

"The work of Christmas is begun" (shared by Judy Coffin (she/her), Communications)

For me, the image above speaks to one of the fundamental elements of the 2024 regional council strategic plan: a desire for renewed relationship building, leading to trust and transformation through our shared adventures. What small (or giant) steps are you willing to take together - in communities of faith, in local communities, with other members of the regional council and with ecumenical partners - to explore our common goals and interests and cultivate fertile ground for the miracle of growth in 2024?

As always, please keep me posted on what is working well for you and where you see room for improvement in our regional council communications. Happy New Year! jcoffin@united-church.ca

DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

Ecumenical Celebration for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 4:00 pm St-George & St-Joseph Church, 17400 boul. Pierrefonds, Pierrefonds, Qc, H9J 3E4 Please share this invitation with your community of faith!

Download posters (E/F): https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/ecumenical-celebration-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/

REM Reflections (by Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly (he/him), Regional Executive Minister)
Like many of you, Rev. Éric was very busy before Christmas, preaching at a number of communities of faith across the regional council. You can read some of his reflections at the links below.

What we can learn from rural ministry (Ayer's Cliff-Magog-Georgeville Pastoral Charge – November 26, 2023) https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/11/26/rem-reflections-what-we-can-learn-from-rural-ministry/

Transforming ministries to meet spiritual needs (Laurentian Area Ministry – December 10, 2023) https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2023/12/10/rem-reflections-transforming-ministries-to-meet-spiritual-needs-bilingue/

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Invite others to bold discipleship

An invitation was sent out in 2023 to everyone on the regional council mailing list to invite participation in the activities and working groups outlined in the strategic plan. **This invitation is open to ALL**, so if there are people in your community of faith or local community who care about justice issues, the environment, youth ministry, communications, aligning the flow of finances to strategic priorities, building relationships, etc., **please invite at least one of them** to share their enthusiasm, experience and energy to transform words into action in 2024.

Share the invitation! https://bit.ly/2023-11-24-Invitation-StrategicActivities-EF

GROWTH - RENEW, CREATE, INVITE



Greetings from new Growth Animator, Rev. Tori Mullin (they/them)

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Tori Mullin as the new Growth Animator serving Nakonha:ka, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and East Central Ontario Regional Councils.

Please click on the link below to read their message of greetings on our web site and to download a PDF version to share with your community of faith.

Learn more: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/12/greetings-from-growth-animator-rev-tori-mullin/



Ministries in French

Rev. Stéphane Vermette (<u>svermette@eqliseunie.ca</u>) joined the French Ministries team on January 2 as Francophone Communications and Development Coordinator. Stéphane will work on the creation of digital documents, **the development of emerging ministries** and the bilingualism of the United Church of Canada.

Latest news from Ministries in French: https://mailchi.mp/eqliseunie/infolettre-9-janvier-1053824

United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN)

The United Church Rural Ministry Network is for all rural and small town folks – lay and ministry – and offers resources, events and a regular newsletter focused on rural issues.

Latest news from UCRMN: https://mailchi.mp/9b5b3df6709b/may-2023-ucrmn-enews-13716048

VALOIS UNITED CHURCH

100th **Anniversary in 2023** (shared by Deborah Dixon)

To celebrate this momentous occasion, Valois United Church held a congregational supper in June, which included a short video presentation of history from those early years up to the present. The video has now been uploaded to YouTube; the link (below) is unlisted but can be shared with anyone who might enjoy watching this bit of history. Watch video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-CHXu-oVeA

MONTREAL CITY MISSION

January 2024 news (shared by Rev. Paula Kline)

Stories from from Montreal City Mission this month include a visit from Rev. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, a thank you luncheon for student interns, a nursing workshop, an art vernissage, a lamentation service and letter about the situation in the Middle East, and a thank you to good neighbours. For full details and photos, please see bilingual post on regional council website: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/15/news-from-montreal-city-mission-january-2024-bilingual/

CAMINO DE EMAUS

Nouvelles des temps des fêtes (partagé par Laura Osorio-Cruz, Bénévole de Camino de Emaus)

Pour les temps des fêtes, Camino de Emaus a fait différentes activités. Nous avons fait un souper de Noël avec le groupe du troisième âge : Camino de Oro. Aussi, nous avons organiser le culte de Noël le 25 Décembre 2023, où il y eu aussi un diner communautaire. Ensuite, il y eu le culte de l'Épiphanie, où nous avons eu un partage avec la communauté et les enfants. De plus nous avons organisé un atelier de peinture pour que les enfants puissent s'amuser en laissant leur créativité peindre. Puis les enfants ont pu partir chez eu avec un petit cadeau de notre part et un bon chocolat chaud. Ci- dessous vous trouverez le document PDF de nos photos. Merci beaucoup et bonne année 2024!

