

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

July 24, 2025 – Summer Edition



*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.*

Regional update on the Apology to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people on August 8

August 8 at 9:00AM MDT, the United Church will offer a public apology to 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
Read on to learn how to participate and be supported.

Dear members of the Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils, including Commissioners and Youth Forum participants:

Please help us by sharing this update, which will also be posted on our Regional Councils' websites and social media. You will see it covers information for every form of participation in the Apology, and support after it, whether online or in person, whether receiving or witnessing. Please note that a number of communities of faith are offering in-person live participation and support, and the ones we know of so far are listed at the end.

What is the Apology? [Overview information is available here](#). It will be offered in a **9:00AM MDT** worship service as part of the 45th General Council, at Knox United Church, an Affirming ministry in Calgary. Please note that we do not have access to the words of the Apology in advance.

Thank you to the people from each of our Regional Councils who are travelling to receive or witness the apology on behalf of their Region. The names are still being finalised, and we will share them later. If you have any questions, please contact Chloe, Bev, or Cherry your Regional Council office and jgraham@united-church.ca Please read on for all details!

For General Council participants:

- On the same day as the worship service, there will be a closed lunch, available only to 2S and LGBTQIA+ people who are GC45 participants. This is not a space for allies.
- Information about the lunch will be clearly communicated beforehand in the GC45 newsletter, and it will also be spoken verbally before lunch begins.
- Chaplains, and Equity Support Team members, will be available in the closed lunch as well as in the broader space.

For non-GC45 participants who are in person, in Calgary:

- The sanctuary space at Knox United has been booked, for after worship, for people who might want to gather as a group. This is a space for people who are *not* registered as participants at General Council. This space will be hosted by leaders from Affirm United and Affirming Connections.

- There will be several chaplains available at the church afterwards, if people would like to have individual and in-person conversations. The chaplains are ready and equipped to offer pastoral care.
- Some Equity Support Team members will also be available in the space for in-person conversations after worship, and some team members will be part of the large group gathering. The team members are also open for pastoral care, conversations, and support.
- **Knox United is not able to support a hybrid gathering of people online and in-person at the same time** (that is, the people in the sanctuary will not be able to see or hear the Zoom participants). As such, this will need to be an in-person gathering only.
- There will now be tea, coffee, and light refreshments available in the gym after the worship time.

For non-GC45 participants who are online and remote:

- There have also been requests for anyone who will be online to be able to gather as group after the worship service. **We will create one large group in the Zoom room**, for anyone who wants to be part of a group experience and conversation. Unfortunately, it cannot be a hybrid gathering with people who are gathered in-person; it will need to be online only. This space will be hosted by leaders from Affirm United and Affirming Connections.
- After the worship service, online participants can ask for individual pastoral care with a members of the Equity Support Team, by typing into the Zoom chat or by emailing equity@united-church.ca. Then, they will be connected with an Equity Support Team member for individual conversation and care.
- The full worship liturgy will be posted for people who will be online, particularly so that online participants can follow along with the hymns. The worship bulletin is bilingual, English-French. The liturgy will be posted online the morning of the Apology worship service, in the following ways: online on [General Council website](#); online in the Zoom chat; online on the [apology webpage](#); online in YouTube; and shared on United Church social media.

Local gatherings to participate live in the online worship and Apology:

We will continue to update these; Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble will be posting these, but information is still being gathered.

Northern Spirit

Grace United Church, Lloydminster (AB/ SK): Grace United Church invites you to attend a viewing of the Apology within a warm, caring Circle of Support, **August 8, 2025**. Join us at 4708 50 Ave in Lloydminster to view the formal Apology from the United Church of Canada. *Grace United Church is an Affirming Community of Faith. **8:30am** Gathering: Muffins, coffee, tea & juice. **9am** The Apology: Witness the Apology via Zoom on the large screen. After the Apology, we will gently hold space together for as long as needed.

Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir St, Sherwood Park. Sherwood Park United Church is an Affirming Community of Faith. **8:30am** Gathering: Muffins, coffee, tea & juice. **9am** The Apology: Witness the Apology via Zoom on the large screen. After the Apology, we will gently hold space together for as long as needed.

Living Skies

Lakeview United Church, 3913 Hillsdale Street, Regina SK: Gathering **8:30 - 8:45AM CST** (local time), viewing, **9:00- 10:00AM**. Refreshments and spiritual care support.

Prairie to Pine

Transcona Memorial United Church, and Westworth United Church, both in Winnipeg. Details TBA but gathering likely beginning around **9:00AM** local time.