

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



May 18, 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 35](#)

Updates from each of the support committees.

Temporary Mileage Rate change

General Council Executive approved the following proposal at its recent meeting: “Considering the recent spike in gasoline prices and the prediction that they may remain at these levels for some time, it is proposed that the Executive of the General Council temporarily, to September 30, 2022, increase the current minimum reimbursement rate to 75% of the CRA 2022 “reasonable allowance rate for the first 5,000 kilometers driven”, or \$0.46 per kilometer, and authorize the General Secretary to extend this temporary increase to December 31, 2022 if fuel prices remain high.” This change was included in the latest [E-ssentials](#).

NEW - Newsletter evaluation: help us make it more useful to you

Please help evaluate an experiment! This weekly Regional Council newsletter has to carry a lot of different content, as all you sainted former Presbytery secretaries can tell us. This was resulting in problems with length and complexity. So, the newsletters team divided the content into News and Events, and continues to alternate those weekly. Please help us evaluate this decision. Help staff also understand what content is a priority for you, and why. [Here is the link to the Living Skies’ Regional Rambler survey](#), which has been kept as short as possible while inviting longer responses if you wish. Many thanks for your help as we continue to live into our new church structure.

NEW – Reminder re: reports for the Docket / Annual Report

Group leaders (Committee, Networks, Task Groups, Clusters,) and friends and partners of Living Skies Regional Council invited to submit reports for the 2022 docket / Annual Report are reminded to get their document to Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca) as soon as possible. The hope is that all reports will be on the website in early June. Any questions, contact Bev.

NEW – A Celebration for Lashburn: St. James

A Service of Celebration and Closure for St. James United Church in Lashburn will be held at **2 pm on Sunday, May 29, 2022** at All Saints Anglican Church in Lashburn, Sk. **Everyone is welcome.**

NEW - Celebration of Ministry details

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**. We will celebrate the ordination of YoungJin Park, and a covenant between YoungJin, the St. Andrew’s United Community of Faith, and Living Skies Regional Council. This service will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person – be sure to gather your communion elements to participate! Livestream will be available on the St. Andrew’s FaceBook page.

NEW - Regional Council tea party

All are invited 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. There is no need to register; connection information will be in the calendar.

Anti-racism action planning for communities of faith weekly in June: register now!

Northern Spirit, Living Skies, 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 **June 8, 15, 22, and 29**, 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. We hope this will support and encourage your anti-racism commitments and work, and that you will help the Regional Council move its own commitments forward. Please [see the registration form](#) for a few more details.

Self-Assessment checklist update

Thanks to those of you who have been sending this in. We hope that the process has been a meaningful exercise in affirming the good work in your community of faith. If you have not begun this task, 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. Completed forms can be sent to Tracy by email (preferred) or by mail c/o St. Andrew's College, 1121 College Dr. Saskatoon. S7N 0W3

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 - Your Story Matters: Toward Thriving and Equitable Pastoral Relationships

If you are Ministry Personnel who identifies as *Indigenous, racialized, Deaf, speak English as an additional language, disabled, Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+, non-binary, or female* (aka Equity-seeking), **OR**, if you are a member of M&P, Board, or Elders of a Community of Faith which is in a pastoral relationship with someone who identifies as Equity-seeking (see above), the *Pastoral Relationships Thriving with Equity Research Project* wants to hear from you. With a goal to proactive actions, The United Church of Canada seeks to learn what helps or hinders your Pastoral Relationship in thriving. You can participate in an online survey, on your own time, at your own pace, private and confidential; or as part of an online focus group, at a set time with others with whom you might identify or arranged with your group of congregational leaders; or in one-on-one interviews (for Equity-seeking Ministry Personnel). [Click here for background and details.](#)

NEW - United Church of Canada Foundation: seeking governance volunteers

The Foundation is looking for several highly skilled volunteers for roles on their Audit Committee and members of the Board of Directors. Each role requires certain skills and the Foundation seeks to ensure that our volunteers are diverse in terms of geography, expertise, and identity. If you feel called to offer your time and expertise, or know someone who would be a good fit, [you can find more details on this website by clicking here.](#)

NEW - Centre for Christian Studies: job opportunities

The Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, MB is inviting applicants for two positions: **Principal** and **Program Staff**. Join a dynamic, creative, and supportive staff team that is passionate about theological education and grounded in diaconal practice. For full job postings, job descriptions, as well as Skills, Resources and Community Profiles, visit <http://ccsonline.ca/job-postings/> or email ccs.searchcommittee@gmail.com Application deadlines: May 27 (Principal) and June 3 (Program Staff).

