



CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
NAKONHA:KA
REGIONAL COUNCIL



2023-06-28
Newsletter / Bulletin

DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

REMINDER - THEME: Pride Month / Indigenous History Month

At our recent regional council meeting, members voted to take some actions (on the following pages) that reflect the principles and objectives of Pride Month and Indigenous History Month, which are celebrated in June. Resources to support deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice in our regional council and local communities are available at the links below. Additional worship resources celebrating these themes can be found here: <https://united-church.ca/worship-resources>

DEEP SPIRITUALITY: REFLECTIONS TO SHARE

REM Reflections (Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Regional Executive Minister)

- **Planning as a Spiritual Practice:** This reflection, offered at Plymouth-Trinity United Church on June 4, 2023, explores planning as a spiritual practice, using scriptures about God's process of Creation as a model.
English: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/06/04/rem-reflections-planning-as-a-spiritual-practice/>
French: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/fr/2023/06/04/reflexions-du-mer-la-planification-comme-pratique-spirituelle/>
- **Bridging the Gap:** Offered at Saint James United Church on June 18, 2023, this message reflects on bridging the gap between a plentiful harvest and a shortage of labourers by connecting the dots: identifying the unique identity of each of our communities of faith and how they can meet real needs in the world around them.
Learn more: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/06/18/rem-reflections-bridging-the-gap/>

Generativity and Hospitality (shared by Royal Orr, with permission of Dr. Jamie Crooks)

On June 18, 2023 one of the lay leaders [at Lennoxville United Church], Dr. Jamie Crooks, led the service and preached on the lectionary passage from Genesis. He's a philosophy professor at Bishop's University and a life long United Church member (a preacher's kid actually). I thought his message on "Generativity" and the necessity of hospitality as our core attitude to the world was very strong and 100% in sync with our growth agenda nationally, regionally, and locally.

Learn more: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/06/23/generativity-reflections-by-dr-jamie-crooks/>

BOLD DISCIPLESHIP / DARING JUSTICE: TAKING ACTION

- **UPDATE - Standing in solidarity against homophobia and transphobia**

The regional council extends sympathies to Lennoxville United Church on the recent vandalism of its Pride flag, and continues to stand in solidarity in the face of fear and hate.

Learn more: <https://www.sherbrooke-record.com/vandalised-pride-flag-soon-to-return-to-lennoxville-united-church>

Julie Graham (Regional Minister: Justice and Communication, Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils) recently shared a template with regional and general council communications staff for a Pride Month/season resource for all ministries, regarding the impact of the greatly increased hate targeting Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people, especially gender-diverse people. The letter/resource invites awareness, preparation, and vigilance, and includes some resourcing on best practices and the rights of communities of faith and other ministries to deny access to the property in extreme situations. Conseil régional Nakhonhaka Regional Council has customized this resource with French translation and will add French resources ASAP.

English: <https://bit.ly/2023-PrideResource-CrNRC> / French: <https://bit.ly/2023-RessourceFierté-CrNRC>

In the meantime, we continue to request that communities of faith in our regional council share the statement approved at our recent regional council gathering with their members, on their social media and web sites and with any local media contacts.

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/06/06/statement-homophobia-and-transphobia-have-no-place-in-our-society/>

- **REMINDER - Vote on Remit 1: Establishing an autonomous national indigenous organization**

The governing board of each pastoral charge has a right and responsibility to vote on this remit, and all votes must be submitted by **March 2024**. If a pastoral charge does not submit a vote, the default will be to count the missing vote as a vote against the remit.

Learn more: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>

REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERINGS

FOLLOW UP - JUNE 2023 MEETING

LAST CALL FOR FEEDBACK: The planning team has already reviewed the evaluation surveys submitted to date, but if you still have important feedback to share, please click on the evaluation survey button on the event page to let us know your thoughts. This survey will close on **Friday, June 29, 2023**.

POST-MEETING RESOURCES

Links to the following post-meeting resources are now available (with more to come) on the event page of the web site: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-june-2023/>



- Decisions
- Updated Governance Handbook
- Statement regarding homophobia and transphobia
- Ohenton Kariwatekwon (Sosan Montour)
- Otsokowatseri – part 1 (Robert Patton and Alma Ransom)
- Otsokowatseri – part 2 (Robert Patton and Alma Ransom)
- Announcements (including time-limited discount code for UCRD)
- Milestones of Communities of Faith
- Video of Celebration of Ministry
- Photo gallery

SAVE THE DATES – 2023 AND 2024

Mark your calendar to join us for upcoming regional council meetings in 2023 and 2024!

