

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



September 3, 2025 – News

*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 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: Summer Camp THANK YOU!**

A huge thanks to all the incredible staff, volunteers, boards, campers, donors, supporters, and everyone involved in an amazing camping season in Living Skies Region. Hundreds of children, youth, and adults were welcomed across the province and had the opportunity to sing, play, create, eat, sleep, imagine, and just BE in nature at **Camp Shagabec, Lumsden Beach Camp, Camp Woodboia, and Camp Tapawingo**. Behind the scenes there were broken freezers, smoke and wildfire concerns, a torn ACL from too much hula-hooping, a little homesickness, a lot of mosquito bites, and a few bumps and bruises - but at the end of the day, everyone who attended one of our UCC camps knew that they were loved by God and cared for by community. To get involved with our camping ministry, reach out directly to your nearest camp or get in touch with Lindsay at [livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca](mailto:livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca). After a couple of naps we'll be thinking ahead to next season!

#### **NEW: Online Bible study**

Resuming on **September 10, every Wednesday at 1 pm (SK time)** Deep conversation Spiritual friendships Faith exploration. *New participants always welcome!* Contact [jcantwell@united-church.ca](mailto:jcantwell@united-church.ca) for more information. Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/41Vh93V>

#### **Ministry Personnel Gatherings**

This time of gathering with colleagues will resume its weekly occurrence on **Tuesday, September 9, at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection information will be in the calendar.

#### **Directory Updates**

Once again, Bev Diebert, Admin Support, is updating the Regional Council Directory. If you didn't given permission 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](mailto: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**.

**Save the date**

Let's start the fall well supporting our staff. Join other ministry and personnel committee members for a time of learning and sharing of best practices. **Wednesday, September 17, 7pm on Zoom**. Contact Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) to register.

**NEW: Save the date**

Fall is the season of new beginnings! Join the covenanting service between Prince Nkhoswe and Knox United Church in Lanigan on **September 21, 3:00pm**. Stay tuned for further updates, and for information about other services in Living Skies.

**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 wider 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 (Admin Staff) at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) / 639-396-0200.

**Updated: Orange Shirt / Truth and Reconciliation Sunday: Sept. 28 and Tuesday, Sept 30**

Please read and share the [summary from the national Indigenous church](#) to help your community of faith plan for these important days in our truth-telling and listening journey through the year. On **September 30**, wear an **orange shirt** to say that Every Child Matters. And on **September 28**, mark [Orange Shirt Sunday](#) in your community of faith. This year, in particular we ask you to honour the children with a [gift or special offering to the Healing Fund](#), which supports initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts. On **September 30**, we also invite you to join in the [Remembering the Children: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event](#) on Parliament Hill. This 90-minute program is a united effort of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Algonquin Nation, APTN, and CBC/Radio-Canada. It begins at 3:00 p.m. ET and all are welcome. Not near Ottawa? It will also be broadcast live on APTN and on YouTube.

**2. Wider Church Information:**

**NEW: Looking to live out your land acknowledgement?** A congregation in Hamilton, Ontario was inspired to learn how Indigenous ministry students at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Manitoba are showing the broader church a path to reconciliation. The congregation decided to celebrate UCC's 100th anniversary with a gift that supports these students and a hopeful future for our church. They challenge you to do the same! [Learn more here](#).

**NEW: From Micah Mission:**

**1) AGM** – The Micah Mission's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday, Sept. 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the MCC Building (600 45th Street West). Join us as we reflect on the past year, share updates, and look ahead to the coming year. Please RSVP by **Sept. 10** to [info@themicahmission.org](mailto:info@themicahmission.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

**2) Remember Me Campaign** - From **May to July 2025**, numerous people, churches, and organizations came together for our second annual *Remember Me Campaign*. Together you raised \$12,083.20 in support of our Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) program. Since 2022, Micah has been providing CoSA without federal funding. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are able to continue offering free reintegration programming - helping create safer and more just communities for all. Thank you for supporting and walking alongside us in this work!

**NEW: Help Sustain Meaningful Ministry for Generations to Come!***How will you answer God's call to support and grow the church?*

In 2025, congregations across the country are invited to join the Centennial Legacy Campaign, a powerful initiative to build a vibrant future for The United Church of Canada. These free campaign resources will help your community of faith build a strong legacy giving program in your congregation.

*"It's important for each of us to consider leaving a legacy gift. Part of offering a legacy gift is to ensure communities have the capacity to continue to offer the very things that make a difference in each of our lives,"* — The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary

[Watch the campaign video here](#). Learn more at [www.centennialcampaign.ca](http://www.centennialcampaign.ca)

**NEW: Seeds of Hope Grant Applications Now Open!**

The Foundation's Fall 2025 *Seeds of Hope* granting cycle is now accepting applications! The Seeds of Hope granting program supports innovative, unique projects which enable us to live out the New Creed's call to seek justice, live with respect in Creation, and love and serve others.

**Deadline: Applications must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. on October 15, 2025**

Apply today: <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/grants/seeds-of-hope/>

**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 eighteenth vignette, she writes:

**NEW:** Of 139 Canadian residential schools for Indigenous students, fifteen were managed by the United Church. While funded by the government, that funding was inadequate and conditions were poor. As well, the schools failed to acknowledge the importance of cultural identities. The United Church began a national consultation with indigenous people in 1980. In 1986, the United Church General Council issued an apology for its earlier denial of their spirituality. A Healing Fund was established in 1994. In 1998, an apology was issued to former students of United Church-run residential schools. The United Church crest was modified in 2012 to include the four colours of the medicine wheel and a Mohawk phrase meaning "All my relations."

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

**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](#).

### **Sharing the Bible With Children** storytelling workshop **September 6**

On **Saturday, September 6, 2025**, join the Network of Biblical Storytellers Canada for a fantastic online workshop with Children's Biblical Storyteller, Carole Danby!

Carole has been a Biblical Storyteller for 24 years and has worked with children and families for more than 35 years in her role with the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, Australia. Recently retired, she is now spending more time writing resources for church leaders who work with children across Christian denomination.

Her legacy resource: *'Getting to Know Jesus'* was launched in April 2021.

Carole will take us through an hour-long workshop on how to share Bible stories with children in simple and engaging ways. For more information and to sign up through the Network's online festival page, <https://www.nbscanada.org/workshop-sharingthebiblewithchildren>. **The single workshop is \$35.** Questions? Email Rev. Catherine Stuart at [cstuart@united-church.ca](mailto:cstuart@united-church.ca)

## **4. Reminders:**

### **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.

### **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)

### **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](http://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*