



## DECEMBER

### LIVING INTO OUR FULL POTENTIAL



**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This year, the United Church presents a video with Rev. Darla Sloan in French: please share this video in our communities of faith and with our partners to celebrate the message as we continue to advocate for disability justice. As a denomination, The United Church is committed to becoming an open, accessible, and barrier-free church, where there is full participation of people with disabilities.

Learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzZZ6qysvAU>

Other dates to remember in December:

- **December 1** - World AIDS Day
- **December 5** - Human Rights Sunday (**December 10** - Human Rights Day)
- **December 6** - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICES



**December 9 at 7:30 pm**  
**Trinity United Church (Montreal)**

Learn more: call Christine at 514-721-1830

**December 16 at 7 pm – ONLINE**  
**Laurentian Area Ministry (Anglican and United Church)**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89053076225> Meeting ID: 890 5307 6225

**December 16 at 7 pm – ONLINE**  
**United Church of Canada** with Moderator Richard Bott  
<https://united-church.ca/events/o-holy-night>

## REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

### REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERINGS

NEXT MEETING (ONLINE): **MARCH 11 and 12, 2022**



Revised Governance  
Handbook  
November 13, 2021

Written by the Regional Council of the United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada is a member of the World Council of Churches

### REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING WRAP UP

Final versions of decisions, supporting documents and links to resources from the November meeting will continue to be added to the event web page.

#### Recently added:

- updated governance manual
- final versions of decisions and policies
- links to video clips of presentations by COVID Response Team, Living into Right Relations Circle and Pride & Friends Network
- link to United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) video

Learn more: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-november-2021/>

Share your feedback: <https://bit.ly/2021-11-12-13-PostMeetingSurvey-E>

### Upcoming Regional Council Meetings (2022)

**March 11** (Friday, 6:30 pm) **AND March 12** (Saturday, 9:00 am)

## MINISTRY PERSONNEL



### CELEBRATION OF ORDINATION

Congratulations to Rev. **Raphaël Péroisse** on the occasion of his ordination this past Sunday, **November 21, 2021** at Beaconsfield United Church, and on his new role as Canadian Forces military chaplain in Gagetown, New Brunswick. [PHOTOS: DAVID-ROGER GAGNON]

### PASTORAL RELATIONS UPDATES

At the November 2021 Executive meeting, the following recommendations from the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team were passed:

- **Bailey Eastwood** has been approved for a half-time two-year appointment as SME candidate at Beaconsfield United Church;
- **Rev. Jan Jorgensen** has been approved for a three-year half-time appointment at Kahnawake United Church in team ministry with Congregational Designated Minister, **Robert Patton**;
- **Rev. Dan Hayward** has been appointed full-time Pastoral Relations minister for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

### LEADERSHIP COUNTS SURVEY

To help us more fully live out our commitments to equity, diversity, and the full participation of everyone, we have launched *Leadership Counts*. This voluntary survey will help us to learn more about the breadth of identities present among the United Church's ministry personnel, staff, and members of national committees (including their racial identities, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, and more). What we learn will help us develop strategies to support who we are and more effectively meet our commitments.

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/leadership-counts> or email [leadershipcounts@united-church.ca](mailto:leadershipcounts@united-church.ca)



### SAD NEWS

We recently received news of the death of **Rev. Douglas Ross** on November 6, 2021 in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year. In 1957, Doug was ordained as a United Church Minister and served in Montreal Presbytery from 1957 to 1960. Our sympathies and condolences go to his wife, Helen, and to his family and friends.

Obituary: <https://lfpres.remembering.ca/obituary/douglas-ross-1083752607>



### INVITATION TO RETIREES

An online gathering for retired ministry personnel is planned for **December 15 from 5 pm to 7 pm**; invitations are being sent out by David-Roger Gagnon along with the Advent-Christmas booklets.

If you haven't received your invitation by December 10, please contact Rev. Dan Hayward for the Zoom link: [dhayward@united-church.ca](mailto:dhayward@united-church.ca) (1-800-268-3781 Ext. 6150)

### ONLINE MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

Next meeting is **Tuesday, December 7 at 1:30 pm**.

