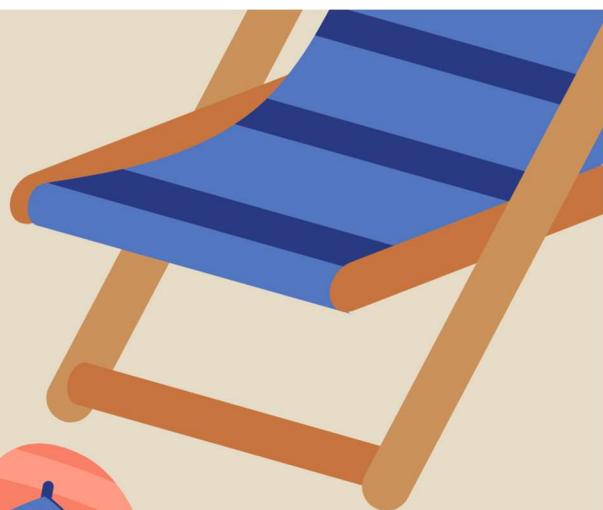




CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
NAKONHA:KA
REGIONAL COUNCIL



2023-08-09
Newsletter / Bulletin

DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

DEEP SPIRITUALITY: REFLECTIONS TO SHARE

A Summer Prayer (Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Regional Executive Minister)

Glorious God of warm breezes and bright sunshine,

Be with us as we rest, play and reconnect with your creation.

Remind us of the love and care you have for us as we care for ourselves and we find ways to connect socially with others.

We are grateful for the time of rest you demonstrated.

May our 'seventh-day' summer be a time that strengthens us and provides us with the creativity and energy to build the world anew, in the likeness of your dream for us.

Amen

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

WIRUC Delving Deeply into the Call and Vision/National Strategic Plan

JULY 2	Cedar Park: Introduction to the Strategic Plan Fish	Onsite + YouTube
JULY 9	Ste. Genny's: Growth - Invite	Onsite + Zoom
JULY 16	BUC Affirm United's AGM: Justice	Onsite + YouTube
JULY 23	Riverside: Common Good	Onsite + Zoom
JULY 30	Valois: Growth - Renew	Onsite + YouTube
AUG 6	Roxboro: Growth - Create	Onsite + Facebook Live
AUG 13	Lakeshore-Trinity: Leadership	Onsite + Zoom
AUG 20	Beaconsfield: Indigenous Pathways	Onsite + Zoom
AUG 27	Summerlea: Climate	Onsite + YouTube
SEPT 3	Merging Waters: Closing/Wrap-up - "Love in Action"	Onsite + Zoom

The West Island Riverside Cluster (WIRUC) of communities of faith is making a coordinated effort to delve deeply into each category of The United Church of Canada's Strategic Plan for 2023-2025 as they worship together at various churches over the summer months.

You can watch the initial worship service (which includes an overview of the strategic plan) through the link in Cedar Park's *Sunday Soul Food* newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/c3b8f2da96f3/sunday-soul-food-july-2-2023>) or visit the cluster website for more information about upcoming services:

<https://www.westislandriversideunited.org/>

BOLD DISCIPLESHIP / DARING JUSTICE: TAKING ACTION



UCCan calls on communities of faith, ministries and individuals to add voices to the call for a search

Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran were murdered in 2022, and their bodies were left in a Winnipeg landfill. Morgan and Mercedes' families and communities have been calling for a search of the landfill ever since, and the province has refused. The federal government will not take action alone.

Landfill searches for non-Indigenous murder victims have been successfully undertaken in the past, yet Manitoba remains unwilling to act in this case. This is an act of racism, and demonstrates a lack of humanity. It has emboldened others to commit racist acts against those calling for the basic dignity that has been afforded to others to be shown for Morgan and Mercedes.

The United Church of Canada believes that the inherent dignity of every human being must be respected. In life, and

now in death, Morgan, Mercedes, and thousands of other missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people have been denied the dignity and respect that they deserve...

We call on the government to bring Morgan and Mercedes home to their loved ones...

