

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



October 30, 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](mailto: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: Tri-Region Staff Retreat**

This week, the staff of Living Skies Regional Council will join our colleagues from Prairie to Pine Regional Council and Northern Spirit Regional Council, as well as General Council staff that works within all three of the Regional Councils in a meeting/retreat in Winnipeg. Staff will mostly be unavailable from Tuesday, October 29 through Friday, November 1. Autoresponders (emails) and message managers (voicemail) will have information as to how to best access staff.

### **New: Volunteer Opportunity: Accountant Needed for Camp Tapawingo**

Camp Tapawingo, a not-for-profit ministry of the United Church, is seeking a CPA to volunteer their time to review our financial records and ensure compliance with governance requirements. We need your expertise to help ensure our books are accurate and transparent, reflecting our commitment to financial integrity as we continue to serve our community. This would be a review engagement once a year.

Your support will directly help us continue to offer meaningful programs to campers of all ages. If you’re willing to share your skills and make a difference, please reach out!

**Contact:** Terry at [info@camptapawingo.net](mailto:info@camptapawingo.net) Join us in supporting Camp Tapawingo and its mission!

### **NEW: Living Skies’ 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 Property Commission](#)

*Do you have a passion for helping churches make faithful decisions about property?*

*Are you detail-oriented and appreciate the value of a good policy?*

*Is your schedule flexible enough to accommodate urgent, last-minute meetings?*

You can make a real difference on the Property Commission. This Commission oversees and makes decisions on various property-related matters in our Region – from supporting communities of faith looking to repurpose their buildings, to overseeing the maintenance of church cemeteries, to stewarding funds generated from property sales. This Commission typically meets electronically or by telephone, and sometimes needs to meet on short notice. *Working with this Commission means you will get to know the buildings and land across the Region; you may even get to tour around.*

**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.](#)

**What are your plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**2. Wider Church Information:****NEW: Update on United Church policy on Palestine and Israel**

On October 19, the online meeting of General Council 44 adopted new policies related to Palestine and Israel. In summary, the United Church is: \* adopting the strategies of Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement and; \* responding positively to the request of NEW04 - Join the Apartheid Free Communities Movement, and; \* joining the consensus of the international human rights community in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures towards the Palestinian people.

[Please click here for more details](#), including a letter from the Moderator. These policies are an invitation to the entire church, not just the General Council, so we are all encouraged to be informed of the details.

**NEW: Saskatchewan connection to the Gaza crisis asks for our help**

Gaza is far away, and its suffering is incomprehensible, but Saskatchewan people do have connections. One of those is orthopedic surgeon Dr. Deirdre, originally from SK, who is currently serving with a medical aid organization in southern Gaza despite the immense personal risk. She has shared some heart-wrenching accounts about conditions in the hospital since she arrived in Gaza again in mid-October. **Dr. Deirdre has asked us to plead for the world to take note of the slaughter in North Gaza, and the targeting of hospitals, where many of her Palestinians colleagues are labouring in desperate circumstances while Israel withholds aid and deliberately kills health workers.** We can put our faith into action; we can do something. [Please click here to find action suggestions](#), and please share this brief write up and its link within your community of faith.

**Video License Applications Now Open Applications Due by November 6<sup>th</sup>, 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>

**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.

### 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. Join us on Zoom and pray for others. Register to join us [here](#). Send your prayer request to [growth@united-church.ca](mailto:growth@united-church.ca) (you can send a request even if you're not attending)

### 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'.

**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.** 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. There will be a Zoom Discussion offered on **November 6, 2024 from 1:30 – 2:30pm (Sk time)**. After [watching the film](#) for free, join in an on-line discussion led by members of the Olive Harvest Planning Team.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89100161083>. Organized by the Just Peace Palestine Israel working group of Living Skies and Mennonite Church SK

### **Bequests and Estate Giving – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

### **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. 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!

**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...

**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](#).

**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](#).

**NEW: A Time for Awe - A Free Flow Wellness Zoom-Based Retreat Tuesdays, Nov 26 – Dec 17, 2024 (1:30-5 CST)** From our first breath to our last, experiences of awe create moments of connection to a vast mystery beyond ourselves, and inspire us to live our lives with greater unity and reverence. Leading up to Christmas, when we prepare to be awe struck by an incredible birthing story, we will explore the top four wonders of life that bring awe our way as identified by Dacher Keltner: moral beauty, collective movement, nature and music. For anyone interested, this theme will be further explored leading up to Easter with 4 other wonders of life that bring us awe. For full details visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

## **4. Reminders:**

**Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 55](#).** Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

### **Attention Treasurers:**

The annual salary scale is now available for 2025. [You can find the updated information here](#).

Please note that this includes information to be communicated to ADP regarding cost of living increases for your ministry personnel, as well as the minimum amount for visiting ministry personnel (pulpit supply) for 2025.

### **Manses in Living Skies Regional Council**

Having finally got a good list of cemeteries, vacant lots and corners of fields owned by the United Church, the Property Commission is now moving on to manses. Some are occupied by clergy, some are rented out, and some are vacant awaiting clergy. Please look at [our current list](#) and check if not only the names associated with your Community of Faith but that of your neighbour's is correctly listed. If you have any corrections or additions to the list, please contact Bev Kostichuk at [bkosti@gmail.com](mailto:bkosti@gmail.com).