

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



June 1, 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 - Regional Council Annual Report (Docket) is almost ready

The reports collected from our working groups, partners and friends are almost all collated and ready for posting on the Regional Gathering page of the Living Skies Regional Council website. Although there won't be an in-person meeting this year, folks from around the region have still been working on our behalf. Please check out each section to find out what they've been doing. Also, please see the biography section to meet our new Ordinand, and some of the folks who have retired over the last year or plan to retire by the end of June. Hopefully, you will have a chance to preview all the sections before the Tea Party next Thursday.

NEW - Video invitation to Affirming ministries: Let's create together!

Rev Laura Fohse at McClure United, Saskatoon, Treaty Six, writes, "I would love for all of the Affirming Ministries across Canada to send me a short and simple video clip! I will use these clips to create a montage of Affirming Ministries sharing their love. **I need all videos by end of day on Sunday, June 12th.**" [Please click here for the full invitation and instructions.](#) This project celebrates Pride Month- see a further article elsewhere in this newsletter.

NEW - June 2022 opportunities to serve with Living Skies Regional Council

Your Nominations Committee is currently looking for people. Are you called to work within the wider church? We also invite you to consider whether you might know others who would be a good fit for one of these roles, especially lay people. We encourage you to share this information with them. We hope some of the many, diverse opportunities listed here will spark your interest in serving the wider church! Nominations is happy to talk further at any time about any of these openings, or about future interests. [Please click here for full details, and for slides to share in worship.](#)

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.

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.

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.”

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 is in the calendar.

NEW - St. Andrew’s College seeks to strengthen governance structure

The Nominations and Board Education Committee of St. Andrew’s College is pleased to report several significant developments as the College transitions to a new season of faithful theological education in collaboration with Lutheran Theological Seminary and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad.

The College announced the launch of the new Lifelong Learning Pathway and the academic integration with our Saskatchewan Theological Union (STU) partners.

We are pleased also to announce three new faculty positions for the STU. Dr. Lynn Caldwell will assume the tenured position as the new Professor of Theological Ethics; Dr. Becca Whitla will assume the tenure track position as the new Professor of Practical Ministry, and Dr. Bernon Lee will be Professor of Hebrew Scriptures and the first Educational Coordinator of the College’s Lifelong Learning Pathway.

The Board of Regents has renewed the contract of Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis as Principal to 2028.

As the College enters this historic transition, it will continue to rely on a strong governance structure made up competent, skilled and dedicated Board and committee members.

We are seeking potential nominees to fill several positions on the Board and committees.

Our areas of urgent need at the moment are the Finance Committee and Audit Committee. If you are financially-minded, or know someone who is, please contact the College office as soon as possible at 639-638-2478 or email melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoonthologicalunion.ca. We will be happy to send you details about these opportunities.

The Audit Committee needs members who have some experience or certification in accounting. The committee meets once a year virtually to review the College’s financial statement.

The Nominations and Board Education Committee also invites expressions of interest for Members at Large on the Board, the Nominations Committee and the Personnel Policy Committee.

We are committed to diversity on the Board and welcome interest from lay persons and paid accountable ministers as well as from all genders, sexual orientation, ethnicity, geography, ability and age.

Please share this information about volunteer opportunities in the College to all communities of faith in your network and to any individual you know who may be interested in helping build a strong and sustainable future for the College and to fulfill God’s mission through theological education.

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.

Centre for Christian Studies: job opportunities

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

NEW - Finding Friendship, Mutuality and Solidarity in a New Land

As Asian Heritage Month closes, Rev Woong Youm [reflects on his journey to reaffirmation, transformation and interconnectivity](#). He reminds us all identities and struggles are connected; as we journey into June, which is both Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month, may his words help us see our relationships and responsibilities to one another

NEW - Moderator's Pentecost message 2022

In his Pentecost video message, his last message as Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott reminds us that The United Church of Canada is part of the 2000-year community of Christ's disciples—a worldwide communion that is not bound by geography, space, or time. We are people who change the world—with deep spirituality, with bold discipleship, with daring justice. [Click here to view and share the video](#).

NEW - Resources for June: Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month

June is Indigenous Month as well as Pride Month. In both cases, please have a look for local options you can engage and support through public signage, donations, practical assistance, and your respectful ministry of presence. Large and small, public and private, our support as the church matters. Get to know your Two Spirit, LGBTQIA+ and Indigenous neighbours, so that you can be fully present.

Sunday June 5: Pride Sunday. See elsewhere in this newsletter for a video invitation for Affirming ministries. [Click here for a resource collection from the national church](#). Have your own resources to recommend, or resources you created? Please email Julie Graham at jgraham@united-church.ca by June 1.

Sunday June 19: Indigenous Day of Prayer. [Click here for a new service of worship](#) by the National Indigenous Council; please use freely and with gratitude! There's also a [comprehensive list of great resources here](#).

Tuesday June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day. Please look carefully at local gatherings; show up whenever and however you can; use your community of faith signage and space to lend your public support.

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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.](#)

3. Upcoming Opportunities:**Community of Faith Calendar**

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. Watch for other upcoming events to be added. 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](#).

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 and for supporting the programming being offered at Queen's House.*

4. Reminders:

***Pastoral Relations Ponderings** – [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 35](#)

Updates from each of the support committees.

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.