

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



April 10, 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.

Here's the [March-April update from United in Learning](#), the church's online education and training space. The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

JUST OUT: The votes have now been counted! **Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization has passed.** What happens now? As is the case with all Category 3 Remits, if a remit has been approved by a majority of all the regional councils, the General Council must decide to enact it. The decision on enacting the remit will take place at the Annual Meeting of General Council, on October 19, 2024. When the remit has been enacted, the change will be included in the next edition of *The Manual*. (The process for remits is outlined in the United Church Manual, in section F, on pages 108-111.)

On the General Council 44 website, you can find more [detailed information about the remit result](#), as well as a [statement from the National Indigenous Council](#) in response to the vote results.

1. This month:

Today Getting Starred in Stewardship – Wednesday, April 10 at 5:30pm CT / 4:30 MT

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](#).

NEW: Invitation: Love Resists: Nonviolence & Sacred Activism, exploring nonviolence and sacred activism for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights! A four-week series, **Thursday evenings April 4, 11, 18, 25**, sponsored by Affirming Connections. [Click here for full details](#). We'll explore 2SLGBTQIA+ activism with a nonviolent and creative lens, and learning more about our history in these movements. So, Affirmers, here's a promo code for you! Enter the code **AFFIRMTEAM** they'll get a 20% discount from now until the event date. The direct link to automatically apply the code [is here!](#)

NEW: Statistics are fun!

Now that you have completed the annual report for your community of faith (please send to tmurton@united-church.ca if you have not yet done so), it is time to ensure that the annual statistics have been submitted. This is the data upon which the annual assessment from the denomination is based and so it is critical to use the most accurate information available. Please double-check that this task has been completed for your community of faith. If you have questions about completing the forms, contact statistics@united-church.ca.

Introduction to Godly Play – Online via Zoom - April 13 at 9:30am – 4:30pm (Mountain)

The registration link is now open for the next Introduction to Godly Play. Originally developed with children, Godly Play is both spiritual practice and a process applicable to all ages and many settings. **Cost: \$50** Now is [the time to register](#).

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](#).

Childcare at the Regional Meeting Survey

The Regional Gathering Planning Committee is polling potential delegates to see if childcare will be needed at the Regional Meeting. Please email Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca) by **April 15, 2024** if there is a possibility of you bringing children to the Gathering in **June (13-16, 2024)**. Your responses will help decide if we provide childcare for children under 5; or Children at the Gathering (ages 5/6 to 12). *So far, we have only heard from one family.*

Earth Day Monday April 22: resources and plans!

Communities of faith, networks, and regions are invited to initiate and participate in climate justice events during the week of **April 21–28** to pray, learn, and act for the love of Creation. This is a tremendous opportunity for the church to lift up and strengthen the ways that we are putting our house in order by reducing our carbon footprint; raising our spirited voices through advocacy efforts; connecting with the earth; and challenging ourselves to respond to climate impacts. [Here are a range of resources](#) from the national church to support your work. [Please click here for the Moderator's 2024 video message](#). [Please click here for ecumenical resources](#) to help you plan Together for the Love of Creation: **Earth Week April 21-28, 2024**.

Finally, please keep in mind the **Climate Motivators Program**. Do you know a young adult who could help the church live into its climate justice commitments? Please tell them about a paid opportunity through the national church's [The GO Project — Engaging faith-based curriculum for children and youth](#). **Deadline: April 15, 2024**.

Save the Date!

Our next online **Contemplative Gathering** will be held on **Friday April 19, at 10am (Sk time)**. Join us for an hour of contemplation and conversation. As we move through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we will explore being "**Rooted in Resurrection**". Please join online here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85211124350?pwd=3orbaz8d8UDOcDVSWAulK4ALe2aWSW.1>

An Invitation: Sask UCCW AGM and Gathering: Saturday, April 27, 2024 at St. David's Trinity United Church (3318 Merritt Street, Saskatoon) The Saskatchewan United Church Women's Gathering is for all women of The United Church of Canada. Full details, a poster and registration form are all found [in the Living Skies Regional calendar announcement](#). **Cost is \$30 and Registration Deadline: April 19, 2024**. Please note the requests for "In Memoriam" material, nominations and more.

Wait- Is This Racist, new online community to explore anti-racist practices!

Beginning **Monday, April 22 at 6:00 PM CDT, 5:00PM CST/ MDT**. Together, we'll be drawing from some of the themes of the book [Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church](#) to explore very practical ways of co-creating anti-racist congregations. This will not be a book study! Reading the book and using the provided assessments will be useful, but it is the shared experiences of learning and implementation that are what will change our communities. As part of the first session, Kerry Connelly, the author, will join us. There will be lots of support along the way. Full description: "[Wait—Is this Racist?](#)" on Church X, the national church's online learning platform.