PDF: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/fr/2024/01/16/camino-de-emaus-nouvelles-des-temps-des-fetes-2023/





LAURENTIAN AREA MINISTRY

Advent Service (shared by Rev. Dr. Cathy Hamilton)
Here are a few photos from the Advent service at Laurentian Area Ministry!

See a link to Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly's reflections that day on page 1!

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

November 2023 - Videos now available

Videos of the Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions of the November 2023 Regional Council meeting are now available at https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-meeting-november-2023-online/

Dates for 2024 Regional Council Meetings

- March 15-16, 2024 (online)
- May 25, 2024 (hybrid) location TBD
- November 1-2, 2024 (online)

INVITATION: Strategic communications

An invitation is being sent out this week to communicators, leadership teams and networks to participate in the targeted communication objective of the regional council strategic plan for 2024. If you have ideas to share, media contacts you can recommend or would like to help spread the word, please contact Judy: <code>jcoffin@united-church.ca</code>

JUSTICE

Two Letters, Two Leaders: Responses to Middle East Conflict (from The United Church of Canada)

Across the country, United Church people have engaged in this difficult and complex conflict by writing their MPs, joining in larger organized protests and supporting their community members who have family members caught in the conflict. These efforts are seen, and heard, and have played an important part in pressuring the Canadian government to urge a ceasefire. Learn more: https://united-church.ca/news/two-letters-two-leaders-responses-middle-east-conflict

Report Advocates for Release of Santa Marta 5

On January 11, 2023, five human rights and Water Defenders who played a key role in El Salvador's 2017 historic ban on metals mining were detained in Santa Marta, El Salvador. A year later, they remain detained. Learn more: https://united-church.ca/news/report-advocates-release-santa-marta-5

REMINDER - The Drag & Spirituality Summit

Coming to Toronto next fall, the Drag & Spirituality Summit invites drag artists, spiritual leaders, and community members from around the globe to support the exploration and celebration of the intersections of drag, queerness and spirituality and they are looking for help for the following: to build a planning team, performers, keynotes, workshop facilitators, sponsors, and a large team of volunteers to make this summit a success.

This event was shared with us from King Julez (or Julian), they/them, drag performer, United Church of Canada Ministry Candidate and Master's student at Emmanuel College in Toronto.

Learn more: https://dragandspirituality.com/

Preliminary expression of interest form: https://bit.ly/2024-DragSpirituality-ExpressionOfInterest

Download PDF: https://bit.ly/2024-DragSpirituality-Invitation



CLIMATE

Preparing the Way in the Wilderness: COP28 and Climate Change (excerpted from an article by Lori Neale)

As leaders, negotiators, and delegates return [from COP28] to our national, regional, and community contexts, I wonder:

- What is it that is holding us individually and collectively back from the full-on sprint to the transition that we need? That the earth needs?
- Do we let the vulnerability that this crisis evokes in us unconsciously make
 us dig our heels into the status quo, or can we use this vulnerability to birth a
 new way rooted in justice and interdependence—binding ourselves not to
 old ways, but to God, to creation, to our siblings, and to new ways of being?

Learn more: https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/preparing-way-wilderness-cop28-and-climate-change

OTHER RESOURCES

For the Love of Creation Bilingual Newsletter

Learn more: https://mailchi.mp/75fd7a4d1267/for-the-love-of-creation-update-may22-13554229

Faith & the Common Good Newsletter

Subscribe: https://www.faithcommongood.org/mailing-list

Green Churches Network Newsletter

https://mailchi.mp/5de13909d7ae/green-churches-newsletter-6688491

LEADERSHIP

Communications regarding Designated Lay Ministers

A new FAQ was recently posted about the DLM decision by General Council. Learn more: https://generalcouncil44.ca/news/more-just-acronyms-fags-qc-dlm-decision

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNITED CHURCH

Welcome to Sacrament Elder, Mr. Mardiros Eglenceyan (shared by Rev. Dr. Christine Marie Gladu)
On Sunday, January 7th, the Armenian community celebrated both Christmas and New Year and the first
Communion service by Mr. Mardiros Eglenceyan, who was recently licenced as Sacrament Elder for his
community. As Chair of Pastoral Relations, I was honoured to answer this community's invitation to participate in
their ceremony! What a blessing it is to have someone from this cultural community to be able to celebrate the
sacraments in their language and culture!

