



EOORC News

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

I hope you are having a nice summer and enjoying the outdoors where it's safer from the COVID-19 virus. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to EOORC News, helping us all to keep informed during these lazy days of summer.

The next newsletter will come out on August 19. If you want to have something published in the newsletter, send it to me by noon on the Tuesday before the scheduled date. Thanks and stay healthy!

Anita ajansman@united-church.ca

EOORC SUPPORTS HOMELESS VETERANS by Sue Smarkala



In February 2020, EOORC meeting reps strongly voted to support Multifaith Housing Initiative's (MHI) Veterans' House (VH) fundraising throughout our churches. VH is a supportive housing facility for 40 veterans, allowing them to leave the streets and have safe, comfortable, healing housing.

Efforts continue to design a full Sunday service for use by all churches within our region to learn more about MHI, this building and to contribute to Veterans' House success. The service will be ready for your use in mid-September.

PLEASE RESERVE ONE SUNDAY WITHIN YOUR CHURCH'S 20/21 SERVICE CALENDAR FOR MHI AND VETERANS' HOUSE!! Any questions, please contact Sue Smarkala, 613-820-4360/sue.smarkala@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION

- ***** NEW ***** [Pastoral Relations Meeting Minutes](#)
- [COVID-19](#)
- [Online Worship](#)
- [Add your own \(online\) event](#)

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RURAL CONNECT by Rev Lynne Gardiner

In the EOORC, we have many Communities of Faith currently functioning without paid accountable ministry for many reasons. Sometimes, it's because there have been no

people considering a call to this place, and sometimes it's because the church no longer has the financial resources to consider hiring for this position. It's hard to find leadership in small, multi-point pastoral charges, particularly if the available resources can't support a full-time position.

This is not a situation unique to the EOORC. Many United Churches across all of Canada, but particularly rural United Churches have trouble finding ministry personnel despite the enormous gifts that rural communities have to offer.

Rural Connect is one option that is being considered by the EOORC as a resource for rural pastoral charges. It is a program that connects churches by satellite for worship, Christian education and other meetings. This unique program allows churches to be connected in an interactive way so they can participate fully from their own unique community or church. The system is not dependent on internet, which we know is notoriously unreliable in this area, but rather uses cell technology to bring the communities together. The system consists of a 'hub' that is the coordinating centre of the technology, with each connecting 'satellite' receiving a simple but fully interactive system that is as easy to operate as the volume control on your TV remote.

One of our rural Communities of Faith is considering becoming a 'hub' for this program if there is enough interest from other Communities of Faith joining in as 'satellites.' There is a cost to being part of this ministry, which is about the same as the costs to have pulpit supply; and yet, the connectivity will bring much more than Sunday morning worship. There is significantly more information available on the [Rural Connect website](#). Take some time and watch the videos they have showing this technology in action. Also you can find the summer issue of the newsletter [here](#). If you have a glimmer of interest in this program, please speak to Jane Dawson (Jdawson@united-church.ca, 613-290-1882) or Whit Strong (wstrong@united-church.ca, 1-800-268-3781, ext. 6148).



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP by Jane Dawson



A new email group has been formed for EOORC churches and partner groups that are involved in Refugee Sponsorship. This group is an attempt to have a place to exchange information, and perhaps coordinate or collaborate on sponsorship requests. The initial response has been positive and the group is sharing information such as upcoming seminars, sponsorship's progress, etc. Periodic newsletters will contain these bits of information and updates on National SAH, IRCC and overseas activities (e.g. visa posts, travel). If any church, faith community or sponsorship group wishes to be part of this information sharing, please contact the moderator: tomschwarzkopf@outlook.com

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Margaret McLeish died tragically on Sunday, July 5, 2020. Marg was a very active member of the UCW at Trinity-St. Andrew's in Renfrew. [Obituary](#)



CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
DE L'OUTAOUAIS ET DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO
EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

2020 Directory of Pastoral Charges
Lay Representatives
Executive and Leadership Teams

NOW AVAILABLE!
**The 2020 EOORC Directory of
Pastoral Charges, Lay
Representatives, Executive and
Leadership Teams**

If you would like a copy of the
directory please send a request
to:
ajansman@united-church.ca



Local community newspaper, *The Centretown Buzz* describes [Centre 507](#), which operates out of Centretown United Church, Ottawa

BETTY HARPER ANNOUNCEMENT by Marilyn Rodger

It with great sadness that I share this with all who know Rev. Jackie Harper and her family. Betty Harper, her mother and a friend to all who knew her passed away peacefully away on July 28, 2020 in palliative care in Toronto. Betty's wishes were to be cremated and a planned celebration of her life will be celebrated later this fall, conditions permitted. Please hold the family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time. She certainly will be missed by all who knew her. Rev. Harper's address is 1539 County Rd 7, Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0

ECOLOGICAL GRIEF WEBINAR: A PATHWAY TO RESILIENCE, SELF-CARE AND EARTH CARE



How can we face the climate emergency and the convergence of planetary crises with all of their intensity and uncertainty? How can we stay awake to the suffering and the beauty with clear eyes and an open heart?

Together, we can strengthen resilience as we deepen our capacity to act for a just and sustainable world. This five-session webinar series will be experiential and interactive, offering a roadmap to metabolize pain into courage, compassion and creativity—qualities that allow us to respond with wisdom and integrity. [More information and registration](#)

UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2020-2021 COURSES



Registration is now open for The United Theological College's 2020-2021 courses. Course schedules and registration information are posted on the [website](#). Anyone interested in registering for these courses may contact Caroline Leamon directly by email at admin@utc.ca

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ALIVE AND WELL IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



On September 21, 2020, the Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality (OSTS) will mark an important milestone. The School, originally known as the Ottawa Lay School of Theology, will begin its fifty-seventh year of classes. The OSTs was started in 1963 as part of an initiative by the United Church of Canada.

From its beginning, the School has had an ecumenical focus and today it is co-sponsored by the United, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches. While maintaining its Christian roots, the School recognizes the importance of better understanding between Christians and members of other faith traditions, today many of our courses reflect this belief.

The School provides adult education classes, the aim of which is to provide theological and spiritual education to the laity and, in so doing, to deepen and strengthen their faith. There are no exams and no required text books to purchase – just some suggested reading. This year, as with many educational institutions across Canada, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated that we offer virtual classes. We will be using the Zoom platform. You will not require a Zoom account to participate in classes. Once you register for a course prior to classes, you will simply click on a link that will be provided by email. We will even be offering a tutorial prior to the beginning of classes. This, and additional information will be found on our [website](#). Please consider joining us!

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



E-ssentials

The July 28 issue of [Essentials](#) is now available. This issue offers Emancipation Day Resources, Zoom Conversations for Youth, An Interview with Alf Dumont, and more.

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