



EOORC News

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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

QUICK LINKS

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Remit 1 – Results
- Help Finding a New Minister – Admissions Process Open House
- Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage
- A Conversation with the Family of Morgan Harris
- Church Extension Applications Due
- AGM Updates
- April Stewardship Update
- Social Justice Story
- Grief and End of Life Support Event
- And much more!

Remit 1 – Results

Remit 1 has passed! Many people participated in this process throughout the Church. All 16 voting regional councils, the National Indigenous Council, and just over 80% of pastoral charges voted.

Here are the results by the numbers:

- The National Indigenous Council, and the 16 voting regional councils: Yes: 17 No: 0
- Pastoral charges: Yes: 1482 No: 93 (That is 94% “yes.”)

The General Council will be asked to enact Remit 1 when it meets in October 2024.

The National Indigenous Council has responded to the Remit results. You can read their words [here](#).

Help Finding a New Minister - Admission Matching Process Open House

Are you from a church without a minister? Are you a member of a search team and looking for your next ministry personnel? Are you a pastoral relations liaison? If so we would like to an hour-long Open House with the Admission Matching Committee through Zoom on Sunday April 21st at 4 pm EST.

The Admission Matching Committee is part of a pilot project to bridge the gap between Ministers who are available and excited to work in The United Church of Canada and Communities of Faith who need a minister.

As a follow-up to two previous Open Houses where we provided an overview of the program, this Open House will provide you with an opportunity to meet the four ministers still seeking a match through this program and to ask any questions you might have.

To register for this free program, please send your name, location, email, and reason for registering to Beverly at byhurst@united-church.ca.

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Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace

You are invited to join a special pilgrimage for peace in Gaza. Churches across Canada will be walking and praying for a ceasefire in Gaza. We will be praying for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Moderator Carmen Lansdowne has issued a [special invitation](#) to join her on the pilgrimage.

You can organize a pilgrimage in your own community in the coming weeks. You are also invited to join national church leaders for the final leg of their pilgrimage as they march to Parliament Hill on May 22.

You can find more details on the [Kairos Website](#).

Church Extension Grants – April 20th Deadline

How can we help your church to thrive?

Please note that April 20th is the deadline for submissions to the Church Extension Committee for spring 2024. Submit your applications for loans or grant to: Judy Harms-Potter via email at jharms.potter@gmail.com using the guidelines posted [HERE](#).



The April 2024 Newsletter of the United Church Rural Ministry Network is now [available](#).

A Conversation with the Family of Morgan Harris



Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran were murdered in 2022, and their bodies were left in a Winnipeg landfill. Morgan and Mercedes' families and communities have been calling for a search of the landfill ever since.

Join us on Sunday April 21 when *Indigenous Ministries and Justice* of the United Church of Canada is hosting Cambria Harris, daughter of Morgan Harris, and family member Melissa Robinson, for a conversation about where things stand today, and the challenges that the families and loved ones of MMIWG2S face.

You can find more information [here](#).

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2024 EOORC Annual General Meeting
Unique Public Witness
Un témoignage collectif et singulier

← 100 years - 100 ans →

Friday, May 31, 2024
 Saturday, June 1, 2024

You are invited to the 2024 EOORC Annual General Meeting! It will take place at Trinity United Church in Ottawa. Registration will open in the coming days. You will receive an email inviting you to register.

An Update from the Planning Team

Book Exchange at the AGM: As requested by some participants, a space will be set up for a free book exchange. Would you like to share books that you've read and found helpful or inspiring? Bring up to five books that are: • Devotional • Bible related • Christian-themed • Theological and/or spiritual. Please be prepared to take home any of your books that are left on the table.

Display Tables: A small number of display tables will be available at the AGM. Please indicate your interest in using one of these tables in advance to Natalie Matkovsky (nmatkovsky@united-church.ca).



Many hands make light work

Our Planning Team is seeking some volunteers to help with various tasks at the May 31 -June 1, 2024 Annual General Meeting and Celebration of Ministry Service. If you would be able to help with any of the following tasks, please contact Natalie Matkovsky at nmatkovsky@united-church.ca.

Registration Table

Task: hand out or take back registration kits with nametag, voting card and headset

Could you help in one of these time slots?

Friday, May 31 (from 8:00-9:30 am), Friday, May 31 (from 4:00-5:00 pm), Saturday, June 1 (from 8:00-9:00 am), Saturday June 1 (from 3:30-4:00 pm)

Stewards

Task: help with errands in the plenary; serve as a scrutineer for counting ballots.

Could you help in one of these times slots? Friday, May 31 (from 9:00 am-4:00 pm), Saturday, June 1 (from 9:00 am-4:00 pm)

Ushers for the Celebration of Ministry Service on Friday evening

Task: greet, hand out bulletins, offering, directions for communion

Could you help at this time? Friday, May 31 (from 6:30-8:30 pm)

Miscellaneous Tasks

- We need a few people who can help with other miscellaneous tasks.

