

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



September 25, 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. **Registration 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:

Fall YAYAC Youth Retreat - September 27 – 29, 2024

Grades 7-12 are invited to join us at Lumsden Beach Camp for a weekend away! More information & registration is available here: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/fall-yayac-retreat-grade-7-12/>
If you are willing to help out with planning or leadership (anyone out of high school), please be in touch with Rev. Lindsay Mohn at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca (sleeping on a floor or bunk bed not required!).

Updated: Two Covenanting Services on September 29 in Living Skies Regional Council:

- 1) at Regina: Heritage United Church with the Regina Collaboration (Regina Beach, Eastside, Heritage, St. James and Lumsden: St. Andrew's) who will covenant with Bonnie Morton, Russell Mitchell-Walker and Dexter van Dyke, on this Truth and Reconciliation Sunday, at **10:00am** with a potluck lunch to follow.
- 2) at Saskatoon: Mount Royal Emmanuel with Debz Ferber **at 4pm** with a potluck supper to follow.

Bold Discipleship: The 6th Intercultural Adventure Seminar, Oct. 21-22, 2024 in person and online, St Andrew's College, Saskatoon. Registration deadline is September 30, 2024.

Join us to explore bold discipleship with Korean members of the United Church through three lectures, workshops and a panel discussion. There will be translation between Korean and English. **Registration:** \$120 in person (accommodation and meals are included); Online: free. [Full information is here](#). To register contact Melanie Schwanbeck at melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

The Archives is in urgent need of a new home! Application Deadline – September 30, 2024

For the full story, with details about the archives' needs and wants, and what you need to do if you are interested, [please click here](#).

Honouring Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Monday Sept 30/24

Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important public space for truth telling and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. It's now [an official day across Canada](#). The [Orange Shirt Day society](#) offers leadership for this important space, as all of Canada joins in efforts to honour, remember, and change. [Click here for more information and resources](#) on how United Church communities in our Regional Council can support this day.

"When you wear an orange shirt it's like a little bit of justice for us Survivors in our lifetime, and recognition of a system we can never allow again." -Phyllis Webstad

2. Next month:**Updated: Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1pm**

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) continue every **Tuesday at 1pm** on Zoom. Please check the website calendar for [connection information](#) to join colleagues for conversation and support.

Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 6: Palestinian Olive Oil liturgy and resource

We invite United Church people into this opportunity to understand the violence facing Palestinian farmers and villagers as they commence their annual olive harvest. In Gaza, part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, harvest will not happen at all this year, amidst the unspeakable devastation and starvation. Our partners ask us to learn from them, to see signs of hope with them, and to offer them solidarity. Join us! Hosted by Living Skies Regional Council and Mennonite Church SK, with all invited to participate with special liturgy, and online film and learning events. [Details are here](#).

The Ethics of Reading Biblical History: Cover Stories on Stolen Land, Sunday October 6,

7:00PM CST, in person in Saskatoon and on YouTube. Join us for a presentation by Biblical scholar and Professor Rev. Bill Richards looking at the context of the Prophets of the Jewish Bible, and the ethics behind the concept of "Promised Land" and chosen people. We'll look at history from the arrival of enslaved Hebrews in Palestine to the collapse of their various states at the hands of imperial powers. Over time other imperial interests have read themselves into this "conquest narrative", as a cover story for their own colonizing projects here in the Americas, and in Australia, Africa, and Palestine. These interpretations ignore significant voices within the Jewish Bible that challenge us to look at how "chosen people" should live with their neighbours. In person at Grace-Westminster United Church, [or on their YouTube channel](#). **Hybrid conversation after.** [Please click here for more details and a shareable link.](#)

Commemorating death and grief in Palestine and Israel: worship resource available

Mennonite Church Canada's Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) encourages congregations to mark the **October 7** anniversary of the mass murder and kidnappings in Israel, and the start of the genocide in Gaza. The PIN has prepared an online package of resources designed for congregational prayer or small group use. It features scripture, stories, and the song "*If the War Goes On*" by John Bell, who gives voice to the questions we ask in times such as these. [Click here for a video of the song](#). The free download for worship leaders [is available here](#) and at the PIN web page [here](#).

NEW: Connect, Learn, Share: Disability and Accessibility Network Meeting, Wednesday October 9 at 1:00PM MDT/ CST and 2:00PM CDT. This network meeting will highlight the [Leadership Counts](#) project, which surveyed United Church of Canada ministry personnel, staff, and national committee members about their self-identification, including in terms of disabilities. Join us for a networking session to connect with others and discuss how to build a more inclusive church. Open to persons living with disabilities and interested in advancing disability rights and accessibility within The United Church of Canada and beyond. [Please register here](#). Don't forget to join our [Disability Ministries in the United Church of Canada Facebook group](#) for ongoing discussions and resources.

