

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



August 30, 2023 – Events

*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*

In this **EVENTS** edition of the Rambler, events are listed in order of occurrence. **Date/s of the event** are highlighted in green for easy identification. **Registration deadlines** are highlighted in dark orange. Events included for the first time will have **NEW:** beside the title of the event. And, it's hoped the [Into the Future](#) will help facilitate your long-term planning.

Our local events calendar for United Church ministries is back! [Click here to view it.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#) Have a street address and a nice landscape-oriented photo ready.

United in Learning, the church's main online events service, has moved to an exciting new platform - ChurchX! [Have a look here.](#) The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here.](#)

1. This month:

Check out the Community of Faith Calendar (on the Living Skies Regional Council website)

Be sure to check out the upcoming Community Events at the bottom of the home page or the full Community of Faith calendar (3rd option down under News & Events). Don't miss the many fun and interesting events that will happen this fall. **Communities of Faith**, be sure to **submit your events** to the calendar (use the form, 4th option down under News & Events), so folks don't miss events that are in their own 'backyard'.

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.

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.

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.

2. Next Month

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.](#)

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.

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**

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.

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.

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: Rural Ministry Conference 2023: September 29 - October 1, 2023, High River Alberta

A weekend gathering, for today's rural ministry context: come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! [Click here for tickets & more information.](#)

NEW: Sask UCC Women Gathering

The Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women are gathering in Esterhazy on **Saturday, September 30th, 2023 from 9:30 to 3 p.m.** All women of the United Church, not just UCW members, are invited to join us. Our Guest Speaker will be Dawn Weber (from around Esterhazy). The registration form will be out soon.

Communities of faith in Living Skies are asked to send the names of any woman of the United Church who has passed away in the last year and a little bio. We will be doing a memorial service for these women. Please send these to Barb Bradley at greenview@sasktel.net.

3. Into the Future:

NEW: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2023:

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism will return **October 10—December 1, 2023** with brand-new content! Live events with dynamic speakers will be running on Tuesdays, anti-racism books will be featured by the United Church Bookstore, and there'll be reflections by diverse United Church members every day but Sundays. [Click here for more information.](#) And [sign up for the 40 Days newsletter to stay up-to-date!](#)

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 Wednesday, October 11; Monday, November 27; Thursday, February 8; and Tuesday, March 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

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: Evolving Faith Conference: October 13-15, 2023, Minneapolis, USA

A group experience for ministry personnel to be encouraged, inspired and renewed. Both digital & in-person attendance options. [Click here for more information about the Evolving Faith Conference.](#) And [click here for details about a travel group being organized by Leadershift.](#)

Registration is Now Open for the **2023 Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship**, which will take place at Yorkminster Park Church in Toronto from **October 22-24**.

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](#).

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” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

Save the dates: ‘Healing and Hope’ Retreat for clergy women, October 30-November 2, 2023, At Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Road, Paris, Ontario Rev. Tina Conlon from Davenport-Perth Community Ministry, and Shining Waters Regional Council President, will join us for part of the time. United Church Moderator Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will speak on the afternoon of Nov. 1. We are hoping to ensure there is lots of time for small groups, and relaxation on the lovely grounds of Five Oaks. There are a few single rooms at \$475 for room and meals for the entire time, and \$405 for shared rooms and meals. This is a first-come basis, maximum of 50 people but we will also keep a waiting list just in case. Contact us at sistersandministers@gmail.com.

"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, SK. All church office administrators are welcome to attend! Further information and details will be coming soon.