



EOORC News

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE

This past weekend I watched a YouTube video in which famed folk singer, Joan Baez received an award. Two fine musicians, Emmy Lou Harris and Mary Chapin Carpenter paid tribute to Baez by singing one of the songs she made famous, *We Shall Overcome*. As soon as I heard the first three notes of the gospel song that became an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, I was struck by the poignancy of the song and how in 2021, *We Shall Overcome* still holds so much meaning.

This has been a tough couple of weeks for Canadians. The discovery of 215 Indigenous children's remains in Kamloops, BC, followed by the horrific murder of a Muslim family, save for one nine-year old boy, in London, ON have left us struggling with too many questions and too few answers. The faith of Canadian Christians has been challenged, possibly to the breaking point. **When**, we may ask, shall we overcome? When will we overcome suffering, bigotry, pain, historic injustices and current ones?

Here in the EOORC there has been an outpouring of sadness, shock, and an urgency to care and give our love to the people suffering the most. Many congregations are honoring those who've lost their lives through vigils, prayer and symbols of remembrance and reconciliation. Our ministry and spiritual leaders have reached out and offered scripture and other words of wisdom and comfort.

Moderator Rev. Richard Bott and Rev. Murray Pruden delivered a response to the Kamloops tragedy and the United Church of Canada put out a statement condemning the attack in London. I encourage you to read them. The links are to the right of this editorial.

Meanwhile, the work of the EOORC continues and you can read about meaningful activities and events here in this (rather packed) newsletter.

Stay healthy and hopeful,
Anita ajansman@united-church.ca

QUICK LINKS

- [***NEW*** Pastoral Relations Minutes](#)
- [***New*** Job posting](#)
- [Online Worship](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

STATEMENTS FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

[Response to the Kamloops Residential School Graves Discovery](#)

[United Church Condemns Attack on Muslim Family in London, ON](#)

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A NEW STOLE FOR THE EOORC PRESIDENT

Last year, Isabel Bender was commissioned to create a very special item for the EOORC. Rev Rosemary asked the Ottawa resident and member of City View United to make a stole for the EOORC president that would capture the elements of the EOORC logo.

Isabel, an experienced quilter took on the assignment and designed a beautiful version of the bright green, blue and red logo.

“The stole is made of cotton fabric and the maple leaf, cross, rivers and fields are appliqued on top of the white background. It is all stitched by machine,” she explains.

While Isabel typically creates fabric art with patchwork, this was the first time she used applique.

In April of this year, Isabel presented the completed stole to EOORC president, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian.

“I was delighted to present the stole to Rev Takouhi at her home in Portland. It was lovely to meet her and enjoy a socially distanced chat in the midst of the lockdown,” says Isabel.

Rev. Takouhi proudly wore the stole at the EOORC Annual Meeting in May. She, of course, is honoured and delighted to be the first president to don the “amazing stole” and looks forward to passing it on to our next president when the time comes.



Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian, the first EOORC president to wear the stole

JANE DAWSON IS ON THE MOVE!

Dear EOORC members,

After two and a half years working as Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters and Networks, I am writing to announce that, as of August 1, 2021, I will be moving to a new position as Minister, Justice Ministries with the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of the United Church of Canada.

I am grateful to have worked with EOORC during this exciting and challenging time of transition. Although I am looking forward to new ventures and returning to my home turf in British Columbia, it is the many people I have worked with that make me sad to be leaving, and I will miss you all. I hope to have continued opportunities for connection and collegiality through justice initiatives that bring people together across the different regions and structures of the church.

Blessings of peace,
Jane Dawson
Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters and Networks
Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council
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EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS REGIONAL COUNCIL
AND FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD PRESENT:

FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS

LEARN ABOUT IDEAS, TOOLS, AND GRANTS AVAILABLE
TO HELP US LIVE OUR CLIMATE COMMITMENTS BY
IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF YOUR CHURCH
BUILDING!