Watch the service: https://www.facebook.com/Aecmadmin

SAD NEWS: Mourning the deaths of leaders who have served our regional council

Our sympathies and prayers go out to the family and friends of the following leaders:

- Malekesa Oboo (shared by Rev. Dr. Samuel Dansokho and Shanna Bernier)

 Just before Christmas, Sherbrooke:Plymouth-Trinity United Church shared the news of the untimely death of Malekesa Oboo in Bujumbura and the support needed for his family as they traveled to bring him home.

 A celebration of his life took place earlier this week. Learn more: https://plymouthtrinitychurch.org/pt-news.php
- Bob Tabah (shared by Paul Stanfield)
 Bob was very much involved with Mount Royal United Church right up to the end and will be greatly missed. He also worked on the successful windup of the Griffith-McConnell and the creation of the Good Samaritan Fund.

 Learn more: https://montrealgazette.remembering.ca/obituary/robert-tabah-1089237681
- Rev. Lynda Harrison (shared by Rev. Dan Hayward)
 Lynda served the Waterville-Hatley-North Hatley pastoral charge in 2000-2006 and was an intern at Granby in 1992-1993. Learn more: https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/lynda-harrison-1089226854
- Rev. David Spivey (shared by Karen Ingalls)

 David served as the minister at Emmanuel United Church from 1997-2000. (no obituary available at this time)
- Rev. Gordon Craig (shared by Rev. Jan Jorgensen)
 Gordon served as the minister at Mount Bruno United Church from 1980-1987.

 Learn more: https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/timescolonist/name/gordon-craig-obituary?id=53008935

Our sympathies also go out to Rev. Dr. Samuel Dansokho on the recent death of his father-in-law, Dr José Belo Chipenda, who was a very senior leader in the pan-African Christian church.

Learn more: https://www.steveelkas.com/avisdeces/dr-jose-belo-chipenda/

Executive Meeting Date

Next Executive meeting will be January 18, 2024. Executive members and staff are requested to submit any correspondence, reports or other documents one week in advance. NOTE: Once approved and translated, final minutes of Executive meetings are posted at: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/minutes-and-reports/

Online Ministry Support

The next online gatherings for ministry support will be: February 6, March 5 at 1:30 pm. Contact Rev. Dan Hayward at dhayward@united-church.ca to learn more.

UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO: Winter Open Enrolment Course Offerings



Perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying: Ethical, Pastoral, Theological, and Cultural Medical Assistance in Dying is now part of health care in Canada. This course offers a variety of Christian perspectives on the topic. It will be co-taught by Cory LaBrecque, Erin LeBrun, and Jesse Zink.

Tuesday evenings, January 30th to February 13th, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm
For more information: https://montrealdio.ca/courses/perspectives-on-medical-assistance-in-dying



God's Spokespeople: Introducing the Prophets of the Old Testament

The prophets of the Old Testament offer some of the most compelling passages in all of Hebrew Scriptures. This course is an introduction to these texts.

Thursday evenings, February 15th to March 14th, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm For more information: https://montrealdio.ca/courses/gods-spokespeople



Online Book Launch! Thursday, February 1st, 4:00pm to 5:15pm Partnership as Mission: Essays in Memory of Ellie Johnson

edited by Kenneth Gray and Maylanne Maybee

For many years, Ellie Johnson served as Director of Partnerships for the Anglican Church of Canada. In that role, she helped shape new theologies of mission in the Anglican Communion and renew the church's commitment to right relationship with all, including Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and the environment. The new book *Partnership as Mission* marks Dr. Johnson's accomplishments and charts a new course for mission in a changing church.

Learn more: https://montrealdio.ca/courses/partnership-as-mission/

CCS FRIDAYS

Artificial Intelligence in Pastoral Care: Who cares? - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 pm CT

Join us for an online discussion about how social robots and therapeutic chatbots are already being used in mental health care and the implications this has for the future of pastoral and spiritual care. The question of 'who cares?' forces us to think about the nature of pastoral relationships and the theology of relationship more broadly. Our special guest will be David Lappano, former CCS educator, currently doing MDiv studies in the UK.

