

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



April 24, 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](mailto: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. **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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

## 1. This month:

**Duty of Care 101 – TONIGHT Wednesday, April 24 @ 7-8pm (ET) (5-6pm Sask time)**

This short tutorial will provide the fundamentals for developing Duty of Care practices within your faith community and time for Q & As. The United Church of Canada has a legal, moral, and spiritual duty to care for and protect participants in our church programs. This is a legal principle called "Duty of Care", and all groups, including church groups, have been, and will be, held legally responsible for ensuring reasonable measures are taken to ensure safety.

**Leadership: Terri Sparling**, M.S.W., R.S.W. (retired Social Worker), active member and youth leader at Avondale United Church, Stratford; **Kathy Douglas**, Faith Formation Minister, Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils.

**On Zoom:** To register and receive Zoom link contact [kdouglas@united-church.ca](mailto:kdouglas@united-church.ca) Ph: 519 441 0656

**Updated Earth Week April 21-28, 2024 (Earth Day Monday April 22): resources and plans!**

Here we are in Earth Week, finding hope in the midst of this week of **April 21–28** we 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](#).

**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.](#)

**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.](#)

**Statistics are fun! NEW deadline: April 29, 2024**

Now that you have completed the annual report for your community of faith (please send to [tmurton@united-church.ca](mailto: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](mailto:statistics@united-church.ca).

**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](mailto:vnelson@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.](#)

**NEW: A Fairer Canada: A Guaranteed Livable Income for All - Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 7:00 pm ET**

Hosted by The United Church of Canada Guaranteed Livable Income network.

The time is ripe to implement a guaranteed livable income (GLI) in Canada – but there's still hesitation, politically, socially and spiritually. On **April 30**, join members of The United Church of Canada's national network on GLI to investigate why, to situate GLI advocacy in a wider context of fairness, and to find ways forward towards a livable income for all.

**Register and receive the zoom link:** [A Fairer Canada: A Guaranteed Livable Income for All.](#)

**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](mailto:worship@united-church.ca), or visit [Music United](#).

### 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](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

### April/ May Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: in your own community and with national church leaders

Throughout Lent, many communities of faith across Canada, and around the world, with their bodies prayerfully mapped Gaza onto their own communities through the worldwide Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage. This renewed invitation is for everyone! Walk or roll together in your own community, preferably before **May 13**. Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire- for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Then, if you can, join national church leaders for the final leg of their pilgrimage. KAIROS member church leaders, including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, will gather in Ottawa on **May 22-23** to bring these calls in person to the Government of Canada and Parliamentarians. They'll urge them to take immediate and sustained steps to advance and promote the calls made in the [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage](#).

Please see the [United Church site](#) and the [KAIROS site](#) for more details. If you would like to plan a pilgrimage in your community, please let the Regional Council know so that we can support you. Email Regional Justice Minister Julie Graham at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

### Updated - You are invited!!

The Living Skies Nominations Committee invites you to an online party - **Prepping for Pentecost** 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 hope you will** come and meet some new folks from the comfort of your own home and share why you serve the wider church OR find out how you could contribute to the wider church. We'll have lots of fun and discover how we can find our joy as we support the ministry of the Living Skies Regional Council. *Bring your party hats, snacks and spirit of fun.*

### Proposals to the Regional Council meeting (to be held **June 13-15 2024**)

Proposals to the Regional Council or to General Council are the main avenue for asking the church to adopt policy positions or take specific and relevant action. They use a template for consistency, and to ensure that all the needed information for representatives or commissioners is included.

### Updated: The Regional Council proposals template is now updated and ready for use.

Please click here for the [Proposals PDF overview](#) (best for sharing and reviewing) and [click here for the Word version](#) (best for copying and pasting into a new document so you can build your proposal with the correct information and format.) **Deadline: May 17**, to allow delegates enough time to read and reflect in advance.

Completed proposals should be sent to the office, to Bev Diebert: [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)  
Please do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions, so that staff can help you find the right person to speak with.

**NEW: Rethink Children and Youth Ministry: and Online Summit May 20 – 24, 2024**

Hey all you awesome people involved in working with kids and youth - this online conference looks REALLY GOOD and it's FREE! It's the week of **May 20-24** and there will be online content all day. Sign up and take in a session or two or grab your coffee and snacks and settle in for the whole week! <https://convergencecolab.org/.../rethink-children-and...>

I'm familiar with several of the speakers (including Sarah Bessey and Brian McLaren) and can't wait to hear from some new voices as well. If you're in the Saskatoon area and would like to join me in person to go online, please be in touch and I'll bring the snacks! Sent an email to Lindsay Mohn at [LivingSkiesYaya@united-church.ca](mailto:LivingSkiesYaya@united-church.ca).

