



CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
NAKONHA:KA
REGIONAL COUNCIL



2024-01-31
Newsletter / Bulletin

"Hope is the thing with feathers" (shared by Judy Coffin (she/her), Communications)

[IMAGE: PIXABAY – GDJ]

Emily Dickinson wrote "Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul / And sings the tune without the words / And never stops - at all." An individual feather may be perceived as fragile, but when acting together as part of a dynamic wing design, it gains both the force and the delicate dexterity to propel and navigate forward motion despite strong winds and changing currents. As we head into **Black History Month** tomorrow, we are invited to take steps together beyond our sense of fragility and privilege to a world where all are strong, valued, respected and honoured for the unique gifts they bring. As we continue to encourage pastoral charges to submit their votes for **Remit 1**, we are invited to persevere in moving beyond apathy and despair to acts of faith and steadfast hope, remembering that what we do matters, and that it has the power to change the world for the better.

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. jcoffin@united-church.ca

DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

GET OUT THE VOTE

REMIT 1



CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
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BOLD DISCIPLESHIP – GET OUT THE VOTE (REMIT 1)

Over the past months, a tireless team of volunteers has been reaching out to pastoral charges, encouraging them to vote on *Remit 1: Creating an Autonomous Indigenous Organization* and to submit those votes to General Council to be counted. This remit is an important step towards reconciliation with indigenous ministries, respecting their wish to travel forward together in two separate but equal canoes.

The deadline is approaching quickly, and we know you've had a lot of questions about the impact if the remit is passed. A new video ([see link below](#)) answers more questions; and don't forget to check out the FAQs and the main remit page for more information.

To date, only 42.8% of Nakonha:ka pastoral charges have voted.

The deadline to vote is **March 31, 2024**.

New video: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/news/answering-your-questions-about-remit-1-video>

FAQs: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/news/faqs-about-remit-1-creating-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>

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

Response form: https://generalcouncil44.ca/sites/default/files/2023-03/qc44-remit-1-response-form_pastoral-charges.pdf

DARING JUSTICE – CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



UNION UNITED CHURCH MONTREAL

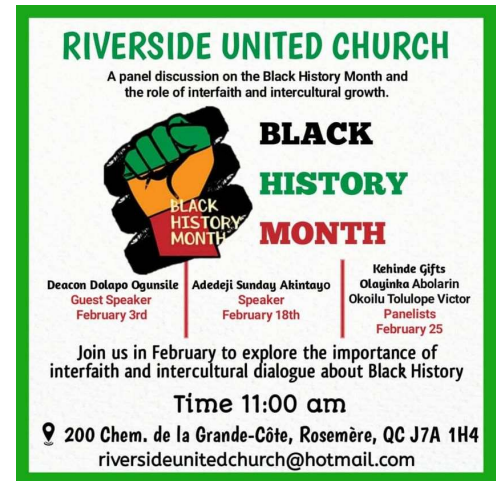
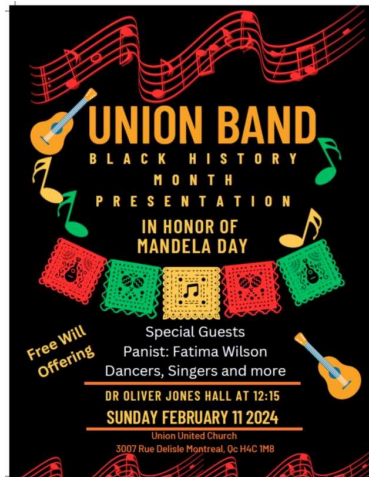
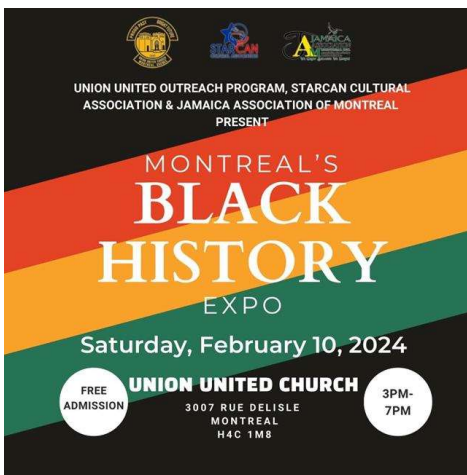
DID YOU KNOW? In addition to a long and rich history since its inception in 1907, Union United Church Montreal continues to offer vibrant outreach, gospel, jazz and social activism in the Montreal community, including the creation of a perpetual scholarship in the name of Nelson Mandela to ensure that his legacy lives on in Montreal, Quebec, awarded annually on Quebec's official Nelson Mandela Day (**February 11**).

