

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



October 2, 2024 – News

"I don't know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today." Genesis 21:26

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 Admins, please feel free to use these announcements in your 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: What are your plans for the 100th anniversary? New resources are now available

We're not far from turning 100! We have [a Centenary resource and supports summary page](#) up on the regional website, and that includes an invitation to share your events with everyone. And find here [a short planning guide for communities of faith](#) from our Northern and Prairie Regional Council archivists Erin Acland and Leanne Templeton.

Updated: You Are Loved t-shirts and bunnyhugs are available again!

We have had so many requests for a third round of this lovely clothing and logo that the Regional Affirming Committee will be re-opening the store. This is your advance notice for Christmas shopping! [Please find all the updated details here.](#)

Updated: Olive harvest focus and resources for Palestine, October 2024

You're invited into this opportunity to understand the violence facing Palestinian farmers and villagers as they commence their annual olive harvest. Together, we will explore why this violence is happening, and what Canadians can do. 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. Planned by SK United Church and Mennonite members, we warmly welcome everyone to film viewing, learning, worship, personal reflection, and advocacy. For October we offer resources and hybrid events for World Communion Sunday and World Food Day. [Information will be shared throughout on this web page.](#)

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.

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.

NEW: Nominations is back at work

The Nominations Committee has begun it's work of looking for people to fill positions that will become vacant next summer. Today we feature:

The Grants Committee

Are you passionate about supporting creative, new and faith-filled ministry?

Do you value the work of the Church beyond the walls of church buildings?

Do you enjoy analyzing information, prioritizing, discerning, and making decisions?

If so, you could find fulfilment on the Grants Committee. This committee receives and reviews applications for Mission Support grants and regional grants and makes recommendations to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive regarding funding of these applications.

If interested, [please complete this interest form](#).

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.*

NEW Details: Equipping the Saints next gathering – October 16, 1:00-2:30pm

Join with special guest speakers from Grace-Westminster Saskatoon Pastoral Care group and learn how to start or build upon a Pastoral Visiting group in your church!

This group was originally created when a minister went on sabbatical and there was a need in the community for visiting. They have been offering pastoral care for over 30 years. Hear how they got started, how they structure their ministry, and what they've learned along the way. Bring your pastoral care team, or those interested in getting started.

Everyone is welcome to attend, even if this is your first time joining. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

2. Wider Church Information:**NEW: General Council Executive meeting summary**

The GCE met September 27-28, as the church begins to prepare for an upcoming online meeting of General Council Commissioners, and the 45th General Council in Calgary next August. [Please click here for a summary.](#)

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](#).

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'.

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.

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](#).

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 links for further information about each committee:

[Justice and Reconciliation Fund Committee](#)

[Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group](#)

[General Council 45 Equity Support Team](#)

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

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

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

4. Reminders:

Updated: Summary of grants

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.