

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



November 1, 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: Please support calls for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas

Urgent action is required to prevent further mass death of civilians in Gaza. The United Church and many other groups are [calling for an immediate ceasefire in the battle between Israel and Palestinian paramilitary group Hamas](#). 2.3 million civilians are trapped in the middle, including over 200 Israelis and international citizens taken captive by Hamas October 7. [Please click here for a simple urgent action to the federal government](#), and further background to help us hear what global partners living through this terrible violence are saying.

NEW: Remit on autonomous Indigenous organization: Letter to pastoral charge boards coming

If you are involved in the governance of your pastoral charge, look for an important letter over the next week. Currently a Category 3 Remit is before the church, focused on creating space for a National Autonomous Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. Every Regional Council and every Pastoral Charge governing body has the right and responsibility to vote between now and 31 March 2024.

The Regional Council has created a [resource page to help your process of learning](#), listening, and deciding. It will be updated on a continuous basis and it is available here. Between now and February, the Regional Council will also offer open online learning circles, and we hope we will see you there. Please bear in mind that if your governing body does not vote on this Remit, that will be counted as a No vote. We urge you to ensure that your Council or Board votes!

NEW: Refugee sponsorship news

The latest national sponsorship newsletter is out; [click here to have a look at some important updates](#). Thank you to all who are sponsoring and supporting; it has been a hard few years in this work, with many continuing complexities, and some understandable fatigue. A number of congregations in the Region are finally seeing some movement and are preparing for or working with long-awaited arrivals. Blessings to you and to those arriving here and taking the hard step of beginning a very different life.

NEW: United Church Group Insurance update

All you folks who are part of the United Church's insurance group, [take a look at this extensive update](#) or pass it on to the wise people who keep your insurance ticking along.

Last Chance YAYAC Fall Youth Retreat – Friday, Nov. 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

Celebration of Covenant!!

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

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>

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.

2. Wider Church Information:**NEW: Working towards a Just Peace for Palestine - 2023 Advent Worship Resource**

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) have created worship materials for advent. Resources include songs, stories and prayers with the message of nonviolence, hope, resilience, peace, human rights and a just resolution to the occupation. Advent worship material and more can be found in [UNJPPI's October newsletter](#).

NEW: Planning for Children's Sunday?

In October 2022, Eastside United Church in Regina mailed to each Community of Faith in Living Skies Regional Council a copy of *Just Max Stories* by Max Ediger, for use with your children's ministry or with the whole congregation. Max was drawn to address the consequences of poverty and injustice and has worked with children in highly difficult situations. A companion curriculum of activities for age 8 to adults by Dr. Mavis Olesen, an Eastside member, [is available here](#). While each November for the next 8 years is an ideal time to use these resources, they can be used anytime and in any way that suits your context and planning. We hope you find this a valuable and useful resource as we work together to address poverty and support children around the world. **Note:** In the children's book, there is mention of a fundraiser (on the inside cover) - please disregard, as it has happened already.

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.

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'.

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 too register. Among upcoming offering are: *Treaty Learning Journey*, with leadership from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner; *Who Do You Say That I Am?*, a five-part course lead by Don Schweitzer, and *A Day of Learning and Renewal*; and *Navigating the Holidays While Grieving* as well as others.

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.

4. Reminders:

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

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.

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