

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



April 29, 2026 – 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.*

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. And, **deadlines** are highlighted in dark orange;

1. Living Skies Regional Council News:

NEW Info - Rekindling Hope: Reimagining Being and Doing Church in a Changing World - May 23-24

Living Skies Region invites you to a meaningful weekend, designed to refresh your spirit and be reminded that you do not do this work alone! Beginning at **10am on Saturday, May 23**, connect with others, worship together, and take part in engaging workshops that equip and encourage. Grounded in the theme **Toward 2035**, we will dream and discern together for the church we are being called to become in the years ahead. Whether you're seeking inspiration, practical tools, or new resources for church leadership, this weekend offers space to grow, listen, and be renewed together. Bring a group from your congregation or come and make some new friends!

Participation in Saturday's event is free, although there will be a free-will offering for lunch. [Here is a poster](#) to help with publicity. Mileage reimbursement is available for travel

Banquet: Saturday evening, beginning at **6:00pm**, will be our **Celebration of Ministry banquet**.

Banquet **tickets** are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance [at the registration link](#).

Registration deadline: for both Saturday's event and the banquet **is May 13**.

Worship Service: The weekend will close with the **Celebration of Ministry worship service** at **10:30am on Sunday, May 24**, again at Grace United Church (210 Third St. NE.) in Weyburn.

NEW: Regional Council Annual Report (Docket)

In anticipation of the Living Skies Regional Council (LSRC) Online General Meeting in **November**, Bev Diebert in the LSRC Office will happily accept submissions now from our working groups, staff, partners and friends for the regional council's annual report. The *Biographies* section will be the first posted on the [Regional Gathering](#) page of our website, highlighting those being honoured and recognized at the Celebration of Ministry banquet and worship service in May (see above). The [draft agenda for the day](#) and a poster for advertising are also there.

NEW: Minute for Reconciliation from RNOM

Regina Native Outreach Ministry (RNOM) has prepared material to help bring awareness to **Red Dress Day (May 5)**, **Bear Witness Day (May 10)** and **Moose Hide Campaign (May 14)**. All material can be [found here](#).

Deadline: April 30th Annual Declaration regarding Criminal Charge and Criminal Records

All ministry personnel (active, retired, voluntary associates, and candidates), are required to complete the annual declaration before **April 30** to remain in compliance with United Church standards for ministry personnel and to maintain eligibility for calls, appointments, and licenses for sacraments and marriages. Access the declaration by logging on to ChurchHub:

<https://churchhub.ca/>. Once logged on, you will need to: * Declare whether you have had any criminal charges in the past year; * Attest that you have reviewed the *Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy and Procedures*; * Attest that you have reviewed the *Ethical Standards and Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel*. Follow [this link](#) for a guide to assist you in this task or contact Laura Fohse, Vocational Minister, for assistance.

NEW: Living Skies Region is Hiring for the Summer!

We are excited to be hiring for three summer positions funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program. Successful candidates must be between the ages of 15-30 and legally eligible to work in Canada. Application deadline is **Friday May 15**. [See here for more information](#) .

Visit of Filipino partner to Regina, Saskatoon, & North Battleford, May 21-22 and May 23-24

Danilo Ramos is a leader in the Filipino peasant farmers' movement. He is visiting Canada with several partner groups that have United Church connections, and we are invited to join in planned public events and possibly farm visits. He'll be talking about the struggle of farmers in the Philippines, and strong concerns about a recently announced military alliance between Canada and the Philippines. The planners would love to make some United Church connections. Please email Julie Graham, jgraham@united-church.ca, as the schedule is still being confirmed.

M&P Committee deep dive

If you are newly elected to the M&P Committee in your community of faith or want a reminder of what your responsibilities are in this important role, please join Tracy Murton on **May 28 at 7pm** on Zoom. Bring your questions, openness, and care for the staff you support. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

NEW: Arbor Day / Week in Saskatchewan – May 29 / May 25-31, 2026

All the Arbor Day / Week suggestions shared in the Rambler over the last six months have been collated [into a post](#) on the front/home page Living Skies Regional Council website. *See if there is something* on the list that might use to celebrate trees in our part of the world.

