



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS REGIONAL COUNCIL

NEWS THIS WEEK

Friday May 24, 2019

EDITOR'S NOTE

As we approach the EOORC Inaugural Meeting, I hope you will to read the announcements below, which will help prepare for your attendance. The planning committee has been working seemingly around the clock to make this event an exciting and productive time for all, and there are some things you can do to help ensure your personal experience is as fulfilling as it can be.

On p. 2, please have a look at the story about the Multifaith Housing Initiative of which the EOORC is an active member. It's heartening to read about how people of different faith groups can come together for an important cause.

As always, I am happy to hear your feedback about the newsletter, the website or any other communications in the EOORC. Thanks, and have a great week!

Anita Jansman ajansman@united-church.ca

EOORC INAUGURAL MEETING UPDATES



WE WANT YOUR DIRT! *by Don Stiles*

For the Covenanting Service at Smiths Falls on Friday morning, we ask that you bring a small (eg. pill bottle size) amount of soil from your community of faith to blend with others during the liturgy of covenant. We celebrate the land in which we are rooted and out of which we grow!

WEAR YOUR VESTMENTS! *by Blair Paterson*

We are hoping to start a new tradition with our Celebration of Ministry Service on June 9th at Trinity United Church in Smiths Falls. You are invited to vest in your liturgical robes and stoles for the service. Understandably, it may be warm, given it's a June Sunday, so if you choose not to wear an alb or another gown, please consider wearing a stole. As it is the Day of Pentecost - a red stole would be most appropriate - however, any stole would be welcome.

DISPLAY YOUR CHURCH BANNER AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING

Churches are invited to bring their banners for display from the 'glass' rink-side at the Memorial Centre in Smiths Falls. If you want to display yours, please provide hangers and make sure someone from your church is responsible for putting them up Thursday night or Friday morning, and removing by Saturday evening. First come, first served. Contact Norma Wrightly nwrightly@gmail.com for more information.

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INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE EVENT

Please bring your own

- Lug-a-mug
- water bottle (we will not be providing bottled water; tap water is available)
- chair cushion, if required.

The EOORC Inaugural Meeting is a **scent-free** and **nut-free** zone.

Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls is hosting a **Family Film Night** on Friday evening. This includes a light meal at 5:00 p.m. Doors open about 4:30. Please RSVP by Monday, June 3rd if you wish to attend: 613-283-4444

Photographers and videographers will be on hand to record the events of the day. If you do not wish to appear on video or in a photograph, please let a steward know.

Visit the Inaugural Meeting Page on the EOORC website

- Does your Community of Faith need a service and sermon for June 9th while your clergy is attending the Inaugural Meeting?
- Do you want to know about the two minister candidates who will be celebrated at the Celebration of Ministry on June 9th and watch their videos?
- Find all this and more on the EOORC [Inaugural Meeting](#) page.

NEWS FROM THE EOORC

MULTIFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE by Sue Smarkala

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is a not for profit organization in Ottawa that builds and manages affordable housing. It has four housing communities – Kent House, Somerset Gardens, Blake House and The Haven, in operation in Ottawa and a major project to house homeless veterans is underway – Veterans' House. MHI is made up of about 70 faith groups - Christian congregations, synagogues, mosques, temples and a number of other faith group organizations. For many years, it has been an important initiative of the United Church in the Ottawa area and our congregations continue to support fundraising for MHI initiatives. For more information, please browse www.multifaithhousing.ca.

At the May Executive meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, the Executive approved the continued support of the United Church of Canada for Multifaith Housing Initiative in Ottawa. Sue Smarkala was named as the UCC representative on the MHI Board, replacing long serving Phyllis MacRae. If you have any questions or wish further information please contact Sue at sue.smarkala@gmail.com, or call 613-820-4360



A Meaningful Project

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region has taken on a project to support and provide housing for homeless veterans who are living rough in Ottawa. Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is developing Veterans' House, which will house 40 veterans. See www.multifaithhousing.ca for more info.

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Using a supportive 'Housing First' model, Veterans' House specifically targets the needs of the rising number of homeless veterans who are 'living rough' in Ottawa. According to a 2015 survey conducted by the Alliance to End Homelessness, there are about 6,500 homeless individuals in Ottawa, and 8.5% of homeless persons surveyed reported Canadian military service.

- 40-unit home for veterans who are currently homeless
 - Will include programs to help veterans deal with addiction issues and physical/mental health
 - 3 floors of living space, 1 floor of communal space, and outdoor meditative/recreation areas
 - Pilot project – a solution to veterans' homelessness that can be replicated across Canada
- Veterans' House will be located at the former CFB Rockland Airbase, 745 Mikinak Rd

Quilts and Prayer Shawls Project

The United Church's project is **making quilts and prayer shawls** for the veterans to warm them and comfort them when they move into their new homes.

The project was initiated by Bonnie Cloutier-Clark. She is a nurse of 40 years and a quilter of 35 years. She has a family history with men who have served in the military. When she heard of MHI's Veterans' House on the news, she wanted to do something to support these veterans. Now, Bonnie, with some health issues is very grateful for UCC to become involved in this meaningful project.

We are planning that the quilts be brought to EOORC's Regional Meeting next June 2020. The quilts and shawls will be dedicated at that time and then returned to Bonnie for delivery to MHI. For more information, contact Dianne Cardin at dianne.cardin@sympatico.ca or 613-692-6210.

Tulipathon

Support MHI Tulipathon 2019! Join Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) in the fight against homelessness! Their annual charity walk, Tulipathon, is set for Sunday, May 26th at Commissioners Park (across from Dow's Lake). Please visit the [EOORC events](#) page for more information

FROM THE UCC GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

SUSTAINABILITY GATHERING from EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development

We've started a gathering of people from United Churches across Canada who care about (financial and other) sustainability and are willing to share their stories, things they've tried, and hopefully learn from you too.

- Date: June 18, 11:00am – 12:30pm EDT
- [Zoom Conference](#)

We'll be discussing a lot of different topics each month; from volunteer capacity to partnerships to grant writing and new revenue streams! Please [RSVP to Carla](#).



VISIT THE [EVENTS PAGE](#) FOR EVENTS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE EOORC

VISIT THE [CAREERS AND VOLUNTEER PAGE](#) FOR NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EOORC

JOIN THE EOORC [FACEBOOK](#) GROUP AND FOLLOW US ON [TWITTER](#)

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