

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



June 15, 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](mailto: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 36](#)

Updates from each of the support committees.

**NEW! Affirming ministries blow a kiss video to share for Pride**

Laura Fohse at McClure United (Saskatoon) has created a video of Affirming ministries across the land. It launched today! Share everywhere. [The Google Drive download and view link is here.](#)

**NEW - Ministry Personnel Gatherings**

Facilitated conversations have been suspended for the summer. However, the Zoom space will continue to be open on Tuesdays at 1pm for unstructured, collegial support. Check [the calendar](#) for the connection information.

**NEW - Save The Date: Church Office Administrators Retreat.**

The retreat is planned for the fall 2022 and it will take place in Saskatoon, SK. All church office administrators are welcome to attend! Further information and details will be coming soon

#### **Reports for the Docket / Annual Report**

A wide range of groups connected to the Living Skies Regional Council have submitted reports for the 2022 docket / Annual Report. Most sections have now been posted to the Regional Gathering page (button on the home page) on our website <https://livingskiesrc.ca/>. If you have a chance, please have a look at them.

#### **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.](#)

#### **LAST CHANCE - 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.

**Support to university students in Regina - get in touch!**

Do you have members of your congregation and community who will be coming to Regina in the Fall of 2022 to attend the University of Regina, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, or First Nations University of Canada? At Wesley United Community of Faith, we are the closest in proximity to the University of Regina campus, only two blocks walk. We would like to be able to support your loved one when they are here in the Queen City. [Click here to read more about what we want to offer!](#)

**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."

**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 - Honouring Elder Alberta Billy**

Alberta Billy, the We Wai Kai Elder who in 1985 demanded that The United Church of Canada apologize for its role in colonization and the loss of Indigenous languages, culture, and spirituality, passed away on June 13, 2022. The Moderator and the General Secretary offer their deep condolences to Alberta's husband Dan, their family, and their community. [Please read and share the news here.](#)

In August 1986 the Apology was offered at the Sudbury General Council, and was heard and acknowledged, but not accepted. ([All texts related to the Apology are found here.](#)) May we ever honour elder Alberta's memory by living into the Apology

*Moving Forward Together, Marking the 30th Anniversary of the United Church Apology to First Nations People, [is a video available here.](#) It's a conversation with Alberta Billy, the Very Rev. Bob Smith, Pam Hart, and Lawrence Sankey about how the Apology came to be, and what is needed to make it real. A written [reflection on the anniversary is here.](#)*

**NEW - Guaranteed Livable Income petition: July 2 deadline**

The United Church hosts a national Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) network, which includes reps from our Regional Council. Many people ask what GLI could look like in practice; it stands in such contrast to current social assistance programs that it can be hard to imagine. Prince Edward Island has signalled its willingness to enter into a partnership with the federal government to begin such a program. We are invited by the GLI Network of the United Church to consider signing the petition. [Please click here for information.](#)

**NEW - Honouring Indigenous Peoples' Month: important dates and resources**

June is Indigenous Peoples Month. [Please see the website for some important resources and reminders.](#)

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, on June 19 (Indigenous Day of Prayer) and on Indigenous Peoples' Day June 21, and the upcoming Orange Shirt Day September 30. Get to know your Indigenous neighbours, discern with them how to be supportive and fully present.

**NEW - Small Town, Big Impact: New Affirming video series**

Here we are in Pride Month! United Church-based [Affirming Connections](#) offers us a great way to engage a gift that many of our ministries carry: the impact of being and becoming Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Affirming in a small town, village, reserve, or remote community. Affirming Connections and its generous supporters have made this resource freely available; think about how you can use this in your own ministry setting, this month or in the fall. [Please have a look at the video series here.](#)

**NEW - Solidarity letters requested for LGBTQIA -affirming Korean Methodist minister**

In 2020, Rev. Lee Dong-hwan of the Korean Methodist Church accepted an invitation to bless the crowd at the Incheon Pride Festival. As a result, on October 15, 2020, the church stripped him of his ability to practice as a minister for two years. His appeal of that decision is finally being heard beginning on June 13, 2022. The United Church of Canada has many connections to Korea and to Korean Christians through our partner churches, and as part of that global family, our letters of support are requested. [Please click here for the request and background.](#)

**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 of 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@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca). We will be happy to send you details about these opportunities.

**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.

**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:****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

**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](#).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lsyayac.josie@gmail.com).