spring Youth Retreat and the Easter Youth Vigil. Check out other YAYA news at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yayac/yaya-news/>

NEW - Together We Worship Now Available at United Church Bookstore

Together We Worship helps worship leaders create engaging worship, with worship resources that empower you to easily lead a service of worship with as little or as much planning as you'd like. All you need is someone willing to read from the leader's sheet and a way for people to see and hear the video sermon. Don't have a church sound system or a projector? Together We Worship can help you find a solution that works for your church for less than you think. With [Together We Worship](#), your congregation will experience liturgists and preachers from across the country, and around the world to offer meaningful, engaging worship in an easy-to-use package for up to 75% less than the cost of pulpit supply. With many different purchase package options, you are sure to find the package that fits your needs. Explore the [Together We Worship collection](#) at the [United Church Bookstore](#).

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. *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.*

Queen's House is committed to serving the ecumenical Christian community in Saskatchewan and beyond by offering a quiet, nourishing space where people can come to be renewed. Thank you for supporting the programming being offered at Queen's House.

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](#). It can be found at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/>, then to **News & Events**, then on the drop down menu choose, **Regional News > Regional Newsletters Archives**. On that page, in the top paragraph, it says "To receive these offerings, *please subscribe here*". That is the link to the form. Good Luck.