

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



June 29, 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 – Last Rambler until last August

As summer has arrived, so has the time for rest and relaxation (summer holidays), The *Regional Rambler* will be suspended until late August. However, if important items or information arises during this time, it will be distributed in a timely manner. Also, for those on Facebook, keep an eye on the Regional Council Facebook page for any announcements. Have a safe summer!

NEW - Staff Summer Holidays

Although not all staff have firm holiday plans at this time, here is what is confirmed now: Executive Minister, Shannon McCarthy will be unavailable from July 11 to August 14. She will be attending General Council 44 from July 21 - 25; Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister will be unavailable from July 22 until August 14; Julie Graham, Justice and Communication Minister, will be off August 1 - 26. Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator, has yet to finalize her plans. Madeleine McLuhan-Myers, Archivist will be working most of the summer. She is best reached by email though, as she has part-time hours and is often deep in the stacks and storage areas, and far from her office phone. Lindsay Mohn, Youth and Young Adult Minister, will be away from July 12-15. Vicki Nelson, community of faith stewardship support staff, will be away July 23-August 1. However, she will respond to any stewardship inquiries when she returns. Please watch for Email bounce back messages for individual staff member's plans.

The Living Skies Regional Council office will be mostly open through July and August. Bev Diebert is currently planning to take some time of mid-July to mid-August, but will still check Emails and phone messages at least a couple of times a week.

NEW - A time for gratitude:

As we come to the end of June, we want to take a moment to express gratitude to the volunteers who have completed terms within the structure of the Regional Council. Departing from the Regional Council Executive are Tricia Gerhard and Tim Ellis, from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support is Patti Sawchuk, from the Committee on Community of Faith Support is Sheila Deforest, and from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support is Rick McCorrister. We are grateful for their contributions to the development and implementation of policy and practices, and wish them many blessing on their future adventures.

NEW - A time to celebrate:

Another Celebration of Ministry service will occur on September 25 at 4pm at St. Andrew's United Church in Outlook. This service will be livestreamed, although all are welcome to attend in person. More details available in September.

NEW – A Feature story on Living Skies Affirming Ministries

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/prairie-pride-church-sask-1.6502921>

NEW - A time of change:

The Pastoral Relations Report found on the [Regional Council website](#) contains a summary of information regarding pastoral relations work over the past year. Within that document you will find information on ministry personnel starting new positions and leaving others, and lists of the current Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Sacraments Elders, and Voluntary Associate Ministers. There is also a section for each community of faith in the Regional Council. Please read through to find out what is happening - if there are any errors, please let Bev Diebert know.

NEW - Summer right relations and TRC update

Please [click here for an update on ongoing right relations work](#) and recent Executive funding decisions, including alongside Cote First Nation, Okanese First Nation, and KAIROS' Prairies North's Decolonization group. And, thank you to all who responded to the Indigenous church's call to honour Indigenous Day of Prayer on June 19, and National Indigenous Peoples' Day June 21. Our next opportunity to live into the Caretakers' Calls to the Church and the TRC Calls to Action will be Friday September 30, Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Updated - Save The Date: 2022 Church Office Administrators Retreat.

The dates have been finalized for the Church Office Administrators Retreat! *Fill Your Cup: Nourish & Restore Yourself* retreat will be held beginning **Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7pm and go to October 7, 2022 at 1pm** at Queens House Retreat & Renewal Centre (601 Taylor Street W., Saskatoon, SK S7M 0M8). Detail can be found in a [letter for M&P Committees or governing bodies](#). [Here is the form to register](#). For question or further information contact Brandy Emmerich at office@stmartinsuc.com or by phone at 306-343-7101. **Deadline for registration is August 31, 2022.**

Ministry Personnel Gatherings

Facilitated conversations have been suspended for the summer, resuming September 6. However, the Zoom space will continue to be open on Tuesdays at 1pm for unstructured, collegial support. Check the [calendar](#) for the connection information.

SAVE THE DATE – UCW Annual Meeting

The Women's Network is planning to hold an in-person UCW Annual Meeting at Watrous United Church on **September 24, 2022**. More details will follow.

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 July Mission and Service stories, and much more

Have a look at the summer edition of God's Mission, Our Gifts, for lots of resources for your community of faith, and for stories of connecting around the world- through our givings, yes, and through all our relationships as a church. We give, and we receive. [Click here for the newsletter and links to further stories](#).

NEW - United Church Foundation grants report- including our Region

The Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Spring Granting Cycle. Thirty one grants – totaling **\$222,208** – were awarded through the Seeds of Hope granting program to United Church of Canada congregations, organizations, leaders, ministries, and partners. Additionally, the United Church of Canada Foundation is proud to award 31 grants for research, scholarship, and academic awards. The total of these 31 grants is **\$233,000**. 6 grants from the New Ministries Fund – totaling **\$145,000** – were also awarded. All told, more than **\$600,200** was awarded to 68 grant recipients. Your ministry could be part of this- [please have a look at the Grants summary page](#), and start dreaming or planning. [Click here to download the 2022 Spring Granting Cycle Results \(PDF\)](#)

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.](#)

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 36](#)

Updates from each of the support committees.

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.](#)

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."

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.](#)

Alvin Dixon Memorial Fun Run/Walk 2022 June 17-July 25 in association with General Council 44.

[Click here for details.](#) When? Anytime between **June 17 (the official opening) and July 25**. This is to raise money for the Alvin Dixon Memorial Fund for Indigenous post secondary students, especially those attending places like the Vancouver School of Theology and Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. Alvin was a respected elder, teacher, bridge builder, and advocate from the Heiltsuk First Nation who contributed deeply to the Indigenous church and to the wider United Church of Canada. All ages and abilities welcome.

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

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. All 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.

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!](https://www.instagram.com/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.