

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



September 6, 2023 – 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 at [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: First anniversary of the killings on James Smith Cree Nation**

On September 4 2022, many across Saskatchewan woke to emergency alerts on our cell phones. Throughout a frightening and confused day, it emerged that 11 people were murdered and 18 injured on James Smith Cree Nation and the neighbouring village of Weldon. The fear, grief, and trauma that marked this terrible day continue to deeply affect the communities, especially JSCN. Below are some stories from survivors, some told publicly for the first time. Please be aware that they are emotionally difficult to read. But they also let us hear and see the survivors, learn from them, and pray with them. May the stories be a guide for our continued prayers, our learning journeys, and whatever accompaniment we can offer.

[James Smith Cree Nation reflects on grief and healing one year after stabbing rampage](#)

[James Smith Cree Nation survivors still struggle with trauma, addiction 1 year after tragedy](#)

[First Nation reflects on grief and healing one year after stabbing rampage](#)

#### **NEW: Note re Chief Cadmus Delorme's presentation at the 2023 regional meeting**

As those present can tell you, former Chief Cadmus Delorme's presentation at our May 2023 meeting in Prince Albert was inspiring and excellent, and spoke powerfully to the Remit process that is before the church. We had his agreement to make it available as a private video. Unfortunately, absolutely miserable Zoom luck intervened. Unexplained technical problems meant most of the meeting did not record, despite everything appearing to be fine. The files were not recoverable by Zoom. Please pray for our minute takers. In the meantime, we are looking for other video presentations by Cadmus that we can access and share with you. We will also be adding other resources to support your community of faith's governance body in reflecting and voting on the Remit. [We will continue to update this resource page.](#)

#### **NEW: Stewardship Training Opportunities.**

There are several stewardship training opportunities taking place this fall. The first one is on **September 11**. Please email Vicki Nelson at [vnelson@united-church.ca](mailto:vnelson@united-church.ca) for more information.

### Ministry Personnel Gatherings

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

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

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

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

## 2. Wider Church Information:

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

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

### **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](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca) (306-441-6367).

### **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 [bernnon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:bernnon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca) and indicating whether you would like to attend the 10am or 2pm session time.

### **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](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

**NEW: 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](http://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)/.*

**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** (on the Living Skies Regional Council website)

*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'.

**NEW: Introduction to Godly Play: One Day Learning Experience: ongoing opportunity**

*Online or onsite*, this experience is designed for leaders in congregational ministry, parents, caregivers or volunteers who would like to know more about Godly Play. Originally developed with children, Godly Play is both spiritual practice and a process applicable to all ages and many settings. [Click here for more information](#), or email [firstunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com).

**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. Among upcoming programs are: T'ai Chi Chih, an Introduction to Painting with Pastels and 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).

**NEW: 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), 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](#).

### **4. Reminders:**

**"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.