Learn more: [dhayward@united-church.ca](mailto:dhayward@united-church.ca)



### Questions about Vaccination Expectations

A presentation by Rev. Dan Hayward at the November Regional Council meeting offered some responses to questions about vaccination expectations. A video clip of the bilingual presentation is now available on the web site, along with a PDF chart of government changes to COVID measures effective November 15.

## PROPERTY AND FINANCE

### PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATES

At the November 2021 Executive meeting, the following recommendations from the Property and Finance Leadership Team were accepted:

- Amalgamation of Dorval-Strathmore and St. John's United to become known as **Lakeshore-Trinity United Church**, to be located at the former St. John's United Church building in Pointe-Claire and to be served full-time by Rev. Steve Gillam.
- Disbanding of **St. Andrew's United Church** in Sept-Îles, effective December 30, 2021.

Gratitude was also expressed to these communities of faith for their years of service and discernment throughout this process.

### 2022 ASSESSMENTS (by Fred Braman)

The General Council Office has just released the 2022 Assessments for communities of faith following the amendment of the formula adopted by a special session of General Council 43 in October. Basically, as expected, that amendment replaced for 2022 going forward, the inclusion of capital gains and losses and other investment income/losses by a notional inclusion of 0.25% of the value of investable assets (less \$100,000 and certain unusual assets like cemetery funds), sometimes (perhaps a bit unkindly) called a "wealth tax". This is a much simpler formula and avoids radical ups and downs depending on the market and the timing of investment transactions.

The 2022 assessment is based on the statistics return for 2020 of all communities of faith, but of course may have inaccuracies which can be corrected in consultation with the General Council Office. In addition, where there a major increase (more than 10%) the GCO is reducing the increase by ½ for 2022 but no reduction for 2023.

The details of each individual assessment are not being sent by mail this year, but posted on the ChurchHub account of the individual community of faith, so there may be a learning curve for Treasurers to access this information. The ChurchHub site has plenty of help features but the Regional Council can (if all else fails) also locate these numbers as we are given access to detailed info.

The Regional Council is also currently considering subsidizing, for a transitional period, half of any increase from the current formula (except for the "wealth tax" component) but we will announce specifics shortly as we analyze the numbers actually calculated. In any event, your questions, through Brian Ruse are welcomed.

Contact Brian Ruse: [bruse@united-church.ca](mailto:bruse@united-church.ca)

## GRANTING AND ENABLING

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

### 2022 GRANTS AWARDED

A list of grants being awarded to various communities of faith in 2022 can be found in the decisions of the recent Regional Council meeting in the post-meeting document section of the event web page:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-november-2021/>

### HYBRID WORSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND

A new fund has been established by the Regional Council to help communities of faith offer online worship. Application form is available at <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/> and **applications will be received as long as funds remain available.**

In addition, please note that communities of faith may also be eligible to apply for the **Technology Support Grant** at the national level. Details can be found here: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/local-administration/capital-assistance-programs/capital-2>

## NETWORKS AND LEADERSHIP TEAMS

### LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS CIRCLE

[rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com](mailto:rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com)



#### The Process of Developing a Land Acknowledgment

A presentation by Lisa Byer-de Wever at the November Regional Council meeting offered a brief insight into the process of developing a land acknowledgement for communities of faith. A video of the bilingual presentation is now available on the LIRR web page.

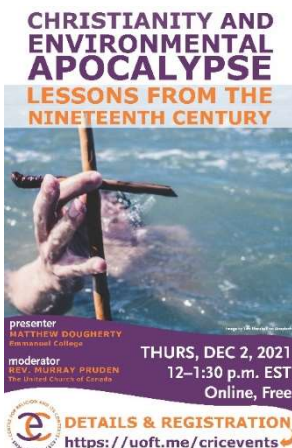
A video of a comprehensive workshop on this topic is also available on this page:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/programs/living-into-right-relations-lirr/>

Living into Right Relations November newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-211117>

### ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/environmentnakonhakaecologie>



#### FEATURED NEWS

##### Christianity and Environmental Apocalypse: Lessons from the Nineteenth Century - **Thursday, December 2, 12–1:30 p.m.** - ONLINE

Church leaders in North America now confront an environmental crisis that already shapes our lives and seems to threaten apocalyptic destruction. However, as many Indigenous authors and scholars—including Nick Estes (Kul Wicasa), Kim TallBear (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate), and Cherie Dimaline (Métis)—have pointed out, colonialism has already brought apocalypses to North America that are intimately connected to the current crisis.

