

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



June 26, 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: Sincere apologies

Sincere apologies to Revs. Tom Powell and George Ward who are both celebrating their 55th (not 50) anniversary of their ordination this year. Incorrect information was recorded in both the docket and the program for the Celebrations of Ministry banquet at the Regional Meeting. Corrections will be made where possible. Congratulations to both!!!!

NEW: Last Rambler until August 21

As summer has arrived, so has the time for rest and relaxation (summer holidays). The *Regional Rambler* will be suspended until late August. However, if important items or information arises during this time, it will be distributed in a timely manner. Also, for those on Facebook, keep an eye on the Regional Council Facebook page for any announcements. Have a safe summer!

NEW: Canada Day and Staff Summer Holidays

Please note that Living Skies staff will be observing **Canada Day** on **Monday, July 1**. For staff holidays, not all have firm plans at this time, but some definitely do. Please check with individual staff about their schedules. Autoresponders and email messages may give more details. Please note that Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be on sabbatical from **June 28-September 30 inclusive**. If you need immediate assistance during this time, please contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca and she will direct your question.

NEW: Comings and Goings:

The most updated list of the work of the Pastoral Relations portfolio was submitted at the Regional Gathering. You can find a [copy of that here](#). We just want to highlight a few things. In May, we bid farewell to Joy Cowan who is beginning a new ministry in Antler River Watershed Regional Council. The end of June will mark the transition to retirement for Jim Balfour and Connie Sykes. In July, we welcome the return of Sheila Deforest from Prairie to Pine Regional Council to begin a new pastoral relationship in Maple Creek. We wish all of these folks well in this next phase of their ministry journey.

NEW: [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 54](#). New and updated information from the Pastoral Relations desk about the support committees and planned fall events.

NEW: **Third of a three-part series** from Jordan Cantwell, the Prairie Growth Animator. Check out Jordan's [Ideas for Summer Family Ministry: Take-Home Activities #3](#).

NEW: **Thank you from Nominations Committee to all who volunteered at the Regional meeting to fill vacancies on committees.** Please check out [our Nominations page](#) on the website for unfilled vacancies and if over the summer, you feel so called, file your [expressions of interest](#) for the group that interests you.

Attention Church Finance Administrators: tonight

A webinar is being held on **June 26** for national insurance initiative program participants, and notification has been sent to the contacts on record as administering local insurance (often trustees). In its first year, the program reported premium savings of \$2 million, and a streamlined process is now in place for underwriting new applicants. For this reason, we are alerting all congregations to the webinar on **Wednesday, June 26, 7:00–8:30 p.m. EDT** [Registration/access details](#) on CHURCHx. **Program summary and FAQs posted** on The United Church of Canada website: [UCC Protect United: Coverage Overview and FAQs \(2024\)](#) (In Downloads at bottom of page.) The webinar will be available as a recording afterwards on [our YouTube channel](#).

NEW: Canadian rural churches featured in cross border journal

Thank you to Rev Catherine Christie for her article on rural realities and ministries, published in the journal *Currents in Theology and Mission*. You can [read the full edition here](#), entitled *Flourishing: Rural Communities and Land in Global Perspective*; [click here for Catherine's article](#).

Family Faith Every Day: opportunity for churches to engage with parents of young (0-3) children <https://chalicepress.com/pages/family-faith-every-day>. A \$15,000 grant is available for communities of faith to participate in a 3 year project to develop a group for caregivers of babies and toddlers, with a focus on equipping families to share their faith in the home. The application is available at the link above and the deadline is **Friday, July 5**. If you are interested in applying or have questions, please be in touch with our YAYAC Minister, Rev. Lindsay Mohn, at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca.

Rethink Children and Youth Ministry: An Online Summit

<https://convergencecolab.org/p/rethink-children-and-youth-ministry>

Are there kids and youth in your church? Do you wish there WERE kids and youth in your church but don't really know how to make it happen in this time and context? Contact our YAYAC Minister Rev. Lindsay Mohn at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca for access to this amazing conference. The event has already happened, but Living Skies Region has purchased lifetime access to the videos as a resource for all of our communities of faith. They are all approximately 30 minutes long, and Lindsay has a top 5 list of the Must Watch videos from the week!