Learn more: <https://www.unionunitedchurchmtl.ca/index.htm>

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

Here are just a few events during Black History Month offered by communities of faith in our regional council, as found on Facebook. Do you have an event to share? Please upload to our community calendar at

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



L'Église Unie du Canada also has a number of events planned to celebrate Black History Month.

Mois de l'histoire des Afro-descendants (in French)

- **CE SOIR 31 janvier** : Séance de prière avec le pasteur Roosevelt Papouloute
- **1 février** : Culte d'ouverture avec la pasteure Darla Sloan
- **8 février** : L'impact de la jeunesse africaine sur la société canadienne
- **15 février** : Contribution africaine dans la vie religieuse au Canada
- **22 février** : Activités culturelles: Documentaires et débats
- **25 février** : Culte de clôture à Montréal de 11h à 14h. (Cet événement ne sera pas diffusé sur Zoom.)

Sauf avis du contraire, toutes les activités débutent à **19h**. Le lien Zoom est toujours le même:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/85866393253>

Pour en savoir plus : <https://egliseunie.ca/category/mois-histoire-personnes-ascendance-africaine/>



WORSHIP RESOURCES: Jesus in the Village

In this new video and liturgy for Black History Month 2024, Pastor Charmaine Bailey reflects on how we are called, like Jesus, to go to nearby villages, to spread the message of hope, and to work toward a world where all God's children are treated with dignity, respect, and equality. We invite you to use both the video and the liturgy in your worship services during Black History Month in February. Video: <https://youtu.be/Nwk0F-DzJLs>

Additional worship resources for Black History Month are available on The United Church of Canada web site:

<https://united-church.ca/worship-resources>



REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

CALL FOR ANNUAL REPORTS (from Leadership Teams and Networks)

Leadership teams and networks are invited to submit their annual reports to Joel Miller (jmiller@united-church.ca) by **February 20** at the latest (to allow time for translation). Reports should be no longer than a page and a half in length (Times Roman, font size 12, single spaced). Content should include what has taken place in 2023, and what members of the regional council can look forward to in the coming year (2024). If desired, reports may refer to elements of the national and/or regional council strategic plans (links below).

- United Church of Canada Call and Vision: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-vision>
- Conseil régional Nakonha :ka Regional Council Strategic Plan : <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022-11-24-25-StrategicPlan-E2.pdf>

Dates for 2024 Regional Council Meetings

- **March 15-16, 2024** (online)
- **May 24-25, 2024** (hybrid) – location TBD
- **November 1-2, 2024** (online)

RÉSERVEZ LA DATE - L'assemblée générale annuelle de la Table des Ministères en français (in French) samedi 24 février 2024

Le lieu et l'horaire seront annoncés bientôt. Pour cette occasion, nous nous rencontrerons en format hybride (en personne et par Zoom). Un repas sur l'heure du midi sera offert pour les personnes présentes sur place. Si vous planifiez être présent, veuillez contacter Stéphane à svermette@egliseunie.ca pour nous permettre d'avoir suffisamment de nourriture.