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Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy
A Social Justice Story
By: Anita Jansman

The Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC) is a grassroots ecumenical program that serves the multicultural, multi-faith neighbourhoods (Morrison Gardens, Pinecrest Terrace, Regina Towers, McEwan Towers and Foster Farm) of Pinecrest-Queensway. The OWECC is led by Rev. Lorrie Lowes (Bell's Corners UC) and Rev. Tamara Connors (Parish of South Carleton, Anglican Church).

"We provide a ministry of presence," says Rev. Lowes, adding that "the living conditions are not easy in these neighbourhoods." The daily challenges of poverty, isolation, mental health, and other marginalizing forces lead to a wide range of social problems. The OWECC aims to offer a possibility for empowerment and more abundant living.

Some of the OWECC's initiatives have included being present at food banks to help people fill out forms while offering them a cup of soup. At Morrison Gardens, a spiritual program welcomed women of all faiths to participate in mindfulness activities. A weekly prayer circle occurs on Sundays at Regina Towers. Before COVID, OWECC arranged an annual day away from the city to a tranquil natural setting. As the world opened up, Camp Otterdale, in Lombardy has welcomed folks from the OWECC neighbourhoods to a whole weekend of food, fellowship and fun each year.

"People need a chance to sit and talk with somebody who will listen," says Rev. Lowes. Unfortunately, since the pandemic, the chaplaincy has been struggling to get their footing back in the neighbourhoods. People are not gathering socially at the food banks, and a degree of bureaucracy from social agencies has seeped in, making it harder to get commitments of support. Rev. Lowes and Rev. Connors are working toward setting up a regular time and space each week at each of the five locations.

Communities of Faith in EOORC support the OWECC, the largest contributor being Bells Corners United Church. Others support individual programs.

The OWECC is a fine example of the social justice work that's taking place throughout EOORC.

As Rev. Lowes puts it, "We want to help people make their lives more purposeful, to make them feel heard, to make them feel human."

OWECC's Annual Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 21st at Bells Corners UC. All are welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Lorrie Lowes: lorrielowes12@gmail.com

Retired and Retiring Clergy Event

For all United Church clergy who are retired or are planning for retirement. **Wednesday April 24** from 12:00 pm noon (lunch provided) until 4:00 pm.

Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. There will be an opportunity for participants to discuss where they are in the process of retiring and issues they are facing. We will also explore ways for retired clergy to offer their gifts in serving the church and in nurturing their own spiritual lives. This will include information about the processes involved and the financial implications of the various ways to provide ministry in retirement.

To register and receive an agenda, please contact Rev. Grant Dillenbeck at gdillenbeck59@gmail.com.

Earth Week 2024 – For the Love of Creation



For Earth Week, April 21-28, [Moderator Carmen Lansdowne](#) reminds us that change takes all of us. Each action brings hope. Let's make hope visible across the country. During Earth Week, let's show up [For the Love of Creation!](#) Let's pray, learn, and act for Creation. Read the [full news story](#), and [host and participate in climate justice events](#).

Rainbarrels For Sale – Orleans United Church

Irrigating plants with rainwater is wonderful because plants love the water so much. Fresh from the sky, rain is completely free of the salts, minerals, and chemicals found in other water sources. Rainwater also has the perfect pH balance and nitrate delivery to keep plants and soils healthy! **Our church will be distributing rain barrels again this year on Friday June 21, 2024 from 6pm to 8:30pm. Rain Barrels, composters and accessories can be ordered online at <https://rainbarrel.ca/orleansunitedchurch/>** New this year, we will also be offering gardening accessories so check out our page even if you already have a rain barrel. We would like to sell at least 75 rain barrels so we need your help in spreading the word. Can you post this info onto your favourite social media or other form of advertising? For more information, contact Annemarie Humenuk at kayakforever@gmail.com."

Wild Church Leadership Retreat May 2 - 4, 2024

This is a retreat is for anyone wanting to learn more about leading wild church services. We especially encourage anyone who will lead or hopes to lead a wild church service in Algonquin Park in the summer to attend.

Questions can be directed to Marilyn and Svinda by [email](#) and for more information and to register, please visit [Retreats – Rise Above Guest House in Ontario, Canada, K0L1C0](#)

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April Stewardship Update



Called to Be the Church: The Journey: When you are ready to make good stewardship a core part of your community of faith, we are here to help. Each course has a specific focus, enabling you to set goals, create a plan, and be successful, including both learning and practical elements. Our next course, [Bequests and Estate Giving Spring 2024](#)—Set up a planned legacy giving program for your community of faith runs April 24 and May 8, 2024.

May is PAR Month: Our Philanthropy Staff Team have just created some resources for pastoral charges to create their own Pre-Authorized Remittance campaign next month (or whenever)! Resources include a Step-By-Step Guide to creating your Own Par Campaign, A Sample Plan, A PAR Sermon, communication messages, as well as links to other previously shared resources. Keep checking our [PAR Webpage](#), or watch for [God's Mission: Our Gifts](#) for the details and appropriate links. In the meantime, e-mail [Roger Janes](#) for more information.

