

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



October 23, 2024 – Events

“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

In this **EVENTS** edition of the Rambler, events are listed in order of occurrence. For easy identification: **Date/s of the event** are highlighted in green; **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** section 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.

NEW: October-November online workshops from United in Learning are listed here. Lots to choose from: stewardship and anti-racism, support for treasurers and those who work with church tech, courses on challenging anti-Semitism and on fair wages for ministry personnel. Have a look! The **United Church’s Edge Network** also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

1. This month:

Strengthening Invitation | United in Prayer

Each **Thursday at 11am Central / 10am Mountain** the Growth Department prays for and with communities of faith in our shared ministry of Strengthening Invitation. This event is hosted primarily in English. Let us know how we can pray for your community of faith.

Are you planning a special service to invite your neighbours? Are you reaching out to your neighbours through an event? Are you asking hard or exciting questions about your future? Join us on Zoom and pray for others. Register to join us [here](#). Send your prayer request to growth@united-church.ca (you can send a request even if you’re not attending)

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. **Please visit our website to learn more about these [volunteer opportunities](#)**. Please use this [form to nominate or express interest](#).

Ministry & Personnel Committees: Everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask

Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister, will now be offering the online training session on **Thursday, October 24 at 7:00pm**. 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.

Ministry Personnel Gatherings

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

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2024: Live event every Tuesday, until November 19, 7:00 p.m. ET (please convert the time, noting that Daylight Savings Time ends Nov 3).

[40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) has released its list of events. [Please click here and scroll down for details](#). 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.

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](#).

Updated: *The Stones Cry Out* (2013) film viewing, **Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00 pm CST, in person at Grace-Westminster United Church, Saskatoon, with an in-person discussion after, plus a local option.** This documentary lifts up the voices of Palestinian Christians who are often left out of coverage of the military occupation of Palestine. Although they are a small minority, Palestinian Christians have played a critical role in the territory's history and, as Palestine is the birthplace of Christianity, this community has a global significance for Christians.

The film covers Palestinian Christians' experiences from 1948 to the modern era, including the effects of the Israeli military occupation on Bethlehem. ****For those who cannot attend in person and want to view this film [you can see online for free here](#), and we encourage you to host a local group viewing followed by discussion. For discussion suggestions, see [Stones Cry Out discussion](#).** Organized by the Just Peace Palestine Israel working group of Living Skies and Mennonite Church SK

Bequests and Estate Giving – October 30th, 1:30 pm (CST).

Did you know? *One-third of United Church people would consider including the church in their Estate plans if they were asked.*

This course will help you get your Planned Giving program set up and running, so that your community of faith can benefit from these financial gifts. A Planned Giving program can excite your community of faith and offer them new ways to financially support your ministry. These gifts from your donor's estates or savings can be transformational to both the donor and the church.

Attend this 1-hour on-line session with Jess Smith and Roger Janes to learn:

- why you should offer a Planned Giving program and how to set it up and maintain it,
- what exactly are the different kinds of Planned Gifts?
- how to inspire and invite people to make a Planned Gift,
- how to recognize those who make a Planned Gift.

For more information, and to register, click here: [Bequests and Estate Giving](#)

2. Next month:

"**Faith in a Time of Genocide**" **November 1-2, 2024** is 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. Scholarships are available for students. People can also register for the pre-conference: a training on the **Palestine Land Exercise** on **October 31**. [Please register here](#). [More program details are here](#).

MCC Saskatchewan Peace Conference, "Climate Action for Peace"

Join us at this year's event, on **November 2, 2024 at Mount Royal Mennonite Church in Saskatoon**, where we will explore the connections between peacebuilding and a changing climate. Throughout the day, we will learn how MCC and its partners are addressing questions like: * How can faith and peacebuilding drive action in the face of climate change? * How can we inspire meaningful change within our communities? **What to Expect: Plenary sessions:** 1) **Leah Reesor-Keller**, author of *Tending Tomorrow: Courageous Change for People and Planet*, will share insights on reimagining how we care for our world. 2) **James and Joan Alty**, former MCC staff, will discuss conservation agriculture in southern Africa. **Workshops:** focusing on practical responses to climate challenges from local churches, MCC Thrift Shops, and partners like KAIROS and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. **Lunch** will be a nature-inspired feast, curated by Métis **Chef Jenni Lessard!**

To learn more and register, visit [Peace Conference SK 2024 | Climate Action For Peace | Mennonite Central Committee \(mcc.org\)](#). We hope to see you there as we learn together!

