



EOORC News

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

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

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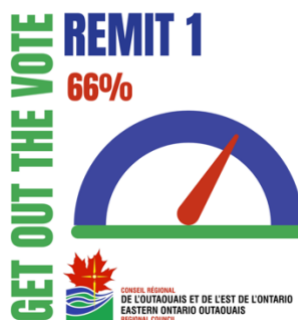
Thank you to everyone who attended the EOORC Winter Gathering: **Strengthening Invitation**. We had a good turnout from EOORC and we were happy to welcome members from ECORC and Nakonhaka Regional Council.

The presenters provided lots of useful information on how to welcome and engage newcomers to your Communities of Faith.

Copies of the presentations can be found [HERE](#). Feel free to download them and use them when you're working on ways to create growth in your own churches.

For those of you who attended and have not yet answered the evaluation, you can find it [HERE](#). Please take a few moments to fill it out. These evaluations help us to improve upon future EOORC gatherings.

Remit 1 - Get Out the Vote!



Deadline is March 31, 2024

Need more information? Visit [Remit1 Resources](#)

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A Long-term Friendship with MHI by Sue Smarkala

This is the first of an informational series on Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI). Over the next few issues, you will learn about the significant work being done by MHI and its committed membership.

My name is Sue Smarkala and I am the President of MHI. In 2019, I started to volunteer with MHI as the United Church Representative on MHI's Board of Directors and as Board Secretary. Beginning at 'ground zero', I knew very little about affordable housing.

MHI is a charitable organization, created in 2002. It is operated by five staff and numerous volunteers. It is a unique organization whose membership consists of many different faith groups such as The Bahá'í Community of Ottawa, Christian communities (Centertown Churches Social Action Committee, Longfields Community Church, Sequoia Community Church, The King's Daughters and Sons Apartments), Christian churches (Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Mennonite, Presbyterian, Quaker, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, United Church), and Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Unitarian. Every April these members come together to attend an Annual General Meeting to consider topics of importance to MHI's work.

I quickly learned that the Ottawa Presbytery was active in fundraising for MHI's The Haven, a new build in Barrhaven which opened in 2016 with 98 units. Altogether, UCC raised approximately \$103,000. The Community Room was named in honour of Dr. Anne Squire, past Moderator of the United Church, in recognition of this financial support. Phyllis MacRae, retired Rev. Dianne Cardin, and Rev. David Sherwin were very instrumental in nurturing the relationship between the Ottawa United Churches and MHI.

Early on in my volunteer time, a supportive housing site for veterans was approved. I became involved with fundraising for the Capital Campaign with retired Rev. Dianne Cardin and the EOORC. Our combined efforts in 2019-2020 raised about \$160,000. A plaque recognizing this contribution was placed in the Andy Carswell Building community kitchen space.

The United Churches within Ottawa and the United Church of Canada Foundation, have long supported MHI. Several United Churches: Barrhaven, Emmanuel, MacKay, Orleans, Parkdale, Rideau Park, Southminster, and Trinity UCCs, joined MHI's membership in 2003; Ottawa Presbytery, led by Lillian Roberts, became members in 2005 and the UCC membership continued to grow. My own church, Woodroffe United, joined MHI's membership in 2016. As of 2023, MHI membership consists of about 35 United Churches.

As you see, the EOORC United Churches are very much involved and active with MHI. Few congregations on their own can build affordable housing. Becoming a member of MHI (\$100/yr.) is a way your congregation can publicly show your support for and commitment to affordable housing. To learn more visit www.multifaithhousing.ca

General Council Commissioner Nominations

As the voting members of General Council, Commissioners serve an essential role in The United Church of Canada. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit as revealed during the gathering, Commissioners set policy and take action on a wide-range of questions including those of doctrine, worship, governance, and public-witness. Commissioners elect the Moderator who will serve as the spiritual leader of the church until the next regular meeting.

