

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



August 23, 2023 – News – *Welcome Back*

*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 at 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: Welcome Back

We hope you had a great summer break with some time for rest and relaxation. Watch here for information about items, events and happenings we feel is important for you to know about.

NEW: Season of change

As we anticipate the fall beginning in earnest, we want to remind you that sometimes things change over the summer. We missed bidding farewell to Carolyn Woodall, who completed her interim ministry appointment at Regina: Wesley in July. We also wish blessings on the journey to Joan Brown and Ray Purdie, who are retiring from ministry fully, and to Bill Unger who is retiring from active ministry at the end of September. Finally, we also send our good wishes to Koshy David who will no longer be in ministry with the folks at Grenfell United Church after the end of August, and to Jordan Cantwell who is taking on a General Council Office position on **November 1**.

Updated: Directory Updates

Bev Diebert has updated the Regional Council Directory with the information gathered during registration process for the Regional Meeting. If you didn't register for the 2023 Regional Meeting, but have been elected/named as your Community of Faith's Rep to the Regional Council, please forward me your contact information, community of faith and permission to include in the directory. Ministry Personnel in a call or appointment who didn't register / give permission will still have their name and pastoral charge contact information included. VAMs and committee members who did **not** register for the meeting (to give permission), but still wish to be included in the directory, please send Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca) an email with your name, address, phone number(s), email and permission to include. Any questions or concerns, contact Bev.

Communities of Faith / Pastoral Charges, if you have updates or corrections to your mailing address, phone number and/or email address, please advise Bev at the Living Skies Regional Office. It is hoped the new directory will be posted on the website by the **end of September**.

NEW: Ministry Personnel Gatherings

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) will begin again on **Tuesday, September 5 at 1pm** on Zoom. Please check the calendar for connection information to join colleagues for conversation and support. [Connection information is in the calendar.](#)

Save the dates!

New ministry beginnings often include covenanting services! So, please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating:

- Rev. David Mugadzi and Preeceville-Sturgis community of faith – **September 17, 2:30 pm**
- Rev. Brenda Curtis and Grace-Westminster community of faith – **October 1, 7:00 pm**

NEW: Ministry & Personnel Committees – everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask

Let's start the fall with a refresher on the role and responsibilities of this important committee. Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be offering an online training session on **Wednesday, September 20 at 7pm** for new folks that will also be a reminder for returning members. Please email Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

NEW: So you want to be a Pastoral Charge Supervisor?

We are exceedingly grateful for the folks who offer their time and wisdom to serve as Pastoral Charge Supervisors throughout our Regional Council. If you are new to this role, need a refresher, or are wondering whether this might be a place for your skills and gifts, join Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister for a training session on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7pm**. This Zoom learning opportunity will clarify the responsibilities of the role, including accountability to the Regional Council, and will provide space for all of your questions to be answered. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

NEW: Equipping the saints

Do you feel called to walk with others when they are facing difficult circumstances? Do you have a gift for listening and practicing compassion? Join Emily Carr, chaplain with the North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, Lorna King, chaplain with the South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, and Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister for Living Skies, for an afternoon of learning and sharing wisdom for the task of lay pastoral visiting. You will learn practical tips for visiting both within and outside health care facilities, understanding your boundaries, and navigating the SHA system. This learning opportunity will be on **Thursday, October 12, 1-4pm** over Zoom. To register, contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

NEW: "Save The Date" ~ United Church Office Administrators Conference.

The retreat is planned for **October 1-4, 2024**, and it will take place at Queen's House in Saskatoon. All church office administrators are welcome to attend! Further information and details will be coming soon.

2. Wider Church Information:**NEW: An invitation to active Ministry Personnel from The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Landsdowne....**

"If you've been following me on social media or read E-ssentials digital newsletter, you'll know that part of my Flourishing project was a **pilot leadership school: (Re)Generate: Invigorating Leadership**. I'm happy to say that the nomination/application form is now available on the UCC website."

The program is for ministry personnel, is **3 weeks per year in 2024 & 2025**, with prescribed weeks (avoiding church busy seasons and regional meeting season, based on what we knew when we chose the weeks).

Cost: Up to \$1,500/year, for a total of \$3,000 over two years. This is based on the full-time continuing education allowance for ministry personnel. Recognizing that some ministry personnel are not in full-time employment with a community of faith, and some ministry personnel do not have access to \$1,500 per year, cost will not be a barrier to participation.

To enhance the diversity of participants (including part-time ministers), and to fulfill our commitments to equity, some participants could contribute less, or apply for funds towards child care, or other expenses that would help facilitate their participation.

Deadline for all applications is September 30th. See [here](#) for more information and to access the application form.

If you would like to nominate someone, please do so before September 6th by clicking the link above **or share the link** with a nominee so they can fill out the application directly.

NEW: New Pathways now launching at St. Andrew's College!

Applications are open and flowing into our new Lifelong Learning certificate programs (<https://standrews.ca/lifelong-learning-pathway/>) as well as our renewed degree programs (<https://standrews.ca/academics/programs/master-of-divinity-and-master-of-theological-studies/>). Whether you are in training for ministry, looking for ongoing educational engagement and support, or just plain curious about theology, we have something for you! For more information, please be in touch with the College Recruitment Officer at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca (306 441 6367).

NEW: Confronted by Grace: Finding Balance in God

An online contemplative gathering, with lectio divina and space for quiet shared reflection around a theme gifted by the fall equinox on **Friday September 22, at 10am and 2pm**. Please pre-register by emailing bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca and indicating whether you would like to attend the 10am or 2pm session time.

NEW: St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" – save the dates!

Over the course of the upcoming academic year, St. Andrew's (along with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners) will be hosting a series of evening online sessions, **from 7:30-9pm Sask time, on Wed Oct 11, Mon Nov 27, Thurs Feb 8, and Tues Mar 9** ... culminating in an Affirming Re-Commitment Service (date tba) to mark 15 years as an Affirming Ministry ... Huzzah!!! Our first session (**Wed Oct 11**) will be focussed on the history of Affirm (and the Lutheran "Reconciling in Christ" program), and what it has meant for our College. For more details, contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

NEW: KAIROS Prairies North annual gathering Saturday Oct 28 from 11am – 4pm in Lloydminster (and online). Come and explore the timely theme of "Energy for Change", and find out ways you can get involved! More details and registration links here: [You're invited! Oct 28 KAIROS Annual Gathering "Energy for Change" \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

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](#). Be sure to **submit your events**, so folks don't miss events in their own 'backyard'.

Hold the date! Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference 2023, 19-21 October

St Albert AB, Treaty Six, at Star of the North retreat centre. All are welcome to our first in-person gathering since 2019! Theme to be announced, but it will carry our commitment to being intercultural practitioners in ministry together, uniting perspectives and lived experiences that carry racial, gender, abilities, and sexual diversity. Who is WIMN? [Click here for an overview and news](#).

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre offers a variety of topics in their programming that 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.

Bookings Coordinator, Angela Brockmeyer, looks forward to connecting with you if you are considering an event at Queen's House. Angela can be reached at 306-242-1916 x230; bookings@queenshouse.org.

Come and Learn More sessions for our Growing in Wisdom program

Growing in Wisdom is an ecumenical, two-year program, designed for those seeking to engage in their maturing years with wisdom and grace. People can get more information or register through the website www.growinginwisdom.ca. 64 people from across Canada and the US, who just completed this program, are telling us the program has been life-changing for them – and are deeply grateful for the experience. Registration deadline is **September 1, 2023**, with a minimum of 60 participants needed to offer this program.