

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



November 27, 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: 2025 Living Skies Prayer Cycle**

The 2025 Prayer Cycle, available for use in your bulletins, announcements or during your Prayers of the People, is now posted on the Regional Council website under [Resources > Worship](#). It can be found in the Prayer Cycle box, near the bottom of the page (just click on it and it will open). Also, in that expanding list, is the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle [link](#).

### **NEW: It’s the most wonderful time of the year**

Yes, Advent and Christmas are on the horizon but so is the season of annual report writing. The Committee on Community of Faith Support wants to remind you that your annual report needs to include a number of components, listed in this [collection of best practices](#). This is an important way to tell the story of the ministry happening in your community of faith, and reading it is a way for the Regional Council to offer support and accountability. Remember – your financials need to be reviewed externally, and do not include any personal information (phone numbers and emails). We look forward to reading what you all have been up to in 2024!

### **NEW: Did you know?**

Printable PDFs of the last few months of the *Regional Rambler* issues are posted on the Living Skies Regional Council website. If you can’t find the emailed copy in your inbox, you can likely find it on the website under NEWS & EVENTS > REGIONAL NEWS > REGIONAL NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES. There, you can also find recent E-Shares, Tracy Murton’s Pastoral Relations *Ponderings* and newsletters from Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator for the Prairie Region. Please share this with other folks who might be interested, but aren’t yet subscribed.

### **Clarity on 100th anniversary package sent to communities of faith**

In October, many communities of faith or pastoral charges received communication from Brian Arthur Brown, chair of Friends of the United Church Foundation. The Regional Council notes that you are free to accept or ignore the invitation to plan a worship service, and offers some details on worship related to the United Church’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. [Please click here to read and share the clarification.](#)

**Treasurer reminder:**

If there is a called or appointed minister in your community of faith, please ensure that you have made the necessary salary adjustment with ADP to ensure a smooth transition for payroll in January. [Here is the link for the most accurate salary amounts.](#)

**Honouring Advent's radical roots: Resources on Palestinian human rights, event on avoiding anti-Semitism** As enormous violence continues in the Holy Land in Gaza and the West Bank, including Bethlehem, the United Network for Justice in Palestine and Israel is again offering an Advent candle-lighting liturgy for public worship and household prayers. [Click here for a copy.](#) Two songs, written by Rev Juanita Austin, are also available for public use: O Town of Bethlehem ([YouTube link here](#)) and Will You Grieve for Gaza ([YouTube link](#)). [Here's the PDF of lyrics for both songs](#), and an explanation. These biblical places are real communities that today are gripped by immense violence and trauma, and our Christian family and human rights activists in Palestine are asking us not to erase their lived realities as we re-tell our sacred stories.

There is also a live national online event on Advent scripture and avoiding anti-Semitism coming up November 19 with Dr Amy-Jill Levine that will be a rich time of learning and discussion. [Click here to register.](#)

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

### **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)

### **Advent Unwrapped liturgical resources**

As planning for Advent continues, or as the need for creative new liturgy comes up at the last moment, don't forget to check out the United Church's Advent Unwrapped and its many and diverse resource. [All the resources are listed here](#), and there's a [Facebook community here](#).

### **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.

## **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'.

**All you need to know about Faithful Footprints energy efficiency grants, 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 [click here for December 6](#).

**Youth Forum at General Council 45**                      **Application deadline is November 30.**

Youth Forum is an opportunity for young people ages 15-25 to participate in the education, decision-making, and community of General Council 45 of The United Church of Canada. Its aim is to ensure that young people have a voice in the denomination-shaping issues and decisions for the next three years in the life of the church. It is an opportunity to speak to issues that matter to young young people, to share ideas, and to connect with peers and other members and leaders of the General Council. For more information and to apply: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/youth-forum-2025/>

#### **4. Reminders:**

**Pastoral Relations Ponderings** - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 56](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

**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 Nominations Committee](#)

*Do you delight in connecting people with opportunities that will feed their spirits?*

*Do you want to help strengthen regional bodies for the sake of our common good?*

*Are you a 'people person' who enjoys making phone calls and chatting with folks?*

*The Nominations Committee has a spot with your name on it!*

On Nominations, you will get to know the people of the Region and help match their gifts and passions with opportunities to serve the wider church. This committee gathers a slate of nominations for the officers of the Regional Council and its executive, commissions, committees, task groups, steering committees, and teams. It also provides nominations for unexpected vacancies or new positions which occur during the year. Only join this committee if you like to have fun and laugh a lot.

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