

REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERINGS



LAST CALL - WINTER MEETING: The upcoming regional council meeting on March 24 and 25 (on Zoom) will be an opportunity to learn more about the new strategic plan for The United Church of Canada and to explore how our regional council resonates with different aspects of that plan. We are eager for feedback and guidance from our grassroots, so please invite any members of your communities of faith who are interested to register and participate in the discussion.

In addition to the conversation about the strategic plan, we plan to have presentations about environmental grants available to communities of faith for upgrading their buildings (Faithful Footprints) and about the Affirming Process for our Regional Council.

The **draft agenda** for the day is now available on the Web site, including some questions for small group discussion in case you would like to reflect on them in advance; additional documents will be shared as they become available.

Learn more and register: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/march-2023-regional-council-gathering-online/

REMINDER - Dates for other upcoming Regional Council meetings

- June 3 (hybrid location TBD)
- November 24-25 (online)

NEW Communications Survey (Part 3: Social Media)

The third (and final) part of the survey relates to **regional council social media platforms** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) Even if you don't personally use social media, it's helpful for me to know that you don't, so please respond by **Friday, March 30, 2023.** Thanks for your help!

Learn more: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/communications-survey-2023/*

*NOTE: Part 1 (newsletter) and Part 2 (web site) of the communications survey are still open (at the same link as above) in case you haven't had a chance to respond yet. All feedback is very welcome.

NOMINATIONS

REMINDER - A Message from the Nominations Leadership Team

Have you wondered what the "Leadership Teams" are all about in our region? What are they? What do they do? Who is on them? To find out, follow this link: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/about-us/governance-leadership/

If you are interested in joining one of our Leadership Teams click on the link below to fill out an "Expression of Interest" Form: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/nominations/



BURSARIES

REMINDER - Hello? Hello!

The education of young people is important and our Church supports it. This year the scholarship committee will award at least fifteen Hugh Duncan scholarships for full-time university studies. All the details and scholarship application forms are **NOW AVAILABLE** at https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/bursaries/. Don't miss your chance!

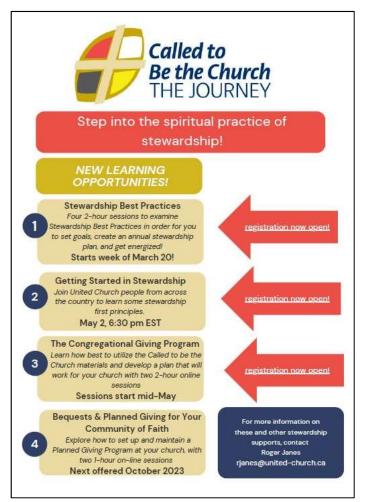
For any questions, please contact Monique Moser: monique.moser@umontreal.ca

GRANTING AND ENABLING LEADERSHIP TEAM (GELT)

REMINDER - Next Regional Council Grant Application Deadline: May 15, 2023

NOTE: A list of recent grant recipients will be presented at the upcoming Regional Council meeting.

Grant application forms and information: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/



STEWARDSHIP

New learning opportunities from Called to Be the Church: The Journey

Download poster:

https://bit.ly/2023-03-22-StewardshipPoster

Registration links (click on titles below)

- Stewardship Best Practices
- Getting Started in Stewardship
- Congregational Giving Program

Any questions, please contact Roger Janes at rjanes@united-church.ca

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

LEADERSHIP COUNTS

The United Church is blessed to have rich diversity in its leadership. Our diversity makes us more capable of living out God's mission in our world. In sometimes ground-breaking ways, the United Church has affirmed commitments to supporting the full participation of everyone.

To help us more fully live out these commitments, we have been collecting data since November 2021, as part of the <u>Leadership Counts</u> voluntary survey to learn more about the breadth of identities present among The United Church of Canada's ministry personnel, General Council office and regional council office staff, and members of national committees. This includes racial identities, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, languages, and more.

Individual data can now be viewed and updated: If you have completed the Leadership Counts survey, you can visit ChurchHub.ca to view or update your identity information at any time through the "My Identity Data" tile. Please check the data shared in the original survey.

