

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



February 1, 2024 – 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*

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 - 3rd option down under News & Events). [Click here to view it](#). Don't miss the many fun and interesting upcoming seasonal events. **Communities of Faith**, be sure to **submit your events** to the calendar (use the form, 4th option down under News & Events), so folks don't miss the festivities.

United in Learning, the church's main online events service, has moved to an exciting new platform - ChurchX! [Click here for the latest national education and training opportunities](#) through **United in Learning**. The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

NEW: Hear ye; hear ye. Good News is here!

The Living Skies Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee is pleased to announce the next regional meeting will be held from **June 13 to 15 (2024) at the Travel Lodge** (Idylwyld Dr. N. and Circle Dr) in **Saskatoon**, with the **Moderator, the Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne** attending for part of our meeting. The Service of Praise will be at a United Church in Saskatoon (as yet undetermined) on **Sunday, June 16**. This year the **registration fee will remain at \$175.00**.

At your upcoming Annual Meeting, **please remember to elect or appoint your Community of Faith's Regional Council Representative** (each congregation is entitled to have and send at least one). Their involvement in the wider church is extremely important in keeping our Living Skies Regional Council functioning and healthy for the long term.

Watch for the more information about the Regional Meeting coming out soon!

1. This month:

NEW: An important event only you can create: set a date for your vote on Remit 1! Need help finding the right resource? Want to connect with someone for a conversation about questions? Let us know. Contact the Regional office and we will help you find who and what you need. Phone: 306-704-0181. Email: livingskies@united-church.ca

Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1pm

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) will continue every on Zoom. Please check the website calendar for [connection information](#).

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre welcomes you! Their ecumenical programming combines in-person and online events using Zoom. Please visit their webpage for a list of all upcoming programs and to register for all programs: <https://www.queenshouse.org/programs/> ***Nourish Your Mind and Nurture Your Spirit at Queen's House!*** For inquiries/additional information contact Sarah Donnelly, Programming Director: 306-242-1916 x226. If you are considering an event at Queen's House, please connect with Bookings Coordinator, Angela Brockmeyer. Angela can be reached at 306-242-1916 x230; bookings@queenshouse.org.

St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" Thursday Feb. 8, from 7:30 – 9pm

St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union next **"Year of Intention"** webinar will be on **Thursday February 8, from 7:30 – 9pm (Sask. Time)** Our panel discussion will include LTS' Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero and SAC's Dr. Becca Whitla, among others. Together, we'll be investigating liturgical resources which center LGBTQIA2S+ people and communities. To attend, jump on the zoomlink here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89505566528?pwd=aBYtIAN462xYyqzljFFT96pP2yHMgI.1>

For more details, contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

Daring Justice: Uniting in Dialogue and Reflection, online February 15 - April 25, 2024. A six week LeaderShift course exploring how our work for justice is rooted in United Church of Canada faith tradition and sacred scripture. [Click here for full details.](#)

PIE in the Public Square, Affirming PIE Day preparation, Thursday February 15 at 6:00PM Central

Get ready for dessert with a purpose! Affirming PIE Day is coming up **March 14**, and to help us get ready, Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble is inviting three dynamic faith leaders to reflect on what this years' theme means to them: Rev. Franklyn James; Rabbi Dr. Nachshon Siritsky; and Rev. Tricia Gerhard. Together we'll be Public, Intentional, and Explicit with our Affirming welcome.

[Register here!](#) [Here's the Facebook event link.](#)

Beloved Is Where We Begin: An Online Conversation With Author and Artist Jan Richardson

You are warmly invited to join us for an amazing online conversation with author and artist Jan Richardson on **Saturday, February 17th, 2024 from 9:30am - 12:00pm PT.** This event is co-hosted by Oasis United Church and Naramata Centre, and registration is now open! For more information, please see [the Naramata Centre website.](#)

NEW: Living Skies Justice Team Open House, Tuesday February 20, 10:00AM-11:30AM

The new Living Skies Justice Team invites you to come and share your social and ecological justice work and interests! All welcome, both individuals and group representatives. Come connect with us and re - connect with each other as this new team begins its work. [Please click here to register.](#) An email with the link will be sent automatically; please check your spam folder if it doesn't arrive.

Getting Started in Stewardship – February 22 at 3pm or 5:30pm Central Time. Come on your own, or come with a team and join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles. This 90 minute course is the place to start if you are new to stewardship or need a refresher. [Register or learn more right here.](#)

2. Next Month

An Ecumenical Opportunity - World Day of Prayer 2024 (wicc.org)

The theme for 2024 is written by Palestinian Women. The service is offered in two formats: a 55-minute video service or the traditional format of using the paper copy. The WDP service can be any time of the day from March to September. The women who have done these services in their local area are not able to carry on and WDP is looking for new coordinators. We are trying to revive this great ecumenical tradition among churches in Canada. Please contact me for more information. Linda M. Ervin (Diaconal Minister) at filedrep567@wicc.org or call 250.493.5333.

St. Andrew's College's last 'Year of Intention' event will be **Tuesday, March 19** - Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion). Specific information will follow, closer to the date. Our "Year of Intention" will culminate in a splendid worship service, the date is still to be decided. For more information, please contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

3. Into the Future:

Anti Racism Work and Action conference for those in ministry with children and youth, April 4-6 2024, Vancouver. Held in-person at the Epiphany Chapel on the University of BC Campus.

An [amazing line up of speakers](#), worship leaders, and hosts are already preparing to welcome, educate, and inspire *you* in Spring 2023! [Click here for full details](#). If you are considering attending, please let justice minister Julie Graham know: jgraham@united-church.ca

NEW: Advance notice: Rural ministries conference: experience the rural culture of the Alberta Foothills, **June 18-21 2024**, Cochrane, AB. Hosted by the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry and by the Rural Church Network of the United States and Canada. Accommodation, meals, and some programming at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre; transportation offered from Calgary airport to people from out-of-province. Program includes visits with the Wray Farm (involved in regenerative agriculture); Land of Dreams (Immigrant and Indigenous urban gardening); Mînh Thnî (a Stoney Nakoda community in the foothills, with roots in the history of the Indigenous Day of Prayer), and Banff (rural church life in a tourist region). Total cost for residential conference and all tours will be \$500. Options available for people not staying at Mount St. Francis. Information at www.circle-m.ca and [registration is now open at this link](#).