In this presentation, Emmanuel's historian of religion and empire, Prof. Matthew Dougherty, uses this insight to re-examine Protestant settlers' attitudes toward the environment during the nineteenth-century colonization of the Great Lakes region. Focusing particularly on the predecessor bodies of The United Church of Canada, Dougherty discusses how their approaches to nature were neither purely utilitarian nor entirely reverent, but instead reflected the entanglement of Christian theologies with colonial approaches to economics, agriculture and land tenure. Considered anew, these histories offer both lessons and cautions for Christian leaders seeking to confront the contemporary crisis. Dougherty will engage in a conversation with the Rev. Murray Pruden (National Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice for the United Church of Canada), who will also moderate our Q&A.

Registration (free): <https://bit.ly/2021-12-02-Christianity-EnvironmentApocalypse-EmmanuelCollege>

Please feel free to share widely with family, friends and colleagues via email and social media.

- Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/1StkuflpU>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CWoGGdGrVt4/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EmmanuelColleg2/status/1463198380398686224/photo/1>



##### GreenFaith Montreal - **Wednesday, December 8 at 11 am ET** - ONLINE

You are invited to join Rev. Wendy Evans and Megan for a GreenFaith circle gathering for a few minutes on Zoom to share reflections from the Faiths4Climate Justice event that was hosted in the Saint James Square in October and to also do some brief visioning for the New Year.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86137324626?pwd=RndOK05RcmJrcVdTbTdvUFhvOGFHUT09>

##### GreenFaith International Welcome Call - **Thursday, December 9 at 11 am ET** - ONLINE

Registration: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/december-welcome-call>



## Climate Emergency Unit Response to BC Flooding and Landslides



An environmental crisis such as the recent floods and landslides in BC is only one example of other potential crises in the near future due to climate change. In addition to mobilizing Canadians for environmental action, The Climate Emergency Unit also urges federal and provincial governments to create genuine climate emergency plans.

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/6955a495a5b8/welcome-to-the-climate-emergency-unit-newsletter-4842714>

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/programs/ucw/>

### UCW 60th Anniversary: Continuing in Hope - July 11 – 15, 2022

Learn more: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/ucw-60th-anniversary-continuing-in-hope/>

## PRIDE & FRIENDS NETWORK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fiertemontrealprideunitedchurch>

## FEATURED NEWS

### Adoption of Neutral Pronoun (shared by Rev. Joëlle Leduc)

One of the best-known dictionaries in France has added an entry for the non-binary third-person pronouns *iel* (singular) and *iels* (plural) in October 2021. An entry for *iel* and *iels* was added to the dictionary *Le Robert* that says: "Third person subject personal pronoun – singular and plural – used to refer to a person of any gender." It mentions alternative spellings *ielle* and *ielles*.

Learn more: <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2021/11/major-french-dictionary-adds-non-binary-pronouns-first-time/>

## REMINDER



### Beginning the Affirming Process

Fierté et Ami.e.s – Pride & Friends made a successful presentation at the November meeting for the Regional Council to begin the formal *Affirm United* process to become an affirming regional Council. A video clip of the bilingual presentation is now available on the November meeting event page.

Fierté et Ami.e.s – Pride & Friends is looking for volunteers to be part of the committee to facilitate the Affirm United process for the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. If you are interested in helping facilitate this process, please contact David-Roger Gagnon at: [DRGagnon@united-church.ca](mailto:DRGagnon@united-church.ca) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Learn more about Affirm United: <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/programs/youth-young-adult/>



### Faith on the Move (shared by Shanna Bernier)

I am so grateful I got to spend time with wonderful young people in the beauty of nature. I am so grateful for youth who miss gathering so much that they would willingly drive up to 2 hours on a Saturday morning to go hiking with me!!