Communities of faith, ministries, and individuals across the country are invited to share this message and add their own voices to the call for a search. As you do so, please be aware of the trauma that these recent events continue to bring up for those who have been most closely affected. Visit The United Church of Canada Facebook page and Instagram channel for social media, banner images, and profile graphics you can share to amplify this call for justice. **#SearchTheLandfill #NoMoreMMIWG2S**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchCda>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unitedchurchcanada/>

SAVE THE DATE! REGIONAL COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT REMIT 1

An online information session about the Remit will be offered on **October 4, 2023** for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council (CrNRC), Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) and East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC). While this session may be most helpful to those in pastoral charges whose governing boards have not yet submitted their votes, all are very welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85372530647?pwd=bUh2aE5ldVA4WFFYckVZRTJSVXpJQT09>

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 31, 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



REMINDER - Mohawk Bibles in every community of faith?

The complete Mohawk translation of the Bible (made possible by the faithful perseverance of Satewas Gabriel of Kanesatake United Church over many years) will soon be available and offers a deep resonance as a tangible symbol of reconciliation for all of our communities of faith and missions who live and work on traditional Mohawk lands. Regional Council staff are willing to organize a bulk purchase, but please let us know ASAP if your community of faith is interested. The retail price is \$45 per Bible (proceeds will be going to language retention programs in collaboration with The UC Foundation and our Indigenous Church).

Please indicate your interest: jcoffin@united-church.ca

REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERINGS

SAVE THE DATES – 2023 AND 2024

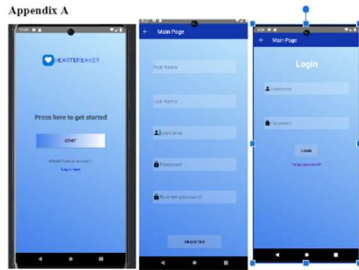
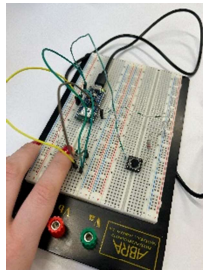
Mark your calendar to join us for upcoming regional council meetings in 2023 and 2024!

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

BURSARIES

Thank-You Letters from Bursary Recipients Demonstrate Real Life Impact

Sometimes, as members of a regional council, we might wonder how much difference our contributions actually make in the real world, but these thank-you letters from recent bursary recipients paint a picture of learning and engagement that shed a different light. We hope the following excerpts (shared with permission) brighten your day, too!



"I would like to say thank you a million times for the financial aid you've given me through the years but especially this year as the cost of living is rising. This bursary will go very far to help me pay my tuition and books... The project class I am currently taking requires us to build an android app that communicates with a physical device we code and build to do something; my team chose to create a health monitoring app that uses a sensor to track someone's heart rate, temperature and hopefully oxygen level. I can't wait to continue my studies

to learn more practical skills and hopefully work with renewable energy someday, I really can't thank you enough for the financial help that lets me continue to work and focus so hard on my studies."

– Holly-Andrea, Electrical Engineering student

"I wish to thank you so very much for your financial support...As a husband, father of 5, full time teacher, as well as full time student, there are challenges which at times make it difficult to continue towards my goals...My heartfelt mission revolves around providing compassionate support for dying individuals and their grieving families. I am also devoted to creating an all-inclusive online platform that caters to those in the last stages of life, [including spiritual and community-building resources]...Your [compassionate contribution] truly reminds me that God always brings love and light in the form of others..."

– Saul, Master of Divinity student

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/>

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

OBITUARY - Rev. Denis Thornton (1938-2022)

We recently received notification of the death of Rev. Denis Thornton, who died on February 5, 2022 in Winnipeg. According to his obituary, he had "had many occupations, but his real calling was as a minister in the United Church, in which he served congregations from God's Lake Narrows, Manitoba to Greenfield Park, Quebec." Rev. Thornton served at Greenfield Park from 1987 to 2001 and was listed as a retired minister with Montreal Presbytery and Quebec Presbytery from 2001 to 2018. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

Learn more: <https://www.lenecrologue.com/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-capital/non-defini/winnipeg/wojciks-funeral-chapel-and-crematorium/kC8wUc/denis-reginald-thornton/obituaries/>



[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.



REMINDER - Bilingual Ministers' Retreat - September 29 & 30 and October 1, 2023 (at Manoir D'Youville on l'île Bernard in Châteauguay)

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

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

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/>

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS CIRCLE

rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com



FOUND ON FACEBOOK (thanks to Julie Graham)

Congratulations to Robert Patton (front and center), who was one of the candidates called to ministry within the Indigenous church, celebrated in word and blessed in prayer at the recent National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in Edmonton, AB.

