

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 29, 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:**

**Updated:** **November 6, 2025 evening for Living Skies General Meeting**

Living Skies Regional Council will be holding its Online General Meeting on **Thursday, November 6, at 6:30pm**. This is your chance to hear about the work of our regional council and learn about plans for the future. There is no need to register; connection information will be in the Living Skies calendar. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Regional Meeting page of the website shortly.

**NEW: Regional Council Annual Report (Docket) is almost ready.**

The reports collected from our working groups, staff, partners and friends are almost all collated and ready for posting on the Regional Gathering page of the Living Skies Regional Council website. Please check out each section to find out what's been happening across our church. Hopefully, you will have a chance to preview all the sections before the meeting on **Thurs, Nov 6**.

**NEW: Calling All Communities of Faith**

The next Living Skies Regional Council "In-person" Meeting is **May 27-30, 2027**. The Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee (RCMPC) is looking for a community to host. Hosting means forming a Local Arrangements Committee to work with the RCMPC to find appropriate meeting/eating/book room/display space for approximately 200 delegates. Worship Space for the Service of Praise will also be needed. Closer to the meeting more details and decisions will be made. Finding a Host Community and Venue early is very important for planning this kind of event. If your Community of Faith might be interested please contact Miles Russell (Chair of RCMPC) at [russella@sasktel.net](mailto:russella@sasktel.net) or Bev Diebert (Admin Support Staff) at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

**NEW: Last chance to celebrate Clergy Appreciation month!!**

Do not delay – take a moment today to offer appreciation to the ministry personnel that you know. It could be someone from the past or one who is currently offering ministry with you. While there is nothing special about **October**, it is an opportunity to be intentional about gratitude for the gifts these folks have brought and continue to bring to our communities of faith.

**NEW: Christmas comes early: An Advent Gift for Living Skies Communities of Faith**

We never tire of the story. Each Advent, we set out the beloved figures of the creche and are invited again into the mystery of incarnation. In this small group study and worship series, we look more closely at the figures and what they reveal about the human journey of faith, the bigger picture of Love, and the Divine Longing at the heart of Christmas.

Alongside four study sessions, you'll also receive complete Advent worship services—rich with liturgy, Advent candle-lighting, all-ages activities, Scripture, reflections, prayers, and music suggestions. Together, they invite us to approach the creche with fresh wonder, to notice who is present (and who is missing), and to be shaped by Love that is already here and still arriving.

This series is provided by **Prayer Bench** and offered as a gift to leaders and communities of faith through a Regional License **purchased by Living Skies Regional Council**. You can [sign up for this resource here](#).

**Attention treasurers**

The [2026 Minimum Salaries and Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel document is now available at this link](#). This includes the updated visiting minister and travel rates, effective **January 1, 2026**. Please ensure the ADP contact for your community of faith communicates this information accurately for ministry personnel, and that adjustments are made for reimbursing (and budgeting) for pulpit supply.

**Self-Assessment season**

The Manual requires communities of faith to complete a self-assessment to help ensure adherence to the polity and practices of the denomination. This replaces the old pastoral oversight process and happens every 3 years. The Committee on Community of Faith Support has updated the document with links for information, and is preparing to host online Zoom conversations for guidance and support. The answers provided on the form do not require approval, but will be reviewed by the Committee to determine how best to provide support for communities of faith around our Regional Council. You will find the [Instructions at this link](#), and the [Self-Assessment Tool](#) at this link. Contact Tracy Murton with any questions at [tmurton@united-church.ca](mailto:tmurton@united-church.ca).

**Updated: Save the dates – Covenanting Services**

Fall is the season of new beginnings! Join the covenanting service between **Hyerim Park** and **Westminster** United Church in **Humboldt** on **November 16 at 2:00pm**, and the covenanting service on **November 19 at 6:30pm**, between **Regina: Broadway** and **Jenni Krall**. Stay tuned for further updates, and for information about other services in Living Skies.

**YOUTH CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2025** Save the Date - **November 21-23** in Biggar SK.

Grades 7-12 are invited to go through the confirmation class together with other youth from around the region, and will then return to their home communities of faith to be confirmed. More information and the registration form are available on [the Living Skies website](#).