SPEAKERS: STEPHEN COLLETTE AND HANNAH MORGAN

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH
2-3:30 PM EST**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Grace United Church - The historic building in Chelsea, QC
is closing but the church will live on

GRACE UNITED CHURCH, CHELSEA CLOSING SERVICE

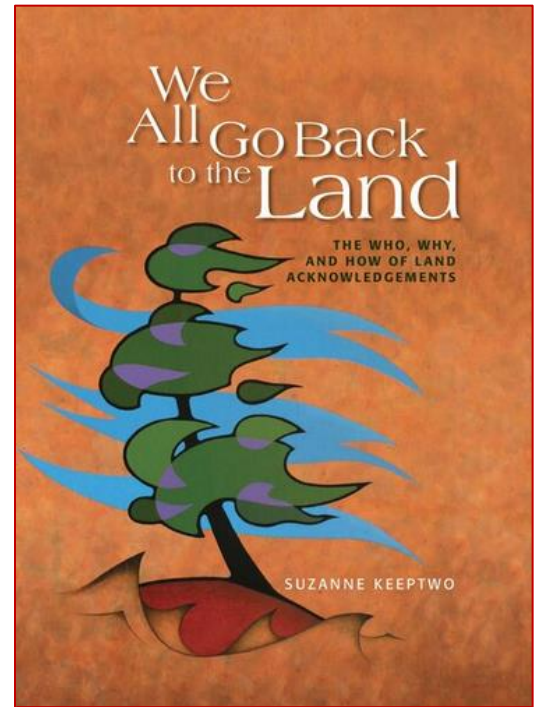
Sunday June 27th

Two services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Registration required)

AND [livestreamed](#) at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us as we celebrate the building's history and ask God's blessing on the community in this time of transition. The congregation of Grace United Church will continue to worship in Chelsea and Rupert. In Chelsea, they will be sharing a building with St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church.

To register, please contact Rev. Natalie Matkovsky (Istead): eglisegraceminister@gmail.com



EOORC RIGHT RELATIONS NETWORK

Summer Online Book Study
Thursday June 24th, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
All welcome to share, learn, and
generate ideas for Indigenous History
Month.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



With Open Hearts, Open Minds There Is Welcome In This Place There Is Welcome In This Space There Is Welcome With Embrace With Open Hearts

Mary-Ellen Kish © 2008. Used with permission.

The following motion was approved at the recent annual meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region

That the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region enter the process of discernment to become an affirming ministry that celebrates diversity and works to affirm the value and full inclusion of all people.

Goals of the Affirming Ministry Program • to help and support United Church ministries, partners, and wider society in their ministry to and with people of all sexual orientations and gender identities • to identify United Church ministries and partners that are willing to publicly declare affirmation of people of all sexual orientations and

gender identities as full participants in the Body of Christ • to broaden justice concerns within the church and society The Affirming Ministry Program acknowledges the hurt and injustice the church has caused to many social groups—not just to LGBTQIA2S+ people but also to Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC), in our racism and fear of those who are different from ourselves, and through our silencing or exclusion of people because of their class and economic background, their age, ability, culture, gender, and ethnicity, or their physical or mental health.

The Affirming Ministry Program, while it focuses on issues of gender identity and sexual orientation, seeks to live into a vision of justice and inclusion for all God's people.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EOORC AFFIRM TEAM

Mark Your Calendars!

We will be holding a series of educational workshops during the discernment process of becoming an affirming ministry.

Our first workshop will be held by ZOOM on
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23RD, 7:00PM – 9:00PM.

Topic: Understanding Gender and Pronouns. Presented by Roxanne Akhtar
An invitation to the workshop and registration information will be out shortly.

Watch for our monthly articles in the EOORC News.



REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLES

The Prayer Cycle for each of the Regional Councils is offered to the Communities of Faith and Personnel within The United Church of Canada to remind us anew that we are not alone, that we belong to the larger organism of our Regional Councils and wider church, to encourage us to be in prayerful caring for one another. Prayer Cycles have existed here and there across the United Church prior to 2019; however, within the former Hamilton Conference, a weekly email, such as this, has been sent out to members and subscribers for many years. This present format seeks to continue and broaden that service for the benefit of the wider church. Do help us in this ministry by sending comments, critique, corrections and suggestions to:

prayer@churchwebcanada.ca

The related website is prayercycles.ca (Rev. Wayne Irwin)



OTTAWA GEAR LIBRARY NEEDS SPACE

A wonderful new initiative has just launched – the Ottawa Outdoor Gear Library – to improve equity and access to outdoor recreation by developing a library of outdoor gear to loan out to community groups and individuals. In the pandemic we've become so much more aware of how being outdoors supports our mental and spiritual health and this is another support that isn't equally available to all populations.

The Gear Library has space on Boyd Avenue with the Ottawa Tool Library. They recently did a gear drive and their small space is now over-crowded so they're looking for a place to store the winter gear until it's needed.

They are looking for a space approximately 10' X 10' that is clean and dry.

Email: ottawaoutdoorgearlibrary@gmail.com

Website: <https://ottawaoutdoorgearlibrary.com>

OTTAWA PASTORAL CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

SERVING OTTAWA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

All of our programs will be delivered on Zoom. In September, we will have two 9-week **Basic Courses** in Pastoral Care – one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

Our Advanced Course in Pastoral Care takes place in October and consists of 4 sessions:

- Pastoral Care and Grace: The Power of Being Seen, Heard and Valued by Lisa Boulay
- Volunteering in the Health Care Setting by Fritz Clarke
- A Good Death: Healing Conversations at End of Life by Elspeth MacEwan
- Living Well and Staying Connected Spiritually in The Last Journeys of Life by Hilary Murray

For our Continuing Education Event this November, we will have a panel discussing Pastoral Care for those in Vulnerable Situations.

MORE INFORMATION

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UNITED WE STAND UPDATE by Sue Smarkala

As you may know, the EOORC is actively raising funds for Multifaith Housing Initiative's **Veterans' House**, a new facility to house homeless veterans. To date, about 35 – 40 percent of EOORC pastoral charges have contributed to this campaign.

Their contributions were either in dollars or in more than 200 quilts and shawls for the veterans.

We would love to see 100 percent participation in this first cross-regional fundraising project.

Our "United We Stand" EOORC campaign goal is \$150,000. To date, we have achieved close to 60 percent of that amount. Please consider supporting our push to raise the remaining \$60,000 by the end of June.

How can you help?

1. **Present information from the Special Service available online at an upcoming Sunday service.** You will build awareness of affordable housing solutions/ providers - Multifaith Housing Initiative and Veterans' House. To download the (updated) United We Stand Sunday Service package, click [here](#):

This month there are three new videos on YouTube:

- All About United We Stand [Update](#) *NEW*
- Veterans' House: House [Tour](#) *NEW*
- United We Stand: [Testimony from Veterans' House tenant](#) Bill Beaton *NEW*

2. **Contribute to 'United We Stand', any amount.** This shows your congregation's interest in and commitment to supportive housing for our veterans. Learn more [here](#).

While *United We Stand* technically ends June 30, you can continue to send donations to MHI/run the service until the **end of July 2021**.

Contact Amanda at Multifaith Housing with any questions about the links: communications@multifaithhousing.ca



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



E-ssentials

The June 1st issue of [Essentials](#) features the story, "Kamloops Residential School: A Time for Mourning and Support"



[Meet the Queer Evangelist](#) Rev. Cheri DiNovo is well-known in Ontario politics, and her new memoir [The Queer Evangelist, a Socialist Clergy's Radically Honest Tale](#), published last month, is the high energy story of a teenager who has lived on the street using drugs, and who found her way into the United Church, and into politics, and became one of the most influential Opposition politicians of our era. She prides herself on initiating, and getting passed, more tri-party private member's bills than any other Ontario MPP in history.

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

click on icons



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