



DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

What does it mean to be “Easter people”? (by Judy Coffin, Communications)



I think I was a teenager or young adult when I first heard the phrase describing Christians as “Easter people”. Even after all these years, I remember being intrigued and curious to learn more about what it meant, a curiosity that continues to this day. Does it speak about hope in the face of despair? Does the phrase describe ordinary humans who don’t give up despite harsh realities? Does it touch on the spark of the divine in each of God’s children?

The image of the empty cross is a powerful one; it shows us that cruelty and injustice do not get the last word, and that new life can emerge unexpectedly from the most tragic circumstances. I believe it also means that when we walk in the garden carrying our deep grief about what we have lost, we may also meet loving “strangers” who astonish us and call us to new ways of being bold disciples, supporting daring justice and reflecting with deep spirituality as we travel our path as “Easter people” together.

Moderator’s Easter Message: <https://united-church.ca/news/moderators-easter-message-2023>

#ROXHAMROAD

United Church of Canada Statement on the Closure of Roxham Road



The United Church of Canada affirms that the right to seek asylum is a human right protected under international law.

On **April 4**, National Refugee Rights Day, Montreal City Mission, Canadian Council of Refugees and others held vigils across the country to protest the abrupt closing of Roxham Road, which has left refugees stranded; we mourn the loss of refugee rights.

In 2022, nearly 40,000 asylum seekers crossed into Canada using Roxham Road. They are not nameless. They are not faceless. They have names, hopes, dreams. They have loved ones they’ve left behind. They are fellow humans who seek safety because they are unsafe. They seek freedom because they are persecuted elsewhere.

The United Church of Canada urges the government to fulfill its legal obligations to uphold refugees’ right to protection.

Read the full statement: <https://united-church.ca/news/statement-closure-roxham-road>

Take a stand for refugees (shared by Rev. Paula Kline)

Montreal City Mission invites all United Church of Canada members and Communities of Faith to **take a stand for refugees** through the following three actions:



1. **Join MCM staff and other refugee advocates to protest** outside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s office (every workday in the month of April - address and details at link below)
2. **Write a letter** to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (address and sample letter at link below)
3. **Join online actions** developed by Amnesty International and the Migrant Rights Network (online petition / sample letter at link below)

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/2023-03-31-RoxhamRoad-MCM>

For updates, check MCM website: <https://www.montrealcitymission.org/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PODCAST (shared by Rick Sheffer): <https://www.hilltimes.com/podcast/closing-roxham-road-with-jamie-liew/>

REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERINGS



2023 WINTER MEETING – SUMMARY

(photo shared by Natacha Sanson)

The recent regional council meeting on **March 24 and 25** (on Zoom) was an opportunity to explore how our regional council resonates with different aspects of a new strategic plan, with presentations by Executive Minister Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, General Council representative Jennifer Henry and members of the VisionAction team: Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Royal Orr and Rev. Helen Hliaras.

In smaller groups, we discussed hope in terms of “confident expectation” and “bold truth-telling” and shared some of our hopes and concerns about various aspects of the plan as shown in the fish diagram in the photo at left, acknowledging

several of the ways in which the leading priority of the plan, Growth (Renew, Create, Invite) is already being lived out in our regional council.

On Saturday morning, a covenanting service with our new Executive Minister, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, was led by Pastoral Relations Minister Rev. Dan Hayward, Regional Council President Marc Grenon and former Executive Minister Rev. Rosemary Lambie. Joyful threads of music were deftly woven throughout the two-day meeting by Jessica Gauthier (with a guest appearance on Saturday morning by Michel Gauthier).

Alexya Gates Julien offered a compelling overview of the Faithful Footprints granting process for improving the environmental efficiency of church buildings and shared details of projects (completed and in process) of communities of faith within our regional council.

