

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



## May 11, 2022 - Events

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)).

Regional Council events will also be posted [on our Regional calendar](#). And you are most welcome to submit local public events to our [Community of Faith Calendar](#), whether you're part of a congregation, community ministry, partner group, and more. [You can use this form](#) to do that. Staff will approve the events in order to avoid the inevitable spammers. "Local" is a relative term these days of online events, so we leave that to your judgement. Generally it refers to shorter, more specific events that are, of course, public.

The latest opportunities from *United in Learning*, the church's online learning space, [are listed here](#).

### 1. This month:

#### Indigenous Church invitation to the United Church:

**Discussion on the General Council 44 proposal on the restructuring of the Indigenous Church May 11, 5:00PM Central Standard.** An invitation to the wider church to meet with the National Indigenous Council on the GC44 proposal. This is a time to hear the work and ideas invested in the proposal for a continued process of creating our way of belonging as the Indigenous United Church. Registration and Zoom link: please email Liz at [lvillegas@united-church.ca](mailto:lvillegas@united-church.ca)

#### Book study of *These Mountains are Our Sacred Places* by Rev. Chief John Snow

**FINAL session Wednesday, May 11, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Sask time)** Hosted by Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CIRCLe M), we'll explore the story of the Stoney People. Facilitation by Chief Snow's sons, Rev John (Indigenous Minister, Pacific Mountain Region) and Tony Snow (Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region). [Zoom link](#). Meeting ID: 899 4431 3877 Passcode: 311859

#### An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Ministry (Practically Prophetic Webinar) **Thursday, May 12 at 7pm**

Over the last two years, the topic of trauma has made its way into the public conversation in new ways. Once thought to be a concern only for military veterans and first responders, the impact of trauma on 'ordinary' people is being recognized as we move through a global disaster together. **Michele Rowe** will explore what constitutes trauma and how it impacts our lives in community.

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/220875503969265>

**More info & Registration:** <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/an-introduction-to-trauma-informed-ministry-practically-prophetic-webinar/>

#### Spring Senior Youth Retreat - **grade 7 & up** **May 13-15, 2022**

##### St. Andrew's UC, Moose Jaw and Lumsden Beach Camp

*Finally!* Mark your calendars because the Spring Senior Youth Retreat is on its way! Let's get together for an amazing weekend of laughter, friendship, faith, music, and any other good things we can come up with. We're gonna learn some cool stuff about our own unique Personality & Leadership Types. You know, all those things that make each of us beautiful, frustrating, remarkable, and kinda weird all at the same time? Yeah, that stuff. Details & Registration info posted at available at:

<https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/spring-youth-retreat/>

**Annual Declaration deadline is May 15**

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](mailto:kmedland@united-church.ca).

**Harm reduction petition to the SK government - Deadline May 15**

Grosvenor Park United Church, Saskatoon, requested that their petition to the provincial government be shared with all members of Living Skies Regional Council, with the agreement of other advocates in other communities of faith. It addresses strong concerns with the provincial government's continued failure to fund supervised drug consumption sites, particularly [Prairie Harm Reduction](#) (PHR), and the [Newo Yotina Friendship Centre](#), despite hundreds of overdose deaths in SK alone. [Please click here to download the PDF petition, and share freely](#). Instructions are included on page 1. Please note the tight deadline for getting this to the Legislature. [More details are available on the Regional website](#).

**UCW ZOOM Event**

Maritime UCW Executive are hosting through Zoom "UCW Spirituality Morning" with Janice MacLean of Prayer Bench ([www.prayerbench.ca](http://www.prayerbench.ca)) on **Monday May 16, 2022**. To register, please contact Ruth Kennedy at [ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com](mailto:ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com). THEME: "Continuing in Hope." Three wonderful stories from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles of women knowing Jesus: What Tabitha, Lydia and an un-named slave girl teach us about knowing Jesus in a new way and *continuing in hope*. (Acts 9:36-43; Acts 16: 9-15)

**Ministry Personnel Gatherings**

Join your ministry colleagues every **Tuesday** over Zoom for conversation, support and information sharing of weekly topics. Facilitated conversation **begins at 1pm**; connection information is found in the [calendar](#).

**VBS Roundtable**

Join us by zoom to chat all things Vacation Bible School! **Tuesday May 17 at 7:30 pm**

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/83655356264?pwd=RFBkdHhoUjNBU0oxRFJ3ZnMycTJ3QT09>

**Our Story in Our Language, May 21, Sandy Saulteaux Centre.** (next conversation – June 18)

In a series of online multi-lingual conversations, we'll explore what community leadership training means for Indigenous communities of faith. All sessions start at **9:00AM Central Standard** on the second last Saturday of the month. (Please adjust for your time zone.) Tickets are \$25/session or \$75 for the 5-part series. [Full information and registration here](#).

