



EOORC News

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

QUICK LINKS

- *** New *** [Upcoming Events](#)
- *** New *** [Executive Minutes](#)
- *** New *** [Pastoral Relations Minutes](#)
- [AGM](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Submit an Event](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Annual General Meeting
- UCW Annual Meeting
- Vision and Transformation Update
- Becoming Affirming
- Rev. James Whyte
- Learning opportunities
- News from the GCO

2023 EOORC Annual General Meeting

May 26 – 27, 2023

Brockville Memorial Centre, Brockville, ON

Friday 9:00 am. – 8:00 p.m.

(registration begins at 8:15 a.m.)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Blair
General Secretary, United Church of Canada

REGISTER TODAY

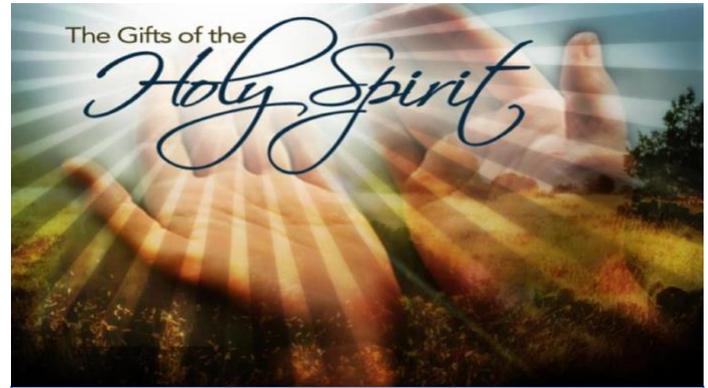
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From the desk of
**Rev. Whit
Strong** Minister
for Pastoral
Relations



Upcoming Gatherings

- April 26th - [Retirement Conversations: Pastoral and Practical Aspects of Retirement](#)
- May 3rd – [Healthy Church, Happy Church: Bridges and Roadblocks to Good Communication](#)
- May 6th – [LLWL Workshop](#)
- May 17th – [Conducting Annual Evaluations of Staff and Programs](#)



EOORC UCW Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Bell's Corners United Church
[More Information](#)

FROM THE VISION AND TRANSFORMATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

by Janice Peron

In a quandary? Have you ever wondered what other communities of faith are doing?

Vision and Transformation Leadership Team (VTLT) hosted two workshops that were intended to encourage communities of faith to apply for grants, whether to envision the future of the community of faith or to embark on a project. The results were awesome, some 15 new grant applications received by the March 31st deadline with several continuing multiyear projects.

The variety of different projects was astounding. First United, Orleans United, and Trinity Smith Falls all recognized food insecurity at Camp Awesome and applied to address it. Beyond that Trinity's Camp Awesome will serve 4 communities of faith and proposed a bus service to bring all together. Moreover their vision took in a proposal to address the intersectionality between 2SLGBTQIA folk and the indigenous community by inviting an Algonquin elder to speak.

On a similar but different theme, Centre 33 at Kanata United Church is developing the Zen Zone to provide an inclusive space for youth with neurodiversities and mental health disorders. It was noted that 2SLGBTQIA+ youth are disproportionately affected.

Have you heard about the Cathedral of the Trees, a member of the Wild Church Network and a ministry of Maynooth Madawaska pastoral charge? For eight weeks in the summer, a different ministry person leads the outdoor Forest Church Service and can stay for a week in the church trailer at Lake of Two Rivers. "Natural surroundings become part of our services and not just a backdrop to them."

How about working with Kindred Works to envision new dreams for church property? St. John's UC will ensure the continued preservation of their historic church and worship as they transition to the St. John's Foundation for the Arts. On a musical theme Mackay will create a documentary about music and spirituality at the church. On a different note (pardon the pun) Kanata United Church would support early career musicians by encouraging them to perform in the church space. A new community will be built around the performing arts.

Need more information about Vision and Transformation? Send an email to: visionandtransformationeoorc@gmail.com

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THOUGHTS ABOUT BECOMING AN AFFIRMING REGION FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

By Ray Lebeau

With Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) working towards voting on becoming an Affirming region, Ray Lebeau a member of the Stewardship Team wrote the following article. We, the other members of the Stewardship Team stand with Ray. Carolyn Ruda, Nancy Hazen, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Charlotte Hoy, Dave Charles and Nancy Hazen.