From left to right: Donald Harper, Jess Swance, Randy King, Mimi Smienk, Wayne Monague, Carol Manychief, Joyce Johnson, Robert Patton, RW Hoekstra

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/news/2023-national-indigenous-spiritual-gathering-concludes-july-30>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Please see EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES section for information regarding project coordinator position with Respect & Kanoronhkwa'tshera Initiative

MUSIC UNITED

REMINDER - New Convenor of Music United for Nakonha:ka Regional Council: Alexandra Fol

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.

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!

REMINDER - 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.

Event link on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/975916137021113>

CLIMATE JUSTICE

FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS - engaged with 400 communities of faith...so far!

With a public goal of engaging 500 United Church communities of faith by 2025, The United Church of Canada's Faithful Footprints grant program reached 400 engagements earlier this month.

The United Church of Canada has committed the whole church to the aspirational goal of an 80% decrease in carbon emissions by 2030. The Faithful Footprints program will continue to proudly support United Church congregations, camps, and buildings to reduce their carbon footprint as part of the Church's actions to address the climate crisis - offering inspiration, tools, and grants.

Learn more: <https://www.faithfulfootprints.org/>

LEARNING NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO



The Lament of the Land and the Tears of God

A morning-long workshop with Dr. Sylvia Keesmat, distinguished biblical scholar and author of *Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire, Demanding Justice*.

Friday, September 8th, 2023, 9:30am to 12:00pm at the Church of St. Mark and St. Peter (1650 Rue Decelles, St. Laurent).

\$20/person or free for Friends of the College (<https://montrealdio.ca/friends/>)

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-lament-of-the-land-and-the-tears-of-god-tickets-675981818817>

REMINDER - 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/>

REMINDER - UNITED IN LEARNING

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

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Project Coordinator for the Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera Initiative

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO: August 15, 2023

Working remotely, part time, in a temporary coordinator position in partnership with the Living into Right Relations Circle of Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, The United Church of Canada Contract – 32 weeks in duration – negotiable (25\$ per hour for a 10-hour work week – negotiable)

Download job description: <https://bit.ly/2023-08-15-ProjectCoordinator-RKI>

Gestionnaire d'événements/projets pour le forum sur le revenu de base garanti 2024

CLOSING DATE: August 17, 2023

Les principales fonctions du gestionnaire d'événements/projets consistent à mettre en œuvre les décisions de planification, à mettre en place des processus et des systèmes pour peaufiner et suivre différentes tâches, responsabilités et échéances, et à coordonner la logistique liée à la programmation (communications avec les organisateurs, les intervenants et les participants) pour les composantes en personne et en ligne de l'événement.

Download job description (in French): <https://bit.ly/2023-08-17-GestionnaireEvenements-BIG>

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/>



ÉGLISE UNIE SAINTE- ADÈLE

Stéphane Godbout recognized as Sacraments Elder

On **July 16, 2023**, Stéphane Godbout was officially recognized as a Sacraments Elder, and served communion in his home church at Sainte-Adèle in a moving ceremony. [PHOTOS: BEV ESPIN]

The following message of appreciation from Stéphane to LAM (Laurentian Area Ministry) was published in a recent edition of the LAM newsletter:

Thank you to LAM for being present in my life. Thank you for your support throughout my journey, which led to this morning's celebration of recognition as Sacraments Elder for Sainte-Adèle. An extraordinary moment!

It is with humility, pride and a great sense of responsibility that I will exercise this role at Sainte-Adèle, in accordance with United Church policy. Without your love and support, our parish could not fulfill its mission. We will now be able to provide access to the sacraments on a regular basis. A huge thank you for the existence of this support network that is LAM, for the love and support of our Student Minister, Kelley Molloy and Reverend Cathy Hamilton.



MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

REMINDER - 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 Sept.12: office@mergingwaters.ca

STE. GENEVIEVE UNITED CHURCH

Cooking for Love and Comfort (animated by talented and dynamic chef Roma Trottier), offers 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.)

