

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



### May 21, 2025 – Events

*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 (mostly) 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.

Upcoming online [events for United in Learning](#) are listed [here](#). There are a lot of great opportunities coming up, from a focus on global LGBTQIA rights, and series on stewardship, church property, church tech support, and more! The **United Church's Edge Network** also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

**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.

### 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.

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)

#### **Financial Administrator for Prairie Regional Councils.**

Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils are seeking a Financial Administrator on a full-time permanent basis (35 hours/week). This position is opening due to the upcoming retirement of Heather Dootoff, who has been a valued member of the three regional councils since 2019 and of Saskatchewan Conference before that. We are grateful for Heather's contributions and look forward to welcoming someone to continue her work. Please click [here](#) for the full job description and how to apply. **Deadline for applications is May 23, 2025.**

#### **Reminder! Regional Celebration of Ministries and Centennial Service!**

Join Living Skies on **Sunday, May 25 at 10:30am** in person or online for the celebration. The service will be at Grace Westminster UC in Saskatoon.

#### **Next Week - Arbor Week, May 24-31, 2025: lots of new resources and a connection to our 100th**

Thanks to past Moderator Walter Farquharson, we have many resources to help all of our communities of faith celebrate and take action on this week dedicated to Saskatchewan's trees and to healthy, thriving ecosystems. [Click here to access them all](#), from a sermon to a new song to children's time.

Planting a tree or engaging in different activities to celebrate the value of trees in our world and local environments, would be a great way to celebrate Arbor Day and The United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary!! A tree is a wonderful symbol of God's love and creation, a sign of hope for our church and world. Be part of this call to offer this benefit to your community – wildlife and humans alike.

### **Zoom Clergy Communion – cancelled for May**

Laura Fohse is cancelling the monthly Zoom clergy communion gathering for **May**, but will resume in **September** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm SK time. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

### **Love, Faith and Bold Action national global justice series**

Faith in Action - Transformative Hope and Spirit of Justice – **Tuesday May 27, 2025 5:00- 6:30PM MDT/ CST; 6:00-7:30PM CDT.** [Register on CHURCHx for these upcoming sessions.](#)

### **Final Mod's Book Squad! Thursday May 29, 5:30- 7:00PM CD, 4:30-6:00PM MD / CS.**

You're invited to the final session of *The Mod's Book Squad* with The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, in conversation with special guest Janet Gear. Together, they'll reflect on *Undivided Love*, Janet's powerful exploration of faith and vocation. Register now in [CHURCHx](#) and get your copy of [Undivided Love at the United Church Bookstore](#).

**NEW: Celebrating the Trees of Life: an Arbor Week conversation with Walter Farquharson and Shawn Sanford Beck** Come join us for an hour or so of enjoyable, informal conversation. Discover the history and significance of Arbor Week, consider the spiritual importance of trees, and learn how to create a "forest chaplaincy" wherever you happen to live.

**Thursday May 29, from 7 - 8ish pm** (Sask time), over here on zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81565443701?pwd=qQTtXlgmABDvjlhCwGGcb00cQe9awOv.1>

For more information, please contact GreenSpirit Chaplain Shawn Sanford Beck at [greenpriest@hotmail.ca](mailto:greenpriest@hotmail.ca)

### **Spirit River Community**

Sarah Donnelly has created a new 'retreat centre without walls', called "Spirit River Community". To learn more and to see what programs are being offered, see [www.spiritrivercommunity.org](http://www.spiritrivercommunity.org)

## **2. Next month:**

### **NEW: Centennial worship resources for your community of faith**

Many elements of the June 8 national Centennial service are now available on this resource page. <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/centennial-worship>

Have a look for the Northern Lights Centennial Service but also many other excellent resources on this page, to accompany your own local Spirit-led creativity.

If possible in your area, plan to participate together in the national service, which will be livestreamed on YouTube here. <https://www.youtube.com/live/bh4sW1kdpWo?feature=shared>

Our Regional Council won't be offering a separate resources for worship, so that we can participate together as one United Church by using the gift of national resources.

### **Updates on the United Church's 100<sup>th</sup>**

We continue to update our [Regional Anniversary page and news feed here](#). We've added [a new set of stories to the centennial collection](#) generously written by Edmonton author and researcher Gayle Simonson. These are perfect for your bulletin, announcement, or PowerPoint.

*We want your events too!* [Click here to post your own event.](#) Have a story from your community of faith you want to share? Send it to Bev at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) or Julie at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

### **KAIROS: G7 Jubilee People's Forum, June 12-15 Calgary**

You are all warmly invited to come to Calgary for the [G7 Jubilee People's Forum](#) and/or to send one or two representatives from your local group/congregation/community/region. Subsidies are available for students and low-income people. This forum includes: sessions with Global South partners, Indigenous partners, and network leaders covering the breadth and depth of the Jubilee campaign, connections to land, ecology, migration, gender and more. With incorporation of the arts! A trip to Stoney Nakoda land to gather around the Medicine Wheel outside for a prayer session with Stoney Nakoda elders about the G7 proceedings. On the final day: a public demonstration in downtown Calgary, bringing the Jubilee message to the G7, presenting the petitions. [Registration is here.](#)

### **NEW: Structural Change Evaluation Survey**

In 2019, the United Church undertook a major restructuring moving from four courts to three councils with a commitment to evaluate the change against its intended outcomes after five years. That process is now underway and a survey has been forwarded to:

1. All pastoral charges—**to be completed at a meeting of the Board/Council**;
2. All ministry personnel;
3. All regional council staff, Office of Vocation staff, and General Council staff impacted by the change.

We have engaged Credence and Co., a consulting firm, to collect and analyze the data on behalf of the Structural Change Evaluation Steering Group to protect anonymity and prevent bias in reporting.

People have asked why there is not a section for comments on the survey. The tabulating and analysis of comments on this number of surveys would have been cost-prohibitive.

If you did not receive the survey, please check your junk email. Also please ensure that the correct email address is attached to your ChurchHub profile.

The survey will be open until **June 15, 2025**. Please be sure to make time to respond. Your input is vital.

## **[3. Into the Future:](#)**

### **United Church of Canada Apology to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+/ queer/ gender-diverse people:**

**Friday, August 8th at 9:00AM MD**, Knox United Church, Calgary and via livestream.

This is an advance notice of a very important commitment by the United Church to offer a public apology, with more details to come from the General Council 45 planners. This worship service is open to all. If you are considering attending in person, please contact your Regional office or regional justice minister Julie Graham at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca) so that the Regional Affirming Committees can be aware of who wishes to attend, and can look at carpooling as needed.