If you have new suggestions to add, please contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca .

NEW: Inventions of Summer – a summer worship gift from your Regional Council.

A simple, creative, theologically rich companion for a Summer Sabbath or Worship Series from **Prayer Bench**, the folks that shared Advent resources with us last fall. *Inventions of Summer* is a four-week, ready-to-use Summer Sabbath booklet and worship series inviting you to enrich your summer through simple reflections on sunflowers, string beans, mosquitoes, and fireflies.

Designed for flexible use as a creative summer workshop series. This series is offered as a gift to leaders and communities of faith through a Regional License **purchased by Living Skies Regional Council**. Watch here for the link to sign up for this resource.

NEW: "Seeking the Extra in Ordinary" July 27 – 31

Join pilgrimage guides Carolyn & Blaine Woodall and GreenSpirit Chaplain Shawn Sanford Beck, in partnership with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre at St. Andrew's College, for a five-day spiritual exploration of Saskatoon, its beautiful river, and its surrounding lands.

Space is limited to nine pilgrims, who are also eligible to earn a Certificate in Spiritual Exploration through St. Andrew's College if so desired. **Registration deadline is June 1**, so sign up soon! [See here for more information](#), or to register, please contact Rev. Carolyn Woodall at carolynsparlingwoodall@gmail.com or 780-385-5124 (text is a great way to connect).

2. Wider Church Information:

This week's E-ssentials – See this week's [national newsletter](#), which offers 'essentials' from The United Church of Canada and highlights national work.

The latest [United in Learning newsletter is now posted here](#), and it has lots of opportunities for online community and learning. Scroll through, as events are not listed chronologically, but are instead arranged by series and networks.

Red Dress Day, May 5: the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S).

Let us honour the lives lost, support the grieving, seek justice for the missing, and call on all levels of government and society to implement the Calls to Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry. **We can:** * **Hang** a red dress outside your church or home. * **Attend** a local vigil: please search on the web and social media, as these are planned by local groups. * **Pray** for and with all survivors, loved ones, families, and communities. Year round: * **Consider** inviting (and certainly paying) advocates and survivors who wish to speak publicly. * **Develop** trusted sources of information you can learn from, including grassroots and university groups that offer online learning. This violent pandemic is not improving. The facts are so hard and so important to learn.

Invitation: National Moosehide Campaign against violence, 14 May

Canada is in the midst of an ongoing national crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2S-LGBTQIA+ people. The Moosehide Campaign is a call to all people in Canada to take a stand against racism and for justice. This year we are hoping for a record United Church turn-out at the virtual events, local walks to end violence, and fasts to end violence. [See all information about the national campaign here](#). National events include a sunrise ceremony, educational plenary, and workshops (all available via livestream). You can register [here](#) for virtual events (including livestream links to all the national campaign day events). Local marches are being organized across the country. Find your local march on the map located [here](#), or register [here](#) to become a community steward and organize your own events.

Graduate of Emmanuel College? Please help update your contact info for their upcoming

Centenary As Emmanuel College in Toronto prepares for its 100th birthday in **2028**, they are working to update Emmanuel College alumni contact lists. They write, "Over the years, we have lost touch with many EC alumni, often due to the itinerant nature of their work. We would like to be able to reach as many of them as possible in the UCC Community, ask them to self-identify and provide us with a current email address so that we can keep them updated on the Centenary plans. Can you please share this [brief questionnaire](#) with your congregations, networks, or colleagues? It asks individuals for their name, email address, and graduating year.

3. Upcoming Opportunities:

Community of Faith Calendar

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. 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!!**

Godly Play Core Training Intensive 2026

Get ready to enter the stories of our faith In person **May 7 – 10, 2026 (6 pm May 7 to 5:30 pm, May 10 PDT)** Through an action/reflection model of learning you will learn more about creating sacred space, building and working in community, nurturing spiritual development, using silence, story and play to make meaning. All learning takes place in a prayerful and playful atmosphere with creative and experienced Godly Play trainers. **Space is limited to 18 people. Cost: \$350 CDN** to register for all sessions. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.

