

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



May 22, 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. **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.

[Click here for the latest United in Learning](#) online conversation and learning offerings on 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:

NEW: May 22 Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage with national church leaders

KAIROS member church leaders, including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, are in Ottawa on **May 22** (today!) to urge government to take immediate and sustained steps to advance and promote the calls made in the [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage](#). Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire- for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Please see the [United Church site](#) and the [KAIROS site](#) for more details. **Here's a [new, introductory little guide for planning your pilgrimage](#), especially in smaller communities.** 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

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

Still time to join! **Ministry beyond the adults in our spaces, 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.

Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1pm

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

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.](#)

NEW: Covenanting Announcement

Saskatoon: McClure United Church will be covenanting with Rev. Emily Carr and Living Skies Regional Council on **Sunday, May 26, at 2:00pm**, followed by sundaes for all. All are welcome to attend as this service is in-person, only.

Living Skies Justice Team Open House #2: Our upcoming Provincial Election - What Matters

Most to Our Province? Tuesday May 28, 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM. The new Living Skies Justice Team invites you to come and share your hopes and concerns regarding the upcoming Saskatchewan General Election this fall, and to hear from our own community ministries and partners about provincial policies that create harm, but could do good if changed. All welcome to this open house gathering to come together, listen, and engage in meaningful dialogue about the issues that deeply affect the lives of people in our province. Bring your lunch! [Click here for the invitation and the Zoom link.](#)

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! [Click here for the shareable invitation and Zoom details.](#)

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.

2. Next Month

NEW: Equipping the Saints next gathering – June 4, 1:00-2:30pm

This initiative is an opportunity for lay folks to develop skills and gather information in an online community to strengthen and encourage visiting community of faith members. Hosted by hospital chaplains Emily Carr and Lorna King, we will be joined again by Brian Walton. In this session, we will discuss the various experiences of loss which often accompany a critical illness or death. We will also explore the expressions of grief that often follow such loss. The goal is to aid caregivers in developing the sensitivities required to offer pastoral support. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if this is your first time joining. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

Strolling in Nature with Poems by Mary Oliver Tuesday, June 4 & Wednesday, June 5, 2024 (10 am - 5 pm CST) Cabin at 133 Ben Vannoch, Cypress Hills Park (Saskatchewan Side) **Register by May 26.**

During our time together, we will be invited to spend time in the company of Mary Oliver's poetry as we soak in nature with admiration. In Mary Oliver's poems, there is everything to explore: the fields, the woods, the rocks, the water, the meadows and hills, the rain, the light, the flowers, and contemplative words about faith. There will be all of it, lying ahead of us in the sunlight, wind, or rain of the day as the poems become a temple, a place to enter, feel, and speak of nature's gifts. Leadership: Marg Janick-Grayston. For full details, visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

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). This course is part of AST's [Diploma in Missional Leadership](#) program.

All things Regional Meeting:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Registration for both full meeting participation and for the Saturday Moderator's Event will close on **Monday, May 27**. This is to allow the office time to get final meal numbers to the hotel catering the meals.

Affirming You Are Loved T shirt and bunnyhug sales for the Region Ordering deadline: May 31.

You might remember the You Are Loved t shirts and bunnyhugs for sale at last year's meeting. Artist Yoonjoo Shin has updated the design a little, and we're again making these available for online purchase, with pick up at the meeting to save on the considerable mailing costs. As of the newsletter deadline, the ordering page hasn't been updated, so please watch Facebook, the website, and next week's newsletter. T shirts are around \$32 and bunnyhugs (aka hoodies) \$56.

Invitation to send photos of your ministry to the Regional meeting!

In keeping with the theme "DEEP | BOLD | DARING" of Living Skies Regional Meeting 2024 being held in Saskatoon, **June 13-16**, we are creating a slideshow to bring greetings from all parts of the Region. Help us make sure your community of faith, ministry, or partnership with the United Church is represented through some creative photos and short text. **Deadline: June 2.** [Click here for all the details!](#) Thank you to Mark Pitman, member of the planning committee, for wrangling all the photos and helping us greet one another.

