



DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

DEEP SPIRITUALITY: REFLECTIONS TO SHARE



Reflections from the goldfish pond (by Judy Coffin, Communications)

My stepdaughter is currently living in a big old house on a lovely property on the South Shore. The place is slated for eventual demolition and re-development, but in the meantime, Sarah and her family rent the huge space at a relatively economical price and make the most of all its features. She has a small but diverse flock of chickens near the back door that keep the family supplied with a beautiful variety of eggs in delicate shades of blue, beige and brown. Despite a busy career as a self-employed small business owner, she takes time to start seeds indoors with the kids to teach them the delights of growing things together in the garden. (Since the whole garden will eventually be bulldozed, she has also transplanted some of the perennial plants to our cottage garden.) In the springtime, she boils sap from the maple trees in a homemade boiler on the huge front verandah, sharing precious quantities of maple syrup to sweeten our pancakes. Behind the house is a giant cement pond that she has repaired, repainted and filled with water, aquatic plants and schools of goldfish. After several prototypes, she has constructed her own filter system to keep the water dynamic and fresh. She recently added a lovely arbour beside the pond, only to discover that the local kingfisher saw it as a convenient perch from which to devour the fish... so she devised a net to hang over the pond and protect them.

As with many of our communities of faith who are living fully despite impending uncertainties about the future, I am inspired by visions of living by the goldfish pond: inspired about hope, about adapting to challenges, about sharing gifts that nourish the wider community and about refusing to give in to the paralysis that can strike when we don't know what happens

next. Sarah's creativity and willingness to work towards short-term dreams despite an uncertain future are a gift to her family and her surroundings every day: nourishing bodies and spirits, creating beauty and keeping everything fresh and alive. Let's all be like Sarah!



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

REMINDER - 'Healing and Hope' Retreat for clergy women

October 30-November 2, 2023

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

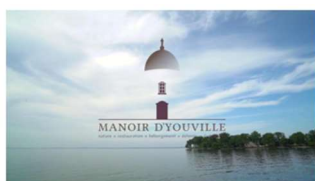
Rev. Tina Conlon from Davenport-Perth Community Ministry, and Shining Waters Regional Council President, will join us for part of the time. United Church Moderator Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will speak on the afternoon of Nov. 1.

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.

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

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



An invitation was sent out this week by email to all ministers, DLM and LLWL. If you didn't receive it, please let us know. The link to register is below:

<https://form.jotform.com/231521198768262>

For more information, contact Dan Hayward: dhayward@united-church.ca or David-Roger Gagnon: DRGagnon@united-church.ca

MUSIC UNITED

New Convenor of Music United for Nakonha:ka Regional Council: Alexandra Fol, DMus, CTh

Music United is a diverse association of people passionate about music in The United Church of Canada, Canada's largest Protestant denomination. Musicians, clergy, laity, worship committee members – all are welcome to join us as we seek to further the cause of music within the church. Our mission statement: *Music United exists to promote, support, and advance music ministries, and those who provide music leadership in every level and community of faith in The United Church of Canada. Music United enables and supports musicians, regardless of their age, race or cultural background, gender identity, ability, and sexual orientation. Music United provides musicians with opportunities to work together, by means of communications activities, special projects, programs, workshops, consultations, and publications, all for the greater glory of God.*

As music director of St James United Church, I am honoured to have recently been confirmed convenor for Nakonha:ka Regional Council, a post that has remained vacant for a while. The Session of St James has been extremely supportive of the music ministry projects and has accepted that the "Music Matters" national conference takes place at St James in the last week of **April 2025**. Until then I hope to organize some other events that allow music ministers from the region to congregate and collaborate. Don't hesitate to contact me at music@stjamesmontreal.ca!

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS CIRCLE

rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com

2023 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering

The Indigenous church gathers on Treaty 6 Territory in Edmonton, AB, from **July 28 - 30**, for the 2023 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering.

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne will give a keynote address on **Friday, July 28**. Other program elements include installation of new members of the National Indigenous Elders Council and the new National Indigenous Council; panel and plenary discussions of the national drug use and suicide crisis, missing children and unmarked burial sites, and the remit removing barriers from the formation of the new Indigenous church; business from the five Circles of the Indigenous church; celebrations of students and those ordained/commissioned in last four years; and memorial to those who have passed on to the Spirit World since 2019.

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-1052400>

United Church Presence at Montreal Pride Parade – August 13, 2023

If your community of faith would like to demonstrate solidarity as a United Church presence at this year's Montreal Pride Parade, you may want to touch base with Trinity-Anjou Pastoral Charge (kids@trinityuc.net) or Cedar Park United Church (cedarparkunited@videotron.ca) who are organizing groups of members to attend.