- **November 24-25, 2023** (online)
- **March 15-16, 2024** (online)
- **June 8, 2024** (hybrid)

NOMINATIONS

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/nominations/>

REMINDER - New Executive / Mandate for Nominations team to explore alternate models for future Executive

At the recent regional council meeting, members of the regional council voted to approve a motion from the Nominations Leadership Team, presented by Rev. Linda Buchanan, proposing members of the next Executive. They also approved the motion to give a mandate for the Nominations Leadership Team to explore a new model for structuring the Executive in future.

Decisions: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-june-2023/>

Governance and Leadership: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/about-us/governance-leadership/>

VISIONACTION

REMINDER - Table group question from Regional Council Meeting (June 2023)

How can the regional council help your community of faith to strengthen its presence, to invite warmly and build new ministries? *You are invited to send your thoughts to Rev. Helen Hliaras: helenhliaras@hotmail.com*

REMINDER - Welcome

The VisionAction Leadership Team is pleased to welcome Lisa Byer-de Wever as a new member of the team; two places are still open if you would like to join us! *Contact Rev. Helen Hliaras: helenhliaras@hotmail.com*

REMINDER - Annual Reports from Pastoral Charges/Communities of Faith

As part of its research process, a few members of the VisionAction team are reading past annual reports of communities of faith and pastoral charges to see what strategic strengths and abundance already exist within our regional council in each of the categories of the fish diagram. [IMPORTANT NOTE: There is no expectation that every community of faith or pastoral charge will be strong in every category: this process is simply an attempt to have a better picture of who we are and where our passions lie!]

Unfortunately, some of our communities of faith and pastoral charges have not submitted their annual reports for the past few years, so **if you haven't already done so, please send any recent annual reports (2018 onwards) to Brian Ruse at bruse@united-church.ca**. If your community of faith does not currently produce any annual reports, please at least send along minutes of your annual congregational meeting and/or financial statements, just to give us some idea where your energies are directed! Thanks.

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS

rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com

REMINDER - Table group questions from Regional Council Meeting (June 2023)

1. What are the challenges to our identity as the United Church, and to our self-understanding as people of faith, when we are asked to surrender control over the Indigenous part of the church, and embody the Apologies of the United Church by honouring the long-held desires of Indigenous Christians?
2. What are the opportunities for learning and growth for non-indigenous Christians as we respond to the invitation of Indigenous siblings to co-create a new relationship that is based, not on internalized colonial thinking, but, on respect, trust, compassion, and love?
3. How do you see God/Christ/Spirit at work in the desire of the Indigenous church to seek a way forward for themselves in identifying and removing "all the structural barriers to developing and sustaining an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada"? How do you see our role in walking alongside them?

You are invited to send your responses to: rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE

REMINDER - Welcome

The Executive is pleased to officially welcome some new members: Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Bailey Eastwood, Quan (Erika Leung) Liang, Rev. Jan Jorgensen, Lisa Byer-de Wever and Rev. Read Sherman; as well as some familiar members in new roles: Rev. Pierre Goldberger, Rev. Marie-Claude Manga, Rev. Dr. Christine Marie Gladu and Rev. Linda Buchanan. Thanks to all those who continue to serve the regional council in various capacities. *[Please note the role of President-Elect is still vacant, so please prayerfully consider whether someone you know might be willing to serve in this role!]*

Decisions: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-june-2023/>

Governance and Leadership: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/about-us/governance-leadership/>

Nominations: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/nominations/>

REMINDER - Next Executive meeting will be **September 21, 2023**. Once approved and translated, final minutes of Executive meetings are posted at: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/minutes-and-reports/>

MINISTRY PERSONNEL



[IMAGE: RAINBOW QUILT BY REV. ROSE ANNE VITA]

SAVE THE DATES - 'Healing and Hope' Retreat for clergy women - October 30-November 2, 2023

(Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Road, Paris, Ontario) – shared by Fran Ota

Rev. Tina Conlon from Davenport-Perth Community Ministry, and Shining Waters Regional Council President, will join us for part of the time. United Church Moderator Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will speak on the afternoon of Nov. 1.

We are hoping to ensure there is lots of time for small groups, and relaxation on the lovely grounds of Five Oaks. There are a few single rooms at \$475 for room and meals for the entire time, and \$405 for shared rooms and meals.

This is a first-come basis, maximum of 50 people but we will also keep a waiting list just in case. Contact us at sistersandministers@gmail.com.

A Note of Thanks to LAM from Rev. Hovhannes Siwajian

We want to express our gratitude & appreciation to the LAM churches for your heartfelt farewell gatherings. We also want to thank each & every person- council, leader & member- for your cards, gifts, encouraging words & friendship.