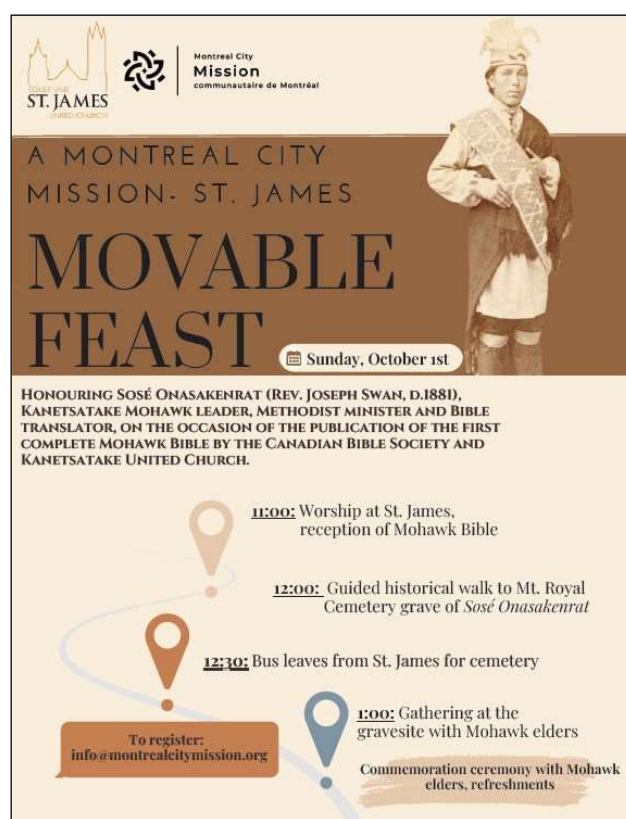
Download poster:

<https://bit.ly/2023-Romaskitchen-SGUC>

Registration (beginning **August 11**)

by email: donna.stegennys@gmail.com

or by phone: 514-626-4795



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NEWS AND EVENTS



The Mod's Book Squad

Get ready for the Mod's Book Squad! Starting **Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. EDT**, join Carmen Lansdowne and guests for one of Canada's biggest book clubs.

NOTE: the book club is not just for church people! It's a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, including some bestsellers, and the guests are sometimes the authors themselves! The topics are big and relevant to the broader audience, and relevant in today's news nationally and globally.

- Video link: <https://youtu.be/HQBx6ho0 qM>
- Webpage: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project/mods-book-squad>
- Registration: <https://churchx.ca/enrol/link2enrol/form.php?id=218>
- UCRD book store collection: <https://ucrdstore.ca/collections/the-mods-book-squad>

New Ecumenical Shared Space

In 2026, the General Council office will move from its current location in the west end of Toronto to a space on Bloor Street United's property, in the city's downtown. Notably, the denomination will sublease some of that space to the Anglican Church of Canada and The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Learn more: <https://broadview.org/united-church-office-space-anglicans-presbyterians/>

Seeds of Hope Grant Applications Now Available!

Application deadline: **October 15, 2023**

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/2023-10-15-SeedsOfHopeGrantsAvailable>

REMINDER - Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous Organization – 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

Lancement officielle de MonCredo

Nous lancerons officiellement le site internet "MonCredo.org" le **19 septembre** prochain à Montréal. Plus de détails seront disponibles bientôt. En attendant, vous pouvez visiter le site et nous offrir vos commentaires et suggestions.

MonCredo : <https://moncredo.org/>

Recent newsletters from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/fb6cd5645751/safe-third-country-agreement-1815342>
- Église Unie du Canada: <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-29-mai-1052496>
- Embracing the Spirit: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/embracing-the-spirit-1052636>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es230808-1052664>
- Living into Right Relations: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/living-into-right-relations-1052568>
- Philanthropy News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/gods-mission-our-gifts-1052508>
- UCC Foundation News: <https://bit.ly/2023-07-UCCFoundation-Newsletter>
- United Church Bookstore: <https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/looking-for-summer-reading-recommendations-1052548>
- 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>



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>

SUMMER NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Please submit news at least five days prior to newsletter publication dates shown below to allow time for layout and translation. Submissions received after the deadline may be included in a subsequent newsletter.

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER: **August 30, 2023**

Send stories: jcoffin@united-church.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **August 25, 2023**

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