Open My Eyes That I May See

A Church should be a place of authenticity . . . not a place for masquerading. Some people have resisted going to Church because they see Christians as lacking in mercy. It is true that Christian denominations all have practices that need to be reviewed. For example, experiencing Church practices of 'judgement' and 'discrimination' against marginalized groups, wrapped in the language of love, compassion, respect and care can be both confusing and devastating.

We were taught that GOD IS LOVE. Love for all. It is time, once and for all, to reaffirm the Church's mission to seek justice for everyone, regardless of their race, colour, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or transgender status. Is our Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) an honest reflection of the diverse groups living within our respective communities? God, open our eyes that we may see.

2 Corinthians 4: 7-18 tells us that God will enable us to stand when we are perplexed. To not despair. To allow God's grace and wisdom to be revealed. There is an abundance of God's treasures and blessings and it is up to us to let our light shine out. God wants to bless us to be a blessing to others. We should all want to contribute and to be a blessing. A good eye looks upon good things, seeing what is right in everyone. Love, respect, and kindness build up others. Being judgemental and discriminatory does just the opposite. I want to be led by God's goodness and light, a light that never fades. Romans 12:10 tells us that we should be devoted to one another in love. We should honour one another above ourselves. God, open our eyes that we may see.

Everyone should feel welcomed in our United Churches. Everyone is welcomed to enjoy a relationship with God. The Kingdom of God is for EVERYONE! God is calling EVERYONE! No one wants to suffer diminishment from the hurtful words and actions of others. We should see each other in the image made of God. God loves us with an everlasting, unconditional love. Let Him be a source of encouragement and strength, renewed love and energy. God, open our eyes that we may see. Some people have been deeply hurt and damaged by life. Some people have been spiritually maimed by their up-bringing . . . by abuses or bullying throughout their life. They do not feel that they have any right to stand up for themselves.

Some people are deeply broken and the ability to think about being 'special' seems to be beyond them. Churches should reject division and stand up for the rights of everyone. Churches should be leading the way towards normalizing inclusivity. Don't you think it's time for our welcoming EOORC to start walking the talk? God, open our eyes that we may see.

What is Two-Spirit?

In the 2SLGBTQ+ acronym, 2S stands for Two-Spirit.

A Presentation by Francois Zarraga
Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls, ON

Friday, May 12th

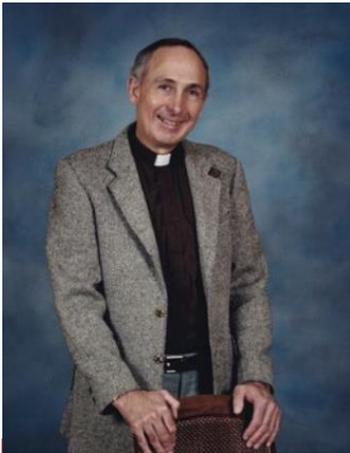
[More Information](#)

THE ROCK

Camp Lau-Ren

[Spring issue](#) of THE ROCK
is now available

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Reverend James "Pat" Whyte

It is with heavy hearts that the family of James "Pat" Whyte announce his passing on Monday April 17th at 90 years of age. He served as minister to 3 churches in Lanark County before moving to Deep River, ON, to serve in the Community Church there. After retirement from the church, he moved to Ottawa and continued to perform weddings and funerals. [Read obituary](#)



Private Refugee Sponsorship Network
Online Workshop
Learning a New Language: What does it take?
Contact: info@refugeesponsornet.ca



Emmanuel College
Upcoming Events at the
Centre for Religion and Its Contexts
[More information](#)



UNJPPPI
United Network for Justice and Peace
in Palestine and Israel

United Network for Justice and
Peace in Palestine and Israel
[April Network News](#)



IOKDS
International Order of The King's Daughters and Sons
Clergy Week at Chautauqua 2023
July 29 – August 5, 2023
[More information](#)

News from the General Council Office



E-ssentials

The [April 11th](#) issue of *E-ssentials* discusses *Earth Week*
The April 18th issue features a story on *Action for Climate Justice*



The [March 27th](#) edition offers a four-part series called, "Placing Ourselves in Colonialism" and Webinars for Church Treasurers.

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