Registration for the upcoming Regional Council Meeting is now open

The Living Skies Regional Meeting will be held from **June 13 - 15, 2024** at the **Saskatoon Travelodge** (106 Circle Dr.), with the Service of Praise being held at **Knox United Church** (838 Spadina Cres. E.) beginning at 10am. The theme of this meeting will be '**Bold, Deep, Daring**', a variation of the United Church's Call and Vision. **Please ensure you have elected a Regional Representative** for your Community of Faith who will be able to attend. Please see the **updated Accommodations List** on the Regional Gathering page for **recommended accommodations** and **blocked room deadlines**. **Billeting will not be available at this meeting.** This year, the registration fee is \$175 for the full in-person meeting and will include meals and break items provided at the meeting. The registration fee for joining on-line is \$50.

To Register:

- Open the registration form found on the Regional Gathering/Meeting page (beside the list of Committee members). Please answer all the questions on the form.
- Payment Options: You can pay by mailing a cheque to the Living Skies Regional Council Office (60A Athabasca St. E. Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0L2), by E-transfer by emailing livingskies@united-church.ca (no password) or through PayPal (credit card). If you are paying by cheque, please ignore the final PayPal section. You can also purchase tickets to only attend the **Saturday evening Celebration of Ministry Banquet**.

If your Community of Faith representative can't access the website or encounter problems, please contact **Bev Diebert at the Regional Council Office** (306-704-0181) and she will register for you when you are on the phone.

NEW: [Click here for a one-stop summary](#) of all three of these important worship services and a workshop day!

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, or send a card to 60A Athabasca St. E., Moose Jaw, SK, S6H 0L2 (the card needs to arrive **by June 10, please**).

Updated 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. You will need to pay for lunch, and register, if you wish to have it at the hotel, but the day is free. [Here's the shareable invitation](#), including registration details.

Updated Regional celebration of ministries service, Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Cres. E., Saskatoon, and [online via YouTube](#), beginning at **10:00AM sharp**. Message: Moderator Rt Rev Dr Carmen Lansdowne. Our service includes admitting, commissioning, honouring retirees, ordaining, recognizing LLWLs, and sharing in communion. Thanks to the Saskatoon churches, we will share in a light lunch after. All welcome!

Learning on Purpose: Changing Leadership for a Changing World is a 2-week intensive leadership development module hosted by the Centre for Christian Studies. It is a practical, holistic, hands-on, learning community experience, and those who take it come out feeling transformed (in a good way!). [Register for Learning on Purpose](#).

This year Learning on Purpose will be held in **Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue** (Montréal), QC from **June 17-28**. It is open to Continuing Studies students as well as CCS diaconal ministry and certificate students beginning their programs. Bursaries are available. Sample schedule – from [LoP 2023](#)
For more information: <https://ccsonline.ca/program/leadership-development/>

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. 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.

A Floriferous Retreat: A Time to Bloom Freely Tuesday, June 25 (4:00) - Thursday, June 27, 2024 (1:30 CST) Qu'Appelle House of Prayer, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sk.

In this floriferous retreat, we will be invited to see the extraordinary in the ordinary as we spend time with plants at various stages of unfurling their leaves and unfolding their buds to bloom freely. As we contemplate what they might teach us about life, there will be time for meandering, personal reflection, and sharing with each other. Leadership: Marg Janick-Grayston. **Register by June 10.** For complete information, visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

3. Into the Future:**Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land, Lutheran and Anglican National Worship Conference July 18-21, 2024, Regina.** Registration is now open! Visit our website at:

www.nationalworshipconference.org and follow us on Facebook [@nationalworshipconference](#) for updates regarding the keynote speakers, workshops, and Friday evening hospitality options! The focus of the conference is to help us to think about, talk about, and pray about the ways in which we can transform our worship, in authentic ways - from language and image of empire and colonialism, to one which recognizes our rich multi-cultural and Indigenous heritage. **Early bird registration ends on May 31** so now is the time to register. [Please click here](#).

A Spiritual Journey Rooted in Nature Tuesday, September 24 (4:00 pm) – Thursday, September 26, 2024 (1:30 CST) (Option to stay an extra day for a time of complete solitude) Qu'Appelle House of Prayer, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sk.

In this retreat, we will be inspired by Richard Rohr's contemplative practice to stop our busy lives and minds long enough to see everything in the natural world with humility and love. We will be invited to love what is right in front of us one step at a time, starting with a stone and then moving to the plant world, the world of creatures, and humanity itself. Once we see the divine fingerprint of beauty, truth, and goodness pulsing through all that is, we may have worked up to loving the divine in new and refreshing ways. For complete information, visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats> **Register by Sept 13**

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