

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



April 6, 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 - Spoiler alert – next week is busy for your staff

If you are a member of the M&P Committee in your community of faith, or are a governing body chair, or any member engaged in the ongoing life and work of your local context, you will be aware that Holy Week is a busy time for your staff. This has been another hard Lenten season with loosening restrictions, yearning for a return to our regular patterns, and an awareness that creating space for spiritual journey is critical. In the spirit of generosity, consider ways that you might acknowledge this for your staff – extra days off following Easter, volunteering for participation in one of the worship services, or even simply dropping an email or a phone message of support.

NEW - Help is on the way

The Living Skies Regional Council pulpit supply list contains the names and contact information of people who are ready and authorized to provide worship leadership. It is updated frequently to ensure the list is current and accurate. If the person who regularly provides worship leadership is taking a break, contact Bev Diebert at the Regional Council Office for access to the list: 306-704-0181

NEW - Stats are fun!

One of the ways that the ministry and vision of The United Church of Canada is sustained is through the annual assessments levied on individual communities of faith. The amount of these assessments is based on the statistical information received each year (used to be called the “blue forms”). If you are the person responsible for completing these, please take the time to do so as soon as possible. If you are not, find out who is and offer to help! Communities of faith are encouraged to complete these forms online so there may be technical pieces you could help with! Or simply offer to be a cheering section while the work is done.

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.

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!

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!

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 team for the Spring Youth Retreat (**May 13-15**)!

Children’s Ministry Chatgroup - 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>

Easter Youth Vigil **Saturday, April 16, 8pm at McClure United Church, Saskatoon**

All youth grades 7 & up are invited to join us for our annual Easter Vigil. We begin Saturday at 8pm and end with the Easter Sunrise Service at 5:45am. <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/youth-easter-vigil/>

Youth are asked to bring: (1) \$5 to contribute to pizza; (2) a snack to share; (3) optional – a few extra dollars for the midnight 7-11 run. **Everyone is invited** to join us for the beautiful sunrise service beginning at 5:45am on the hill at Wildwood School.

For more information, please contact Laura by email laura@mclureunitedchurch.org or by phone/text at 306-291-5838. Pre-registration is not required but is appreciated.

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 and Camper Registration 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
- 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/>

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.josie@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.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.

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 - Moderator's Easter message

In his Easter video message, Moderator Richard Bott asks: Who are the messengers of the resurrected Christ today? What, if anything, is making it hard for us believe them—and to act on those beliefs? Please [click here for the video](#).

NEW - Letter concerning Ukraine from Ethnocultural Networks

Members of the Ethnocultural Networks of The United Church of Canada have written an open letter to United Church communities of faith expressing deep concern over the violence in Ukraine, and manifestations of racism being reported in the midst of the war. [Click here for the letter](#).

NEW - Ukraine Appeal update

The extreme violence in Ukraine continues to be beyond words, as is the case for so many around the world who confront armed conflict in their communities.

The United Church community has raised \$402,000 for humanitarian relief so far. Of that, \$240,000 has been sent via the ACT Alliance. Spanning 127 countries, the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance is the world's largest network of Protestant and Orthodox churches and agencies, including the United Church. Your generosity through Mission & Service has long supported ACT's humanitarian relief and advocacy efforts. Plans are being finalised for disbursement of \$162,000 and funds that continue to come in. What are these funds supporting? [Click here for details](#). To donate, [please click here](#).

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.

NEW - Accessing General Council 44 documents and learning sessions

Everyone is welcome to the learning sessions currently underway weekly. Information on these is [on the General Council 44 site](#). All related documents are also publicly available. Some people who are not signed up as visitors have had some difficulty accessing these, so new summary instructions have been checked with General Council staff and [posted on our website](#). Please have a look, and remember - do not share the actual folder link, as this causes access problems. Instead, share these instructions.

NEW - Embracing the Spirit grants deadline April 15

On April 15 Embracing the Spirit is accepting both [Innovation Grants](#) (up to \$5000) and [Growth Grants](#) (up to \$25,000). See the [story map](#) of initiatives that are already happening across the country, and reach out to us to have a one-on-one conversation about your community of faith and some of the things that you are thinking about at embracingthespirit@united-church.ca.

NEW - Resources from the United Church bookstore

Have a look at the latest Easter titles and resource packs in [UCRD's latest newsletter](#), just in case you need something last minute.

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.

New Webinars for Church Treasurers – April 20, 2022 – Please note the new date!!

Part of a monthly series for church treasurers, this special session will focus on NEW treasurers including an overview of the responsibilities and tools. For more information, to send in questions in advance or to join the meeting, see [Webinars for Church Treasurers \(united-in-learning.com\)](https://www.united-in-learning.com)

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.

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](#).

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

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](#).

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:**Pastoral Relations Ponderings – [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 33](#)**

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