Preparing for Pride - Affirming open forum, Tuesday May 12, 7:00- 8:30 MDT/ CST, 8:00-9:30PM Central Daylight Time

June is Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month. Join us for a community conversation on Pride festivals, and church plans for being Public, Intentional and Explicit supporters of Pride. Come with your ideas and questions. All people of goodwill, and all Affirming/ Affirming-curious ministries welcome. Thank you to Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee for hosting this space for everyone! [Join the meeting here](#). Meeting ID: 843 5188 4794 Password: 474411 1- 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

Ladies' "Shagabec" Day

Ladies' "Shagabec" Day will be held in Swift Current, **Tuesday, June 9** at First United Church (223 3rd Ave. NE., Swift Current). At this time the program is not finalized but watch the Sask UCC Women's Network Newsletter posted on the Living Skies website on the 15th of each month for more details.

Camp Tapawingo Women's Camp

Camp Tapawingo is pleased to be hosting the Women's Camp on **June 12 to 13, 2026**. Please see the [Sask UCC Women's newsletter](#) for details about the camp. To register, see the [Camp Tapawingo website](#). Moneys from the silent auction will go to the camp.

NEW: SAVE THE DATE: UCC Office Admin Conference! October 5 - 9, 2026

The next Office Administrators Conference, open to all United Church of Canada Office Administrators, will take place at St. Martin's United Church in Saskatoon from **Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9, 2026**. Thanks to the generous support of several Regional Councils, the cost of attending has been partially subsidized. **Costs** (per person) are: \$325 (no accommodation); \$525 (shared accommodation) and \$750 (private accommodation). **Registration deadline is August 1, 2026**. A [basic agenda](#) and [a letter of invitation](#) contain more details.

For further information, contact Chantal Winslow at cwinslow@united-church.ca or Brandy Emmerich at office@stmartinsuc.com

4. Reminders:

Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 69](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

A New SSHC Chaplain in Regina

The new South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplain, Roel Tolentino, is sharing a [new printable poster](#) with contact information and hospital locations he serves. Be sure to hang the poster where everyone will be able to see it. If you know someone in a hospital in Regina, especially from a rural community of faith, be sure to reach out to Roel to arrange for a visit.

Updates from Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre: Spring happenings

SSSC is the Indigenous seminary for the United Church, and [here's their latest newsletter](#) with upcoming events and great reports on past gatherings.

VBS and Summer Day Camps

Is your community of faith considering hosting a day camp for kids and families this summer? Please email Lindsay at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca to indicate interest, and we will organize a zoom to share resources and ideas!

Volunteers needed

South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy has a couple of Board positions vacant. If you are willing to volunteer as a Board Member or have questions regarding being on the board, please contact Randy Graham at randygrahamn369@gmail.com .

This May, Discover the power of PAR!

Wouldn't it be great to even out the yearly cash-flow of your Community of Faith? Not be so reliant on year-end giving in December? Have more money to do more ministry? Taking part in PAR month this **MAY** could be your answer! All the resources you need, including a full sermon, two sample letters, and announcements are ready for you to download and use, on the [Giving Monthly through PAR](#) page.

For Stewardship information and resources check out the [Community of Faith Stewardship page](#) or contact Sarah Giles – Western Canada's Stewardship Support Person at sgiles@united-church.ca

Things We Tell Ourselves - 7pm to 9pm ET from now until May 20, 2026

The United Church has spent 100 years establishing patterns and ways of doing ministry. Many of us are still doing what was done a generation or two earlier. We want to try new things but don't know where to start. Join us **Wednesdays** for this ten-week series of learning sessions and workshops that gives participants the chance to see new opportunities, engage with new ideas, meet other lay church leaders and reimagine the church of the future and start building it now. For details and to register, see: [Things We Tell Ourselves](#)

Weekly events:

- ***Online Bible study - Wednesdays at 1 pm (SK time)** Contact 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 10a-m Central / 9am Mountain** 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)