

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



November 30, 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.**

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: Regional Convenor letter: God's call to care for each other**

Darrell Reine offers [in this letter](#) a reminder that masks, flu shots, and more remain very important even as we celebrate more in person gatherings for the Advent journey, noting, "It is important for us to remember that God calls us to care for one another in many ways and this is one way we can do this." Please share this letter in your community of faith and its leadership- may it start or support important discernment.

### **NEW: Regional statement on violence against survivor of Legacy Christian Academy**

November 25 Living Skies Regional Council Executive [released an open letter](#) expressing grave concerns about the allegations of abuse at the Legacy Christian Academy in Saskatoon, and the news of threats and violence, including arson, associated with survivors speaking out. Please share it widely.

The letter expressed to Ms. Caitlin Erickson, and to all the survivors of Legacy Christian Academy, respect and gratitude for their courage in naming the abuse. The open letter also referenced the Region's [August statement about Christian abuse](#) and a [recent statement by the Regina Cluster](#).

[Global News SK picked up on the story](#) and interviewed Regional Convenor Darrell Reine; [CBC SK interviewed Jordan Cantwell](#), who spoke on behalf of St Martin's United, and [Radio-Canada ran the story in French](#).

### **NEW: Writing Annual Reports is fun!**

The Committee on Community of Faith Support has developed best practices for the creation of Annual Reports. Assuming that most communities of faith will hold an annual meeting in the new year, the list of best practices will provide a guideline to help ensure all of the criteria are met to support ongoing accountability and telling the story of your ministry well. Stay tuned in the new year for further information.

### **NEW: What's Rural Connect and why care? Read on... and come to the event Dec 7**

We present you with two chances to learn about Rural Connect, designed to offer interactive worship online in areas with connectivity struggles. Here's [an overview of the program](#) and the Region's involvement. And join Broadway United (Regina) and St Martin's and McClure United Churches (Saskatoon) for a workshop and conversation December 7 at 6:00PM. [Click here for full details](#). Dial in details are included; we especially welcome communities of faith in remote or rural areas, on reserve, and who don't have ministry personnel present often or at all.

**NEW: Living Skies Prayer Cycle 2023**

The 2023 Living Skies Prayer Cycle, available for use in your bulletins, announcements or during your Prayers of the People, is now posted on the Regional Council website under [Resources> Worship](#). It can be found in the Prayer Cycle box, near the bottom of the page (just click on it and it will open). Also, in that expanding list, is the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle [link](#).

**NEW: Video license purchase for 2023 open**

Are you interested in having a movie night or series as part of your church's ministry? If so, consider getting a Video License for your community of faith to show films and tv shows in and outside of worship on site at your church. Please visit <https://buyingunited.net/video-licensing> to explore what video licenses could do for you, and to apply! Deadline for this round is **December 9th, 2022**.

**NEW: Introducing the UC Rural Ministry Network**

The United Church Rural Ministry Network was established in 2020 through a grant from Embracing the Spirit. There was a strong feeling that after the meeting of General Council 43 in 2018, which had committed to support rural ministries throughout the country, there needed to be an organization that could network rural folks across Canada.

The mission statement of UCRMN is to “share the successes, the opportunities and the culture of the Whole People of God of the Rural Church, throughout rural Canada, specifically in the United Church of Canada,” with an awareness we will be connecting with ecumenical partners who share rural communities with us. It is a goal to reach all rural communities of faith, whether ‘lay-led’ or with resident order of ministry folk [Please click here to learn more](#) and to contact the Network.

**NEW: Supporting the call for affordable housing in Meadow Lake**

Congratulations to Grace United for their part in an important reminder of the housing crisis in Meadow Lake, and for their ongoing ministry and advocacy with the community. [Click here to read the story](#).

**NEW: Parkland Restorative Justice: Highlighting your givings for ecumenical ministry**

[Parkland Restorative Justice](#) is an ecumenical partner based in Prince Albert, and receives a small but important mission support grant through the Regional Council. Their work on restorative justice and prison chaplaincy is a crucial part of working towards communities that are safer and experience less violence. Their ministry reminds us of Jesus asking if we visited him when he was in prison, and of the radical love we are called to practice. Recently a minute for mission focused on their work with fathers; [click here to read](#).

**Deadline for Mission & Service Transfers Changed!**

Beginning in January 2023, the deadline for Mission & Service transfers will be January 15. That means that pastoral charges need to make their final 2022 Mission & Service transfer by **January 15, 2023**.

We are making this change because it will improve our accountability, accuracy, and transparency when reporting back to you on annual results. We also expect that January 15 is closer to when the majority of communities of faith have finalized—or nearly finalized—their year-end financial statements.

If you have questions or need support to set up electronic transfers, please contact Nicole Chicote at 1-800-268-3781 x3072 or [nchicote@united-church.ca](mailto:nchicote@united-church.ca).

**Nominations wants YOU- yes, you!**

Well, they'll take your friends and your recommendations too. Help out this group who matches needs with skills, gifts, and time. [Click here for all the latest opportunities](#) and some resources to help you engage your community of faith.

**Gifts With Vision**

The United Church of Canada provides Mission & Service support to partners for their ongoing work in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and right here in Canada. Gifts with Vision turns gift giving into an opportunity to do something extra for our church partners. Through Gifts with Vision, you give gifts to friends or family to support specific partner activities. With your gifts, we help create healthy places to live, promote justice, provide social services, and enliven worship.

Check out the online gift catalogue today! - <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

## 2. Wider Church Information:

### **NEW: Summary of the first meeting of General Council Executive**

Following the end of the initial meeting of General Council 44, a new Executive has also begun its work. It's Advent, we're all a bit or a lot tired, and there's so much to absorb. As you're able, though, [have a look at this concise summary](#) of the important business that was before the Executive.

### **Christmas Rapture – CCS Online Conversation**

CCS Fridays are online conversations to help us all to respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops, hosted by the Centre for Christian Studies, are open to anyone who might be interested. *Coming up: **December 2, 2022 at Noon*** Lambeth Learnings--what are the important Lambeth Learnings that could inform inter-church and ecumenical relations? It's free to attend, you just need to register for a zoom link. To register, [head here](#) .

### **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.

### **Book a time to talk about stewardship**

Are you thinking about year-end or wanting to make a stewardship plan for 2023? Would you like to talk about legacy giving to your congregation, but don't know where to start? Do you have questions about growing giving to Mission & Service? Vicki Nelson is your stewardship support person and is available to share resources, answer questions, or brainstorm with. Don't know where to start? Book a phone or zoom conversation with Vicki today using [this link](#).

### **Get Support to Create your Stewardship Campaign!**

If your congregation hasn't undertaken a stewardship campaign in a while, consider registering for a 2-week learning module on creating a congregational giving program with Called to be the Church: The Journey. There are 2 opportunities to participate in the program coming up in **January 2023**. [Learn more 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](#) .

### **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:

**Pastoral Relations Ponderings** - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 38](#). Updates from each support committee.

### **Welcome to Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant**

We welcome Chantal Winslow as the new Executive Assistant! She will work with Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine, as well as areas of work that include all three Regional Councils. Chantal will work closely with Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy, and will bring her skills of administration, communication, and planning to key work such as: the minutes for the three Regional Council Executives and the annual meetings; planning Shannon's schedule; communications and connecting work; and more. [Please click here for Chantal's bio](#).