A Stewardship Conversation: Are you looking to grow generosity and involvement in your community of faith? Do you want to learn the best practices needed to effectively reach out and build new relationships with those not yet participating in your church's ministry? Do you want to develop an effective leadership recruitment plan? Why not book a Zoom or telephone call with Roger Janes and start the conversation: [Roger's Booking Page](#).

Our Latest Stewardship Blog: [The Training Grounds for a Revolution](#) by Vicki Nelson

Emerging Scholars Colloquium at St. Paul's University

This event celebrates the 175th anniversary of St. Paul's University, hosted by emerging theological scholars. A great opportunity for continuing education!

The Colloquium runs from the evening of April 29 to the end of the day on April 30, 2024 at Saint Paul University. Registration is \$20 and includes a reception on April 29 and all meals on April 30. More information and the link to register is available at: spucolloquium.ca.

A promotional graphic with an orange background and a sunburst pattern. The main text reads "Recalling Our Roots and Charting the Future" in a large, bold, black font, followed by "Theology Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" in a smaller, red, italicized font. Below this, it says "Emerging Scholars Colloquium | Saint Paul University April 29-30, 2024". A yellow starburst graphic contains the text "Registration opens March 1!". At the bottom right, it says "Featuring keynote: Rev. Dr. Adam Hincks, SJ" and provides contact information: "spucolloquium.ca" and "lonergan@ustpaul.ca".

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Calvin United Church: 175 Years!

Congratulations and blessings to Calvin United Church in Pembroke on their 175th Anniversary!



Coming Soon!
175TH
Anniversary Weekend

Calvin United Celebrates!

May 4th - 7 pm Spring Concert by **Canadian Military Wives Choir Petawawa**

May 5th - 3 pm **Celebration Service** followed by a **Potluck Supper**

Gratitude to our Creator for:
Past Generations - Love in Action Today - Encouragement for Tomorrow

If you would like to attend the events, more details and ticket info for the concert is available [here](#).

French for Ministry – Learning Opportunity

In the first week of May, Montreal Dio will again be holding their **French for Ministry** intensive course. Taught by the talented Clara Maranzano, this course focuses on French language skills for ministry setting and is an entry-point to our ongoing advanced French pastoral theology discussion group during the year. Some of you have expressed interest in this—now is the time to decide as you need to pass a placement test to be admitted. More details are on their website: <https://montrealdio.ca/bilingual/>.

Carleton
University

 School of Social Work

To all Faith Communities.

The School of Social Work at Carleton University partnered with several groups including Orleans United Church to develop the Healthy End of Life Project, (HELP) seeking ways to help people ask for and accept help and make illness, end of life, death and grieving comfortable, everyday topics.

To that end, Orleans United Church developed 5 toolkits which may help your congregation lovingly support those struggling with illness, end of life, grief, and bereavement.

We would love to have you join us at Orleans United, 1111 Orleans BLVD, Sunday May 5, from 2 to 5 PM. where, In both small and large group discussions, we will share our journeys of developing helpful toolkits. You can learn more about the toolkits [here](#).

Please RSVP by April 25. For more information, email or call Heather McGrath: hmcgraths@gmail.com or 613 355 7652

Blessings, Orleans United Church



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VAM Form – Updated Link

If you are a retired minister and wish to retain your Voluntary Associate Minister status, please complete your VAM form by April 30th.

A couple of VAMs mentioned that the file format included in the previous newsletter was difficult to access. If you had any trouble, you can find the PDF [here](#).

Rendez Vous 2024 – July 3-6th, 2024

What: National UCC Youth and Young Adult and Leaders Event

Where: St. Catherine's, On. Brock University

Ages: 14-18 years

Cost: \$425 + \$200 for travel (There are funds within our Region this event)

Interested in attending Rendez Vous this year?

To help coordinate travel and grant funding, please complete the form and Dana Ducette will be in contact.

<https://forms.office.com/r/HqdJiWXTV8>

Please note: Youth Leaders will need to attend with their youth groups.

Rendez Vous Website: <https://united-church.ca/events/rendez-vous-2024-audacious-hope>

A Message from the Montreal Mission

We are looking forward to the third summer of the **Montreal Mission Internship**. This program is for young people age 18 to 25 and combines service learning, vocational discernment, and theological reflection for young people of faith. It runs from late May to late July and participants earn a stipend of \$5000. The past two summers have been great fun and we're looking forward to another great summer. We have a great cohort of applicants for this year's program but we don't have too many United Church folks—and we still have space for some! Please spread the word. More information is online at www.montrealmission.ca.

News from the General Council Office



The [April 9th](#) issue shares results for Remit 1, as well as information about the Global Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage. The [April 16th](#) issue shares a link to sign up for a new Centenary newsletter, and more.



The [March 25th](#) issue offers courses for church treasurers, a learning journey in creating anti-racist communities of faith, and more.

**Living into
Right Relations**

The [March 2024](#) issue shares about the new First Nations Version biblical translation.

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