



December 15, 2021



CHRISTMAS WISHES AND THANKS

Thanks for sharing your stories and engaging with the stories of others this past year. May your holiday be filled with gifts of grace.

- Judy Coffin, Communications

NOTE: This is the last issue of the newsletter for 2021. Next newsletter will be published on January 12, 2022 – deadline to submit stories and events is **January 6, 2022**.

DECEMBER

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICES



TONIGHT - December 15 at 7 pm

Saint Columba House and Centenary United Church

RSVP: info@saintcolumbahouse.org

TONIGHT - December 15 at 7:30 pm – ONLINE

Ste. Genevieve United Church

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92446489023>

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

REMINDER - Upcoming Regional Council Meetings (2022)

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

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

We have received a request to share the Advent-Christmas reflections (created by David-Roger Gagnon for retired ministry personnel) to a wider audience. May these reflections bring you peace, joy and love.

Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2021-AdventChristmasReflections>

REMINDER - INVITATION TO RETIREES - TONIGHT

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

If you haven't received your invitation, please contact Rev. Dan Hayward for the Zoom link:

dhayward@united-church.ca (1-800-268-3781 Ext. 6150)

REMINDER - LEADERSHIP COUNTS SURVEY

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

REMINDER - ONLINE MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

Next meeting is **Tuesday, January 11 at 1:30 pm.**

Learn more: dhayward@united-church.ca

COVID-19 RESPONSE

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/covid-19/>

Christmas: A Time for Compassionate Care and Careful Compassion

Christmas is a time when we love to gather and sing together, but with the rising numbers of COVID cases over the past month, we thank our communities of faith for continuing to exercise caution and follow the government guidelines for all gatherings in order to protect vulnerable members of our communities.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

REMINDER - 2022 ASSESSMENTS (by Fred Braman)

The General Council Office has recently released 2022 Assessments for communities of faith following the amendment of the formula adopted by a special session of General Council 43 in October. As expected, for 2022 going forward, that amendment replaced 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 called a “wealth tax”. This is a simpler formula and avoids radical ups and downs depending on the market and timing of investment transactions.

The 2022 assessment is based on 2020 statistics returns of all communities of faith, but may have inaccuracies which can be corrected in consultation with the General Council Office. In addition, where there is a major increase (more than 10%) the GCO is reducing the increase by half for 2022 (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.

For any questions, please contact Brian Ruse: bruse@united-church.ca

STEWARDSHIP

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/stewardship-gifts/>



New gifts ideas for 2021-2022 are now available. Once again, you have the opportunity to “help change the world” with your generosity, and through specific **Mission & Service** Partners! A sampling of available gifts is included in the paper Gifts with Vision catalogue. Your gift giving choices are even bigger when you visit the Gifts with Vision website to find the complete list of this year’s gift options: <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

Your gifts transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose and build a better world. Some of our Regional Council’s ministries that will make a difference through this year’s gifts include:

- GWV 21-20 **Hand in Hand Program** (Saint Columbia House)
<https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/gifts/products/hand-in-hand-program>
- GWV 21-31 **Weekly Sewing Bee** (Montreal City Mission)
<https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/gifts/products/weekly-sewing-bee>
- GWV 21-24 **The Go Project** (national program that has included our youth and leaders)
<https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/gifts/products/the-go-project>

During the Advent and Christmas gift giving seasons, I invite you to share some Gifts with Vision, to help change the world, in Jesus’ name.

CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH: THE GIVING PROGRAM



Good things happen when a church focuses time, energy, and money on others. Carrying out a giving program annually lets everyone know your church has a vision that is bigger than just keeping the doors open! The United Church's annual giving program, **Called to Be the Church**, provides all the resources you need to hold a successful annual giving program. Now you can choose!

- **Do It Yourself webpage** (<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/stewardship/congregational-giving-program-module-do-it-yourself>)
- **Do It With Us webpage** (<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/stewardship/congregational-giving-program-module-do-it-us>)
- Downloads include a Worship Sampler, featuring a new Epiphany worship resource: **Discover Your Gifts – Share Your Gifts** (<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/stewardship-worship>)
- Order the full resource (printed) from UCRDstore.ca

For more information please contact Roger Janes (rjanes@united-church.ca or 709-486-3239).

GRANTING AND ENABLING

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

REMINDER - 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

PRIDE & FRIENDS NETWORK

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

REMINDER - Beginning the Affirming Process

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 as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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

THE CHURCH AS PROPHETIC VOICE FOR CREATION CARE (Broadview)

In a recent article from *Broadview*, clergy from B.C. communities hit hard by recent flooding share their thoughts on how climate change has contributed to the disasters and what people of faith are called to do.

