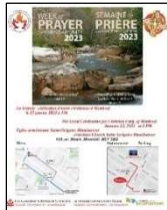




January 11, 2023



## REMINDER – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023

The Great Ecumenical Celebration of Montreal will take place on **January 22, 2023 at 3 pm** at St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, 615 Stuart Ave, Montréal, H2V 3H2. You and your choir are welcome to take part in the preparation of this event.

Learn more:

<https://mailchi.mp/oikoumene/infolettredcembre-2022-newsletter-decembre-2022>

## DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

### Longing and Belonging (by Judy Coffin, Communications staff)



As we move into a new year of living out our call to **deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice** as a regional council, accounts of exhaustion and burnout from leaders and volunteers in communities of faith are widespread across the country (see link to Broadview article below, shared by St. Francis Cluster). While pandemic restrictions continue to amplify feelings of isolation, people seem to be longing for energy, for renewal, for meaning and a clear sense of purpose... and for connection with others who share the same longings.

A recent reflection from the Center for Action and Contemplation (see link below) focuses on God's wisdom and guidance about the importance of being part of something bigger, of bringing our gifts - and our needs - to our community.

*...This is a neglected but important aspect of the prophetic call. In Numbers 11:24–29, Moses is exhausted with the people. Basically, God says “Okay, okay, assemble the elders. Look to the community. You were never supposed to do this alone. I told you to do it; I didn’t tell you to do it alone.” ...*

Our belief as The United Church of Canada is that even the divine does not exist as an individual entity, but as a Holy Trinity, a small community plugged into a wider community in order to manifest deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Our creed tells us, “We are not alone.” So how can we build a stronger community as a regional council, supporting the prophetic gifts of our individual members and communities of faith?

One of the initiatives already planned for 2023 is to develop a **regional council directory** to allow people to connect more directly with each other and to ensure that regional council communications are reaching the relevant contacts in each community of faith. Another initiative will be a **communications survey** to gather feedback about what information is most important to you and how you would like to receive and share information with other members of the regional council.

As a regional council, we are here to serve communities of faith. What are your needs and how can we support them? How are your prophetic gifts calling us forward together? What can we simplify in order to focus on deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice? We are eager to hear your thoughts!

### RESOURCES

The United Church Of Canada Call and Vision:

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-our-vision>

Broadview article about volunteer burnout: <https://broadview.org/volunteer-burnout/>

Reflection from Center for Action and Contemplation:

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/prophets-belong-in-community-2023-01-04/>

### RESPONSE

Send us your reflections: [jcoffin@united-church.ca](mailto:jcoffin@united-church.ca)

### Resources for 2023

- 2023 Manual: <https://united-church.ca/handbooks-and-guidelines>
- Worship resources: <https://united-church.ca/worship-resources>
- Special dates in 2023: <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/special-sundays-2023.pdf>

## REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

### Welcome to our new Executive Minister!

Our incoming Executive Minister, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, began his new role in earnest this week, so please reach out to offer a warm welcome. Contact Éric at 1-800-368-2781 ext. 2776 or [ehbertdaly@united-church.ca](mailto:ehbertdaly@united-church.ca)

### REMINDER – Farewell to our archivist!

A reminder that Beverly Anderson-Levine has retired from her role as Regional Council Archivist effective **December 31, 2022**. For the time being, inquiries should be directed to Brian Ruse: [bruse@united-church.ca](mailto:bruse@united-church.ca) or call 514-634-7015 or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6151.

## REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERINGS

### REMINDER - Tentative dates for upcoming Regional Council meetings

- **March 24-25** (online)
- **June 3** (in person)
- **November 17-18** (online)

## COVID RESPONSE

### REMINDER - Message from Quebec Public Health and la Table interreligieuse de concertation

A recent email from Public Health to la Table interreligieuse de concertation invites those responsible for places of worship to participate in awareness-raising efforts on the importance of wearing a mask in public places. This is not obligatory, but participation on our part can help to ensure that the number of people requiring hospital care remains reasonable, thus removing any possibility of restrictive health measures, as we have already experienced.