As we wait to receive our passports back, to start our ministry in the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church in Beirut, Lebanon, we are grateful to God, who has enriched our lives with grace, love & mercy. We thank God for the opportunity to have served in the LAM churches.

May God bless every one of us for His glory & for the growth of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, guiding us with His Word & the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Hovhannes & Vera Siwajian

NOTE: The regional council sends our blessings to Hovhannes and Vera as they embark on this new ministry.

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

LAST CALL - 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>

Annual General Meeting of Affirm United/S’affirmer ensemble

Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble are excited to let you know that our Annual General Meeting and conference will be held as a hybrid this year!

The in-person part will be held at **Beaconsfield United Church** in Beaconsfield, QC (just outside of Montreal). The dates of the conference are **July 14-16, 2023**. We encourage you to send a representative (or two!) to join us in person for fellowship, worship, and getting to know one another! We are so excited to see everyone in person.

The registration form (see *link below*) has information about demographics, accommodations (there is a reduced rate block of hotel rooms reserved at DoubleTree Hotel in Pointe Claire under the code: **AFFIRM UNITED** available until June 29), billeting, car pooling, registration costs (\$125 for the whole weekend, \$95 for Saturday), child care, and bursary support. There will be another form for joining virtually coming soon.

Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf62ydkkqjDd4imBkx_2WoH8L-Y8Y_cDLv0r9txzqc0WUSbjQ/viewform

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email M Chorney (she/they), Communications & Marketing Coordinator at communications@ause.ca

FIRST THIRD MINISTRIES

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

REMINDER - United Spirit Camp – FULL!

Please join us in sending your prayers that organizers and campers will experience a Spirit-led and fun-filled adventure!

Other summer day camps being offered by communities of faith in our regional council include:

- **Camp Cosmos** with Montreal City Mission (Montreal and West Island)
<https://www.campcosmos.org/>
- **The Little Camp That Could** at Saint Columba House (Point-Saint-Charles)
<https://saintcolumbahouse.org/program/summer-day-camp/>
- **Vacation Creation Camp** at Cedar Park United Church (Pointe-Claire)
<https://cedarparkunited.org/vacation-creation-camp-2023>
- **Discovery on Adventure Island VBS Day Camp** at Trinity United Church (Montreal)
<https://wp.trinityuc.net/camp/>

Does your community of faith offer a summer day program? Tell us all about it! Email: jcoffin@united-church.ca

GRANTING AND ENABLING LEADERSHIP TEAM (GELT)**REMINDER - Next Regional Council Grant Application Deadline: September 15, 2023**

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

UCW**REMINDER - Letter from National UCW – Spring 2023**

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

CLIMATE JUSTICE**REMINDER - Green Churches Network - Spring 2023 newsletter**

<https://mailchi.mp/5c263c1c7fb0/green-churches-newsletter-6276431>

LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**A Virtual Tour of the Atlantic School of Theology (by Virginia Wallace)**

Ever wonder what it is like at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia? Come along as I take you on a swift-footed guided tour of the campus. (I filmed this for the grade 5 class that I work with).

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbnaSpuLuks>

REMINDER - UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO

Online Courses for Admission Ministers and Others

United Church Studies at Dio will be offering the following courses this fall:

- **United Church Worship - online**
Wednesdays, September 6th-October 4th, and Oct 18th, 2023, 1:30pm-4:30pm
- **United Church Polity - online**
Wednesdays, October 25th-November 29th, 2023, 1:30 to 4:30 pm
- **United Church History and Theology - online**
Wednesdays, January 10th-February 28th, March 13th-April 3rd, 2023, 1:30 to 4:30 pm

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

REMINDER - EMMANUEL COLLEGE - July 25-27, In-person, Alumni Hall, Victoria College

The School of Earth & Soul – Celtic Wisdom 3

Please join us for a three-day retreat on Celtic Wisdom with John Philip Newell and Cami Twilling.

Please visit the Centre's website for bios, fees, registration and schedule:

<https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/#ac-1669>

REMINDER - UNITED IN LEARNING

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/united-in-learning-1052256>

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Development Officer

Saint Columba House is seeking an experienced fundraising professional. Saint Columba House (SCH) has been a community ministry of the United Church of Canada for 107 years. For a more detailed job description, please go to the Charity Village website: <https://charityvillage.com/jobs/development-officercharq%3a9-de-d%3a9veloppement-in-montreal-quebec-ca/>

LAST CALL - Growth Animator – Eastern Ontario and Quebec (Closing date: 2023-06-29)

<https://united-church.ca/opportunities/growth-animator-easter-ontario-and-quebec>

LAST CALL - Director of Field Education (Closing date: 2023-07-02)

The Montreal School of Theology is seeking a Director of Field Education at 75% time for a 4-year term.