Watch this new video tutorial for help navigating the My Identity Data pages on ChurchHub.

You can still participate: If you are a ministry personnel or a member of a national committee and have yet to participate in this project, you can go to ChurchHub.ca and complete the survey through the My Identity Data tile. Your unique link to complete the survey can be accessed from the My Identity Data tile on

ChurchHub. Lay people on national committees who are not yet registered for ChurchHub can contact leadershipcounts@united-church.ca to be enrolled.

We are grateful for the more than 1600 individuals who have already taken the time to share some of their identity data. This work is important to the current Strategic Plan being implemented at the General Council Office. The trends that we are noticing and the questions that the responses are raising both shape the work of the Strategic Plan in many areas.

With thanks, Diane Bosman (Member Engagement), Adam Hanley (Ministry Personnel Vitality) and Adele Halliday (Anti-Racism and Equity) on behalf of General Council Office

Learn More: You can more about this <u>Leadership Counts project</u>, including why it's important for the whole church, and how we keep the data secure and confidential. You can also review two news stories that share some of the results and insights that are emerging.

REMINDER - Online Ministry Support Group

Next meeting is **Tuesday**, **April 11 at 1:30 pm.** (Other dates for 2023: May 2 and June 6.)

 $\textit{Learn more:} \ \underline{\textit{dhayward@united-church.ca}}$

REMINDER - Sabbatical Leave 2024 - CALL FOR REQUESTS

The Sabbatical Leave Committee, which is a committee of the Finance & Extension Board, is presently inviting requests for sabbatical leave from ministry personnel for 2024. If this is in your plans, please contact Diane Campbell (dj.campbell@sympatico.ca) and/or submit a preliminary proposal to the Sabbatical Leave Committee by June 1, 2023. This preliminary proposal should include a plan, the reasons for requesting sabbatical leave, timelines, and a draft budget. Learn more: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/sabbatical-leave/

REMINDER - Bilingual Ministers' Retreat - September 29 & 30 and October 1, 2023

(at Manoir D'Youville on l'île Bernard in Châteauguay)

- September 29 Retreat Day for Ordered Ministers
- September 30 Co-Learning Day for Ordered Ministers, DLMs and LLWLs
- October 1st Retreat Day for DLMs and LLWLs

If you would like to be part of the planning team, please contact:

Dan Hayward: dhayward@united-church.ca or David-Roger Gagnon: DRGagnon@united-church.ca

REMINDER - Annual Declarations (shared by The Office of Vocation)

We'd like to advise ministry personnel that the 2023 Annual Declaration is now open until May 19, 2023. *Need help accessing ChurchHub? Please contact ministry@united-church.ca*

REMINDER - A Message to Current and Future Voluntary Associate Ministers (Joel Miller)

The deadline for submitting the VAM form is July 1st, 2023.

Completed forms should be sent to Joel Miller at <u>imiller@united-church.ca</u> or by regular mail to 225 50th avenue, Lachine, Québec, H8T 2T7. (Telephone: 1-800-268-3781, extension 6152)

Download form: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/policies/

Additional information: See Policy for Voluntary Associate Ministers (p. 28-29)

https://nakonhakaucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Governance-Handbook-Version-March-12-2022.pdf

PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING INVITATION WITH MINISTRY PERSONNEL / M&P COMMITTEE

Workshops for M&P Committees (Rev. Dan Hayward)

A series of workshops will be offered to ministry personnel and faith communities in East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka in coming months.

- Healthy Church Happy Church: Bridges & Roadblocks to Good Communication Wednesday, May 3, 2023 (7:00 – 9:00pm)
- Conducting Annual Evaluations of Staff and Programs Wednesday, May 17, 2023 (7:00 9:00pm)

Learn more: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/02/13/ministry-and-personnel-workshops-2023/

EXECUTIVE

Next Executive meeting will be **April 20, 2023**. Once approved and translated, final minutes of Executive meetings are posted at: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/minutes-and-reports/

FIRST THIRD MINISTRIES

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



Youth Forum: In Your Element (March 31 to April 2, 2023)

Learn about yourself, your community, the world, and spirituality in the

framework of the natural elements of our earth.