The email (<https://bit.ly/2022-12-COVID-SantePublique>) contains a link to a poster that we can print and display in our places of worship.

Rev. Dan Hayward, our acting Executive Minister, also recently attended the Public Health Agency of Canada's session with faith leaders, which presented a similar message about vaccination.

**NEW!** Links to Public Health Agency of Canada presentation and resources:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2022/12/16/public-health-resources-and-reminders/>

## MINISTRY PERSONNEL

### Annual Declarations

As we celebrate a New Year, we wish for you continued grace and fortitude to continue in your service to Christ and all those around you through the ministry of the Church.

We'd like to advise you that the 2023 Annual Declaration for ministry personnel is **now open, until May 19, 2023**. It's free and only takes a few minutes. Log in to churchhub.ca (Remember that Chrome or Edge are preferred browsers for ChurchHub; Safari is not optimal)

If you make your Annual Declaration (about whether you've had criminal charges in the last year or not) each year, you do not need to get a new police records check!

Need help accessing ChurchHub? Please contact [ministry@united-church.ca](mailto:ministry@united-church.ca).

### Online Ministry Support Group

Next meeting is **Tuesday, February 7 at 1:30 pm**. (Other dates for 2023: March 7, April 11, May 2 and June 6.) Learn more: [dhayward@united-church.ca](mailto:dhayward@united-church.ca)

### Revisions to the Regional Cost-of-Living Group Assignments

The triennial reassessment of cost-of-living groups for pastoral charges has been completed. Changes will be effective **July 1, 2023** and apply to the balance of the year. An email was sent out to all treasurers in December 2022. Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/compensation-and-benefits/ministers-salary-schedule-and-cost>

## REMINDER - 2023 Pulpit Supply Rates

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council has mandated that LLWLs receive compensation for pulpit supply at the same rate described by the General Council for visiting ministry personnel. The rates for 2023 are set at \$232 daily, with a mileage allowance of \$0.55 per kilometre. *Learn more:* <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2022-09/salary-schedule-ministry-personnel-2023.pdf>

## GRANTING AND ENABLING LEADERSHIP TEAM (GELT)

## REMINDER - NEXT REGIONAL COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15, 2023

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



## FIRST THIRD MINISTRIES <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/programs/youth-young-adult/>

### Worshiplode 2023

The date of the special YAYA Worshiplode service is **February 4th at 4:00pm** at Rideau Park United Church.

Worshiplode is a weekend youth event organized by our colleagues to the West in Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. During the Ottawa Winterlude festival, Rideau Park United Church is host to a massively fun afternoon of Worship, Pizza and activities for youth and young adults. Youth Groups from across Ontario and Quebec had been attending this event for over 10 years

before the Pandemic put it on hiatus. We are so excited to share that it is back for 2023.

If your Youth Group wishes to register and attend this event, and be hosted by a local community of faith for the weekend, please contact Dana Ducette ([dducette@united-church.ca](mailto:dducette@united-church.ca)) as soon as possible. Alternatively, anyone is welcome to attend for the day, but to have pizza supper you must register in advance with Dana.

*If you have any questions, or if you wish to join the carpooling group from the Eastern Townships organized by Shanna Bernier, please contact:* [sbernier@united-church.ca](mailto:sbernier@united-church.ca).

## ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/516855109486568>



### GreenFaith Montréal at COP15 (by Rev. Wendy Evans; last photo NCR Brian Roewe)

A light in the darkness was certainly the theme at both the opening of COP15 with our GreenFaith Circle candlelight vigil and at the closing of COP15 as the multi-faith team experienced a light of hope in the historic agreement made by the nations gathered.