"The signs are there that now we have to radically change the way we are living in our world, care for creation," says Rev. Bill Booth.

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/local-administration/capital-assistance-programs/capital-2>

FOLLOW-UP: CHRISTIANITY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL APOCALYPSE WEBINAR

A recording of this recent webinar by Emmanuel College is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelCollegeofVic/videos/1955794127935709>

**SURVIVOR HOLIDAY SPECIAL - ONLINE**

Something special to watch to celebrate the season with intergenerational residential school survivors and friends. Live and recorded entertainment and speakers **Sunday, December 19, 11 a.m.**

<https://nctr.ca/memorial/na-mi-quai-ni-mak/na-mi-quai-ni-mak-community-support-fund/survivor-holiday-special/>

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

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

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**PROGRAM COORDINATOR – Part-time (ORA Loss & Living Program, Ste. Genevieve United Church)**

The program coordinator will be responsible for upholding the vision of ORA Loss & Living Program by working closely with internal team and external partners to create safe space for conversations about grief, loss and hope. These conversations may take many creative forms in responding to the needs of community. Deadline to apply is **December 31, 2021**.

Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2021-12-15-ORA-ProgramCoordinator>

Learn more: <https://oramontreal.org/>

KEEPER OF CIRCLE AND KEEPER OF LEARNING PATHWAYS (Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre)

The Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, Indigenous theological school of the United Church, is seeking our next Keeper of the Circle and a Keeper of Learning Pathways.

Learn more: <https://sandysaulteaux.ca/employment-opportunities/>

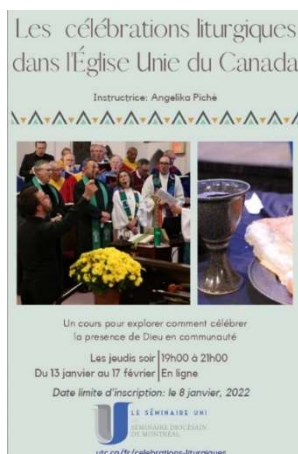
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**General Council 44 Equity Support Team**

Up to six people who are not Commissioners are needed to serve as the Equity Support Team for General Council in 2022 and for its subsequent annual meetings. The Equity Support Team assists the General Council as it strives to be a space of equitable participation and decision-making. Express your interest or nominate someone by **January 10, 2022**.

Pastoral Relationships Equity Research Project: Reference Group

Up to six people are needed to help shape this new project, which will identify current patterns of inequity experienced by ministry personnel across all regions of The United Church of Canada, and to make recommendations for change. Express your interest or nominate someone by **January 10, 2022**.

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/opportunities>

LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**REMINDER – UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE AT DIO**

Registration for the following Winter 2022 courses is open to all.

French

- Les célébrations liturgiques dans l'Église Unie du Canada - les vivre et les animer
- Éducation chrétienne - Comment transmettre la foi aux enfants

English

- 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

Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2021-12-15-Winter2022-UTC-DIO>

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

MONTREAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY RECEIVES LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT

The Montreal School of Theology (MST) is pleased to announce it has received a grant of \$1,000,000 (USD) from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help MST identify, equip, and support pastoral leaders who are able to lead congregations into creative and confident engagement with their ministry context. United Theological College (UTC) is one of three constituent colleges of MST and its programs will directly benefit from this grant.

Learn more: <https://utc.ca/transforming-pastoral-leadership-through-contextual-engagement-montreal-school-of-theology-receives-phase-ii-of-lilly-endowment-inc-grant/>

REMINDER - VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

VST SUNDAY – a day where students, faculty, staff and alumni all head out into the worshipping communities and share in worship. 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

REMINDER - ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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

Learn more: Jane Bolivar, Continuing Education Convener 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/>

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS

FEATURED NEWS

HOPEFUL ECONOMICS

Podcast: The Hopeful Economics podcast, brought to you by EDGE and New Church Ministry, explores ways of making the world's assets and abundance work for all people.

Learn more: <https://hopefuleconomics.transistor.fm/>

Conference: Register for the Hopeful Economics Unconference, **March 3 and 4, 2022**, for a great time of learning about why Hopeful Economics is so needed right now and how our communities of faith can help! <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-united-church-of-canada/events/hopeful-economics-unconference>

IDEA DAYS

Idea Days are a chance to share and discuss your idea (and hear about others!). Come to be a collaborator or to share your idea with a group of champions. If you are interested in applying for an Innovation Grant, this is a great time to get potential partners or feedback. **Dates: Jan. 10, Feb. 21, Mar. 28 at 1 pm**