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

Still time to join! **Ministry beyond the adults in our spaces, Tuesday, May 21, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm CDT OR Thursday, May 23, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm, CDT.** How do our buildings; grounds; and ministry with children, youth, and people beyond our doors reflect our relationship to this racist society? 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. Full description: "[Wait—Is this Racist?](#)" on Church X, the national church's online learning platform.

**NEW: Exhale Together retreat, May 24-26, 2024, Queen's House, Saskatoon.**

Hosted by Mennonite Central Committee Sask, this is a **trauma-informed retreat for reconciliation and anti-racism practitioners**, developed in response to the toll practitioners carry due to the trauma-exposed nature of this work. United Church people warmly invited. In addition to offering space for rest and rejuvenation, it equips practitioners with information and tools to do this work sustainably through guided peer-based learning. [Click here for retreat details, cost, and registration.](#)

**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](mailto:bookings@queenshouse.org).

**NEW: The United Church at 100: Centennial planning workshop for the Prairies and North, Wednesday 29 May 2024, 6:30 MDT/ CST, 7:30PM CDT**

**The United Church turns 100 in June 2025!** Join our Regional archivists, Leanne Templeton and Erin Acland, and other resource people, and we'll look at resources for creatively commemorating this anniversary in your context. We'll talk about local, Regional, and national ideas together - both the celebrations, and the anniversary opportunity to look at where we've been as a church, and where the future might take us. Come with your ideas and questions, and be ready to bring some ideas back to your community and ministry! Zoom info:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/86218269850?pwd=ICZeic0bMvaHbGpPNjVK6zabthRDaw.1>

Meeting ID: 862 1826 9850 Password: 507752 1 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

### **3. Into the Future:**

**NEW: Leaders in Context: Forming leaders and creating communities of hope in challenging times June 10-13 In-person only, on the AST campus in Halifax Cost: \$100.00 (A great deal! The normal price is \$500+)** You will join co-learners and experienced pastor-teachers to focus on Missional Leadership in church and society in this post-pandemic season. **Topics will include:** *Where are we? What kinds of questions do we need to be asking? How does God turn up when we find ourselves in a place we've never been before? What are the critical practices for Christian life in dark time? What kind of leaders form communities of hope in dark times?* **Instructors:** Alan Roxburgh, Kimber McNabb, Chris Pullenayegem. [Register at this link](#) Questions? Contact James Cheatley, Continuing Education Convenor ([james.cheatley@astheology.ns.ca](mailto:james.cheatley@astheology.ns.ca)). This course is part of AST's [Diploma in Missional Leadership](#) program.

**NEW: Living Skies Regional Council Affirming celebration Thursday June 13, 2:00PM**

Having finished the formal requirements of the Affirming process, Living Skies now moves into new commitments to living into being Affirming. All are welcome to the Affirming celebration, online via YouTube, and in person, **Thursday June 13 at 2:00PM**, at the Living Skies Regional Council meeting opening worship, **Saskatoon Travelodge** and Conference Centre, 106 Circle Dr, Saskatoon. Absolutely everyone is welcome! You do not need to be a meeting delegate to attend, and the space is accessible. Free parking is available. [Please use this link to invite others!](#) If you would like to send a note of congratulations and support, please email [livingskies@united-church.ca](mailto:livingskies@united-church.ca), or send a card to 60A Athabasca St. E., Moose Jaw, SK, S6H 0L2 (the card needs to arrive **by June 10, please**).

**NEW: Moderator's Flourishing workshop, open to all, Saturday June 15, 9:30AM-3:30PM**

**Saskatoon Travelodge and Conference Centre**, 106 Circle Dr, Saskatoon, Join our Moderator, the Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne in this public all-day workshop! United Church folks from across the Region are invited to attend and participate. You don't need to be a delegate to the full meeting to attend- all are welcome, especially as a team from your community of faith or ministry. Watch the Regional Rambler for more information to come out about how to register for this day. You will need to pay for lunch if you wish to have it at the hotel, but the day is free. [Here's the shareable invitation.](#)

**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); Mînî 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](http://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.