

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



August 20, 2025 – News – *Welcome Back*

*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.*

Church office workers, please feel free to use these announcements in your church 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: Welcome Back

We hope you had a great summer break with some time for rest and relaxation. Watch here for information about items, events and happenings we feel is important for you to know about.

NEW: Season of change

As we anticipate the fall beginning in earnest, we want to remind you that some changes happened over the summer: we said goodbye to Heather Dootoff and welcomed Francesca Martina as the new Financial Administrator for the three prairie regional councils.

NEW: Nominations year 2025 - 2026

As the Nominations Committee begins its work for the next church year, please consider if any of the vacant positions may be calling to you. You can find the current needs of the church by [clicking here](#). If there is something of interest to you, please fill out the Expression of Interest form at the top of the [Nominations webpage](#). If you have any questions, please contact Bev Diebert (Support Staff) at bdiebert@united-church.ca / 639-396-0200.

NEW: Regional pastoral letter regarding controversial Christian concert in Saskatoon

Throughout the summer, people across the country have been dealing with a [string of concerts planned by an American extreme right-wing pastor](#), all of which were deliberately booked at publicly-owned venues, rather than churches.

[Saskatoon](#) and Edmonton are currently the only two cities in Canada to have not cancelled Pastor Feucht's permit. [Please read and share this letter from Rev Piotr Strzelecki](#), the convenor of the Regional Council. People across the province are still contacting the office of the Saskatoon mayor, urging cancellation and respect for the human rights of the communities he targets, and urging a review of how permits are granted. If you or your congregation shares these concerns, please make them known, in order to offer a different Christian perspective.

Directory Updates

Once again, Bev Diebert is updating the Regional Council Directory. If you didn't give permission to be included, either at the 2024 Regional Meeting or the 2025 Gathering in June, but would like to be included, please let her know (bdiebert@united-church.ca).

Communities of Faith / Pastoral Charges, if you have updates or corrections to your mailing address, phone number and/or email address, please advise Bev. It is hoped the new directory will be posted on the website by the **end of September**.

NEW: Save the dates – November 4 and 6, 2025 evenings

Watch this fall for more information about the LSRC Learning Session and Online General Meeting. But for now, please save these dates.

2. Wider Church Information:

NEW: Here is the [latest national United Church newsletter](#), including an introduction to our new Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Kimberly Heath!

NEW: Resource and action call for aid to Gaza, and for ending Canadian military sales to Israel

It is beyond difficult to witness the deliberate starvation taking place in Gaza, alongside continued deaths at the hands of the Israeli military, and a huge rise in extremist settler violence in the West Bank. It may feel like we have nothing to offer. But that isn't true. Even though our federal government hasn't been listening enough, and in fact [has been proven to be lying about ending Canadian arms sales to Israel](#), we need to press on and use our voices. Our global partners are pleading with us to not forget them.

Please join people around the world in holding elected leaders to account. Please see a recent [letter from Canadian church and ecumenical leaders here](#). Please [use the action posted here](#). In the same post, there's a link to an excellent new video with Canadian and church experts talking about the aid situation in Gaza and its deadly consequences, organized by Living Skies Regional Council's Just Peace group. We are fortunate to have such experts within our church community, and we urge all church members to learn more.

Updated: Short reminders of our history for this Centennial year continue

Here is one of Gayle's very short stories about United Church history. Many thanks to Gayle, who offers us these 100-word history vignettes for use in your own community! **Please remember to credit!** For our sixteenth vignette, she writes:

NEW: In 1917, Salem Bland was dismissed from the Methodist Wesley College in Winnipeg because of his political activism as part of the early twentieth century social gospel movement but, in congregational ministry in Toronto, he helped found the Ontario CCF Party. Following church union, he was prominent in the United Church of Canada, and in 1936 helped lead the campaign to allow ordination of women. He was strongly anti-war but during the Spanish Civil War, he helped raise humanitarian aid for victims. A refuge for 100 war orphans in Barcelona was named for him. A portrait by Lawren Harris is located in the Art Gallery of Ontario.

3. Upcoming Opportunities:

Community of Faith Calendar

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. Watch for other upcoming events to be added. Our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events! 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 Invitation: Decolonizing Ourselves: Residential School Tour and Our Future in Treaty:

Saturday 6 September 10:30AM-4:30PM MDT/ CST at [University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills](#)

Please join KAIROS Prairies North for a day that will include a tour of the former Blue Quills Indian Residential School building led by survivors/Elders, lunch, and learning about Treaty. All welcome! **This in-person only event is within a reasonable drive of the Edmonton area to the west and the Battlefords area to the east.**

This gathering is hosted by the KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Group with gratitude to our community partners, in particular University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills and the United Church of Canada's Reconciliation and Justice Fund. This gathering is free of charge, including lunch. We do ask you to register so we know numbers and can send you material. Optional free transportation (carpooling) from Edmonton will be offered and details will follow by email. Here are [details and a shareable invitation link](#). [The registration link is here](#).

4. Reminders:

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 (you can send a request even if you're not attending)

Spirit River Community, an outgrowth of Queen's House.

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

"Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world, both low and high, rich and poor alike

"

Psalms 49:1-2

Welcome back