

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 18, 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.*

**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: PR Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 46](#). Updates from the PR desk.

NEW: Clergy appreciation post #2

We are halfway through October – how have you shown appreciation to your ministry personnel? There is still time! [Here is the list again of ways to celebrate](#). Number 3 on the list is to ask your minister about their call story – what is their ministry journey?

NEW: October 21 demonstrations against 2SLGBTQIA inclusion in schools

Saturday October 21 the country will again see anti-2SLGBTQIA+ activists plan to rally at legislatures, government offices or legislatures, and school board offices across the country under the “[1 Million March 4 Children](#)” banner. While they claim to be in support of “[parental rights](#),” this is explicitly an anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rally. Unfortunately, the demonstrations in September included many people of different faiths. Numerous social media posts noted United Church presence with appreciation. Please be aware of 2SLGBTQIA+ and allies events taking place the same day in your location. The Million March for Inclusion group on Facebook is tracking all events as best it can.

[Here is a summary of ideas](#), and some graphics for you to use, shaped in part of over 60 congregational Affirming leaders from the Prairies and north who gathered in September to plan a response to this ongoing movement. As Regional Council that has voted to become Affirming, we encourage your ministry to be aware of the fear and hate that exist in so many of our communities, and the possibilities for a public, intentional and explicit expression of God’s love. Christians need to publicly proclaim that love in word and deed, given the immense hurt already caused by this movement.

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.

Treasurers - CEBA and UCC COVID Loan Repayments (due at the end of the year)

If you weren't able to attend the *Webinar for Church Treasurers* on Sept 27, it's recommended you watch the recording. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD548k69oDs>. It's also available on ChurchX. CEBA and UCC COVID loan repayments are due by **December 31, 2023**. If you don't pay in full by that date, **you will not receive the benefit of the forgivable portion**. If your Community of Faith is in danger of not being able to pay off the CEBA loan, General Council will consider loans for the purpose of paying the CEBA loan in time so you receive the benefit of the forgivable portion. Please send your request to the hdootoff@united-church.ca by **October 31, 2023**. General Council is recommending paying your CEBA loan by end of November. Interest on loans start **January 1, 2024**.

Among other items covered are: *Information for 2024 budgeting; *UCC Protect Insurance December renewals coming; *Changes coming for T4 reporting effective Jan 1, 2024; *Possible increased CRA reporting requirements related to trust and restricted funds; *CRA putting pressure on charities behind in T3010 and other reports. Fines and/or revocation may apply.

YAYAC Fall Youth Retreat – Friday, November 3 – Sunday, Nov. 5 at Melfort United Church

Gather with other amazing youth from around our province to explore your faith, play games, connect about issues you care about, and eat a lot of great snacks. Registration and more information available at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/fall-youth-retreat-2023-gr-7-12/>

For youth Grades 7-12. **Cost:** \$50 (support funding available) **Can't wait to see you there!**

If you'd like to help plan or have questions about the event, please be in touch! We can be reached at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca or lsyayac.meghan@gmail.com

NEW: Discerning a Call to Ministry - November 17 – 19, 2023 at Calgary, AB

Is God Calling You To Ministry? This retreat is an opportunity explore a Call to Ministry in The United Church of Canada. This discernment retreat is offered jointly between the Office of Vocation and LeaderSHIFT of the Pacific Mount and Chinook Winds Regional Councils and is open to all Discerners. If financial support for travel is needed, check with Laura Fohse, Office of Vacation Minister. For more information, <https://leadershiftuccan.org/discernment-retreat-2023>

NEW: Micah Mission Board Members

Micah Mission, a Restorative Justice initiative in Saskatoon, is looking to welcome a new United Church representative on our Board of Directors. Members can be in paid accountable ministry or could be lay. No experience is necessary. Board meetings take place monthly for approximately one hour via Zoom so the interested candidate would not need to be in Saskatoon. For more information or to express interest please contact Debz Ferber: deborah@thmicahmission.org

United Church Hospital Chaplaincy - Call for Board Members

Hospital Chaplains provide an essential role in Spiritual Care for patients. Whether it is being the face of the United Church for a patient and their family, offering prayers and support at end of life, or having a continuing conversation on faith and suffering, the Hospital Chaplains are ready to serve.

North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (NSHC) and South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (SSHC) **need** of board members. The boards are essential to employing the Hospital Chaplains and providing support. The work of the board members is not onerous. Please consider volunteering for either board. Contact Daryl Woods, daryl.gracewest@sasktel.net, for the NSHC Board and Randy Graham, randygraham369@gmail.com, for the SSHC Board.

[Here is a poster](#) that highlights our Hospital Chaplains and outlines ways to financially support Hospital Chaplaincy.

Updated resources on Indigenous church remit

Our church is in the midst of an important journey that requires a vote from your pastoral charge governing body between now and the end of March 2024. Remit 1 asks the church to give pre-emptive approval for whatever the Indigenous Church determines in the future as the place it will have in the United Church, guided by the Calls to the Church—and without the need for further remit approvals. Now there are more resources to help your Board or Council's discernment, discussion, and decision-making. [Have a look at this updated list](#), which includes Regional meeting 2023 presentations and discussion, with time stamps for different focus area identified in each video.

2. Wider Church Information:

NEW: United Church global partners in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

With the rest of the world, the people of the United Church are watching the terrible violence gripping Israelis and Palestinians, and longing for a different way forward. Prayer, checking in on our neighbours of different faiths and roots, honest and respectful conversations, and an eventual financial appeal are all choices we can make. In doing this, may we hold in our hearts and souls the horrific human and ecological impact of war.

The United Church has particular connections to specific partner groups in the region. [Here is the link to the global partner list](#) (PDF). In Gaza, which is currently being bombed, Mission and Service supports the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, which is a very longstanding partner of the United Church. Team Leader for Global Partnerships Patti Talbot said DSPR's offices in Gaza were bombed and destroyed on October 16.

TONIGHT: I love You and It Hurts – Wednesday, October 18th 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. Admission is by donation.

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, 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” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

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. Upcoming Opportunities:

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

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events– ‘dining/eating’ opportunities, family friendly events and more. 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’.

Canadian Centre for Christian Charities' Webinar.

Join CCCC on their next webinar: [Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church on October 25th \(2:00 pm-3:00 pm EST on Zoom\)](#). 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. Registration is free but you have to enter your CRA Charity number. [Register Here](#)

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: guest facilitator, Dr. David Maginley, will lead *Near Death Experiences: Hope, Hypoxia and Hypotheses*, in addition to the workshop *Who Do You Say That I Am?* offered by Don Schweitzer (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.

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:

Clergy appreciation post #1

October is the month that we officially recognize the ministry personnel who offer leadership in our communities of faith, although we are grateful for their presence all year long. [Here is a list of ways you might express your appreciation](#) – the first one is to pray for your minister and those in church leadership. Stay tuned for other ideas all month.

The 2023 - 2024 Living Skies Regional Council Directory is ready

The updated version of the LSRC directory has been posted to the LSRC website, under Contact Us. Please be aware that you will need the **new password** – handed out at the Regional Meeting held in May. If you need the new password, please call Bev Diebert at 306-704-0181 or check with someone that attended the meeting. The password will not be emailed.

Attention treasurers: new salary schedule

The updated **Minimum Salary Schedule for 2024** has been published on The United Church of Canada website. [You can view it at this link](#). This contains important information for the cost of living adjustment for ministry personnel (effective January 1, 2024), as well as the visiting minister rate.