

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada

November 2, 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.**

In this **NEWS** edition of the Rambler, new and time-sensitive items are listed near the top of each section. Items included for the first time will have **NEW:** beside the title of the event. **Dates** are highlighted in green for easy identification.

1. Living Skies Regional Council News:

NEW: Increase to the Regional Council mileage rate

On October 27, the Living Skies Executive decided on a mileage increase to 40 cents per kilometer, for Regional Council volunteers when their work requires them to travel. This is effective 1 November. This is one way to support the much-appreciated ministry you offer the wider church, and to try to ensure that you aren't paying personally for fuel prices remaining high. As always, for environmental reasons, carpooling is encouraged wherever possible.

Updated again: Minimum Salary Schedule for 2023 is here!

The minimum salary schedule for ministry personnel for 2023 was released a couple of weeks ago and has been updated, again. It is **effective January 1, 2023**. You can find that document at this link. Included in the salary schedule is an increase to the mileage rate to \$0.55/ km, as well as an increase to the visiting ministry personnel rate (pulpit supply) to \$231. If you have questions or concerns regarding this, please contact Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister at tmurton@united-church.ca.

Ministry Personnel Gatherings

Ministry Personnel are invited to join colleagues for conversation, support and information sharing. Check the calendar for the connection information.

2. Wider Church Information:

NEW: Lawsuit against the UCC on maternity homes; and apology resources

The United Church has been named in a lawsuit related to its role in running maternity homes, often known as "homes for unwed mothers". Further information on this case will come from General Council, and will be shared with the Regional Council. The United Church ran a number of such homes, often with other denominations. In 2020, the Church apologized for "...our participation in the separation of mothers from their children. Our role in pressured, coerced, or forced adoptions created a legacy of pain and suffering. We helped create a culture of shame."

Please see, and refer people to, this link for all resources related to the 2020 apology. Living into this apology is the work of the whole church, and all members of our United Church community are urged to read and reflect on these resources. Thank you for making your community of faith aware.

40 Days of Anti-Racism continues

This coming week marks the mid-way point for the [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#). Thank you for your continued engagement! [Please click here for the latest newsletter](#), which details whose stories are coming up this week.

NEW: Updates on Faithful Footprints projects for reducing energy use

Faithful Footprints is helping United Church ministries and buildings reduce their carbon footprint- and bills. [Here's a summary of projects to date](#), which includes Living Skies communities of faith. If you have plans large or small for reducing fossil fuel use, contact them and see where the commitment can take you.

NEW: Canadians at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 November 8–18 and

participating at home Against a backdrop of multiple climate crises and a growing sense of urgency to address the climate emergency, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP27 will be held from November 8–18, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. A [KAIROS](#) and [For The Love of Creation](#) COP27 delegation will be attending this critical gathering with the accreditation of The United Church of Canada. This delegation forefronts communities most impacted by climate change and most marginalized from the decision-making tables. The [12 person delegation](#) includes women peacebuilders, land defenders, Indigenous and youth leaders from the Global South and Turtle Island. [Please click here for the full newsletter](#) and its many resources.

Climate justice vigils invitation coming up Nov 11-13

The ecumenical group For the Love of Creation invites groups across Canada to [host candlelight vigils in their own communities on the weekend of November 11-13, 2022](#). This will be a time to reflect and share our love for our planet, our concern for our fellow human beings at risk from climate change, and our hopes for truly transformative action to happen through the governments gathering for the United Nations “Conference of the Parties” (COP). This is a meeting of governments who have signed on to the global climate action agreement. This includes Canada and US. If you’re interested, or already planning a vigil, please contact Regional justice staff Julie Graham, jgraham@united-church.ca, and let’s make sure your vigil is also listed on the Regional website.

New United Church national insurance plan for your ministry starting December

Effective **December 1, 2022**, The United Church of Canada is launching an insurance program aimed at providing United Church ministries with more affordable and accessible property and liability insurance coverage. **UCC Protect/United Assurance** insurance offers coverage to address the unique needs of congregations and incorporated ministries such as camps, seniors’ homes, and education centres. This plan is the only insurance program endorsed and funded by the General Council Office. [See these Frequently Asked Questions](#) for details on the transition from UCC Protect to United Assurance. [Here's a website summary](#) to share with your Trustees, Board or Council.

Ready-to-use worship service materials

Looking for additional resources for worship leadership? The United-In-Worship Project is a partnership between St. John's United Church, Marathon, ON and The Canadian Shield Regional Council, providing weekly, ready-to-use worship service materials for use in United Churches across Canada. Details are [found at this link](#).

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](#) .

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.

4. Reminders:

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."

Emergency funds/ Mission and Service update on Hurricane Fiona

Hurricane Fiona has caused devastating damage across Atlantic Canada and Eastern Quebec. Communities throughout the regions of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters, First Dawn Eastern Edge, Regional Council 15, Nakonha:ka and beyond will need support as they navigate the road to recovery. [Donations are being accepted here](#); gifts will go towards long-term rebuilding.

End the Korean War Appeal; 7,000 more signatures needed

At this eight-month mark of The United Church of Canada's 10,000 Signature Korea Peace Appeal, the campaign has moved [2,812 people to sign the appeal](#). Korea Peace Appeal champions continue to invite you to sign and to encourage others to participate. This is a special support and solidarity action requested by our long-time church partners in South Korea, where the continued state of war has a real impact, especially on family reunification. [Please find the petition and background here](#).