



The Common-tater

This spud's for you

Volume 2

LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING NEWS

May 25 — May 28, 2023, Prince Albert

Issue 2



Service of Praise will be held at 10:30AM at Calvary United Church (114—25 St. E.). Michele Rowe, retiree Ministry Personnel at Maple Creek, will be the preacher for this service. Join us for this service of celebration, followed by a reception.

Chief Cadmus Delorme—Part 2

After supper, Chief Cadmus elaborated on the Indigenous world view by inviting us to consider two, co-existing canoes. The Western world view canoe carries such European ways as the Doctrine of Discovery and the Indian Act. The Indigenous canoe contains the effects of residential schools and the sixties scoop, but it is also loaded with the Indigenous practice of hospitality, “helium humour,” and a governance structure that centres learning through storytelling.

When, toward the end of his riveting talk, Chief Cadmus showed the image of the “end of the trail,” I thought it’s exhausted warrior and horse seemed unconnected to his positive message. But when he pointed out the warrior still holding his spear, I began to glimpse Miyo Pimatisowin, striving for a good life.

An inspiring leader, Chief Cadmus left us with hope, love and joy in our canoe.

Remit 1 – Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

Charlene Burns, Community Capacity Development Coordinator and Russell Burns, Elder with the National Indigenous Council, introduced Remit One regarding the establishment of an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. They began with a smudge and a prayer. Then we watched a video created by General Council Staff to respond to questions about the remit. This video is called *Remit. NIC 01 : Restructuring of the Indigenous Church* and is available on The UCC YouTube site.

This remit asks if the church will agree to remove structural barriers so that the Indigenous Church can determine its own place and structure within the United Church. The remit asks for a change to the Basis of Union and therefore requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge’s governing body. Charlene and Russell noted that this remit will move the church from “the idea of mission” and towards “true partnership.” They also emphasized the fact that the Indigenous Church is not trying to leave the United Church, but is hoping to build a new and even stronger relationship with this change in structure.

Worship Friday night

Joy Cowan, Yvonne Terry and Jim Tenford lead a short and meaningful worship with words reminding us of God’s presence—when 2 or 3 are gathered together to pray for God’s guidance, that will lead us on the path of reconciliation. Scripture reading was Romans 12:10,15,16, 18. “We remember now, in the quiet curve of evening, God, you are in the gaps between the meaning.”


YAYA (Youth and Young Adult)

Ever the proverbial “life of the annual party” the Youth and Young Adult Community (YAYA) brought their report to our gathering with their usual enthusiasm and excitement!. We are so blessed! Staff person Rev. Lindsay Mohn (YAYA Minister) and Josie Williamson (YAYA Animator) talked about YAYA continuing to work in our church communities and Living Skies Regional to make space for youth and young adults. They also offer resources and support to congregations and enable connections among youth across the province. YAYA is also connected to our provincial camps (now that we no longer have presbyteries to do that) and they noted that most of our youth and children ministry is currently happening through our provincial camping network. Along with all this good work and good news: Other YAYA team member, Megan talked to us about youth retreats, Kyle talked with us about newly hired Saskatoon youth minister and Sam shared with us what we can do to strengthen the YAYA in our Region:

- 1) get a hold of YAYA members if you have questions;
- 2) let them know what help we need from them and what we want them to do to feed and nurture the youth in our area;
- 3) if you have a youth group — no matter how big or small — be sure to connect with YAYA and sign up for their monthly newsletter to stay in the know. Contact Josie at lsyayac.josie@gmail.com. Thank you to all congregation and individuals who generously support youth events and ministry.

DID YOU KNOW: The Common-taters, and the full docket and the worship materials are on the Regional Council website: www.livingskiesrc.ca.





Saturday Opening worship

Worship team Yvonne Terry, Jim Tenford and Joy Cowan led us in a lively, energetic, and rousing service of action songs, prayers, and responses. Silent reflection followed a reading of Isaiah 30:18, 20-30.

2023 REMIT - Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

There is one question to be voted on, as follows.

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
 2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
- The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

This remit was passed overwhelmingly!!

* The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.

** The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".

Elder Liz Settee

Elder Liz began by naming that she was speaking from the heart and that there would be a release of emotions but that she would not be seeking comfort or pity. She shared her parents' story of meeting in Dundee, Scotland when her dad was serving with Regina Rifles. Injured in the first landing at Normandy, her dad soon went home, but they wrote letters for 11 years before he hid an engagement ring in the bag of sugar he shipped to Dundee. Liz continued to share the challenges she faced in her life—feeling like she didn't fit in—within the family but especially with the church. But Liz told us that the 'black sheep role has lead the way on a good path.'

After seasons in her life where survival lead through many moves and using substances to push away dealing with issues in her life, it was the Oka crisis that lead her to understand the trauma that faces Indigenous people. She attended the Native Education Centre for a one-years certificate in criminology because she was determined to 'solve the world'. After more education and several positions supporting children, families and community, she connected with Nora Vedress and was invited to share teaching on smudging and drumming. There for the first time experienced a deep welcome in the church. As we work "Discovering a Good Path Together", she has insights for us as Settler people, we have fears (continued next column)

2023 PROPOSAL—LSRC Affirming Statement

At the Living Skies Regional Council Meeting, the LSRC Affirming Task Group presented the following motion to for our Living Skies Regional Council to become an Affirming Region.

The Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Task Group moves that the Living Skies Regional Council applies to become an Affirming Region; endorses the Regional Affirming Statement; directs the Executive Council of Living Skies Regional Council and the Executive Minister to complete the process of accreditation with Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble (AUSE); and plans a Public, intentional and explicit (PIE) celebration for the 2024 General Meeting of LSRC.

This remit was passed overwhelmingly!!

Appendix: Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Statement:

LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Living Skies Regional Council recognizes the diversity of God's creation and encourages the full and equitable participation of all people in our ministries.

We value the complete spectrum of human diversity which includes (but is not limited to) sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds, mental and physical ability, spiritual beliefs, and all definitions of family.

We make a public, intentional, and explicit commitment to sharing our faith, gifts, and resources to live out God's call to love, compassion, and justice.

As an Affirming Ministry, we will support ongoing, engaging, educational processes for Communities of Faith and other ministries to understand what it means to become affirming, as well as offering encouragement and inspiration to existing Affirming Ministries.

We honour those who walked this path before us and celebrate the opportunity to journey further.

Liz Settee continued

about asking questions in a respectful way. As Indigenous people, we have fear to approach settler people and share our experiences. We are called to come together to listen, with an open heart, to understand the accounts of experiences in the past and to provide a place of welcome for each other, with those "black sheep" to lead the way on a good path.

Nominations Committee

Great news—10 names have come forward expressing interest in vacancies, but there are still 12 more to fill. Spread the word—even people not affiliated with LSRC can volunteer. Let's see if these vacancies can be filled shortly!