Age of participants: 12-20 (High school & Cegep) *Older Young Adults are

welcome to come as Shepherds and helpers
Cost: 50\$ (please do not let this be a barrier)
Location: Trinity United Church, Montreal

Registration: https://forms.gle/SBmefY5ZdNh9rFpdA

Participants under 18 also need a signed permission form available by emailing sbernier@united-church.ca



REMINDER - United Spirit Camp: June 25-July 1, 2023

Registration opens March 1, with Early Bird Registration deadline of April 15.

Learn more: https://sites.google.com/view/campunitedspirit/home

Camp brochure now available in French: https://bit.ly/2023-Brochure-CampEspritUni

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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

REMINDER - GreenFaith Montreal (Megan McWhirter and Rev. Wendy Evans)
We have scheduled an online circle gathering for Monday, March 27th from 1-2pm to share our spring hopes and plan for our April event.

We are hoping to plan an online Action Hour on **Wednesday**, **April 19th at noon** which will coincide with the *For the Love of Creation* Earth Week celebrations (April 16-23). More information can be found here: https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week/

The plan is to highlight a key environmental theme linking to issues locally, nationally, and internationally. There will be time given for people to sign petitions, write letters, etc. We thought we would highlight issues surrounding the theme of "Water". If you have ideas of issues/causes/groups you'd like to lift up during this event, please share them here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q1Z6KaU2q5QscB-wogCMHrrUqRzlcou41qMHmWOWces/edit?usp=sharing

Looking forward to connecting at end of March to share our hopes and ideas! Even if you are not available to participate in the April event, we would still value your presence and input at the March meeting!

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS

rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES (March 2023)

On **Saturday, March 25, 12-5 p.m. All-Nations Powwow**, will be held in person at the first powwow held at the University of Toronto Mississauga campus. Allies are welcome. https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/all-nations-powwow/#:~:text=Experiencing%20a%20Powwow%20emphasizes%20the,Nations%20Powwow%20in%20March%202023.

Before attending a powwow, learn about **powwow protocols and etiquette**: https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/all-nations-powwow/powwow-etiquette

Suggested New Resources

Home on Native Land: Everything you wanted to know about Indigenous justice. Series of 10 videos, cartoons, lessons through history. **Free self-guided course** about Indigenous justice in Canada. https://homeonnativeland.com/

Book: True Reconciliation: How to Be a Force for Change by Jody Wilson-Raybould who wrote True Reconciliation in response to the question she was constantly asked, "What can I do to help advance reconciliation?" https://goodminds.com/products/9780771004384

Audio: Shelagh Rodgers interviewed Jody Wilson-Raybould for CBC radio's The Next Chapter: https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thenextchapter/jody-wilson-raybould-s-new-book-is-about-taking-action-towardreconciliation-1.6719781

LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO

Admission Ministers Orientation - week of May 15



This event is open to ministry leaders and theology students, especially those new to the United Church and those ministering in diverse and intercultural contexts. Please help spread the word to any admission ministers and any other ministers or theology students who might benefit from it. NOTE: This event will be mainly in English but we can offer support to those who speak more French than English (there may be enough francophones to have a French speaking small group when we break into groups) and most of the resources we use will be bilingual.

Download PDF: https://bit.ly/2023-AdmissionOrientation-UCS-Dio

REMINDERS - OPEN ENROLMENT COURSES WINTER 2023

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

13 de mayo y 10 de junio de 2023, 9 h - 16 h

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

Learn more: https://montrealdio.ca/courses/french-for-ministry or contact info@montrealdio.ca

REMINDER - Montreal Mission Internship, 2023 - May 29th to July 29th



A summer internship for 18- to 25-year-olds who feel a call to ministry outside the walls of the church.

- Serve at a social service organisation in Montreal.
- Reflect with other interns during weekly group meetings.
- **Discern** how you are called to participate in God's work.