LAST CALL



Annual General Meeting of Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble

The Affirm United Summer Conference will be held at Beaconsfield United Church from July 14-16 with the theme Standing Against Hate in Radical Love. If you are interested in helping out or inquiring about last-minute registration, please email AUSE2023@beaconsfieldunitedchurch.com.

There will be two worship services as part of the conference that are open to all. On Saturday Evening, a service of lament and on Sunday morning, a service celebrating our commitment to LGBTQ2S+ justice.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

UCCAN – Climate Motivator Youth Program Launches

This summer, 15 youth from across the church will participate in the United Church's first-ever Climate Motivators program. Please watch for their work—they'll be posting on social media using #UCCan and #UCCanClimateMotivators.

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/news/climate-motivator-youth-program-launches>

FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS - Leading climate action and creating community with faith

The *National Observer* recently published an article by Beatrice Ekoko commending The United Church of Canada as a champion of environmental causes, highlighting the Church's climate commitments to reduce its carbon footprint by 80 percent by 2030, with the help of the Faithful Footprints program.

Learn more: <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2023/06/21/opinion/leading-climate-action-and-creating-community-faith>

GREENFAITH MONTRÉAL - Take action on Climate Justice

It's been a challenging start to summer in Quebec and Canada with the wildfire situation. We thought you might be interested in participating in a potentially impactful action from 350.org. They make it very easy to call your MP, and provide a script re taking action on climate change. If you prefer email (or would like to do both!), there's a similar email action sponsored by Ecojustice.

"Canada is Burning" phone campaign from 350.org: <https://350.org/canada/mp-call/>

"Add Your Voice" email campaign from Ecojustice: <https://www.support.ecojustice.ca/page/130412/action/1>

UCW

Keeping in Touch Newsletter from National UCW – June 2023

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

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/>

EXECUTIVE

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/>

LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

REMINDER - 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=EbnSpuLukS>

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 starting this fall:

- **United Church Worship - online**
Wednesdays, September 6th-October 4th, and Oct 18th, 2023, 3:00pm-6:00pm (change of time)
- **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, 2024, 1:30 to 4:30 pm

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

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

LAST CALL - The School of Earth & Soul – Celtic Wisdom 3

July 25-27, In-person, Alumni Hall, Victoria College

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

Learn more: <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

DATE EXTENDED - Growth Animator – Eastern Ontario and Quebec (Closing date: **2023-07-28**)

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

REMINDER - 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/>

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/>



Ste. Genevieve United Church - Closure of ORA Loss & Living Program

It is with sadness that we announce that our ORA Loss & Living Program is closing its doors effective **July 1, 2023**.

We have had many years, various programs, animators and clients participate and we thank everyone for being a part of our ORA Loss & Living Program. A big thank you and blessings to all who made the program work.

Editor's note: As one of the former program coordinators for ORA, I am sad to see this initiative winding down... but at the same time, I am delighted to learn that a popular program that initially came to life under the ORA umbrella, **Cooking for Love and Comfort** (animated by talented and dynamic chef Roma Trottier), will continue to offer opportunities for those experiencing loss to learn new cooking skills, to prepare simple, healthy and economical meals, and to share stories and favourite recipes of loved ones. Four eight-week sessions (with a maximum of eight participants per session) will be offered in 2023-24, some in person and some online. A suggested donation of \$60 per eight-week session is recommended (but please note that cost will not be an obstacle to participation.)

Download poster: <https://bit.ly/2023-RomasKitchen-SGUC>

Contact Donna to register: donna.stegennys@gmail.com or 514-626-4795



Merging Waters United Church – KAIROS Blanket Exercise – September 17, 2023

Come join us on September 17th, 2023 as we explore the Kairos Blanket Exercise as part of our response in worship. As we at Merging Waters begin collectively to navigate our responsibility towards reconciliation on this territory, we recognize it begins with the land and the history of its Peoples. The service will begin at **9 am** and conclude with the end of the exercise around 11:30 followed by a time of fellowship.

Please bring a brown bag lunch so we may feast together.

RSVP by September 12 to office@mergingwaters.ca



LAST CALL - SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN OF GEORGEVILLE ON LAKE MEMPHRÉMAGOG

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

**MUSIQUE
RÉSONANCE
MÉDITATION**

12:00 - 13:00
Église St-James United
463 Ste-Catherine Ouest
Montréal H3B 1B1

17 Mai
14 Juin
5 Juillet
16 Août
13 Septembre

Guided Meditation
Accompanying music from 5 faith traditions
Light Snack

Méditation guidée
Musique d'accompagnement de 5 traditions religieuses
Collation

Faith in Nature at Westmount Park United Church
Free activities

Meet at 4695 boul. De Maisonneuve O.
- activities take place rain or shine, inside if necessary.