More photos: <https://www.facebook.com/Childenschurchathome>

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES: CCS Fridays

The last CCS Friday of the year will be on **December 10** with Natalie Wiggs-Stevenson discussing her book *Transgressive Devotion: Theology as Performance Art* and theological methodologies. These sessions are free, but you must register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0scOyvqzMtHdDn9rFw92whQ4Z2NgonzKq2>

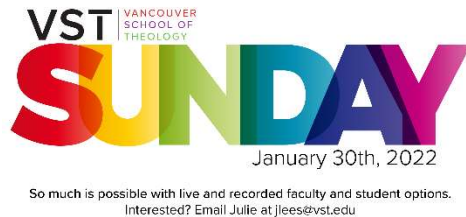
## WINTER 2022 OPEN ENROLMENT COURSES AT UTC AT DIO – OPEN TO ALL!

Registration for the following courses is now open:

- Les célébrations liturgiques dans l'Église Unie du Canada - les vivre et les animer
- Leading a Journey into Luke: Preparing teachers of the Gospel
- Caring in Christian Communities
- Living as a Christian in a World That's Not: Reading the Acts of the Apostles
- Éducation chrétienne - Comment transmettre la foi aux enfants

Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2021-12-01-Winter2022-UTC-DIO>

Learn more: <https://utc.ca/courses/>



### VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

For years VST has been organizing VST SUNDAY – a day where students, faculty, staff and alumni all head out into the worshipping communities and share in worship. VST folks blend into the church service as clergy wish – a faculty member may preach, a student may offer a prayer, and during pre-pandemic times the VST person would stand at a table with VST Swag during coffee time to chat about the school and give away pens!

The Pandemic has given us the opportunity to share pre-recorded options (faculty and student sermons, student testimonials and prayers) and do live zoom!

Learn more: Contact Julie at [jlees@vst.edu](mailto:jlees@vst.edu)

### ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**ReVITALize 2022 – June 2-4, 2022** (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

ReVITALize is an awesome gathering for ministry leaders and lay people to get together, refresh, learn some new things, be supported, and get inspired. Previously held in London and Edmonton, now it's Halifax's turn. People from all denominations and traditions are warmly welcome to attend.

Learn more: Jane Bolivar, Continuing Education Convener [jbolivar@astheology.ns.ca](mailto:jbolivar@astheology.ns.ca)

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/revitalize-halifax-2022-tickets-181032742807>

### UNITED IN LEARNING

Learn more: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/>

## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS



### FIRST IN-PERSON MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE TABLE INTERRELIGIEUSE DE CONCERTATION DU QUÉBEC

After more than a year and a half of intensive meetings via Zoom, the members of the "Table", which has become known for its work on the issue of reopening places of worship in Quebec during the pandemic, had the

pleasure of meeting in person for the first time at Saint-Hyacinthe. This was the first in a series of meetings among different faith communities. New priorities and projects are already on the table, including a united effort for social action and the environment.

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/oikoumene/infolettre-novembrenewsletter-novembre>



"We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry." ~ Jimmy Carter

## SAINT COLUMBA HOUSE

We are launching our annual year end appeal to prepare and provide 45, 510 hot meals to at-risk children, youth, adults in seniors living in Pointe Saint Charles: an increase of 10,290 meals. To achieve this goal. We need to raise \$35,000 in 6 weeks to reach this goal.

### With your help, we hope to provide:

- 6,320 free meals for youth & children.
- 14,300 meals prepared and delivered to 55 at-risk seniors with mobility and health concerns.
- 17,850 hot, nutritious meals offered through the community lunch where participants eat with others sharing conversations to break their isolation and to build community.
- 6,240 hot suppers for at-risk families in our Take-Out Dinner project.

When we feed someone, all other things suddenly become possible in their lives. Concentration improves, health improves, and possibilities reveal themselves. Through your donation, you can be a part of helping to make that possible.

Any amount helps! As little as \$30, feeds 1 person for 1 month.

Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2021-12-SCH-Appeal>

Learn more and donate:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/saint-columba-house/campaign/year-end-appeal-2021/>

## MONTREAL CITY MISSION

**Celebration of light**

*The month of December is a time of celebration in different faith traditions and indeed in the larger community.*

*Let us come together once again to renew our connections and celebrate our community of friends.*

**When:** December 5th 2021, 5-6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** St. James United Church, 463 St. Catherine West  
**What:** Music from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions

**registration required : [maan@montrealcitymission.org](mailto:maan@montrealcitymission.org)**  
**info: 514-844-9128#103 Anwar Alhjooj**  
 Social distancing and safety measures will be respected

Logos for Temple, MAC, Montreal, and St. James United Church are at the bottom.

**WOMEN WEAVING THEIR DREAMS**  
**THE sewing bee IS BACK!**

HELP SUPPORT NEWCOMER BEES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BY GIFTING ONE OF OUR HAND SEWN ITEMS:

- CHRISTMAS STOCKING
- TABLE RUNNER
- POT HOLDER
- DECORATIVE TOWEL

TO ORDER CONTACT ARWA AT:  
**MAAN.ADJ@MONTREALCITYMISSION.ORG**  
 PRICE: FREEWILL DONATION

## PLYMOUTH-TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

### SANCTUARY

Plymouth-Trinity United Church in Sherbrooke is providing sanctuary to an asylum-seeking family.

Learn more: <https://www.sherbrookerecord.com/sanctuary-for-mexican-family-denied-asylum-from-cartel-threats/>



## BEACONSFIELD UNITED CHURCH

### BLACK SANTA (as shared on BUC Facebook)

In 2020 fall, the idea of Black Santa from Beaconsfield United Church came up in one of our staff meetings. We immediately put all strategic efforts to make sure the project turned out to be a success in Montréal by showcasing the BUCRISP Black Santa initiative.

Every Nigerian refugees home we dropped the foods and gifts were very happy and many prayers were said to the church of God.

This year 2021, the BUCRISP black Santa will be doing same thing we did last year.

To learn more and support this remarkable project: [community@beaconsfieldunitedchurch.com](mailto:community@beaconsfieldunitedchurch.com)

## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS

### FEATURED NEWS

#### Nov 19 and 20 GCE Summary Notes Available

Summary notes for Nov 19 and 20 General Council Executive are now posted on the GC43 website.

Learn more: <https://generalcouncil43.ca/news/nov-19-and-20-gce-business-summaries>

#### JAN-DEC 2022 VIDEO LICENSE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

There is a slight change in pricing for one of the licenses, while the other remains the same. All updated information is available at <http://buyingunited.ca/video-licensing>. The application period for Jan-Dec 2022 licenses ends **December 10, 2021**.

### LA TABLE DES MINISTÈRES EN FRANÇAIS

[ehbert@egliseunie.ca](mailto:ehbert@egliseunie.ca)

### REMINDER

#### Vous avez raté une de nos activités?

Pas de soucis! Il y a des enregistrements disponibles des activités qui ont eu lieu à la fin octobre et au début novembre. Les voici :

- Soirée avec Camino (en espagnol) : <https://youtu.be/MCWerc56nsM>
- Soirée pour lutter contre le racisme avec Samuel (les mots qui font des maux) : [https://youtu.be/teno9ru\\_pk4](https://youtu.be/teno9ru_pk4)
- Discussion sur l'accueil de personnes LGBTQI dans les espaces religieuses (Activité de FrancoQueer en Ontario) : <https://youtu.be/jp5y-JphG0w>
- Discours de Carolina Costa sur la construction d'une communauté dynamique : <https://youtu.be/2NL9aOLO8Uo>
- Capsule vidéo de Stéphane Vermette sur ce que ça veut dire être une communauté courageuse (1:30) : <https://youtu.be/vQ-wi3qD67k>
- Culte jeudis en noir : [https://youtu.be/W\\_Vs\\_dWxCMo](https://youtu.be/W_Vs_dWxCMo)
- Culte en espagnol, anglais et français de solidarité : [https://youtu.be/Y7-zL3\\_OpME](https://youtu.be/Y7-zL3_OpME)
- Atelier de Stéphane Vermette sur la création de l'Église Sainte-Claire (en anglais) : [https://youtu.be/K\\_K19LmpEjo](https://youtu.be/K_K19LmpEjo)
- Culte bilingue axé sur la musique de l'Église Unie : <https://youtu.be/nmuN4QCmVBc>

## CONTACT US

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/contact-us>

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