Wendy's Facebook post (with lots of photos):

<https://www.facebook.com/516860287/posts/10160549504015288/?flike=scwspnss>

Multi-faith team statement: [https://www.biodiversity.faith/media/fairh-communities-celebrate-a-global-deal-to-protect-nature-while-calling-for-governments-and-civil-society-to-ratchet-up-ambition?fbclid=IwAR1-IGNxI V-oT8G6o21fWOMGv87\\_kvUx9Szf7dFz9RypoYVQhacmL3xX4](https://www.biodiversity.faith/media/fairh-communities-celebrate-a-global-deal-to-protect-nature-while-calling-for-governments-and-civil-society-to-ratchet-up-ambition?fbclid=IwAR1-IGNxI V-oT8G6o21fWOMGv87_kvUx9Szf7dFz9RypoYVQhacmL3xX4)

Summary of event in Catholic Reporter: <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/justice/nations-secure-historic-biodiversity-deal-final-day-cop15>

## REMINDER - A Green Audit: Money Well Spent

Curious to know how to make your faith-community building operations as energy and cost-efficient as possible? Consider doing a Green Audit, a comprehensive environmental and energy audit, with Faithful Footprints Delivery Partner Faith & the Common Good. Tour your property with a licensed professional and get a personalized road map for how your community can walk more gently on the planet.

*Learn more:* <https://www.fairhcommongood.org/audits>

**REMINDER - Invitation to Leadership Teams**

The Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle strongly encourages all members of leadership teams and the wider regional council to participate in upcoming learning sessions on right relations and reconciliation, including the blanket exercise and decolonizing settler mentality.

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

Living into Right Relations news: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-1050892>

**EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES****REMINDER - Canadian Summer Jobs Application Deadline**

Every year the Federal government supports job opportunities for young people. This granting program is designed to focus on local priorities while supporting youth in obtaining job experience. United Church congregations across Canada have hired youth for property maintenance, messy church, drop in centres, summer camps, social media and technical support, community gardens, farmers markets, archiving, day camps, sports music and theatre camps, vacation bible school and many community outreach activities.

The deadline to apply is **January 12, 2023**.

Learn more: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>

Additional employment and volunteer opportunities are available through United Church of Canada at <https://united-church.ca/opportunities/> or <https://egliseunie.ca/engagement-et-formation/emplois-et-benevolat/>

**LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES****OPEN ENROLMENT COURSES WITH UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO - WINTER 2023**

*These courses are aimed at anyone who is interested in deepening their Christian faith and knowledge, and cultivating leadership skills in the church. There is no homework or written assignments. All you need is a desire to learn and a willingness to participate.*

**NEW!** This Winter, United Church Studies at Montreal Dio is offering two courses in Spanish for lay people! These courses can be taken individually or as part of the United Church's Licensed Lay Worship Leadership program.

**Leer la Biblia: Antiguo Testamento – Un Dios fiel, promesa y liberación**

**14 de enero y 18 de febrero de 2023, 9 h – 16 h**

Este curso es una aproximación al Antiguo Testamento. En este se exploran los contextos de redacción y los grandes puntos de referencia de la historia de Israel, así como relatos centrales de este corpus escriturístico.

Learn more : <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/leer-la-biblia-antiguo-testamento-un-dios-fiel-promesa-y-liberacion/>

**Leer la Biblia: Nuevo Testamento – Jesús, una alianza renovada con Dios**

**18 de marzo y 15 de abril de 2023, 9 h – 16 h**

Este curso es una introducción al Nuevo Testamento que ofrece herramientas para una lectura bíblica que permiten a los estudiantes aproximarse tanto al Jesús histórico como al Cristo de la fe.

Learn more : <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/leer-la-biblia-nuevo-testamento-jesus-una-alianza-renovada-con-dios%E2%80%AF/>

**French for Ministry Intensive**

**May 8-12, 2023**

*For clergy, lay leaders, and spiritual care professionals seeking to engage with, lead, and participate comfortably and proficiently in French or bilingual ministry and spiritual care settings.*

United Church Studies at Montreal Dio is offering a **French for Ministry Intensive course** designed to enhance students' French linguistic and



communication skills for ministry and pastoral contexts. Activities include: grammar revision, the sharing of French resources such as church and biblical vocabulary, preparation of prayers, and role-playing pastoral care situations. Participants may take this course as part of the Certificate in Bilingual Ministry or as a stand-alone continuing education course.