More information:
514-937-1146
westmountparkuc@videotron.ca

SUMMER BOUNTY COLLECTIVE KITCHEN
Learn about and cook with a seasonal fruit to make vegan desserts.

July 15, 11am
July 27, 7pm

Suggested donation: \$2-\$5

La foi dans la nature avec l'Église Unie de Westmount Park
Activités gratuites

On se rencontre à 4695 boul. de Maisonneuve O.
- les activités continuent beau temps/mauvais temps, à l'intérieur si nécessaire.

Pour plus d'information :
514-937-1146
westmountparkuc@videotron.ca

CUISINE COLLECTIVE : LA BONTÉ D'ÉTÉ
Entendez parler de et cuisiner avec un fruit saisonnier – nous faisons des desserts véganes.

15 juillet à 11h
27 juillet à 19h

Don suggéré : 2\$ à 5\$

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!

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 (Chateauguy)

150 years - Mansonville United Church (Mansonville)

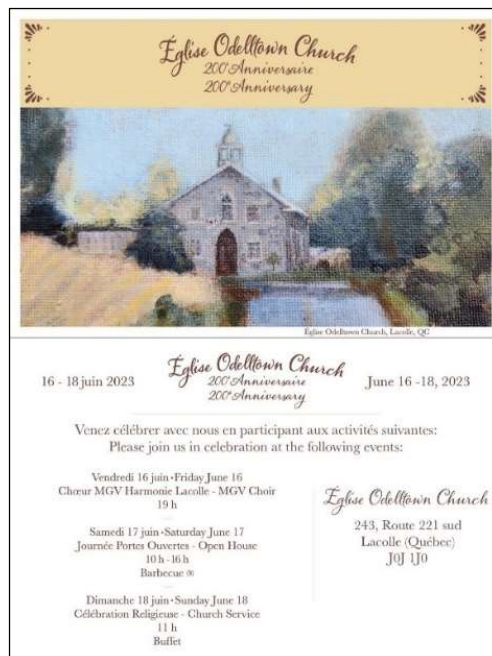
110 years - Wesley United Church (Montreal)

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



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS

Letter in Response to Decision on Safe Third Country Agreement

In a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser, the United Church affirms our solidarity to the collaborative work of advocating for migrant justice and refugee rights with our ecumenical and civil society networks...

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/news/letter-response-decision-safe-third-country-agreement>

REMINDER - 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 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

Report from the new Responsable des Ministères en français

Sounds like Rev. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, the new Responsable des Ministères en français, has had a busy and productive beginning to his work!

Download PDF (in French): <https://bit.ly/2023-06-28-MiF>

Recent newsletters from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/b558199f222c/safe-third-country-agreement>
- Église Unie du Canada: <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-29-mai-1052348>
- Embracing the Spirit: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1052420>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es230613-1052416>

- Living into Right Relations: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-1052400>
- 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/looking-for-summer-reading-recommendations>
- 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

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM - Upcoming Events

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/oikoumene/infolettre-juin-juillet-2023-newsletter-june-july-2023>

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

COME AND SING WITH THE HYMN SOCIETY

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada invites you to come and sing at a public hymn festival on **Tuesday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in downtown Montréal.

This event, "A Celebration of French Language Song," will be led by Michel Guimont, Director of Music at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Ottawa, along with organist Matthew Larkin, who is one of Canada's most in-demand concert performers and liturgical musicians. As The Hymn Society gathers in Montréal, it extends a warm welcome to the local community to come and join in song.

This free public hymn festival is part of The Hymn Society's Annual Conference, "Land, Language, and Liberation," that is being held at McGill University. This year's gathering has a uniquely Canadian focus, including plenary addresses, workshop presentations, and singing events related to the conference theme.

Learn more: www.thehymnsociety.org/event

NEXT NEWSLETTER: August 9, 2023

Send stories: jcoffin@united-church.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 2, 2023

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



SUMMER NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

As always, please submit any news at least five days prior to newsletter publication dates shown below to allow time for layout and translation.

- August 9 (deadline **August 2**)
- August 30 (deadline **August 25**)
- September 13 (deadline **September 8**)
- September 27 (deadline **September 22**)

Submissions received after the deadline may be included in a subsequent newsletter.