NEW: Save the date:

Living Skies Regional Council will be participating in covenanting services on **September 29** at Saskatoon: Mount Royal Emmanuel with Debz Ferber, and the Regina Collaboration with Bonnie Morton, Russell Mitchell-Walker and Dexter van Dyke. And on **November 3** at Davidson with Shelly Manley-Tannis. Details including timing to follow.

Directory Updates

Again, over the summer, Bev Diebert will be updating the Regional Council Directory with the information gathered during registration process for the Regional Meeting. If you registered for the 2024 Regional Meeting, (and gave permission for the next three years), your contact information will be included in the directory. Ministry Personnel who didn't register /didn't give permission will still have their name and pastoral charge contact information included. VAMs and committee members who did **not** register for the meeting, but still wish to be included, please send Bev Diebert an email (bdiebert@united-church.ca) with your name, address, phone number(s) and / or email and permission to include for the next three years (until the next in-person meeting). Any questions or concerns, please contact Bev.

Communities of Faith / Pastoral Charges, if you have updates or corrections to your mailing address, phone number/s and / or email address, please let Bev at the Living Skies Regional Office know. It is hoped the new directory will be ready for posting on the website by the end of September.

Updated: Ministry Personnel Gatherings

The Zoom room will be open over the summer but there will be no facilitation. [Connection information is in the calendar.](#)

2. Wider Church Information:

NEW: Standing Together Against Hate Based on Religious Identity

The [Canadian Interfaith Conversation](#) has issued a statement on behalf of over 60 signatory faith traditions and institutions, including The Canadian Council of Churches, of which the United Church is a founding member. The goal: to present a common public position adopted by Canada's faith communities, on combatting hate against and between our country's religious communities. [Click here to read the statement in English.](#)

Season of Creation resources available now

The 2024 Season of Creation will take place from **September 1st to October 4th** with the theme "To hope and act with Creation". This year, the **September 1st** celebration falls on a Sunday, providing a special opportunity to prepare prayer services in tune with this year's theme and symbol. We invite everyone to start planning your events and celebrations! [Download the 2024 Celebration Guide here.](#) Further information about the [Season of Creation is available here.](#)

Updated: Summer Camp in Saskatchewan!

Summer is here and school is finished. Now, there are dreams of being at SUMMER CAMP! There are 6 amazing camps in Living Skies Region. *Check them out!*

Camp Christopher <https://www.campchristopher.ca/> Lumsden Beach Camp

<https://www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com/> Camp Shagabec <https://shagabec.com/>

Camp Tapawingo <http://www.camptapawingo.net/> Camp Woodboia

<https://www.campwoodboia.ca> Wellman Lake UC Camp <https://wellmanlakeuccamp.ca/>

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'.

NEW: A Time for Gratitude - Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre

A community gathering and farewell to *Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre* is planned for **Thursday, July 18**, late afternoon & evening. These events welcome ALL friends of Queen's House. For details, please see their home page: <https://www.queenshouse.org/>
See here for an updated on the future of Queen's House sale.

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](https://www.facebook.com/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. Now is the time to register. [Please click here.](#)

NEW: Hold the date! Rural Ministry Conference, October 25-27, 2024 in Fort Macleod, AB!

With workshops specifically designed for ministry in rural contexts, including First Third (children, youth, young adults) Ministry, Becoming Affirming, Intercultural Ministry, and Community Partnerships. Keynote speaker Rev. Bronwyn Corlett, Rural and New Ministries Coordinator, UCC. Registration opens late July!

4. Reminders:

Second of a three-part series from Jordan Cantwell, the Prairie Growth Animator

Check out Jordan's [Ideas for Summer Family Ministry #2](#)

Have a great and safe summer!!