From Fear to Faith: How to talk about money in church - Thurs, April 25 at noon MT & 1pm CT

This 60-minute session is for church leaders—both clergy and lay—to unpack some of the fears we have around talking about money and giving in church. Let's chat how we can move from scarcity, secrecy, obligation, and transaction towards abundance, transparency, joy and transformation. We will cover the practical and theological rationale for straightforward conversations about individual giving and how the church receives and uses money. [To register click here.](#)

Setting Up Your Giving Program – Starts the week of **April 30** and requires a team (3-5 people) to participate. This course is designed for you to develop the resources you need to get your Congregational Giving Program off the ground! [To register or learn more click here.](#)

If you have any questions about resources or ways to receive support with stewardship work in your community of faith, please reach out to Vicki Nelson at vnelson@united-church.ca.

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.

YAYA Spring Youth Retreat – April 26-28, 2024 at Knox Met United Church in Regina.

Grades 7 – 12 are welcome. **Cost:** \$50 (with funding available if needed.) [See here for more info.](#)

ATTENTION: Pastoral Charges with Manses

We have been notified by Erik Mathiesen, Chief Financial Officer of The United Church of Canada, about a requirement for all Pastoral Charges with manses to submit a CRA form related to "Underused Housing Tax" by **April 30, 2024**. It is the responsibility of the UC General Council and Regional Councils to **flag the risk related to not complying. There is an apparent duty to file -with a penalty for noncompliance.** For more information about the Underused Housing Tax, please read this [memo](#). The General Council website offers some information [here](#). The Tax was also discussed at the Treasurer's webinar held on **February 28**, including a bit of a "how to" complete the form. To watch the recording, [click here](#). The discussion about the Underused Housing Tax begins at 33:45 minutes. **To keep up-to-date** on the latest news and advice for treasurers, trustees, payroll contacts, and more, join every month. [Register here.](#)

2. Next Month

Music Matters AGM and conference, May 2-5, 2024, at St. Paul's United Church (Thunder Bay, ON) **or online**. Music Matters and its AGM are open to everyone who is interested in music in The United Church of Canada—music leaders, singers, instrumentalists, lay volunteers, clergy. There are a variety of payment options to suit your needs; the suggested fee is \$200 per person, with a sliding scaling down to \$150, depending on circumstance. Registration to participate online is \$75. [Register](#), and for more information and the schedule, email worship@united-church.ca, or visit [Music United](#).

NEW: Sacraments Elder online training

Back by popular demand, Living Skies Regional Council will be offering Sacraments Elder training by Zoom on **Saturday, May 11 from 1:00-4:00pm**. Given the shortened timeline, it is important that participants read the material in the [handbook found here](#), and find someone who is ministry personnel to serve as a mentor. Current Sacraments Elders are welcome to attend as a refresher. In order to register, contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

NEW: Save the Date – Prepping for Pentecost

The Living Skies Nominations Committee invites you to an online party on **Tuesday, May 14 from 7:00-8:30pm** to learn about volunteer opportunities with the Regional Council and how your gifts, skills and interests might fit. We'll have lots of fun and discover how we can find our joy as we support the ministry of the wider church. *Bring your party hats, snacks and spirit of fun.*

3. Into the Future:

Hear ye; hear ye. Good News is here!

The Living Skies Regional Council 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 Knox United Church in Saskatoon on **Sunday, June 16**. This year the **registration fee will remain at \$175.00**.

Advance notice: Rural ministries conference: experience the rural culture of the Alberta Foothills, June 18-21 2024, Cochrane, AB. Accommodation, meals, and some programming at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre. Off-site programs include visits to a farm involved in regenerative agriculture; a site with Immigrant and Indigenous urban gardening; a Stoney Nakoda community in the foothills, with roots in the history of the Indigenous Day of Prayer, and Banff. 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](#).

Save the date – Covenant Service

Eatonia-Mantario Pastoral Charge will be covenanting with **Rev. Peter Kugba-Nyande** and Living Skies Regional Council on **Sunday June 23, 2024 at 4:00 pm** with pot luck supper to follow. All are welcome to join this in-person only service.

SAVE THE DATE: UCC Office Admin Conference! October 1-4, 2024

Planning is underway for our next Office Administrator's Conference at Home Inn & Suites in Saskatoon, SK. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect, learn and "fill our cup". A registration package will be coming out in early April with more details, along with a letter for support to provide to your M&P Committees.

COSTS: Single accommodation: \$600 / Double accommodation: \$475 / No accommodation: \$300. For more information, contact Chantal Winslow at cwinslow@united-church.ca