Several members of team responsible for exploring the Affirming Process for our Regional Council (Rita Beauséjour, Denis Ashby, Lisa Byer-de Wever and David-Roger Gagnon) shared an overview of the process and invited participation in planning conversations and gathering feedback across the regional council.

More details about policy updates received from various leadership teams will be available in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, please consult the Decisions document in the post-meeting resources section of the event page at the link below. Video recordings of presentations will also be available soon, along with other resources to share with your communities of faith.

Download post-meeting resources: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/march-2023-regional-council-gathering-online/>

REMINDER - Upcoming Regional Council meetings

- **2023 SPRING MEETING:** The next regional council will be a hybrid meeting on **June 3** hosted by Plymouth-Trinity United Church in Sherbrooke. The June meeting will focus on:
 - Nominations (see invitation from Nominations leadership team below)
 - Continued exploration and development of a strategic plan for the regional council
 - Highlighting the Mohawk translation of the Bible
 - Discussion of the Remit concerning the autonomy of the Indigenous church
 - Celebration of ministry highlighting the ordination of Aaron Miechkota and Cynthia Reynolds, as well as recognizing retirees, milestone anniversaries...
- **2023 FALL MEETING:** **November 24-25** (online)

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/>

STAFF UPDATES

Welcome to new archivist, Sara DeMelo-Zare!

The Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council is pleased to welcome Sara DeMelo-Zare as our new archivist! Sara comes to us with experience as an archivist at the Jewish Public Library, Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramps Secondary School, Clinia, and the law firm of Goldwater and Dubé. We are happy to have her join our team. We are extremely thankful for the immense work over many years by our retiring archivist, Beverly Anderson-Levine and we wish her well as she continues her work with Mount Royal United Church, and finding some extra time for herself and her family. Sara begins in her new role on April 3rd, 2023. She will be reachable through the email: SDZare@united-church.ca



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



STEWARDSHIP

REMINDER - 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

GRANTING AND ENABLING LEADERSHIP TEAM (GELT)

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

NOTE: A list of recent grant recipients was presented at the recent Regional Council meeting.

Grant application forms and information:

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



Reflection on Sabbatical Leave (by Rev. Read Sherman)

"I'm grateful for the opportunity afforded me by my charge and the Sabbatical Leave Committee to take a three-month sabbatical from my work during the fall and early winter of 2022 (plus an additional month of holiday time - making 4 months total). I took time to rest, be with family, travel to reconnect with friends and family in the USA. The highlight was a two-week pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. I had long known of the Iona Community and its worship resources (especially hymnody), and the chance to go to Iona Abbey in person and join with guests in twice-daily worship from around the world was a dream come true. John Bell was in residence the 2nd week, a very engaging leader in biblical reflection as well as hymn singing. I came away from those two weeks feeling challenged and renewed in my faith life. I also came away inspired by the island's beauty and the Iona Community itself, deciding to become an Associate Member. Two weeks at Iona has given me much to continue to reflect upon (a lifetime's worth, really!) and, God willing, transform into action as my ministry continues."

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 - Online Ministry Support Group

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

Learn more: dhayward@united-church.ca

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 - 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 jmiller@united-church.ca 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>

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

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/>

WARNING RE EMAIL SCAM (shared by a minister in our regional council): "It might be worth telling you that I'm going through an email scam right now. As of yesterday, people in my contacts (including church members) are getting emails impersonating me, asking for people to buy large dollar amount gift cards to help me with work I'm doing with a hospital charity. The emails use the recipients first name in the informal greeting, and use my favourite signing-off word to sign off. They also incorporated part of my usual work email address into their fake address." [Editor's note: when in doubt, please call the sender to confirm!]

