



EOORC News

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

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

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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.



Yesterday an email went out to everyone who registered for the meeting. It contained important information about the meeting. If you registered and **did not receive the email** yesterday, please contact Anita: ajansman@united-church.ca

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SETTING OUR SIGHTS! STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

By Paul Dillman, Chair of Setting Our Sights

The Setting Our Sights (SOS) Task Group will be launching the strategic planning process for the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council on the Friday afternoon of the meeting in Brockville. This will be a time to think about who we are as a region, the challenges we face and imagining what the future of the church will be/need to be.

From the beginning of June until the end of September, the SOS group will be inviting/challenging the member of the Regional Council to have conversations about the strategic plan for this region. The SOS group will hold a few town hall type gatherings, and we are inviting others to organize and facilitate conversations. The conversations may be a church Council or Board, or a group of colleagues, or an existing network or cluster within the region. This invitation may serve as a prompt to contact neighbouring churches to begin to form a cluster. The conversations can be in person or on line. The SOS group will provide some questions for discussion and ways of sending in responses.

The members of the SOS Task Group are: Cindy Casey (Kanata United, Ottawa), Liz Church (Portland), David Clemis (Orleans United, Ottawa), Paul Dillman (Riverside United, Ottawa), Mary Ruth Endicott (McKay United, Ottawa), Kimberly Heath (Wall St. United, Brockville), Sharon MacDonald (Sharbot Lake) and Mary Royal-Duczek (Almonte). Éric Hébert-Daly and Peter Bartlett are offering staff support.

The acronym for this group is SOS and that helps us to remember the urgency of this work as we respond to the General Council Strategic Plan, but also as we discern God's call amidst the changing landscape of the church and the needs of our communities and world. What can we do together to support growth and renewal in communities of faith? How can we make an impact on priority justice needs. How can we support and transform our models of leadership?

For those of you interested in seeing the national strategic plan adopted by the GCO, you can find all the documents here: [Our Call and Our Vision | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

If you have any comments or questions, contact any member of the group or me at rucrev@rogers.com or 613-733-7735.



Festival of Faith 2023

Called Through the Wilderness

Canadian Shield Regional Council is inviting all their neighbouring regions in Ontario to join them in North Bay for their new in-person learning event called Festival of Faith. This event is open to all, not just ministry personnel or lay representatives

You can see all the details about the event on our website [HERE](#).



UNJPPI

United Network for Justice and Peace
in Palestine and Israel

United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)

In this [special issue](#) of UNJPPI Network News, we reflect on the Nakba and the effect that seventy-five years of genocide has had on a land and a people.

THE ROCK

Camp Lau-Ren

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

INVESTING THROUGH THE EOORC

An updated version of the document, [Investing Through Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council \(EOORC\)](#), is available: [Investing Through Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council](#)

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United Church Rural Ministry Network

www.UCRMN.ca

“Connecting rural stories
with rural people across Canada”

May 2023 Newsletter
of the
United Church
Rural Ministry Network
is now [available](#).

100th ANNIVERSARY FOR MEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

As the National Executive for the AOTS Men’s Clubs is no longer active, we are prayerful that this message will be seen by tens of thousands across Canada *during May* – with the help of all Regional Councils. This will ensure that many hundreds of former members will be reminded as having belonged to what was, – a national association of United Church men’s clubs under the historic and iconic title: *AOTS!* READ MORE: [Message to UC Regional Councils](#)



Merrickville United Church Needs New Homes For Special Items

Since Merrickville United Church has disbanded, a few items in very good condition are available to any Community of Faith in the EOORC.

If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Lee Davidson at leeds2029@gmail.com. Download the list:

[Merrickville UC Items to give away](#)



Congratulations to Dana Ducette, EOORC Minister for Youth and Young adults. She was awarded the Ottawa Jubilee Award for New Testament Studies at the recent convocation ceremony of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and United Church Studies.



Mike Nyenhuis

Mike Nyenhuis passed quietly from this life to the next from his room at Forest Hill Long-term Care Home in Kanata on April 8, 2023.

Mike was a member of the Church Extension Committee and the editor of “A Faith Journey – Photo History of the Churches of the Ottawa Presbytery” [Read Obituary](#)

The EOORC Stewardship Team *The 6 T's of Stewardship*

Let's look at our Talents

By Carolyn Ruda, Stewardship Leadership Team

Every one of us has been blessed with God-given talents. And yes, that absolutely includes you. You don't have to take our word for it either—the Bible clearly spells it out in Romans 12:6, "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." But even though we know God has blessed us with certain talents, *using* your God-given talents can still be a challenge. It can be difficult to know where to put your gifts to use, and sometimes it's hard to know what exactly your talents are. So, if you're struggling with either of those things, here are our thoughts on our talents. This may help you discover what your talents are and how to use them.

"I believe my key talent is my ability to talk with enthusiasm about Mission and Service. I think it is important to tell folks I meet both in Church and elsewhere how much the generosity and service of United Church people is really making a difference in our community and around the world. I love doing the Your Generosity Matters segment at our Sunday worship services as people rally get turned on to M&S when they hear the stories presented each week in Your Generosity Matters. We also are seeing huge growth in our M&S givings and service activities undertaken by Grace United Church in Gananoque." Dave Charles

"My talent is having an idea and following through with it to make sure it happens!" Nancy Hazen

"The talents I offer the church - I think teaching. I think my hope and enthusiasm go over well in a teaching context. Also, as I grow older, I find my growing experience with the church and with stewardship offer me learning and insights." Roger Janes

"Praise God from Whom all blessing flow. I am truly thankful for the talents and gifts (blessings) that our gracious God has given to me. The Bible says that each one of us should use whatever gifts we have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace. Therefore, I want to use my talents to serve others and to honour God. When it comes to carpentry, plumbing, electrical or anything having to do with 'power tools', I will be the first one to tell you that I am not, repeat not, very competent. However, I can tell you that I do take some pride in my God-given ability to organize and prioritize whatever 'non-technical' tasks I have been assigned. Over the last several decades, I have served on numerous committees, boards, teams and organizations within the Church, the Lions Foundation of Canada and others. I have to say how thankful I am for the countless courses, seminars, workshops, etc., I've attended. They allowed me to improve upon improve upon my knowledge and hone my skills, which not only improved my quality of life, but also allowed me to better serve the Church. Praise be to God." Ray Lebeau

"I share my talent of Sharing the Spirit in my church through giving of self in pulpit supply, organizational leadership skills and outreach. I am continually using words to encourage, prompt and thank everyone who gives of time and talent. Words of appreciation go a long way."

Charlotte Hoy

From my years of being a Church Administrator I have brought the talent of administration. Laying things out in a way that people can understand what is going on even if they are not sitting on the Board of my church. An ability to see the bigger picture and how our church could fit into it.

EOORC UCW 81st Summer Event

July 14 – 15, 2023

"Like a Rock"

Body, Mind and Spirit

REGISTRATION AND ROOM RESERVATIONS DEADLINE IS June 14, 2023

[More Information](#)

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News from the General Council Office



E-ssentials

The [May 23rd](#) edition features a story on “growth animators to Support and Strengthen Communities of Faith.”



The [May 8th](#) edition offers information on Sponsoring Refugees and the [May 22nd](#) edition promotes a new program called, Ask and Imagine: Your Turn.

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