Lien Zoom: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/84094766714>

United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN)

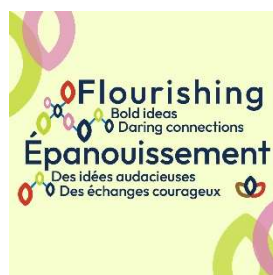
The United Church Rural Ministry Network is for all rural and small town folks – lay and ministry – and offers resources, events and a regular newsletter focused on rural issues. Monthly online meetings are listed below:

- **TODAY, January 31, 1-2 pm ET** – Meet Growth Animators, Listening to the Rural Church
- Wednesday, **February 28, 1-2 pm ET** – Deep Spirituality
- Wednesday, **March 27, 1-2 pm ET** – Daring Justice
- Wednesday, **April 24, 1-2 pm ET** – Bold Discipleship
- Wednesday, **May 29, 1-2 pm ET** – The United Church of Canada Vision – Connected but Evolving Church

Zoom: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/86575297565?pwd=SeqbPmr0rKo8UuNwrGSa6fCYz38OAD.1>

Learn more about 2024 Rural Ministry Town Halls: <https://united-church.ca/events/rural-ministry-town-halls-spring-2024>

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



SAVE THE DATE

Flourishing with the Moderator (Montreal) - bilingual

September 21, 2024 (at Cedar Park United Church, 204 Lakeview Ave., Pointe-Claire)

General information: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project>

MONTREAL CITY MISSION

News from Montreal City Mission – January 31, 2024

This week's highlights from Montreal City Mission include the 20th anniversary of Just Solutions legal clinic, a big birthday for elder-in-residence, Robert Verrail, and a celebration of Robbie Burns Night.

Learn more: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/29/news-from-montreal-city-mission-2024-01-31/>

SHERBROOKE: PLYMOUTH TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Photos/Video from Celebration of Life Services

Sherbrooke: Plymouth-Trinity United Church has already experienced a string of losses in 2024. Here are links to images/video from the services for Malekesa Oboo (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Nakohaka>) and Rev Dr José Belo Chipenda: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOBNOYfq3SM&ab_channel=TheUnitedChurchofCanada

JUSTICE

El Salvador Irrigation Project (East Central Ontario Regional Council)

On March 7, 22 people from East Central Ontario Regional Council (teens and adults) will join together for a pilgrimage and mission awareness trip to El Salvador. We have been doing these awareness visits for more than a decade and many have described this event as 'life changing'. This year, the goal is to help fund some irrigation systems. El Salvador is a dry tropical forest and irrigation is an important way to make the growth of crops possible. If you're interested in donating, you can donate through CanadaHelps using the link below (put a note in the comment field about the irrigation system; the page is set up for El Salvador.) On behalf of the Leadership Team, we thank you.

Donate through CanadaHelps: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/East_Central_Ontario_Regional_Council_of-the-united-church-of-canada-char/

REMINDER - The Drag & Spirituality Summit

Learn more: <https://dragandspirituality.com/>

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

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

BOOK STUDY

WINTER 2024

All are welcome to join a guided discussion of one section of the book per week...

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS
Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Five consecutive Mondays:
January 15
January 22
January 29
February 5
February 12

7:00-8:15 pm EST on Zoom

Please join us! ➡➡➡

greenfaith Montréal

Register / learn more: greenfaithmontreal@gmail.com

CLIMATE

Lenten Study: Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis Every Tuesday, from February 20–March 26 2024 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Grief, anxiety, hope, love, pain, despair, awe – many emotions are used to describe our relationship with all of Creation. What is your persona, physical, and spiritual relationship with God's Creation? How does this relationship affect how you follow Christ? This Lenten devotional invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis.

Learn more: <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=131>

Purchase book: <https://ucrdstore.ca/products/act-fast-spiritual-practices-for-a-climate-in-crisis>

The Gospel of Jesus Green (by Rev. Neil Whitehouse)

The Gospel of Jesus Green is the first Green Christian book to take the passion of the Jesus story to the present day. If you have no Jesus book on your bookshelf, get this one: it has respect for nature, and for you. It explains why Jesus calls for change, for non-Christians and the Green curious. Like the first Jesus, Jesus Green provokes new thinking and self-awareness. It is a gospel about unprecedented, multilevel change for our systems and lifestyles. Sometimes cheeky,

sometimes poetic, this unique reading of Jesus is a catalyst to make *Home for All, Not Just for Humans*.

Learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555558676244>

OTHER RESOURCES

For the Love of Creation Bilingual Newsletter – January 26, 2024

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/cf2c6b0df33f/for-the-love-of-creation-update-may22-13556709>

Faith & the Common Good Newsletter: Subscribe: https://www.faithcommongood.org/mailling_list

Green Churches Network Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/5de13909d7ae/green-churches-newsletter-6688491>

LEADERSHIP



AVIS DE DÉCÈS : Catherine Fortin

C'est avec tristesse que nous vous annonçons le décès de Catherine Fortin survenu le samedi 27 janvier 2024 à l'Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus à Québec. Catherine était la fille du pasteur Denis Fortin, de Madame Martine D'Amour et de la pasteure Darla Sloan. La date de ses funérailles reste à déterminer.

Catherine était connue de beaucoup de monde. Elle aimait beaucoup l'Église... tout comme la communauté de l'Arche de la Capitale-Nationale.

On behalf of the regional council, we send out our deepest sympathies to Denis, Darla and all of Catherine's family and friends.

SAD NEWS: Rev. Martha Mundy

We were saddened to hear of the death of Rev. Martha Mundy, Anglican priest and wife of Rev. John Matheson. Martha died at Anna Laberge hospital December 31, 2023, and was buried from Cardinal Funeral home on January 13, 2024 at a service conducted by The Rev. Douglas Throop. We extend our deepest sympathies to John and to all of Martha's family and friends. <https://jicardinal.ca/rev-marsha-mundy/>



NEW – Attention Candidates and Applicants

Join Caroline Penhale, Vocational Minister for Quebec and East Ontario for an hour of conversation and connection the second Tuesday of every month. Come and share your Candidacy Pathway journey with others who are walking a similar road.

Starting **Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm ET**

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/87692462278>

Please note that this program will also be offered in French on the second Tuesday of each month at noon. See the French version of the newsletter for more information and the Zoom link.



SAVE THE DATES

Youth Forum - March 22-24, 2024

Learn more:

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

Audacious Hope – July 3-6, 2024

Learn more:

<https://united-church.ca/events/audacious-hope-2024>

Online Ministry Support Circle

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.

Reminder to Pastoral Charge Supervisors

Please remember that one of your supervision duties is "reporting to the regional council on the state of the pastoral charge." Please submit your report on 2023 activities after the pastoral charge you supervise holds its annual meetings in the next few months.

English form: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/policies/>

French form: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/fr/ressources/politiques/>

Please send completed forms to Rev. Dan Hayward: dhayward@united-church.ca.

Maternity and Parental Leave for Ministry Personnel

The United Church of Canada will reimburse communities of faith for the top-up amounts paid to ministry personnel during maternity and parental leaves. Pastoral charges who had a minister on one of these leaves in 2023 will already have been contacted by the church's Benefits Centre. Going forward, if your minister will be taking one of these leaves, please contact Rev. Dan Hayward at dhayward@united-church.ca to discuss how to apply for this reimbursement.

SUMMARY - Regional Council Executive – January 2024

The meeting (on January 18, 2024) received recommendations from the Pastoral Relations Team (appointments and a call); received recommendations from the Property & Finance leadership Team (a policy on delegation of all property and finance matters to its Finance & Extension Board (F&E), and a proposed agreement of amalgamation between Summerlea United Church and SouthWest United Church); received recommendations from the Regional Council's Strategic Plan Development Team (terms of reference for the Nakonha:ka Regional Council Strategic Fund); considered a research proposal submitted by Callosum; received reporting on voting within the Regional Council on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization; considered the creation of a database of all cemeteries within the Bounds of the Regional Council; discussed GS 63 Recommendations on The Use of The Word "Mission" Origin: General Secretary; discussed the possibility of a Regional Council privacy policy in relation to Quebec Law 25; and received reports from La Table, the Minister Supporting Clusters & Networks, the Living Into Right Relations Leadership Circle, Communications, the General Meeting Planning Leadership Team, and the First Thirds Ministry Leadership Team. A motion was passed to express gratitude to the members of the former Property and Finance Leadership Team, (now absorbed into the Finance & Extension Board) for their dedication and service.