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/>

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS

rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com

REMINDER - 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-toward-reconciliation-1.6719781>

FIRST THIRD MINISTRIES

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



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>

FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION EARTH WEEK CELEBRATIONS: APRIL 16-23<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week/>**Resurrect your bike****Live with
respect in
Creation****Evaluations and minor tune-ups
for free**

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> joelleeduc@stegennys.org

Faithful Footprints

Faithful Footprints is inviting past and current program participants to host an in-person Retrofit Tour event. This is an opportunity to celebrate the building upgrades your faith community has achieved thanks to the support of UCCan's one-of-a-kind retrofit grant program, and a chance for others to get a closer look at the renovations.

Sign up to host a tour: <https://bit.ly/2023-FaithfulFootprints-Retrofit-HostSignup>

GreenFaith Montréal

Join us for an online Action Hour (on the theme of Water) on **Wednesday, April 19th at noon.**

Email: Rev. Wendy Evans evanswendy@gmail.com

Why Jesus is history's most overlooked conservationist (excerpt from Broadview article
by Rev. Neil Whitehouse)

...The Greek word for house — oikos — has given us three vital words: ecology (studying the life of the house, if you will), economics (managing the house) and ecumenical (the relationships within the house). The green perspective that biology, money and relationships are related fits easily with our memories of Jesus. He too spoke about oikos. For Jesus, what was true for the temple is true for the planet. Jesus knew he had to confront the scandal of temple life in Jerusalem. Some environmentalists disrupt daily life through sit-ins and blockades; arguably, Jesus would have approved...

Read article: <https://broadview.org/jesus-environmentalism/>

OTHER RESOURCES

Green Churches Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/b21f13f8447a/green-churches-newsletter-6271875>

LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL 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 - 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>

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: www.montrealmission.ca

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Responsable des ministères en français

The Ministries in French Team in the Office of The Moderator and General Secretary of The United Church of Canada is seeking an individual to fill the role of Responsable on a permanent full-time basis.

Closing Date: 2023-04-13

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

REMINDER - JOB OPPORTUNITY - Director of Music starting September 1, 2023

(Lakeshore Trinity United Church, Pointe Claire: 514-697-6459)

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://egliseunie.ca/engagement-et-formation/emplois-et-benevolat/>

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

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



REMINDER - 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



LA TABLE DES MINISTÈRES EN FRANÇAIS

Le Manuel 2023 est maintenant disponible à <https://egliseunie.ca/ressources/vie-en-paroisse/rapports-politiques>.

Des ressources en ligne pour vos célébrations du temps de Pâques : <https://egliseunie.ca/paques-2023/>

Le poste de Responsable des ministères en français est maintenant affiché.

<https://egliseunie.ca/engagement-et-formation/emplois-et-benevolat/emplois/>

RAPPEL - 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 aura lieu au Centre de spiritualité des Ursulines à Québec.

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


Recent newsletters from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/cd4a20c92df7/unquiet_in_the_land
- Église Unie du Canada : <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-20-mars-2023>
- Embracing the Spirit: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1051756>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es230321-1051816>
- Living into Right Relations: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-1051760>
- 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/stock-up-for-baptisms-confirmations-and-more>
- UC Rural Ministry Network: <https://mailchi.mp/ae7d5b85783f/summer-newsletter-from-ucrmn-13542000>
- United in Learning: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/united-in-learning-1051748>



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>



“Love your neighbour as yourself”

You are cordially invited to attend the
44th Christian Commemoration of the Shoah
Sunday April 23, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Mountainside United Church
Birks Heritage Chapel, 3520 University St.
Montreal Qc, H3A 2A7 (☎ McGill or ☎ 24)

A kosher reception will follow
Live streamed at: <https://www.mountainsideunited.ca/work>
Information: <https://www.mountainsideunited.ca/> ☎ (514) 486-1165



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

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

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

Learn more: https://ustpaul.ca/en/new-developments-in-israel-palestine-and-the-role-of-the-churches-7720_17.htm

REMINDER - Hymn Society Annual Conference in Montreal July 16-19, 2023

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

Note from Alydia Smith: 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: May 10, 2023

Send stories: jcoffin@united-church.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 5, 2023

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