

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



## September 27, 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](mailto: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.

**Check out the Community of Faith Calendar** (on the Living Skies Regional Council website - 3<sup>rd</sup> option down under NEWS & EVENTS). [Click here to view it](#). 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, 4<sup>th</sup> option down under NEWS & EVENTS), so folks don't miss events that are in their own 'backyard'.

**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:](#)

#### **Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Saturday Sept 30, and Sunday, Oct 1**

Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important public space for truth telling, and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. As part of our church's [living into the Apologies](#), let's join with others to help ensure the ongoing history and impacts of the residential schools system are never forgotten - and that together, we bring about real change. Please make plans for Sunday worship on September 24; Sunday October 1 is also an important space for naming the ongoing violence facing Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people in preparation for October 4, National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). [Please click here for ideas and resources](#). Thank you for any prayerful space and public commitments you and your ministry can offer.

#### **An invitation to active Ministry Personnel from The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Landsdowne...**

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.**

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

## 2. Next Month

Please join us as we celebrate **the covenant relationship between Rev. Brenda Curtis and Grace-Westminster (Saskatoon) community of faith** on **Sunday, October 1, at 7:00 pm.**

### Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesday at 1pm

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) will continue every **Tuesday at 1pm** on Zoom. Please check the website calendar for [connection information](#) to join colleagues for conversation and support.

### 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism: October 10-December 1 2023

There's brand-new content coming for this year's [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#). In addition to the daily written content that will be posted online, a dynamic set of speakers will be sharing their insights on Tuesdays. The speakers will explore these diverse themes: race shifting; anti-racist and decolonial theologies; raising anti-racist children; environmental racism; countering antisemitism; intergenerational Asian voices; and copyright justice and musical misappropriation. There's no cost for the online events! You can register for all of the [live events on ChurchX](#). Consider [signing up for the 40 Days newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date on all of the developments related to the 40 Days for this year!

### Updated: St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" - Wednesday Oct 11 from 7:30 – 9pm (SK time)

Throughout this coming academic year, we will be hosting a series of four online events celebrating St. Andrew's commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and [Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon](#)'s commitment to being "Reconciling in Christ". We'll be educating ourselves about sexual orientation and gender identity, and exploring new ways to be in solidarity and celebration with LGBTQIA2S communities in the church and beyond.

Please join us on **Zoom** for the first in the series: **Histories and Trajectories of our Schools' Journeys** (panel discussion): Meeting ID: 816 4899 4435 Passcode: 992776  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81648994435?pwd=SW9NZFVkaHdvc1RxTWNKTXhOS2hyQT09>

*Please mark your calendars now for the next event!*

- **Mon, Nov 27** Queer Christology (a public lecture by Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein)  
 Specific information will follow, closer to the date. All events are online at 7:30-9pm SK time  
 For more information, please contact [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

### Equipping the saints – Thursday, October 12 from 1 – 4pm

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](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

### 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 Leadership](#).

**NEW: I love You and It Hurts – Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**

A presentation brought to Regina (Sunset United Church – 177 Sunset Dr.) by [Circles of Support and Accountability \(CoSA\)](#), Theatre of the Beat has developed three short plays that reflect lived experience of elder abuse, healthy masculinity, and intimate partner violence in your relationships, with a focus on how to recognize the subtle early signs of abuse. For more information about them, see: [www.theatreofthebeat.ca](http://www.theatreofthebeat.ca). Admission is by donation.

**Updated slightly: Registration Open!! Daring Justice: Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference, 19-21 October**, at Star of the North Retreat Centre, St Albert AB, Treaty Six.

All are welcome to our first in-person gathering since 2019! Theme: ***Daring Justice: intercultural and decolonizing lenses on truth and reconciliation***. Song and worship, speakers, workshops, and lots of time for visiting and telling stories are all in the plans. **October 21** we will join Northern Spirit Regional Council at their Celebration of Ministries service and Affirming celebration. [Check here for all information and ongoing updates.](#)

**44th General Council Annual Meeting.** On **Saturday, October 21**, the 44th General Council Annual Meeting will take place from **11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT** on the CHURCHx platform. Commissioners will receive an email inviting them to register and receive regular updates. The meeting will be live-streamed, with more information available closer to the event. Find out more on [GeneralCouncil44.ca](#). For minutes and summaries from the 44th GCE meetings, please go to [United Church Commons>Shared-Publicly>Governance>General Council Executive>GC44 Executive \(2022-2025\)/](#).

**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**.

**NEW: Canadian Centre for Christian Charities' Webinar October 25th at 2:00 pm-3:00 pm EST**

Join CCCC on Zoom for their next webinar: [Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church](#) on Small churches can be strong, healthy, and effective! In this CCCC webinar, [Karl Vaters](#), author of [The Grasshopper Myth](#) will share the three main principles behind effective small churches: **1.)** Realize you can be effective; **2.)** Discover how small churches function differently from big churches and **3.)** Understand and use the unique DNA of your small church for God's glory. This webinar is perfect for ministers and elders at small churches; denominational officials; family members of small church pastors; or anyone with a desire to deepen their understanding of small churches and how to participate in their flourishing. Registration is free but you have to enter your CRA Charity number. [Register Here](#)

**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” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

**‘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](mailto:sistersandministers@gmail.com).

**NEW:** Rural Ministry Town Hall, **Monday October 30 (and the last Monday of every month), afternoon.** All are welcome to this ongoing series of open space and focused conversation on topics near and dear to rural and remote ministries. Please note that you need a free account to sign for the whole series, and then you'll get reminders sent to your own email. [Register here.](#)

### **3. Into the Future:**

**NEW: Save the date!!**

Please join us as we celebrate **the covenant relationship between Rev. Joan Kessler and Watrous-Young community of faith** on **Sunday, November 5 at 4:00 pm.**

**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. Among upcoming programs is the workshop below.

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](mailto:bookings@queenshouse.org).

**Who Do You Say That I Am? Wednesdays, 2-4:00 pm CST, Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29, and Dec. 6**

A five-part course by Don Schweitzer, offered in person (\$95) or on Zoom (\$75) at Queen's House of Retreats, tracing how Christians and some others have understood who Jesus is and the reasons for this, moving through the New Testament, early church debates and then to the present, looking at gains and losses that have occurred along the way. **For more information:** [click here](#). For **in-person** registration: [click here](#). For **zoom** registration: [click here](#).