

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



## May 8, 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:

### Sacraments Elder online training – **Last chance to register**

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).

### 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](#).

### **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. *Here is how to join the fun:* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85701774785?pwd=L3dpSjNaUjhwVXRzNU84MVJ5T2UxZz09>  
**Remember to bring your party hats, snacks and spirit of fun.**

### **Rethink Children and Youth Ministry: and Online Summit**

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.

### **Updated May Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: in your own community and with national church leaders**

The worldwide Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage which began in Lent continues. This renewed invitation is for everyone! Walk or roll together in your own community, preferably before **May 22**. Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire - for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. KAIROS member church leaders, including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, will gather in Ottawa on **May 22-23** to urge government 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. **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](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

### **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: 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! Connect here:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/88934178403?pwd=aQDaDdEEFVWYef8vthZ5z90CsGe8Ab.1>

Meeting ID: 889 3417 8403

Password: 218853

855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

**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

**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).

## 2. Next Month

**NEW: Strolling in Nature with Poems by Mary Oliver Tuesday, June 4 & Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (10 am - 5 pm CST)** Cabin at 133 Ben Vannoch, **Cypress Hills Park (Saskatchewan Side)**

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> **Register by May 26.**

**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.

## All things Regional Meeting:

**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:**

- Click on the link to 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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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**).

**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](#).

**NEW: 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. Program includes visits with the Wray Farm (involved in regenerative agriculture); Land of Dreams (Immigrant and Indigenous urban gardening); Mîni 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.

**NEW: 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:

**NEW: 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](http://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.](#)