Learn more: <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/french-for-ministry> or contact [info@montrealdio.ca](mailto:info@montrealdio.ca)



**REMINDER - Collaborative Ministry Leadership in a Constantly Changing World**  
**Thursdays, February 2, 9, and 16, 2023, 7:00pm to 9:00pm**

This course will give church leaders (clergy and lay) the theoretical and practical knowledge to lead their congregations faithfully and well – now and into God's unfolding future.

Learn more : <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/ministry-leadership/>



**REMINDER - Paul the Apostle**

**Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2023, 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

This course addresses some key questions about Paul and his influence on the formation of early Christianity. Almost everything we thought we knew about Paul is wrong. Come discover what's new.

Learn more: <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/paul-the-apostle/>

**NOTICE OF SABBATICAL:** Please note that Rev. Jesse Zink is on sabbatical from **January 1 to June 30, 2023**. During this time, the acting principal of the college is the Rev. Eric Dyck who may be contacted at [ericdyck@montrealdio.ca](mailto:ericdyck@montrealdio.ca). For assistance with admissions, applications, and any other administrative matters, please contact Jeroham Meléndez at [jerohammelendez@montrealdio.ca](mailto:jerohammelendez@montrealdio.ca). To contact Jesse Zink personally, please re-send your e-mail to [jesse.zink@mcgill.ca](mailto:jesse.zink@mcgill.ca).

**UNITED IN LEARNING, now on ChurchX**

See the entire line-up of learning opportunities at: <https://churchx.ca/login/index.php>

**EMBRACING THE SPIRIT**

A range of exciting educational programs will be offered by EDGE in 2023. These include Curiosity Cohorts, Rural Curiosity Cohorts, workshops on Adaptive Leadership and the Theory of Change and the Signpost Series: independent learning opportunities for communities of faith ready to take a change journey, beginning with the first step of assessing your situation and articulating your story and culminating with a review of your changed ecosystem and framework for visioning.

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1051120>

**LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS**

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/>



**CAMINO DE ÉMAUS (Montréal)**

**Epiphany celebrations**

(shared by Rev. Rosa Donoso)

**PLYMOUTH-TRINITY UNITED CHURCH (Sherbrooke)**

**Good news for the Rodriguez-Flores family**

The Rodriguez-Flores family have all received their work permits and 18-month temporary residence while they wait for their permanent residence.

Learn more (in French): <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1946710/rodriguez-flores>

### REMINDER – Tables and Chairs

Our church is looking for tables and folding chairs as our tables are falling apart.

For more information, contact Diane Best: [diane\\_red-pink5@live.com](mailto:diane_red-pink5@live.com)



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS



### New Anti-Racism App

In case you missed it, there's a new anti-racism app for youth available from The United Church of Canada. Jonisha Lewinson is one of a team of young adults who helped create it. Called AR4YT (short for Anti-Racism for Youth Training), the app—supported through your Mission & Service gifts—is aimed at 12- to 18-year-olds and covers topics like the history of racism in Canada, White privilege, and how to get involved in anti-racism work. It is available at no cost on Google Play and the App Store.

[PHOTO COURTESY OF JONISHA LEWINSON]

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es221220-1051128>

### REMINDER - Pause to Embracing the Spirit Grants

As The United Church of Canada embraces the transition into the new strategic plan it will pause some current granting opportunities, including Embracing the Spirit (Innovation, Growth, and New Ministry Grants).

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/news/pause-embracing-spirit-grants>

### REMINDER - UCC new insurance plan

UCC Protect/United Assurance insurance offers coverage to address the unique needs of congregations and incorporated ministries such as camps, seniors' homes, and education centres. To learn more, watch the November 23 Webinar for Church Treasurers or consult the UCC Protect web page at the link below.

