



EOORC News

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

EOORC ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 EOORC Annual Meeting is over! Thanks to all those who came. The meeting was well attended, with close to 200 attendees both days. Much was accomplished.

For those who did not attend, please have a look at the [meeting documents](#) to get an idea of some of the topics that were discussed. For those who did attend, please take a moment to fill out the [Evaluation](#).

Unfortunately, the agenda had to be cut short due to unanticipated lengthy discussions about certain business matters. Plans are underway for an EOORC-wide meeting to complete the last important piece of business: a Celebration of Ministries service that will include covenanting with commissioners, LLWLs, executive and leadership teams. We will have a service dedicated to our two candidates for admission in the fall.

Videos that were not shown at the meeting have been posted on the EOORC Annual Meeting [webpage](#). You will find:

- Moderator’s Message to Regional Councils 2021
- Roger Janes’ Stewardship Report
- Paul Sands’ Music Presentation

A special thanks goes to our fabulous technical team: David Patterson, Karen McLean, and Gary McKay who kept things running smoothly. Thanks to Joel Miller who tirelessly provided documents, photos, bios, links, instructions, motions, and minutes, all of which seemed to require many revisions before, during and after the meeting. Thanks to the presenters and musicians who kept the sessions interesting, to Rev. Takouhi for her excellent chairing skills and Rev. Rosemary Lambie for keeping us all soldiering on for the EOORC.

Maybe, just maybe, we will hold our 2022 annual meeting in person!



Please fill out the Annual Meeting [Evaluation](#)

QUICK LINKS

- [Online Worship Services](#)
- [2021 Annual Meeting documents](#)
- [Submit an Event](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

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EMMANUEL'S CELEBRATION OF RED DRESS DAY

By Roxanne Delmage, Jill MacLean and Lynn Solvason, Emmanuel United Church, Indigenous Relations Group

On May 5, 2021, red dresses and shirts were seen hanging across Canada from the west coast to the east coast and in between. You could see them everywhere, including in the trees at Emmanuel United Church in Ottawa. These red shirts and dresses are a memorial to all the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Men, Transgendered and Two Spirit People (MMIWGM2+).

Through the Right Relations Group, Emmanuel United Church invited congregants to take the free University of Alberta Indigenous online course in March 2021. About twenty people signed up and were organized into two discussion groups. Many group members felt called to work on a [Red Dress Project](#). Some shared a dress or shirt, some made the signs, others helped with publicity, some hung the dresses or held the ladder, one spoke to an elder, and one obtained sacred tobacco.



Outside Emmanuel United Church, a small group gathered for a sacred ceremony. Anishinaabe Elder Barbara Dumont-Hill agreed to join us. She was one of the elder advisors to the judicial team during the gathering of testimony for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, (MMIWG).

The ceremony began with a land acknowledgement and an expression of gratitude, stating that we are located on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin territory: “We acknowledge that the church, our ancestors, and yes, even we, have contributed to the historical injustices and the ongoing suffering. We commit, collectively and individually, to look for ways to help heal the brokenness and to strengthen our relationship—one based in honour and deep respect.”

Using sacred tobacco, Elder Barbara blessed the Red Dress Installation and led us in a beautiful, spiritual smudging ceremony, beginning by smudging her own hands and continuing to the entire display, and then each of the attendees. The ceremony ended with a lullaby that Elder Barbara sings every night to the lost souls of the missing and murdered.

The red dresses and shirts are hanging to commemorate the more than 1,200 Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Men, Transgendered and Two Spirit Peoples. This number is just the tip of the iceberg and only includes cases that have been confirmed. Many Indigenous groups are convinced that the number is over 4000, but even one person is one too many. You can see and hear many of these stories from the [CBC Data Case Explorer](#).



Two recommended books that include stories of the missing and murdered and the relentless search for justice by their families and friends are: *Highway of Tears* by Jessica McDiarmid and *Keetsahnak*, editors: Anderson, Campbell, Belcourt.

One of the National Inquiry's call to action is for *all* Canadians to learn about the injustices that are *still* being perpetrated and for each to do what we can to *end* this genocide.

Elder Barbara was gracious in sharing her knowledge, time, humour and love. We are grateful for her leadership that made the hanging of our red shirts and dresses such a meaningful spiritual experience. Due to COVID, Elder Barbara allowed the entire ceremony to be videotaped, so others could view the [video](#).

The dresses and shirts of our memorial at Emmanuel will remain in the trees until the end of May, but those they represent, will be remembered every day.

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UNITED IN DIVERSITY: A CHRISTIAN CALLING

Virtual evening with Councillor Rawlson King: On Mon, May 17th at 7:30 pm

MacKay United hosts an online encounter with Councillor Rawlson King.

This event underscores our sense of community and honours the many families in our church and community with a particular awareness of the anti-black racism and how that impacts our family of faith.

[More information](#)

JOB AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Faith and the Common Good is seeking:

Sustainability Intern

[More information](#)

FCG Network Coordinator

[More information](#)

Board Member (2)

[More information](#)



Marilyn Rodger, Region's 11, 12, 13 Fair Trade Advocate now has crested masks. She has UCC crested clergy and non-clergy masks made of 3-ply 100% pre-washed cotton with narrow elastic and clear barrel adjusters. Design does not fog glasses. All proceeds from the sale of clergy and non-clergy UCC crests going to the El Salvador Food Security program. She also has crested UCW masks, same quality and price, with proceeds from UCW crested masks going to the 60th UCW Anniversary project "Change for Women of Zambia".

For more information contact Marilyn: marilynrodger@aol.com or 613 384 2087

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



E-ssentials

The [May 11th](#) issue of *Essentials* are now available, which includes a Special Asian Heritage Pentecost Service.



[United-in-Learning](#) Experience the Difference of an Interactive Web-workshop.

JOIN THE EOORC **FACEBOOK** GROUP AND FOLLOW US ON **TWITTER**

click on icons



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