<https://united-church.ca/opportunities/director-field-education>

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/>



FOUND ON FACEBOOK

Emmanuel United Church Participates in Moose Hide Campaign

Here we are wearing our Moose Hide pins to show our support against gender-based violence. As Emmanuel United's Community of Faith, we pledge to take a stand against violence towards women and children and all those along the gender continuum. We will strive to have ongoing discussions on how we can help everyone be free of violence and live with nothing but love and respect.

Learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/moosehidecampaign.ca>

REMINDER - QUESTIONS FOR YOUR PASTORAL CHARGE / COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Labyrinths

One of our regional council lay representatives recently asked about communities of faith with indoor or outdoor labyrinths. Let me know if your community of faith is one of those! Email jcoffin@united-church.ca

Two ministries seeking space for rent or for sale

A ministry affiliated with les Assemblées de Pentecôte du Canada is looking for space to rent or buy on the South Shore or the island of Montreal, including office space and room for education.

Please contact Hannah Dumaine: hannahdumaine@gmail.com

A community belonging to the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada is looking for a church (or chapel) to rent. They would prefer to be on the island of Montreal. The need is for all Sundays over the year and approximately 50 more times for the holidays of the liturgical year.

Please contact Adriana Bara: abara@oikoumene.ca

SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN OF GEORGEVILLE ON LAKE MEMPHRÉMAGOG

CREATIVE BIBLE EXPLORATION with Rev. Angelika Piché

Saturday July 8, 1 to 5 pm at Georgeville United Church



Discovering Jesus' healing power by exploring a Bible story through creative arts and movement

Fee: \$ 30; please register **before July 1st** with apiche.pasteure@gmail.com.
Space is limited.

Strawberry Social by the Georgeville United Church

Saturday July 15th, 6 to 8 pm at the community hall in Georgeville

WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE METHODIST TRADITION

of the first settlers in the 19th century

August 6 at 10:30 am at Georgeville United Church

with Rev. Angelika Piché in collaboration with the Georgeville Historic Society

Lunch to follow at the Community Hall



FOLLOW UP - Covenanting Celebration with Kelley Molloy -

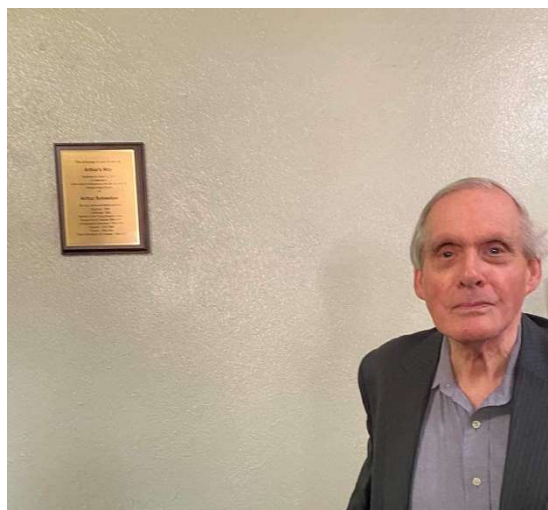
June 18, 2023 (Morin Heights United Church)

Congratulations to Kelley Molloy on her official welcome as full-time student minister, serving Laurentian Area Ministry (LAM) congregations.

MILESTONES

As we move towards the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada in 2025, a number of communities of faith within Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council are celebrating significant milestones and anniversaries of their own. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

110 years - Wesley United Church (Montreal) – shared by Diane Chambers



The congregation of Wesley United Church celebrated its 110th anniversary as well the 98th anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Canada on June 11th. We also unveiled a plaque on the wall of our central entrance hall which acknowledges the dedication of a life long member of our congregation, Arthur C. Schweitzer, who served as our Chair of Trustees for 30 years.