CCS Fridays events are free, but please register to receive a link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOmppjMsG9F-0VtBHZquXQBVXPoX5jsm

UNITED IN LEARNING

The latest issue contains news about a new Lenten Study and the 2024 list of workshops and webinars. *Learn more:* https://mailchi.mp/0d5ecb159ce4/united-in-learning-1053896

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

NEW VIDEO - Additional Questions about Remit 1: Creating an Autonomous Indigenous Organization

Members of the non-Indigenous church respond to some of your questions about the remit to establish an

Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada (released on January 8, 2024).

Watch video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPAn50617E0 or on the regional council resource page about the remit, along with other videos about the remit (in English and in French): https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/remit-1-establishing-an-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization/

***** YOUR VOTE MATTERS! 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. *****

Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera News - January 2024

An introduction to the Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera initiative, along with invitations and questions to ponder, can be found at: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/15/respect-kanoronhkwatshera-news-january-2024/

FEATURED EVENT: February 14 at 6pm

Vigil / Memorial March Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Peoples (MMIWG2S+/FFT2EADA) at Cabot Square. Event organized by Iskweu. https://www.facebook.com/events/498934052265336?ref=newsfeed

Video: Mohawk Bible Launch (The United Church of Canada Foundation)

We are thrilled to share this video from the dedication event we attended back in September in Kanesatake, QC to celebrate the publication of Ohiatonhseratokénti: The Holy Bible in Mohawk. This video captures the excitement of the day, showing how important this publication is to Harvey Satewas Gabriel and his family, to our church, to Indigenous and settler Christians across the country, to Kanien'kehá:ka people, and for the preservation of the Mohawk language. Please watch and share it widely! We are blessed to have played a role in helping this important work to publication.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FZFZuSUTdU

Bulk Purchase of Mohawk Bibles

The first wave of Mohawk Bibles are on their way (free of charge) to communities of faith who committed to "honouring the treaty values of Respect, Friendship, and Peace with all Indigenous folk living near and among them" in accordance with a 2023 regional council motion. Complementary copies will also be sent out shortly to the two indigenous communities of faith in our regional council (Kahnawake and Kanesatake), along with other partners and indigenous organizations, as specified by the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle. Individuals who have already submitted their requests to participate in the bulk order should receive their bibles directly from UCRD, followed by an invoice from Brian Ruse with a discount price of \$36 plus tax and shipping (instead of \$45 retail price.) The final bulk order will be sent very soon, so please email <code>icoffin@united-church.ca</code> ASAP if you would like to be added to the list.

COMMON GOOD

The Manual 2024 is now available

NOTE: The French version, Le Manuel 2024, should also be available sometime in January.

Learn more: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/policies/

Online Learning Opportunity: 2024 Grants - February 5, 2024

Brian Ruse, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly and Rev. Barbara Bryce will host a discussion about the granting process (just in time for the next round of grant applications!)

- Grants available from Nakonha:ka Regional Council
- Mission Support grants
- Grants available from the General Council Office of the UCC
- How to apply for a grant procedures, deadlines, etc.
- · Questions and answers

Register to receive Zoom link: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/learning-session-grants/

REMINDER - Next Regional Council Grant Application Deadline: February 15, 2024

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

FOLLOWUP - Online Information Session for Treasurers

In December 2023, Craig McAlpine and Brian Ruse conducted a Zoom information session for Regional Council treasurers and other interested persons to explain the new Regional Council resources available for treasurers. The recording is now available at https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/learning-session-for-treasurers/

Funding for LLWL students based in St. Francis area

The United Church St Francis Cluster Steering Committee shares their renewed commitment for the 2024 financial year (and beyond) to support students taking the recognized Licensed Lay Worship Leader training program (in any language they choose to take the classes). The Steering Committee again offers to pay for both the first and last of the four units in the two-year program for at least one student based in the St Francis area (and possibly more). Contact Eleanor Brown: stfrancisuccluster@amail.com or Charlotte Griffith: Griffith.charlotte@amail.com

Stewardship News and Resources for January 2024: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/stewardship-gifts/

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

A message about GriefRadio from Rev. Ian Smith (retired)

I am excited to announce the soon-to-be-launched "GRIEF RADIO - A Podcast About Grief" in collaboration with my friend, Dr. Vivianne LaRiviere, a resident of Nova Scotia, Canada. We hope you will join us in this GRIEF

RADIO Podcast venture with the mission/goal of offering support to people who are living with grief. You may find it a helpful resource for yourself, for the community, organizations or networks you are involved with.

