



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS REGIONAL COUNCIL

NEWS

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

As you have likely heard by now, there are three big events coming up in the EOORC. Please read on to find out about the **EOORC Winter Meeting**, the **Working Well Together** workshop on March 14, and, of course, the **EOORC Annual Meeting** taking place at the NAV Centre in Cornwall on May 1-2, 2020.

I know everyone receives lots of emails, phone calls, chat messages and regular old mail and it easy to feel overwhelmed with the amount of information thrown at us on a daily basis. **But these events are just three good reasons not to immediately send the EOORC newsletter directly to trash or to ignore it.** All of the information included in the newsletter contains time-sensitive information, particularly for registering.

There's also important information about T4 slips as well as some other events that you will find useful. So please read on! Thanks and have a great week!

Anita

THE EOORC WINTER MEETING takes place on Saturday, February 22 at Glen Cairn United Church and on Zoom for those of you who have decided to attend from the comfort of you own home. The agenda is here: <https://eoorc.ca/2020-winter-regional-meeting/> and more information will be posted there as it becomes available. For Zoom attendees, you will receive an email early next week with details about linking into the meeting. Also, there will be a short "test meeting" on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Watch out for the email and if you don't get it, check your spam first and if it's not there, then please email ajansman@united-church.ca.

THE WORKING WELL TOGETHER WORKSHOP on March 14 at Kanata United Church will provide ministers, church leaders and interested church members to build a healthy church life. The guest speakers are renowned in their fields. This is a professional development opportunity that you won't want to miss. More information: <https://eoorc.ca/event/working-well-together-workshop/>

THE EOORC DIRECTORY OF VOTING LAY REPRESENTATIVES AND CLERGY

As annual meetings in your communities of faith are taking place now you will all be electing your Lay Representatives with voting rights for the next year or two. Once you have this information, we are requesting that someone from each community of faith submit the names of the voting lay reps and ministers. It's a very simple form and should only take a few minutes. We will create the directory using this information. You can find the form here: <https://eoorc.ca/lay-representative-and-clergy-directory-2020/>

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2020 EOORC Annual Meeting May 1-2, NAV CENTRE Cornwall, Ontario

Registration is now open for the **2020 EOORC Annual Meeting**. For more information and to register, visit: <https://eoorc.ca/2020-annual-meeting/>



SISTERS TOGETHER: A CLERGY WOMEN'S RETREAT AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Voices of Hope in Challenging Times, Monday April 20 – Friday April 24, 2020. Best Western Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON. More information: <https://eoorc.ca/event/sisters-together-a-clergy-womens-retreat-and-educational-event/>



MUSIC MATTERS 2020

Please see and hear Jason Locke's beautiful invitation to this event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUAXDliCAzs&feature=youtu.be>

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/music-matters-2020-tickets-93151379283>

Apply for financial assistance here: <http://musicunited.ca/oxford-united-church-endowment-fund/>

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FREE ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM HELPS FAITH COMMUNITIES CUT ENERGY COSTS AND LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT *by Kai Wang*



**Faith & the
Common Good**

Understanding your current energy use is the first step in reducing it — you can't manage if you don't measure. Local non-profit Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa (GSS) has launched a free Energy Benchmarking Program for faith communities. Funded by the Ontario Trillium

Foundation, the program helps Ottawa faith communities take practical and economic climate action by tracking and lowering their energy use and emissions.

Energy benchmarking is the process of measuring and comparing a building's energy use to data from previous and subsequent years, as well as providing a snapshot of how well one's building does compared to other similar ones. Buildings account for around 42% of a typical faith community's carbon footprint, so learning where energy is being used is a vital first step towards creating greener, more sustainable communities. When a faith community better understands its energy consumption, it can assess the effectiveness of current energy-saving measures and plan for future projects more confidently. Benchmarking also supports the stewardship of financial resource – benchmarked buildings reduce energy use by an average of 2.4% per year.

Over the course of three years, 50 participating faith communities will receive an annual benchmarking report. The initial report will create a baseline from the faith community's past utility bills and calculate the total cost of energy (hydro and natural gas), greenhouse gas emissions, and the weather normalized site EUI. This last metric measures the building's total energy use divided by its square footage, and is adjusted for annual differences in weather to more accurately reflect real energy use from year to year. In the program's last two years, GSS will send out annual personalized energy reports along with an anonymous comparison of the energy usage of faith buildings in the same region.

In addition to benchmarking reports, GSS also provides various energy efficiency resources and tools, including funding for energy audits and information on energy-saving incentives. It works closely alongside faith communities to identify means of decreasing energy consumption, both through on-site visits and educational events. Upcoming events include a benchmarking report informational webinar on March 4th, an in-person sustainability case study of Dominion-Chalmers Cultural Centre on March 19th, and a "How to Access your Data" webinar on April 15th. More information on these events can be found at www.faithcommongood.org/events_calendar.

GSS is now accepting program participants to join the dozens of United Churches across Ontario who have already signed up, including Rideau Park, Kitchissippi, and Dominion-Chalmers. To learn more about the program and/or Greening Sacred Spaces events, please visit faithcommongood.org/energy_benchmarking or contact Kai Wang at gssenergy@faithcommongood.org

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR – T4s AND T4As *by Whit Strong*

A reminder from Erik Mathiesen at the General Council that a T4A must now be issued for anything paid to an individual if the annual amount is greater than \$500.00. Treasurers have been made aware of this requirement, but you may also receive questions about it.

CRA is clamping down on things so we have to be more vigilant. Basically if a congregation pays someone to work and that work amounts to more than \$500.00 for the year and the individual doesn't provide a business number

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on the invoice, then they need to get the person's Social Insurance Number and issue them a T4A. There is also a fine from the CRA for not providing the SIN and they are enforcing that more strictly too apparently.

A T4 is only issued when deductions are taken at source. If it is an honorarium and no deductions have been taken at source, then a T4A is used.

Leadership Development and Continuing Education

For lay people and clergy who want to learn, explore, and question, the Centre for Christian Studies is offering two one-week learning circles:

Oppression and Resistance (Apr 15-21) and **Ages and Stages** (April 23-

29). Application deadline this month. Both will be in Winnipeg. Click on the name of the circle to find out more. If you have questions call 204-783-4490 or e-mail info@ccsonline.ca



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