Learn more and apply at: <u>www.montrealmission.ca</u>

CCS Friday: Addiction and Faith - March 31, 1:00 pm EDT



Ed Treat from the Centre of Addiction and Faith believes churches are poised to make a dent in the opioid crisis because we have locations in tiny rural CHRISTIAN STUDIES communities that may not have other local supports like a doctor or social worker available in town. He'll help us explore the scope for developing an addiction

ministry team that takes actions such as providing resources on addiction in libraries, getting narcan training, and training people to support those living with or recovering from addiction. We'll have a chance to explore addiction and recovery in a Biblical text.

The Centre of Addiction and Faith is committed to helping ministers and leaders learn how faith communities can better understand addiction, and to better address the spiritual needs of those afflicted. There are so many who need spiritual care, and faith communities can do so much more to help.

Free registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEscOCorz0tG9Ib10qrJzqObAiXeApWDacq

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Admission Board

We are seeking ministry personnel and laypeople who have the gifts to assess and support ministry personnel from other denominations who feel called to serve The United Church of Canada.

Closing Date: 2023-04-17

Learn more: https://united-church.ca/opportunities/admission-board-0

Anti-Racism Common Table

We are seeking two members with experience in anti-racism and justice work to develop strategies, policies, and processes that will further the United Church's Anti-Racism Action Plan.

Closing Date: 2023-04-17

Learn more: https://united-church.ca/opportunities/anti-racism-common-table-0

Candidacy Boards

Candidacy Boards provide an essential role in assisting people to discern their call into ministry. We are currently recruiting individuals for six of the Candidacy Boards.

Closing Date: 2023-04-17

Learn more: https://united-church.ca/opportunities/candidacy-boards-1

REMINDER - **JOB OPPORTUNITY** - **Director of Music** (Lakeshore Trinity United Church, Pointe Claire: 514-697-6459)

Lakeshore Trinity United Church in Pointe Claire is seeking a Director of Music, **starting September 1**, **2023**. The Director of Music will work as a team with our Minister and the Worship Committee. We are a welcoming, inclusive, and theologically-progressive congregation with traditional roots and a strong appreciation for music in our worship and community life. The position requires proficiency in piano and on a three-manual, electric church organ. The music director provides musical leadership for our Sunday morning services and other special occasions. The music director is also responsible for leading our four-part choir, which meets once a week for rehearsal. Our choir is enthusiastic and knowledgeable, enjoys singing and is not afraid of a challenge! *Please email your resume to lakeshoretrinityunited@gmail.com* by *March 30, 2023*.

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

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/



Communion Ware Available

Greenfield Park United Church is looking to rehome some surplus communion ware. Available are two sets of tiered trays for glasses complete with glasses and cover, also additional communion trays, 2 boxes of extra glasses, bread plates, offering plates and various trays. A floor model Advent wreath is also available.

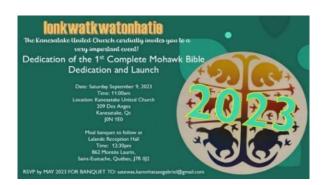
Contact Dorothy Shaw at dorothyshaw389@gmail.com or 438-882-5292



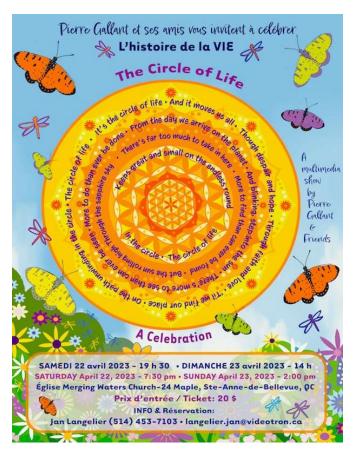
Question re Worship in Unconventional Spaces

Are there any congregations/communities of faith in our Regional Council which worship in an unconventional space and might have photos to share?

Send photos to jcoffin@united-church.ca









Free will offering.