- General Council Commissioner Job Description: [GC 45 Position Description Commissioner](#)
- Expression of Interest (form): [45-General-Council-Commissioner EOORC-Nomination-Form](#)

Below are the links to the Moderator's invitation to consider becoming a nominee for General Council Commissioner.

- English: <https://youtu.be/OZfpxtgva80>
- French: https://youtu.be/4bRACsa_VMU

Deadline to apply: September 15, 2024

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2024 LLWL Rate

\$247 plus \$.55/km

No difference for two services unless the pastoral charge wants to pay more.

Download PDF of [2024 Salary Schedule](#)

PLEASE NOTE

We're still getting mail at the old address.

The EOORC Office Has Moved

The physical office of EOORC has moved from Carleton Place to Ottawa. Please direct any mail to:

EOORC
c/o First United Church
347 Richmond Rd,
Ottawa, ON K2A 0E7

Centre for Christian Studies

CCS Friday: An Ecology of Faith Formation

Join the Centre for Christian Studies on Friday, March 15 (noon Central, 1pm Eastern, 11am Mountain, 10am Pacific, 2pm Atlantic) for an online conversation about the eco-system of faith formation in congregations. Our special guest will be UCC Growth Animator Greg Smith-Young.

Within creation, ecosystems form as different and diverse creatures (living and non-living) interact together. Each part plays a vital role in making the whole. Ecosystems are about interdependence and integration. What can happen when we bring an “ecosystem” way of thinking into the faith formation work of congregations? Join us as we imagine the possibilities.

Greg Smith-Young (he/him) is a Growth Animator with the United Church of Canada. He serves alongside existing and newly-forming communities of faith in southwest Ontario, helping them to share in what Jesus is already doing in their places: inviting, welcoming, engaging, forming disciples, and sending to share in God's Presence. CCS Fridays are free. Please register [HERE](#) to receive a zoom link.

Ottawa Pastoral Care

This spring we are again offering the afternoon Basic Training course in-person as well as an evening course via Zoom. Both courses begin Monday, March 11th, 2024 and run weekly until May 13th, 2024 (including Easter Monday). See our [Spring 2024 Basic Training Course brochure](#).

We are also excited to present a Continuing Education event on Tuesday April 7th from 7- 9pm by Zoom. At this session, Lisa Boulay, retired psychotherapist and Lay Chaplain at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, will lead a session called Emotions 101—The Power of Being Heard, Seen and Valued. This workshop will look at how emotions affect our work as pastoral care volunteers and will build on new material which was recently added to the Pastoral Care Basic Course in September 2023. For more information, visit our [website](#) or write to us at ottawapastoralcare@gmail.com

Private Refugee Sponsor Network

PRSN's second Lunch & Learn in 2024 focusses on **Building Trust**, March 20, 2024, 12:00 noon, online, at no cost to private refugee sponsors. As sponsors, we are striving for effective best practice settlement around improving our understanding of the role of trust and how to demonstrate a behaviour that builds better settlement relationships.

Registration is now open for this Lunch & Learn. Email: info@refugeesponsornet.ca

More information: b.sheffield@rogers.com

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News from the General Council Office



PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit.

National Affirming/PIE Day is March 14! It's time to be Public, Intentional, and Explicit in our affirming work. This year's theme is "PIE in the Public Square." As you prepare for your own Affirming celebrations, think about what it truly means to be public. Are you part of the Affirming work in your wider community? Who are your neighbours and partners? Look for ways to build relationships outside your community of faith, and truly show up in a public way in the broader community!

[2024 Pie Day Message from Moderator Video](#)

[PIE Day resources](#)

[PIE Day Worship](#)



Living into Right Relations

The [March 4th](#) issue provides information on for **National Affirming/ Pie Day**
The [February 27th](#) issue features highlights of the **February General Council Executive Meeting**

The [February 28th](#) issue discusses the Food For The North program.



The [March 1st](#) issue offers courses for those interested in LLWL training.

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