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avqPLnKnu9E>

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/UCC-Protect>

### Recent newsletters from United Church of Canada:

- Broadview newsletter: [https://mailchi.mp/1ffc0c7ae291/adoption\\_dna\\_family\\_history](https://mailchi.mp/1ffc0c7ae291/adoption_dna_family_history)
- Embracing the Spirit: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1051120>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es231220-1051180>
- Philanthropy News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/gods-mission-our-gifts-1051096>
- UCC Foundation News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/nov-22-foundation-newsletter>
- United Church Bookstore (UCRD): <https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/230109>
- UC Rural Ministry Network: <https://mailchi.mp/23f9a13bda4f/summer-newsletter-from-ucrmn-13511588>
- United in Learning: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/united-in-learning-1050864>



Subscribe to United Church of Canada e-newsletters: <https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

Abonnez-vous à l'info-lettre de l'Église Unie du Canada : <https://bit.ly/EgliseUnie-infolettre-Subscribe>

## LA TABLE DES MINISTÈRES EN FRANÇAIS



**Rev. Darla Sloan - Acting Responsable de la Table des ministères en français**  
Beginning in **early January**, Rev. Darla Sloan will assume the position of Acting Responsable de la Table des ministères en français (part-time). Thanks to Darla for guiding us through this time of transition. Darla will generally be available Mondays, Tuesday mornings and Thursdays.

Contact Rev. Darla Sloan: [dsloan@egliseunie.ca](mailto:dsloan@egliseunie.ca) or Ruth Sandeu: [rsandeu@egliseunie.ca](mailto:rsandeu@egliseunie.ca)

### Sympathies

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council extends deepest sympathies to Nicole Beaudry and her family on the recent death of her husband, Gerry Okolowsky.

Learn more: <https://montrealgazette.remembering.ca/obituary/joseph-gerald-okolowsky-1086840079/>

Send condolences: <https://padlet.com/kruth2009/prnljdegqkjpssrt>

Prayer (in French) by Rev. Pierre-Paul Lafond: <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie.ca/notre-lien-quotidien-le-9-janvier-2023>

### AGA de la Table

L'AGA de la Table aura lieu **le samedi 25 février** prochain. D'autres détails suivront sous peu. Notez qu'il y aura des postes à combler au conseil d'administration ainsi qu'à l'exécutif. Avez-vous du temps et des talents à offrir? Y a-t-il dans votre communauté de foi des sages qui seraient intéressés à embarquer avec nous? Il n'est pas trop tôt pour nous le signifier.

### Réservez la date – retraite pour le personnel ministériel et les candidat-e-s au ministère

Nous avons le projet d'organiser une retraite pour le personnel ministériel et les candidat-e-s à Québec du 9 au 11 mai prochain. Nous sommes toujours en train d'explorer les possibilités mais comme nos agendas se remplissent vite, je vous invite à inscrire la retraite au vôtre dès maintenant. D'autres détails suivront bientôt.

### Notre lien quotidien

Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de prières pour Notre lien quotidien. N'hésitez pas à nous faire parvenir les vôtres.

### Voyage « Venez voir » en Terre sainte

Il semble qu'il y a maintenant plus d'informations sur le voyage prévu en **début novembre 2023**. Si vous êtes intéressé, vous pouvez remplir le formulaire d'inscription sans obligation et nous vous tiendrons au courant. La date limite pour indiquer son intérêt est le **28 février**, mais le premier dépôt n'est pas requis avant le mois d'avril.

Pour en savoir plus : <https://egliseunie.ca/venezvoir/>

Infolettre : <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie.ca/infolettre-10-janvier-2023>

## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS



### Festival of Biblical Telling (online) - Feb 3-5, 2023

Storytellers from across Canada, India, the USA and around the world gather to hone their bible telling skills and repertoire in a 2 1/2-day Festival of Biblical Telling. Workshops will cover a spectrum of topics: Biblical Telling 101, an introduction to performance criticism, biblical telling as a contemplative practice, sharing the Bible with children, starting small with little, tiny tellings, the ring shape found in biblical text, deaf signing our telling, coaching from the world of drama on how to prepare a text, the connection between paperless music leading and paperless biblical telling, Godly Play, and the role of story in Indigenous wisdom and community.

Learn more: <https://www.nbscanada.org/festival>

**NEXT NEWSLETTER: January 25, 2023**

Send stories: [jcoffin@united-church.ca](mailto:jcoffin@united-church.ca)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 21, 2023**

Submit events: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/community/add>