

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



October 9, 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](mailto: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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

### **NEW: New Mission and Service Thanksgiving Worship Service**

This worship service has everything you need to share the impact of Mission and Service as well as your local ministries that focus on food justice. Complete with a sermon, liturgy, hymns, and a children’s time, the service can be adapted and led by either ministry personnel or lay leaders. [Find it at the top of the M&S worship page](#).

**NEW: It’s Clergy Appreciation month** – find creative ways to show your gratitude throughout October. Watch for ideas in the next Rambler!

### **NEW: 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](mailto:growth@united-church.ca) (you can send a request even if you’re not attending)

### **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.

**NEW: 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.

**NEW: Houselessness Resource**

The Warm Welcome Coalition of Regina has put together a resource of questions for people to use when engaging with candidates for the provincial election, October 28. While the Coalition is focused on Ending Houselessness, it recognizes the importance of a wide variety of issues so the questions cover a variety of topics. [This resource](#) is offered to people of Saskatchewan as they discern who to vote for this election season. There is also a pamphlet for the municipal election that is focused on Regina. If people wish that resource they can contact Russell Mitchell-Walker at [russell.eastside@gmail.com](mailto:russell.eastside@gmail.com)

**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, noting that Daylight Savings Time ends Nov 3). **Saskatchewan focus: 22 October!**

[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.

**UPDATED:** **World Food Day: Listening for God's prophetic voice amongst the people of the land 15 October, 7:00pm online and in person at Grosvenor Park United Church, Saskatoon.** Join us for World Food Day, a more important focus than ever as armed conflict causes great hunger around the world. Rick Block and Miriam Harder, colleagues at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, will share historical and current contexts from Canada and the Palestinian Territories exploring how land, identity, and conflict can create tragic circumstances- but also springs of hope, resilience, and unity. This will be a participatory event for in-person and online participants. Hosted by Mennonite Church Canada SK, and Living Skies Regional Council. [Click here for full details.](#)

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

**NEW: Bequests and Estate Giving – October 16<sup>th</sup> and 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. Attend both of these 1-hour on-line sessions 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](#)

### **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. **Deadline: October 18** [Click here for full details.](#)

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

**NEW DATE - 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 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) .

### **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.](#)

**NEW: The Stones Cry Out (2013) film viewing, Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00 pm CST, in person at Grace-Westminster United Church, Saskatoon, with online and 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. Come learn about their story. \*\*For those who cannot attend in person, [you can view it online for free here](#). Please view the film and join the discussion with us! Connect on Zoom around 8:00PM for the conversation. [Full details are here.](#)

## 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](#).

### **Updated/NEW: Save the date - Covenanting Services**

Living Skies Regional Council will be participating in two upcoming covenanting services:

On **November 3 at 2pm**, Rev. Shelly Manley-Tannis with Davidson United Church (315 Lincoln St.).

A light lunch will follow. 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: Called to be the Church the Journey: Fall Stewardship Courses**

#### **N: 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](#).

#### **N: 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](#).

#### **N: 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](mailto:vnelson@united-church.ca)

## 3. Into the Future:

### **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](mailto: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!