Come and be part of Pastor Virginia's SME project

To reserve a place email pastormountbruno@gmail.com

Resurrect your bike



Live with respect in Creation



Evaluations and minor tune-ups

As part of our commitment to live in respect with creation,

Ste Genevieve United Church is offering to give your bicycle a boost of life on Earth Day Sunday.

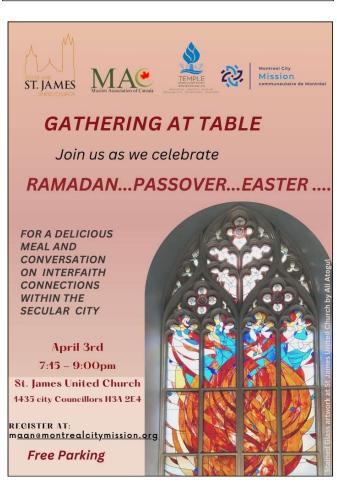
Active transportation is part of the solution to fight climate change, and a bike in good working condition is a good place to start!

This event is open to people of all faiths and no faith.

We can get your bike ready for the season and advice about any major repairs it might need.

April 16, 2023 Noon to 2 pm (weather permitting)

Ste Genevieve United Church, 4697 St-Jean, Dollard-des-Ormeaux http://stegennys.org joelleleduc@stegennys.org



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS

REMIT 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

The 44th General Council has authorized a remit on removing structural barriers so that the Indigenous Church can determine its place and structure within the United Church. The remit requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. Information about the remit, as well as voting cards, were sent to every regional council and each pastoral charge on March 10, either through email or Canada Post. Voting will take place **over the course of a year** between **March 15**, **2023**, **and March 31**, **2024**. Abstentions are considered a vote against the remit. **NOTE**: A regional council learning session about the remit may be offered prior to the regional council meeting in June 2023 for those who would like to learn more.

Download remit, study guide, and voting sheet, together with the return information and deadline: https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization



UNJPPI's March 2023 newsletter includes a recording of the Toronto worship service with Jonathan Kuttab, advocacy opportunities to address the escalating violence in Israel and Palestine, a link to order fair trade dates, upcoming opportunities for educational tours to Israel Palestine, information to join the upcoming *Voices from the Holy Land Film Salon* and much more.

Learn more: https://us6.campaign-archive.com/?u=7f4ab9a5a57204972eba6a8cf&id=e3d6737edd

About the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)

UNJPPI brings together United Church members, adherents and friends in partnership with Palestinians and Israelis working for peace. We believe it is important to understand the complex dimensions of the path to peace in Palestine and Israel. In our monthly newsletter, we curate relevant resources such as news articles, advocacy campaigns, webinars, book studies, films screenings and travel opportunities. We hope you will use these resources to learn more and help in the way of peace. Learn more: www.unjppi.org

REMINDER - Rural Ministry Town Halls 2023 - Monday, March 27

Learn more: https://catalog.churchx.ca/product?catalog=EDGE2010

REMINDER - reVITALize 2023 - Halifax - June 7 to 9, 2023

Learn more and register at <u>www.revitalizeconference.ca</u>

LA TABLE DES MINISTÈRES EN FRANÇAIS

REMINDER - AGA de la Table des ministères en français

Plus d'une trentaine de personnes se sont réunies pour l'AGA de la Table. C'était vraiment l'occasion de célébrer la vitalité des Ministères en français! *Download PDF (French): https://bit.ly/2023-02-25-Rapport-LaTable*

REMINDER - Appel à servir le Conseil général

Dieu renouvelle le Conseil général qui est à la recherche de bénévoles pour plusieurs comités et groupes de travail. Je vous invite à lire la description des postes à combler et à discerner dans la prière si Dieu vous appelle à mettre un peu de votre temps et vos talents au service de notre Église. La date limite pour poser sa candidature est le 23 mars.