REMINDERS - MILESTONES

225 years - Knowlton United Church (Knowlton)

200 years - Odelltown Church (Lacolle)

Church services will be held at 11 am (followed by a BYO picnic lunch) on **July 30, August 27** and **September 24**

190 years - St. Andrew's United Church (Chateaugay)

150 years - Mansonville United Church (Mansonville)

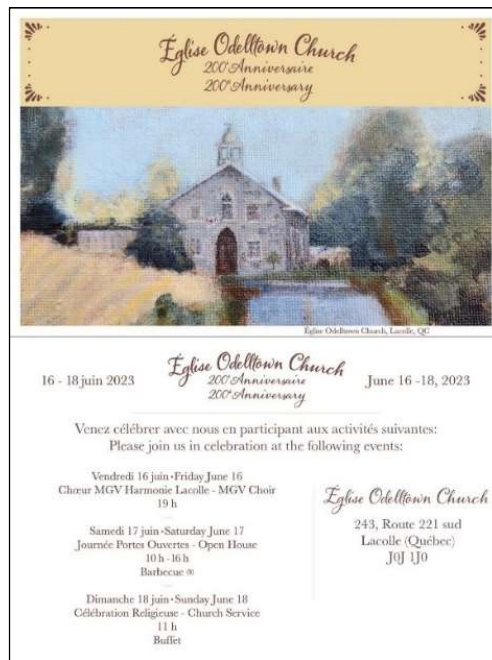
100 years - Valois United Church (Valois)

90 years - Zion-Dundee United Church (Dundee)

3 years - Église Unie Sainte-Claire (online)

Let us know about your significant anniversaries so we can celebrate together! Email jcoffin@united-church.ca

Slideshow of CoF milestones (anniversaries, closures, amalgamations, etc.) from regional council meeting : <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-06-03-PC-CoF-Milestones.pdf>



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS

REMINDER - Responding to Questions about Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous Organization

Since launching the remit about restructuring the Indigenous Church in March 2023, we have received a number of questions about the remit process, as well as about the remit itself. We hope that the video at the link below offers information to help your regional council or pastoral charge's governing body to make a decision on the remit question by **March 31, 2024**.

Learn more: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/news/responding-questions-about-remit-1-establishing-autonomous-indigenous-organization>

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>

LA TABLE DES MINISTÈRES EN FRANÇAIS

RAPPEL - Nouvelles concernant le personnel des Ministères en français

Le Bureau du Conseil général de l'Église Unie du Canada est ravi d'accueillir trois nouveaux membres du personnel au sein de l'équipe des Ministères en français. Bienvenue au pasteur **Emmanuel**

Tehindrazanarivelo, Ph. D., au poste de responsable des Ministères en français; au pasteur **Stéphane**

Vermette, qui contribuera son leadership en matière de communication, à compter du 1^{er} juillet; et à **Hamda**

Waberi, qui assure l'intérim du poste d'adjointe à la programmation pendant le congé parental de Ruth Sandeu.

Pour en savoir plus : <https://egliseunie.ca/nouvelles-concernant-le-personnel-des-ministres-en-francais>

Recent newsletters from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/3b00832359fc/albert-mcleod-vivian-seegers-1815250>
- Église Unie du Canada: <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-29-mai-1052348>
- Embracing the Spirit: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1052372>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es230613-1052368> (Special edition about the Moderator's Flourishing project, including Regional Tours: please note that the tentative timing for the Moderator's visit to Nakonha:ka Regional Council is the week of **September 16, 2024**)
- Living into Right Relations: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-1052012>
- Philanthropy News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/gods-mission-our-gifts-1052356>
- UCC Foundation News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/faithful-steward-webinar-8721631>
- United Church Bookstore: <https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/stock-up-on-your-summer-reads>
- UC Rural Ministry Network: <https://mailchi.mp/cb77121ffa30/may-2023-ucrmn-enews-13551924>
- United Action for Justice: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/uaj-1052244>
- United in Learning: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/united-in-learning-1052256>



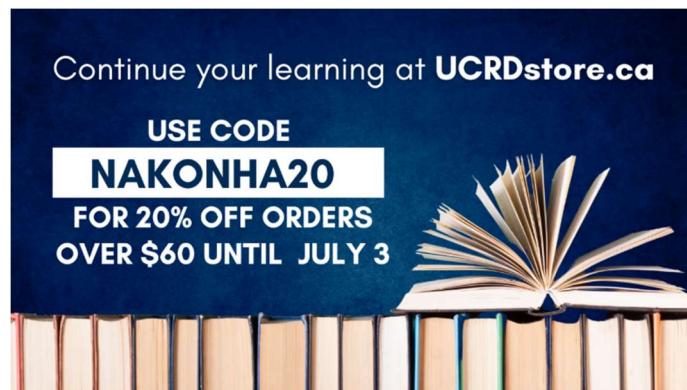
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Abonnez-vous à l'info-lettre de l'Église Unie du Canada : <https://bit.ly/EgliseUnie-infolettre-Subscribe>

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

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

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

LAST CALL: DISCOUNT FROM UCRD



NEXT NEWSLETTER: July 12, 2023

Send stories: jcoffin@united-church.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 7, 2023

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