Ministry & Personnel Committees: Everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be offering an online training session on **Thursday, October 10 in the evening**. This will be a refresher for folks continuing in this role, and would also be appropriate for people just beginning. To register, please email Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

Updated: Summary of grants to support your work

As fall begins, the national church enters a new round of grant application opportunities. [Click here for a handy summary](#). Seeds of Hope applications are due **October 15, 2024**. **Other deadlines vary**, so please check the terms before you apply.

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2024: Live event every Tuesday, October 15 – November 19, 7:00 p.m. ET (please convert the time for your zone, noting that Daylight Savings Time ends Nov 3). [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) returns this fall with brand-new content! The series is an excellent way to delve deeply into exploring anti-racism—as well as to engage in related faith reflections and ideas for action. This year's series features several dynamic speakers for the online events. There are also accompanying [study groups](#), which offer ways to integrate and reflect on the content with learners from across the church. [Register for this year's live events](#)—and please [sign up for the newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date with regular content for this year's exciting program.

NEW: Listening for God's prophetic voice amongst the people of the land, October 15, 7:00 p.m. Join Rick Block and Miriam Harder, colleagues at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, as they share historical and current contexts from Canada and the Palestinian Territories in how land, identity and conflict can create tragic circumstances, but also hope, resilience, and unity. This participatory event will include table group discussions for in-person at Grosvenor Park United Church-Saskatoon and online participants, as well as various calls to action and prayer. *Watch the October 9 Rambler for links.*

Equipping the Saints next gathering – Wednesday, October 16, 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. 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.

NEW: General Council Nominations

General Council is excited to launch their Fall 2024 Call for Nominations. This round of nominations closes on **Thursday October 24**. There are several open calls to engage volunteers. Click on the bolded links for further information about each committee:

Justice and Reconciliation Fund Committee

We are seeking two non-Indigenous (settler) members of the United Church to join this grant-awarding committee that contributes to the church's reconciliation commitments.

Please use this [form to nominate or express interest](#).

Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group

Who can keep up with the dizzying pace of developments in life sciences and biotechnology? The Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group revels in sharing ethical reflections on these developments and discerning principles for how best to respond. We are looking for an individual to join this Reference Group to bring The United Church of Canada perspective.

To express interest or to [nominate someone please use this online form](#).

General Council 45 Equity Support Team

We are searching for people who are not General Council 45 commissioners, to form a team that will support the General Council as it strives to be a space of equitable participation and decision-making. To express interest or to [nominate someone please use this online form](#).

Please visit our website to learn more about other [volunteer opportunities](#).

NEW: General Council cross-country check-in, Tuesday October 22, 5:00PM CDT, 4:00PM CST/ MDT.

Spend an hour with members of the General Council Executive, the decision-making body for the United Church between meetings of the General Council, in an informal, thoughtful town hall on **Oct. 22**. With the annual General Council meeting scheduled for October 19, this is an opportunity for you to engage with the decisions and dialogue from the annual meeting – right after it happens.

[Here is a video invitation](#) from the General Secretary. **Everyone is welcome.** [Please click here to register](#).

LeaderShift Rural Ministry Conference, Friday October 25 - Sunday October 27,

Trinity United Church, Fort Macleod AB. In person, online TBC. This conference is for lay leaders and ministry personnel whose church life and work is rooted in a rural setting. Come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! Workshops include a focus on intercultural ministry and anti-racism; Affirming ministry; youth; and much more. [Click here for full details](#).

Grounding the Future: Spiritual resources for responding to climate change, KAIROS Prairies

North fall regional gathering, Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. CST, St. Luke's Anglican Church, 8424 – 95 Ave, Edmonton, AB with some online options. KAIROS Prairies North covers Northern Spirit and Living Skies Regional Council. Climate change is a spiritual crisis rooted in fear and greed. Individual actions like recycling and biking are important responses, but they aren't enough. Political and collective decisions are required, but they will always be thwarted unless people's hearts and values are also involved. What spiritual postures can we adopt that can ground both our personal actions and our collective decisions? [Click here for the event link](#).

3. Into the Future:**"Faith in a Time of Genocide" November 1-2, 2024 Toronto**

You are invited to the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) national gathering in Toronto. This is an important time to reflect on our faith and a call to faithfulness in solidarity with people in Palestine and Israel. The gathering is a time to learn, gather strength in community and come together for advocacy.

There is a hotel room discount available until October 4th. Scholarships are available for students. People can also register for the pre-conference event: a training on the **Palestine Land Exercise** on **October 31**. [Please register here.](#) [More program details are here.](#)

Living Skies Youth Confirmation 2025

Our YAYAC Team is currently making plans for our confirmation class that will be held as a one weekend retreat in **early 2025**. If you have youth grades 7-12 in your community of faith that might be interested in being confirmed, please let us know by emailing Rev. Lindsay Mohn at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca as this will help us determine the location and timing of the event. We will also be looking for leaders and mentors for the class, so please prayerfully consider if you might be able to offer your time and presence!