Pour en savoir plus: https://eqliseunie.ca/engagement-et-formation/emplois-et-benevolat/servir-le-conseil-general/

COLLOQUE - IMMIGRATION ET INTÉGRATION SOCIALE : PRATIQUES D'ACCUEIL, DE SOLIDARITÉ HUMAINE ET DE VIVRE-ENSEMBLE - le 24 mars de 9 h à 18 h

Download PDF (French): https://bit.ly/2023-Colloque-Immigration-LaTable

RÉSERVEZ LA DATE - Retraite - du 9 au 12 mai 2023

La retraite pour le personnel ministériel, les célébrant-e-s laïques, toutes les personnes qui suivent l'un ou l'autre de nos programmes de formation commence à prendre forme. La retraite aura lieu au Centre de spiritualité des Ursulines à Québec. Elle débutera le mardi 9 mai par une soirée festive (les participant-e-s sont invités à apporter leurs instruments de musique.) La soirée sera l'occasion de (re)faire connaissance tout en célébrant et s'amusant ensemble. Le jeudi 11 mai en soirée se tiendra à l'Université Laval, un panel intitulé : « L'avenir de la foi chrétienne au Québec : une Pâques à vivre ». La retraite se terminera par un culte de clôture le matin du 12 mai. Les Ministères en français couvrent l'hébergement, les repas ainsi que les frais associés à la programmation. Le transport est aux frais des participant-e-s.

Plus de détails sur la programmation ainsi que le formulaire d'inscription seront disponibles bientôt.

Voyage « Venez voir » en Terre sainte

La date limite pour signifier votre intérêt a été reportée au 31 mars.

Pour plus d'information : https://egliseunie.ca/venezvoir/

Recent newsletters from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/1e1f7be1d3e6/tony-snow-land-acknowledgments-1814618
- Église Unie du Canada : https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-20-mars-2023
- Embracing the Spirit: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1051680
- E-ssentials: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es231220-1051656
- Philanthropy News: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/gods-mission-our-gifts-1051688
- UCC Foundation News: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/good-news-you-can-march-2023
- United Church Bookstore (UCRD): https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/introducing-faithhome-magazine-to-the-bookstore
- UC Rural Ministry Network: https://mailchi.mp/f504a80b8881/summer-newsletter-from-ucrmn-13539896
- United in Learning: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/united-in-learning-1051648



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

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

New Developments in Israel-Palestine and the Role of the Churches

Thursday, April 27, 7-9pm (Amphitheatre at Saint Paul University / Livestream)

What is the role of the Canadian churches in advocacy in Palestine? Join Anglican, Lutheran, United, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic leaders for a conversation about how churches in Canada are involved in advocating for and with partners in Palestine, and what next steps may be needed in a context of new developments in a deteriorating situation.

Panelists include Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada Linda Nicholls, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Susan Johnson, *Moderator of the United Church of Canada Carmen Lansdowne*, Principal Emerita of Knox College Dorcas Gordon on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Executive Director of Development and Peace—Caritas Canada Carl Hétu on behalf of the Roman Catholic tradition.

Learn more: https://ustpaul.ca/en/new-developments-in-israel-palestine-and-the-role-of-the-churches- 7720 17.htm

Hymn Society Annual Conference in Montreal



The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada will hold its Annual Conference July 16-19, 2023, on the campus of McGill University in Montréal. This year's theme, Land, Language, and Liberation, offers an opportunity to explore how to celebrate, praise God, and live into the church's mission in light of the challenges we face in the world today. Both in-person and online registrations are available.

The conference will include an abundance of opportunities for learning, connecting, celebrating, singing, and more. Anyone who believes in the importance of congregational song is welcome to register for the full conference.

Learn more: <u>www.thehymnsociety.org</u>. **Advance registration rates** are available through **June 15**.

Note from Alydia Smith: There will be a big presence from Then Let Us Sing there, and lots of United Church folks and content. For United Church folks, the Oxford Fund is available for church musicians who may like to attend the event but do not have continuing ed funds. The Oxford Fund may cover up to two-thirds of the total budget or up to \$750. Learn more: https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form_oxford-endowment-fund.pdf

NEXT NEWSLETTER: April 5, 2023Send stories: jcoffin@united-church.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 30, 2023

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