

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



September 4, 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](mailto: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**

### **Women's Camp at Camp Christopher – September 6-8, 2024**

Women of the United Church have been invited to join a weekend of fun, hope and joy. Camp registration starts at **4pm on Friday** and ends **after lunch on Sunday**. Register by sending your name, address, any dietary or accommodation needs and payment by e transfer to Sharon at [womenscamp1@gmail.com](mailto:womenscamp1@gmail.com) . [Click here for the information page](#) or call Donna at 306-535-6916.

### **NEW: The Archives is in urgent need of a new home!**

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](#).

### **NEW: Callout for Living Skies photos for the archives and our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Do you hold a favourite photograph of your Community of Faith? Tucked in boxes, albums, or on your phone, is there a picture of yourself or loved ones past that makes you smile or reflect? The Living Skies Archives is on a quest to receive digital copies of the photos that embody the ethos, activities, and life of your United Church. As the United Church of Canada celebrates and reflects on its Centennial, we are looking to gather and share images that help us remember our Story. [Click here for all the background and instructions!](#)

### **NEW: Ministry Personnel Gatherings**

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.

### **NEW: September 20 transphobic marches and our responses**

The “hands off our kids” transphobic and homophobic marches we dealt with last September are making a comeback across our Region and the country **Friday, September 20, 2024**. [Please click here to read more](#), including encouragement for all our members, communities of faith, and community ministries to speak faithfully, proactively, and positively against fear and hate.

## 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

**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](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

### Equipping the Saints next gathering – **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](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) to register.

### Olive harvest focus and resources for Palestine, **October 2024**

People in Living Skies Regional Council, with support from some great Manitoba expertise, 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. Together, we will explore why, and what Canadians can do.

This focus is intended for everyone, and we hope people who live in rural or remote areas closer to the rhythms of harvesting, fishing, and hunting will bring their lived experience to this work.

**The planners warmly welcome participation from across Turtle Island** to film viewing, learning, worship, personal reflection, and advocacy. Key dates to help us prepare in advance include the Season of Creation, and the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. In October we'll offer resources for World Communion Sunday and World Food Day. [Information will be shared throughout on this web page](#).

## **2. Wider Church Information:**

### **Updated: Season of Creation resources**

The 2024 Season of Creation will take place from **September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>** with the theme "To hope and act with Creation". There are lots of resources!

The [Season of Creation website](#) includes ecumenical prayer resources, lectionary notes, information on events and suggestions for action. Download the [2024 Celebration Guide here](#).

The [Canadian ecumenical site For the Love of Creation](#) offers resources for theological reflections, community conversations, and political advocacy.

[Click here for the toolkit from the World Council of Churches: Climate Justice with and for Children and Youth in Churches—Get Informed, Get Inspired, Take Action](#). And Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the Archbishop of Constantinople, shares an [opening message for Season of Creation here](#).

### Lifelong Learning at St. Andrew's College

Are you looking for new opportunities to learn at your own pace, in your own space, following the questions and passions which really matter to you? St. Andrew's College Lifelong Learning Pathway offers all the tools you need to go deep in your quest for wisdom and insight. Certificate streams include "Leadership in the Faith Community", "Leadership in the World", and "Spiritual Exploration". Reasonable tuition subscription, with bursary support available!

<https://standrews.ca/lifelong-learning-pathway/>

### Contemplative Gathering

St. Andrew's College invited you to join them on **Friday, September 20 at 10 a.m.** for an hour of quiet contemplation and conversation. As we begin a new academic year, we will explore the **Ember Day** theme of "**Birthing Hope and Harvest**". [Please join online here.](#)

### 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.](#)

### 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.](#)

## 3. Upcoming Opportunities:

**Please check out our CoF calendar** on the LSRC website **for upcoming local events**. Our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events, so new events can be added at anytime - *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'.

**A Spiritual Journey Rooted in Nature** that was to be held **September 24 – 26, 2024 has been postponed**. Watch here for information about future retreats.

## 4. Reminders:

### 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](mailto: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!

### Directory Updates

Updates are still being accepted for the Regional Council on-line (password protected) directory. Those registering for the 2024 Regional Meeting, (gave permission for the next three years) are already included. VAMs and committee members, who did **not** register for the meeting, can still be included, by contacting Bev Diebert ( [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) ).

**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 know. The new directory should be ready for posting on the website by the end of September.