**NEW - National Webinar for Church Treasurers, May 25, 5:00PM Central Standard**

It's back and nationwide! Join this monthly support and information session for all the church's blessed treasurers. [Click here for details and registration](#).

**Green Priestcraft: Becoming a Chaplain of Creation** an online retreat **Sat. May 28, noon – 6:30 CST**

This daylong workshop will introduce participants to some basic tools and practices of spiritual and ritual care for the Earth. Drawing on his extensive work in [Christian Animism](#) and [Druidry](#), Rev. Shawn will explore a spiritual cosmology which sees the Creation as "teeming with neighbours ... only some of whom are human." Expect to have your curiosity awakened and your sense of "self" gently stretched, as we peer into a cosmos which is more sentient than we ever imagined! **Leadership:** Shawn Sanford Beck. Full info and registration: <https://naramatacentre.secure.retreat.guru/program/green-priestcraft-becoming-a-chaplain-of-creation/>

**Corrected date: Exciting news – Celebration of Ministry service in Living Skies Regional Council!**

As you are aware, there is no Regional gathering planned for 2022. We are thrilled, therefore, to invite you to join folks from Living Skies Regional Council for a celebration of ministry service on **Sunday, May 29 at 4pm at St. Andrew's United Church in Esterhazy**. This service will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. Further details will be available soon!

## 2. Next Month:

### **NEW - Traditional Feast invitation for Living Skies, Saturday, June 4 at 1:00PM in Regina, Treaty 4.**

The Regional Council is honoured to share this invitation from Regina Native Outreach Ministry's board.

[Please click here for details about the invitation](#); the callout for men to help; details about food we can bring and contacting Rev Deb Anderson-Pratt for more information.

### **Women's Day Camp at Camp Shagabec in Cypress Hills Park**

**Monday, June 13, 2022 10am – 4pm** All United Church of Canada Women and guests are welcome; you do not have to be a UCW member to attend! Please bring a history book from your community, if you have one and are willing to have others look at it. Our theme is "Small Town Saskatchewan" Registration cost—\$20 includes lunch. Please register with Donna Barber prior to **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**. Email - [donlyn@sasktel.net](mailto:donlyn@sasktel.net), phone - 306-773-6081 (home) or text - 306-750-8810. Bring the names of the deceased women from your congregation for the memorial service. AND, Bring your cookies for Camp! More details will be in the Women's network newsletter.

### **Anti-racism action planning for communities of faith - June 8, 15, 22, and 29**

Living Skies, Northern Spirit, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils invite one lay member and one ministry personnel from up to 24 communities of faith total within our bounds to this series. In four weekly sessions, we'll focus on the new book [Wait- is this racist?](#).

We'll bring this work into the Canadian and United Church context with resource people and a focus on the United Church's Anti Racism Action Plan. Please [see the registration form](#) for more details. Questions, including setting up your mini team? Please contact staff support Julie Graham and she can contact the facilitation team: [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

### **Regional Council Check-In! Celebrate those who are retiring, hear about what's going on.**

We would like to invite you to a Regional Council check-in on **June 9, at 7pm on Zoom to celebrate those who are retiring**, and to hear an update on the work of the Regional Council this year. Further details will be available soon!

### **Online Community? Church Hybridity? The Digital Body of Christ? June 13 – 16**

If these are realities which continue to excite, disturb, or otherwise engage you, then mark your calendars for the first annual summer learning event co-sponsored by the three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union in partnership with St. Thomas More College when we will be exploring the theme of **Religious Community in a Digital World**.

As a gift to the wider community, this amazing learning event is being offered by St. Thomas More College, Lutheran Theological Seminary, the College of Emmanuel St. Chad, and St. Andrew's College without charge! Register now: <https://forms.gle/AtMMfT9BJGkuyVDe8>

Apropos of our topic, this conference will be held entirely online. It will include keynote presentations, worship, workshops, social time, networking opportunities, and digital spaces for deep and rich ecumenical encounter.

Our keynote speakers this summer are **Dr. Deanna Thompson** (author of [The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World](#)) and **Dr. Jeffrey Mahan** (author of [Church as Network: Christian Life and Connection in Digital Culture](#)). Individually and in dialogue, our speakers will be looking at our new digital-ecclesial landscape through historical, theological, and pastoral lenses.

For more information, contact Shawn Sanford Beck at [stmstulearningevent@gmail.com](mailto:stmstulearningevent@gmail.com) or 306-441-6367.

### **UCC Camp Day for Camp Staff & Boards Saturday, June 18, 10am at Lumsden Beach Camp**

Let's share resources, programs, ideas, policies, recruitment, and any other camp-related thing we can think of. Plus, it's a great excuse to meet other camp people for networking and sharing dorky camp-stories.

We'll have more details and info posted on the Region website soon. For now, please mark it in your calendars and spread the word amongst staff, volunteers, board members, etc.