Learn more: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/15/letter-from-rev-ian-smith-griefradio/

Office Administrator Network - PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

This year Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are working together to collaborate and share resources for training and networking throughout our regions. We are forming the UCC Office Administrator's Network. This has been an invaluable resource!

Our goal is to have an Admin Association for each region, and then come together as a network to work together. One of the ways that we are doing this, is to create a website to share resources. Each region will have their own landing page on that website to share information, meetings, etc.

We are working on a checklist/template for how to create an Admin Association. What we need is people to come together to form those associations and work with us to get the information out to others.

For more information: CWinslow@united-church.ca

A week to get to know each other!

Muslim Awareness Week (MAW) is a yearly week of solidarity and exchange where people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs are invited to learn about the achievements, contributions, aspirations and concerns of Quebecers of Muslim faith. Join us for the fourth edition of MAW starting January 25th through 31st.

Learn more: https://ssm-maw.com/activities/



Amy-Jill Levine: Antisemitism in Biblical Interpretation

Sunday, January 28, 2024 - 4:00 to 5:30 pm (EST)

Presented by the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto /

Supported by the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine will deliver a one-hour lecture, followed by a 30-minutes questionand-answer session. Her talk will focus on interpretations of the New Testament that have historically fuelled anti-Jewish sentiments and hatred.

Registration is free, but mandatory at https://tinyurl.com/ajl-biblical. Donations are welcome at the time of registration (a receipt will be issued).



Beloved Is Where We Begin: An Online Conversation with Author and Artist Jan Richardson You are warmly invited to join us for an amazing online conversation with author and artist Jan Richardson on Saturday, February 17th, 2024 from 9:30 am - 12:00 Pacific Time. This event is co-hosted by Oasis United Church and Naramata Centre, and registration is now open! If you register between now and January 26th, there is a 20% discount.

Learn more: https://naramatacentre.secure.retreat.guru/program/beloved-is-where-we-begin-a-conversation-with-jan-richardson/?lang=en

Recent news from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/broadview/improvingseniorlives
- Église Unie du Canada: https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-9-janvier-1053824
- E-ssentials: https://mailchi.mp/324e6dbfbdea/es230905-1053820
- GC44: https://generalcouncil44.ca/news
- Gifts with Vision: https://mailchi.mp/85a65d419534/qifts-with-vision-is-live-1050972-1052956
- Living into Right Relations: https://mailchi.mp/226da2807311/living-into-right-relations-1053492
- Philanthropy News: https://mailchi.mp/06e4b9f1838b/gods-mission-our-gifts-1053736
- UCC Foundation News: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/good-news-you-can-dec23
- United Church Resource Centre: https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/united-church-bookstore-an-all-new-book-holiday-gifting-ideas-1053804
- UC Rural Ministry Network: https://mailchi.mp/9b5b3df6709b/may-2023-ucrmn-enews-13716048
- United Action for Justice: https://mailchi.mp/united-church/uaj-1052244
- United in Learning: https://mailchi.mp/0d5ecb159ce4/united-in-learning-1053896

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



SHAREABLE ONE-PAGE SUMMARY

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 18 – 9:00 am	Regional Council Executive Meeting	
Feb 5 – 7:00 pm	Learning opportunity: Grants 2024 Registration: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/learning-session-grants/	
Feb 6 – 1:30 pm	Online Ministry Support Circle Contact Rev. Dan Hayward: dhayward@united-church.ca	
Feb 15	LAST CALL to submit Grant applications to <u>bruse@united-church.ca</u> Download form: <u>https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/</u>	
Mar 31	DEADLINE to submit votes on Remit 1 https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/remit-1-establishing-an-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization/	

Other special dates to engage with our communities in Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice:

Jan 18 Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity

https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/week-prayer-christian-unity and

https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/resources-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-

unity-2024

Jan 21 – 4:00 pm Ecumenical Celebration for Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity

https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/ecumenical-celebration-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/

Jan 25 to 31 Muslim Awareness Week

https://ssm-maw.com/activities/

February Black History Month

https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/black-history-month-1



Submission deadline	Publication date
January 26	January 31
February 9	February 14
February 23	February 28
March 8	March 13
March 22	March 27
April 5	April 10
April 19	April 24
May 3	May 8
May 17	May 22
May 31	June 5
June 15	June 19

Submit news/events: <u>icoffin@united-church.ca</u> or https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/community/add