

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



November 15, 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 47](#). Updates from the PR desk.

NEW: Equipping the Saints: **Thursday, December 7, 1:00-2:30pm**

Are you engaged in visiting folks on behalf of your community of faith, either in a health care setting or in their home? Then this gathering is for you! As a follow-up to our training session in October, join our chaplains Lorna King and Emily Carr on **Thursday, December 7, 1:00-2:30pm** on Zoom for a time of check-in and learning. The topic this month will be led by Michele Rowe: "The 4 C's of pastoral visitation: Cause. Control. Care. Connection." Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

NEW: Are you from a church without a minister? **Sunday, November 19th at 4 pm EST.**

Are you a member of a search team and looking for your next ministry personnel? Are you a pastoral relations liaison? Are you interested in knowing more about the admission process and more importantly the matching pilot project this online open house is for you? If so, you are invited to an online **Open House with the Admission Matching Task Group**. This hour long gathering will happen through **Zoom on Sunday, November 19th at 4 pm EST.**

The Admission Matching Committee's work is part of a pilot project to bridge the gap between Ministers who are available and excited to work in The United Church of Canada and Communities of Faith who need a minister. This Open House will include an introduction to the Admission Matching pilot program, stories from people with experience of Admission ministry, an overview of the Admission process, answers to frequently asked questions about admission ministers, and some time for any questions you might have. It will be particularly useful to people from congregations without a minister, pastoral relations liaisons, and advocates for equity, diversity, and inclusion within The United Church of Canada.

To register for this free program, please send your name, location, email, and reason for registering to Beverly at btyhurst@united-church.ca.

NEW: Treasurer reminder:

If there is a called or appointed minister in your community of faith, please ensure that you have made the necessary salary adjustment with ADP to ensure a smooth transition for payroll in January. [Here is the link for the most accurate salary amounts.](#)

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

If you are involved in the governance of your pastoral charge, your chair, secretary, Regional Council lay delegate and minister or Pastoral Charge Supervisor should have received a letter. 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. Didn't receive it? See below.

The Regional Council has created a [resource page to help your process of learning, listening and deciding](#). 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! Questions? Concerns? Your letter didn't show up? Email Regional Minister Julie Graham and Regional Leadership and staff will assist: jgraham@united-church.ca or call Bev, Regional Council administration staff at 306-704-0181

Reminder: Regional Council learning time on the Remit, Thursday November 23 at 7:30PM CST on Zoom. Please join Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils online for a learning time on the Remit on an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. We are grateful that elders and knowledge keepers Delores Kenny (National Indigenous Council), Charlene Burns (Community Capacity Development Coordinator) and Russel Burns, (elder, past NIC member) will be joining Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy for the conversation. All welcome! Content will be designed for pastoral charge council or board members, pastoral charge supervisors, and ministry personnel. [Please register here](#); this will send you the link automatically.

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.

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: Advent liturgy on witnessing to peace in Palestine and Israel**

The [United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel](#) (UNJPPI) [offers us this Advent liturgy](#) (PDF file). It draws on the lived experience and stories of United Church members who have been [Ecumenical Accompaniers through the World Council of Churches](#) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It includes new words to O Come Emmanuel, and stories from accompaniment with Palestinians living under military occupation.

As Israelis and Palestinians continue to confront the impacts of horrific violence, in the name of the Prince of Peace may we add our prayers, worship, resources, and action to efforts to support them and to do what we can to support them in creating a just peace.

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.

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 to register. Among upcoming offerings are: *Treaty Learning Journey*, with leadership from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner; *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life* – compassion for self and others; *Forest Bathing: Exploring health, well-being and our connection to nature* – a Zoom workshop for those who have ever wondered what ‘forest bathing’ is and *Aging with Wisdom and Grace* – a book study offered on Zoom.

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:**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.

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.