Upcoming Covenanting Services

Living Skies Regional Council will be participating in **three** upcoming covenanting services: On **November 3 at 2pm**, Rev. Shelly Manley-Tannis with Davidson United Church (315 Lincoln St.). A light lunch will follow. Also on **Nov 3 but at 3pm**, Heather MacKinnon with Battleford United Church. And, on **Nov. 10 at 3:30pm**, Maple Creek United Church will covenant with Sheila Deforest.

You Are Loved t-shirts and bunnyhugs are available again! Deadline November 3 @ midnight

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](#).

NEW: Greening Faith Buildings webinar, 5 November, 7:30PM CST on Zoom. Are you a member of a faith community or social organization with a building that could use some energy-efficiency upgrades? Are you looking for funds and support? Not sure where to start? The United Church's Faithful Footprints grant and support program can help. Tune in to a free webinar on **November 5**, where Newo's energy auditors, Maroof and Nicole, will share strategies, funding opportunities and answers to your questions. See you there! [Please register here](#). Or if this time doesn't work...

NEW: All you need to know about Faithful Footprints energy efficiency grants, November 8 and December 6, online, 3:00PM CST. The Faithful Footprints Prairie Hub wants to give you money! These events are for United Church ministries interested in lowering carbon emissions and investing in energy efficiency and green energy projects in their faith spaces. These events will provide detailed information on how to apply for the grant, eligibility criteria, and tips for a successful application. Don't miss out on this opportunity to take the first step towards creating a more sustainable future! Click here for full [information and registration on the Nov 8 session](#); and [click here for December 6](#).

Video License Applications Now Open Applications Due by November 6th, 2024

Video license applications are now open for annual licenses from **January 2025 to December 2025**.

Many churches benefit from the opportunity to show films and clips during worship and at events, and require a public performance license (or video license) to do it legally. The United Church of Canada offers discounted access to annual licenses from both Audio Ciné Films and Criterion Pictures. To access more information about the licenses, including pricing, please visit:

<https://rtps.ca/UCC/Categories/license.php>. If you have not had a chance to register for Buying United, please do so using the code **united** (all lowercase).

Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6u3DdenSF8>

NEW: Healing Haunted Histories decolonization course, Mennonite Church SK and Canadian Mennonite University, in person in Saskatoon, November 11-15. Through bible studies, social analysis, communal narratives and historic literacy, this interactive course will explore how Canadian landscapes are “haunted” by historic and continuing violence against Indigenous peoples. We will examine how trauma and resilience, as well as devised and dismembered stories, inhabit our settler communal places, memories and myths. This is an intensive course, with classes running from 9am-12pm, and then 1pm-4pm (roughly) each day. [Click here for full details](#). This is a rare chance for a week's conversation and study on decolonization in a Christian context still has some spaces available. Our friends at Mennonite Church SK and Canadian Mennonite University stress that this is an open space for everyone. The Remembrance Day start may be difficult for those of you holding services that day, but that can be accommodated. Please consider, and email Justice Minister Julie Graham to discuss further if you wish jgraham@united-church.ca

NEW: Western Intercultural Ministries Network AGM and workshop, Thursday, November 14, 12:30 MST, 1:30PM Central Standard. Your presence and ideas make intercultural ministry work! Please come for a short AGM, and a focus on the church's recent deep dive on diversity and equity in ministry leadership. WIMN's Executive represents the five Western Regions, and meets monthly. This supportive and fun space welcomes additional Regional representatives, and this meeting is a great chance to learn more about the network and how it runs. [Learn more about our work here](#). And [click here for full details on the meeting, workshop, and Zoom info](#).

Called to be the Church the Journey: Fall Stewardship Courses**Stewardship Resource Kits**

If you want to get started right away, consider downloading stewardship resource kits online. You can find links to 4 different themed [kits online here](#).

Set Up Your Giving Program – Begins Week of November 19 This two-session course is for teams that have completed Getting Started in Stewardship and are wanting to focus on creating a stewardship campaign for winter or spring of 2025. [You can read more here](#).

Next Getting Started in Stewardship Course is November 20 at either 3 or 5:30pm (CST)

Curious about how to revitalize stewardship in your community of faith? Register now for our next session of Getting Started in Stewardship. This 90-minute session is the foundational course to help your community of faith move away from the annual cycle of panicking about the budget, to an on-going, sustainable ministry of gratitude and generosity, which supports people in their lives of faith. You can participate as an individual or in a team. After the course, we'll support you in taking the next steps. [Register here on CHURCHx](#).

If you have any questions, or want to discuss your community of faith's context, reach out to stewardship support staff, Vicki Nelson – vnelson@united-church.ca