

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



April 3, 2024 – 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: Remit voting is finished; next steps

Voting on the autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church closed March 31, and General Council has a ten-day window after that to allow receipt of any mailed-in ballots, which will be counted as long as they were post-marked by March 31. We anticipate results will be announced after April 10, via the national newsletter E-ssentials. The Region will also use its own channels to make sure everyone receives the communication.

Thank you to all who voted, and to all who facilitated and participated in courageous and honest conversations and decisions on this significant question. Our work together continues. No matter what, we in the majority non-Indigenous church remain in relationship with Indigenous United Church members and their communities, as the body of Jesus. We carry the Apologies and commitments of our ancestors in faith, and commitments made by the whole country, to change that shared relationship from one shaped by domination and colonization to one of justice, sharing, mutual respect, and love. We will plan more conversations together.

NEW: Proposals to the Regional Council meeting, 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.

NEW: 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.) There will be a deadline for proposals that come to the online floor, 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

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: Your fabulous, sparkly Nominations Committee introduces itself!

If you have long wondered who the Nominations Committee is, and what they do, and why: wonder no more! [It's all right here in this new short video](#). It's amazing what you can explain in less than three minutes, and invite people all over our Region into the journey while you're at it. Please enjoy, and please share.

Childcare at the Regional Meeting Survey

The Regional Gathering Planning Committee is polling potential delegates to see if childcare will be needed. 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)**. Please include the ages of the children attending. Your responses will help decide if we provide childcare for children under 5; or Children at the Gathering (ages 5/6 to 12).

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. Wider Church Information:**NEW: Upcoming Stewardship Online Courses**

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.

A great place to kick-start your stewardship work is through one of our programs. Here is what is upcoming:

N: Getting Starred in Stewardship – Wednesday, April 10 at 3pm or 5:30pm CT / 2pm or 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](#).

N: 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](#).

N: 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](#).

Updated 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**.

Advance notice: call for General Council 45 Commissioners

In 2025 we'll celebrate the United Church's 100th birthday, and see a return to an in-person General Council in Calgary. It's going to be a big and busy year. Important preparation for the 45th meeting of the General Council will include the election of General Council Commissioners, who serve a three-year term, attend the in-person meeting, and attend multiple online meetings through those three years as part of the overall governance of our church. Your Regional Nominations Committee will soon launch a process for identifying people who wish to stand for election, which takes place at their Regional Council meeting. For now, [here's the description of a Commissioner's role](#) for your discernment pleasure. Please share it freely.

3. Upcoming Opportunities:

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events on the LSRC website. 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 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/>
One upcoming event: **Is That All There Is? Finding Meaning And Peace In Challenging Times** **Saturday April 20 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** This day away will give us time to connect with ourselves, other people and with the God of our understanding. There will be times of spiritual talks, mindfulness meditation and contemplative prayer, along with gentle restorative yoga. **Cost: \$80** includes lunch **Registration deadline: April 15**

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.

Summer Camp in Saskatchewan!

Spring is here and with it the excitement amongst campers, volunteers, and staff at our amazing UCC Camps!

Lumsden Beach Camp (near Regina Beach): *Registration is open!*
<https://www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com/>

Camp Shagabec (Cypress Hills): *Registration is **open!*** Applications for Volunteers are open. <https://shagabec.com/>

Camp Tapawingo (Candle Lake): *Registration is **open!*** Staff applications are still being accepted for head cook and lifeguard/medic. <http://www.camptapawingo.net/>

Camp Christopher (<https://www.campchristopher.ca/>): *Registration is **open!***

Stay tuned for updates on **Camp Woodboia** (<https://www.facebook.com/p/Camp-Woodboia-100070296482386/>)

4. Reminders:

Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 51](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

Jordan Cantwell, our new Growth Animator has an offering about composting and renewal. [Click here to see the full article.](#)

Reminder: 2024 Living Skies Regional Meeting, 13-15 June in Saskatoon

The meeting will be held in person with a Zoom option **13-15 June 2024** at the Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel and Conference Centre. We will begin with opening worship and the Affirming Celebration on the Thursday afternoon. Business will be conducted **Friday June 14. Saturday June 15** will be a day of learning, conversation, and small group work with the Moderator, Rt Rev Carmen Lansdowne, **open to all members and friends of the Regional Council**. Please consider coming. **Sunday June 16** our service of praise and celebration of ministries will be held at Knox United Church, Saskatoon.

As always, visitors are most welcome and delegates of the Regional Council are both welcome and expected. Pastoral charge support of delegate expenses is requested, and the Regional Council itself also subsidizes the entire meeting. Please watch for registration, theme information, report deadlines, an invitation to share greetings and photos from your ministry, and much more! [All information will be posted on our Regional Meeting page.](#)