**2. Wider Church Information:****Engagement on Anti-Racism 2025 - continuing Wednesdays to November 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m. ET**

Please join us for this popular annual series! Weekly Wednesday events are opportunities to delve deeply into anti-racism work: **Live events each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time. (7 Live Events)**; **Videos for each week**, with faith reflections and action items and a **downloadable folder of materials** for leaders to run an anti-racism program. Please sign up for the [Anti-Racism newsletter](#) to continue to stay up to date! To learn more and to register, visit [CHURCHx](#).

## Leave a Legacy of Change | The United Church of Canada Foundation

Legacy giving has long been a tradition and foundation for the United Church of Canada. [Watch this video](#) to hear voices from across the Church reflect on the impact of legacy giving and why **your congregation should join the Centennial Legacy Campaign**. Support ministry into the future, visit [centennialcampaign.ca](http://centennialcampaign.ca) to learn more and get involved today.

### **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 *twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh vignette*, she writes:

**NEW:** In 1953, General Council established a Commission to Study Women's Work in the Church. The Commission was, of course, chaired by a man! Several years later, recommendations were to establish a united women's organization and to further full partnership of women and men in the church. The 1960 General Council agreed that women could "share in a much more meaningful way in all the work of the Church" by allowing them finally to participate in boards at all levels. Final approval was given to the United Church Women (UCW), at the General Council meeting held in Edmonton in 1960. The UCW officially came into being January 1, 1962. The women have certainly taken up the challenge of full participation in leadership.

**NEW:** Rev. Thomas Richard Davies was ordained in Alberta in 1930 and served in Ponoka and Stettler before being called to Highlands United Church in Edmonton in 1940. As a military chaplain in Europe 1942-1945 he was deeply moved by the events of war and the devastation he experienced. He began collecting pieces of stained glass from the shattered churches he saw through France, Germany and Holland, and carefully labeled each with its original location. On his return to Highlands, 24 pieces were incorporated into a memorial window, the glass surrounding a list of members lost during the war. Highlands website records the image and story for all to share in this tribute to the terrible losses of war.

## 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:** How did we get from the Bible to a genocide in Gaza?, with Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen,

**Wednesday evenings, October 29, and November 5** This second of the popular three-part webinar series returns on Zoom, free of charge on **Oct 29 at 6pm (SK)**: How Christian antisemitism, inspired by the New Testament, led to the creation of the state of Israel and the oppression of Palestinians. **Nov. 5 at 7pm (SK)**: How Christian Zionist readings of the Bible have enabled the genocide in Gaza. [Register here](#). **The Zoom links will be sent to registrants closer to the dates.**

### **Walking the Long Path: How to Build Peace Sustainably**, a Saskatchewan Peace Conference

**Saturday, November 1, 9:00 am to 3:45 pm** at First Mennonite Church, 418 Queen St, Saskatoon  
If you are working to make your community better, you are a peacebuilder! We invite you to a one-day peace conference exploring what it means to be grounded in hope amidst turbulent times. Together, we will reflect, learn, and practise the skills needed to continue the work of peacebuilding within ourselves, with our neighbours, and in our broader world. To learn more or

register, visit <https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail20.com/t/i-i-zlyhild-l-r/> MCCS's Facebook link for the conference is [here](#). *Join us to be inspired, challenged, and equipped to keep walking the long path of peace. We look forward to seeing you there!*

**Gather Around a Kindled Flame: Reflecting on Our Paths Towards Christmas through the Gift of Stories** - A Free Flow Wellness Zoom-Based Retreat facilitated by Marg Janick-Grayston  
(Registration for individual sessions or the complete 4-part series are both welcomed.)

**Mondays, Nov. 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15, 2025 (1:30-5:00 CST) Registration Deadline: November 12**

During this zoom-based retreat we will gather around our kindled candle flames to hear and reflect upon stories that might deepen our journey towards Christmas. Each week we will explore a different children's Christmas story, for children's stories have great power in touching our adult hearts. There will be ample time for sharing, reflecting, and responding creatively through writing, walking, collaging or any method you can imagine into being. Full details can be found at: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

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

**Pastoral Relations Ponderings** - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 64](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

##### **Weekly events:**

**\*Online Bible study - Wednesdays at 1 pm (SK time)** Contact [jcantwell@united-church.ca](mailto:jcantwell@united-church.ca) for more information. Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/41Vh93V> *New participants always welcome!*

**\*Strengthening Invitation** - the Growth Department prays for and with communities of faith each **Thursday at 11a-m Central / 10am Mountain** 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)

**\*Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection info is in the calendar.