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1047751>

LA TABLE DES MINISTÈRES EN FRANÇAIS

ehbert@egliseunie.ca


En préparation de la troisième semaine de l'avent, j'espère que vous avez eu la chance de découvrir la capsule vidéo faite par la petite fille de Rosa et Gonzalo, Laura (la fille de Marta) et Carol, l'assistante à la programmation des ministères en français! <https://egliseunie.ca/lavent-deballe/> Il y a aussi le message du modérateur pour l'avent 2021 : <https://egliseunie.ca/message-du-moderateur-de-lavent-2021/>

Dernier appel – « Et vous, qui dites-vous que je suis? »

La réunion du Conseil général cherchera plusieurs réponses à cette question de Jésus (<https://egliseunie.ca/invitation-faites-votre-contribution-aux-cultes-du-conseil-general/>) Si vous pouvez le faire, nous vous encourageons de prendre quelques instants pour préparer quelques mots (très court) sur le KudoBoard en réponse à cette question : <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/4zVrHT0A>

Mois de l'histoire des personnes d'ascendance africaine

Il y a plusieurs éléments qui se préparent en vue du mois de février. Le pasteur Kofi Akoussah a accepté de chapeauter les efforts pour le mois de février. Merci Kofi! Nous sommes à la recherche d'idées d'activités et de contenu. Si vous voulez offrir quelque chose dans le cadre du mois, communiquez directement avec Kofi : iakoussah@gmail.com



Mountainside United Church

We invite you to celebrate with us in the Sanctuary on The Boulevard.
Join us for special Christmas music in the beautiful historic building we have called home.

Sunday, December 12th 10:30 am Advent III JOY


Sunday, December 19th 10:30 am Advent IV LOVE

Friday, December 24th 7:30 pm Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

687 Roslyn Ave. Westmount

In person or online. For details see website www.mountainsideunited.ca

Or call church office 514-486-1165



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




**Perte, guérison et espoir :
Loss, Healing, and Hope:**

A Blue Christmas SERVICE

A quiet time for those struggling with the holidays
Un moment calme pour ceux qui ont de la difficulté durant le temps des fêtes.

Mercredi le 15 décembre 2021 à 19h
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 @ 7pm
RSVP info@saintcolumbahouse.org



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

Learn more and donate:

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

We can make a world with no hunger.



Maison Saint Columba House

PLYMOUTH-TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

1^{ER} VIGILE DE SOLIDARITE AVEC LA FAMILLE RODRIGUEZ FLORES
NOUS! VOUS N'ÊTES PAS OUBLIÉS



NOI! USTERES NO HAN SIDO OLVIDADOS

Lieu : Église Plymouth-Trinity, 3800 Boul. St-Joseph, Sherbrooke J1H 4M7
Date : 10 décembre 2021
Heure : 19h

Nous comptons sur votre présence
Contamos con su presencia

Call for mobilization on behalf of the Rodriguez-Flores family

(article by Jacynthe Nadeau, *La Tribune*)

After taking refuge in Plymouth-Trinity Church in Sherbrooke a month ago to escape an expulsion order to Mexico, the Rodriguez-Flores family launched a touching appeal to the Sherbrooke community to help them put pressure on political authorities in order to remain in Canada.

Learn more (in French): <https://www.latribune.ca/2021/12/08/appel-a-la-mobilisation-pour-la-famille-rodriguez-flores-db8908d95f00f7ab125544acc3fbed4b> and <https://www.latribune.ca/2021/12/10/une-premiere-vigile-guidee-par-le-spoir-pour-la-famille-rodriguez-flores-6d7f5e8bc6186704de561b2b68961deb>

A message from Rev. Dr. Samuel Dansokho: The next priority is the collection of letters and motions from you, from individuals and also from organizations and elected persons, whether local, provincial or national. Another vigil is scheduled for Friday **December 17 at 5 pm** at Plymouth-Trinity United Church.

Many people have expressed their desire to help the Rodriguez-Flores family. If you would like to help out, you can use this form to help fund weekly grocery needs for the family: <https://bit.ly/2021-12-Epicerie-Famille-Rodriguez-Flores>

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLES - WE ARE NOT ALONE

A free weekly Prayer Cycle listing (with a focus on different communities of faith within each of the Regional Councils) is available through ChurchWeb Canada (Rev. Wayne Irwin) to communities of faith and personnel within The United Church of Canada to remind us anew that we are not alone, that we belong to the larger organism of our Regional Councils, and wider church, to encourage us to be in prayerful caring for one another. The listing also includes an ecumenical and interfaith focus each month.

Learn more: <https://www.prayercycles.ca/>



To receive all the national news directly from various United Church of Canada ministries and interest groups, you can subscribe to their e-newsletters: <https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council , 225 – 50^e avenue, Lachine, Québec H8T 2T7
<https://nakonhakaucc.ca>

514-634-7015