Next Executive meeting will be **February 15, 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/>

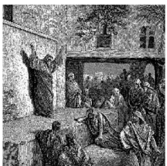
UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO: Open Enrolment Course Offerings



French for Ministry Intensive - May 6-10, 2024

The French for Ministry Intensive is designed for clergy, lay leaders, and spiritual care professionals looking to improve their ability to work in French. Activities include: learning church and ministry-specific vocabulary, writing prayers and theological reflections, and role-playing pastoral care situations. Participants may take this course as part of the Certificate in Bilingual Ministry or as a stand-alone continuing education course.

For more information about the course and how to register: <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/french-for-ministry/>



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>

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Two-Day Workshop with Heather Morgan: Values-Based Integration Process (VBIP)



February 21-22, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. daily

VBIP is a unique, embodied approach to coaching neurodivergent and trauma-affected individuals towards living in a more holistic, grounded understanding of themselves and their potential for agency, autonomy and active participation in their daily lives. This workshop is for spiritual care providers or mental health workers (coach, therapist or social worker) who work with adults on the Autism Spectrum.

Learn more / register: <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses>

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

Dedication resources for Mohawk Bibles

Many Mohawk Bibles have already been delivered to individuals and communities of faith, with more on their way. The Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle is gathering some resources and ideas to help communities of faith dedicate their copies of the Mohawk Bible with respect and gratitude. More details coming soon.

Respect & Kanoronhkwa'tshera News (by Avi Abrams)

The latest edition reflects on the importance of education, highlights a recent historic milestone, and more:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/26/respect-kanoronhkwa'tshera-news-january-31-2024/>

REMINDER - 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>

NOTE: Reminder re Get Out the Vote for Remit 1 on page 1

COMMON GOOD

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

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

LAST CALL - 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!)

Please register in advance to receive Zoom link: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/learning-session-grants/>

Grants and Scholarships Now Available! (The United Church of Canada Foundation)

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/sohspring24>

OTHER RESOURCES

The new T3010 Annual Information Return is here: What charities need to know (shared by Fred Braman)

<https://www.millerthomson.com/en/insights/social-impact-newsletter/new-t3010-annual-information-return-charities/>

Important information about manses and UHT reporting (shared by Erik Mathiesen)

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/01/29/important-information-about-manses-and-uht-reporting>

Additional information now available on Regional Council Web Site

- Sabbatical leave 2025: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/sabbatical-leave/>
- Bursaries 2024: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/bursaries/>
- The Manual 2024: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/policies/>
- Stewardship Resources - January 2024: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/stewardship-gifts/>

Recent news from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/broadview/okaytofail>
- Église Unie du Canada: <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-23-janvier-1053912>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/f5eb96ae1c9f/es230905-1053944>
- GC44: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/news>
- Gifts with Vision: <https://mailchi.mp/85a65d419534/gifts-with-vision-is-live-1050972-1052956>
- Living into Right Relations: <https://mailchi.mp/652f1242b361/living-into-right-relations-1053948>
- Philanthropy News: <https://mailchi.mp/e450bba1f87f/gods-mission-our-gifts-1053916>
- UCC Foundation News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/good-news-you-can-jan24>
- UCRD: <https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/united-church-bookstore-an-all-new-book-holiday-gifting-ideas-1053924>
- 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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SHAREABLE ONE-PAGE SUMMARY

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 5 – 7:00 pm	LAST CALL 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 13 – noon	Parlons ensemble (conversation mensuelle en ligne pour les candidats et les candidates) Zoom: https://united-church.zoom.us/j/84113795598
Feb 13 – 7:00 pm	Candidates Connect (monthly online conversation for ministry candidates / applicants) Zoom: https://united-church.zoom.us/j/87692462278
Feb 15	LAST CALL to submit grant applications to bruse@united-church.ca Download form: https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/
Feb 15 – 9:00 am	Regional Council Executive Meeting
Feb 20	DEADLINE to submit reports for Regional Council Annual Report book
Mar 15-16	Regional Council Meeting (online)
Mar 22-24	Youth Forum (Mount Bruno United Church) https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/youth-forum-march-2024/
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:

February

Black History Month

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



NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE (2024)

Submission deadline	Publication date
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:
jcoffin@united-church.ca or
<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/community/add>