NEW - News: Guaranteed Livable Income Network (GLI)

Here in Saskatchewan, Bonnie Morton, the Regina Anti Poverty Ministry, Integrated Community Ministries in Saskatoon, and many others are involved with a national network in support of the concept and implementation of Guaranteed Livable Income. Respect for dignity and basic rights are at the heart of the Good News and the prophetic tradition. GLI is one way to meet people's basic needs while respecting their context and their dignity- and, by many accounts, while saving money. Numerous initiatives are currently before various levels of government. [Please see the latest updates and resources by clicking here.](#)

NEW - Worship for the International Day Against Transphobia and Homophobia, May 17.

This year's theme: Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights. Communities of Faith in Northwestern Ontario have created a service for everyone; [click here to access the service](#), and share freely. Frances (Emo/Devlin) and Jamie Miller (Dryden) wrote the service, with voices from Sioux Lookout, Fort Frances, Emo, Rainy River, Dryden and Kenora and Korean Rainbow United.

[Read more about this day here.](#) Ask your local Pride group or Gay-Straight Alliance/ Gender and Sexuality Alliance if there is an event your community of faith can support. Put out a sign or banner; take coffee and treats to your local Pride group or GSA! June is Pride Month, so just keep your sign up and your plans going - you can never know who is uplifted by your actions.

NEW - United Church protests the killing of a Palestinian journalist

[Please click here to read a letter sent by the national church to the federal government](#) after Israeli forces shot Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Rev. Dr. Ndhlovu of Church in Mission asks Canada to call for an investigation into this violation of international law.

Ms. Abu Akleh and her colleagues were wearing flak jackets, clearly marked with 'Press'. Israeli forces later entered the hospital where her body lay, firing tear gas. They also invaded Abu Akleh's home, where her family was mourning, and removed a Palestinian flag. Her funeral procession was then attacked by a large group of Israeli forces in riot gear who beat the pallbearers and mourners.

Summer job postings for young adults at the national church

Get your youth and young adult thinking cap on! The United Church has just posted a number of excellent opportunities for students under the federal government's summer work support. We can thank COVID-adaptation that most can be done from anywhere. Please have a look at the link and share widely with students in this age group. Help our national church hire from across the land, and help students connect with our wider church. [Please see full details of summer jobs here.](#)

May is Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Have a look at the [many worship resources and personal reflections](#) available through the United Church's collection as we celebrate the diverse cultures, languages, faith traditions, and struggles of the majority of the world's population. The United Church is blessed with many sibling churches throughout the Asian continent; they have shaped our history, theologies, liturgy, and understandings of justice and dignity. With United Church members of Asian and Pacific Island roots, we give thanks for these relationships in God's family. Two recent hymn videos for our worship use include [Cast Your Boat Out](#) (Korean version), and [The Bird Song](#) (in honour of a young queer Korean.)

Significant poll and study on Canadian perceptions of religion

During Holy Week the non-profit Angus Reid Institute launched a comprehensive look at the faith journeys of Canadians not just among majority religious communities, but across the religious spectrum. They write, "This data explores not only the connection and conviction of Canadians of faith among more traditionally prevalent demographics – Catholic, Mainline Protestant, and Evangelical communities – but also among Canadians who identify as Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh. What do these communities of faith have in common? How are they different?" This extensive work can help us as the United Church better understand our community context. [Please click here to see the summary and full documentation.](#)

3. Upcoming Opportunities:

Community of Faith Calendar

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. **There are upcoming retirement events as well as an art challenge currently posted.** Watch for other upcoming events to be added.

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](#).

NEW - 2 Week Leadership Course

[Learning on Purpose](#) is a 2-week leadership development course and introduction to learning in community offered by the Centre for Christian Studies. It will be offered this year from **June 13 to 24, 2022** in London, ON at Metropolitan United Church.

It is a practical, holistic, hands-on, theological, learning community experience. Those who take it come out feeling transformed (in a good way!). LoP can be taken as a stand-alone Continuing Studies course or as the beginning of the Diaconal Ministries program or for personal discernment.

If you would benefit from this kind of learning and can make it to London in June, check it out [HERE](#) or email info@ccsonline.ca for more information. There is still time to register.

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:

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

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>

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.