



EOORC News

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

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

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Applications to the Church Extension Committee

The Spring Meeting of the EOORC Church Extension Committee will be held on Zoom on MAY 1, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Submit your applications for loans or grant to: **JUDY HARMS-POTTER VIA EMAIL AT jharms.potter@gmail.com** using the guidelines posted [HERE](#).

Message from New Communications Assistant

Hello everyone! My name is Natalie Matkovsky and I am EOORC's new Communications Assistant. I know many of you already from my time with Église Grace United Church in West Quebec. I look forward to meeting everyone else soon!

If you have any questions or items for the newsletter, please send me an email at nmatkovsky@united-church.ca

Would Your Community of Faith Like to Host Camp Awesome?

We are looking for three more host churches. We have **two slots** available August 6-9 and **one slot** August 12-16. If you would like to host Camp Awesome either of these weeks please reach out to **Nikki Nel**, Camp Awesome Director. Photo from: www.camp-awesome.ca



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Save-the-Date: EOOR Refugee Network Educational Event

Please **save-the-date** for **Saturday, October 26, 2024**, to join the EOOR Refugee Network's educational event. The workshop will include presentations from the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program and Settlement Agencies, and information from the three Sponsorship Agreement Holders with which most of us in this region work. **We hope to cover such topics as:** SAH allocations and guidelines; the role of settlement agencies; finances and fundraising; support from RSTP and meeting the quality assurance requirements from IRCC; and refugee status documents, the problems of defining who is a refugee and figuring out what programs might be available to them. Refugee ministry ranges from preparing applications and facilitating co-sponsorships, to "sponsoring the stranger" through the BVOR program; to fundraising and volunteering for settlement tasks. **Supporting churches and volunteers through education, and sharing our wisdom and experience, is the Refugee Network's primary goal.** The location will be announced soon, so put October 26 on your calendars.

Ministry & Personnel Committee Workshop

Saturday, May 11 9am-12noon

This ZOOM workshop will cover all the main roles and responsibilities of the Ministry & Personnel Committee. The workshop is a repeat of the one offered in the Fall of 2023. This is an orientation workshop for those on the M&P Committee who have never taken it, new members of the M&P Committee, as well as a good refresher for everyone else. Ministry Personnel are also welcome to register for this workshop. **PLEASE NOTE that [registration](#) is required to participate in this Zoom workshop.**



EOOR YAYA will be attending **Rendez Vous** in St. Catherine's, On. at Brock University, July 3rd – 6th. This event is for youth ages: 14-18 y.o. (High School Grades 9-12) and being held in partnership with the Presbyterian Church. Website: [Rendez-vous 2024: Audacious Hope | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

Registration cost:

Early bird registration April 15-May 15: \$425

Registration fee May 16-31: \$500

Registration closes May 31, 2024. Travel Costs: approximately \$200

There are funds within EOOR to support Youth attending this event. In order to access these funds, Dana Ducette will need to know how many people are attending.

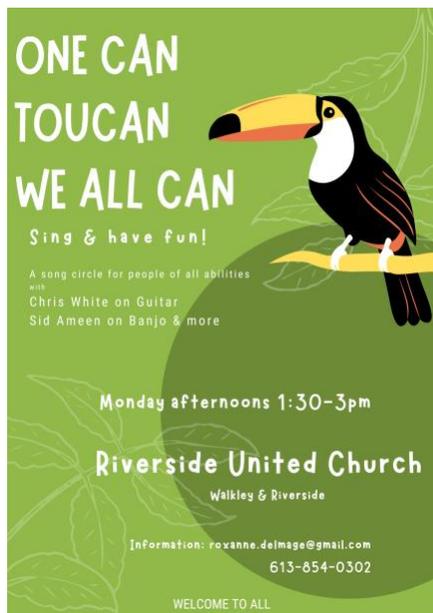
If you are interested in attending please fill out an expression of interest form and Dana will be in contact with you regarding further information. <https://forms.office.com/r/HqJiWXTV8>

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April Zoom Workshop – Social Media for the Rural Church

Upcoming “Zoom” Workshop - Thursday April 18, 2024 - 1 pm (EDT): “Social Media for the Rural Church” Facilitated by The United Church of Canada Digital Team. A presentation and discussion with members of The United Church of Canada Digital Team, Cara Czech, Rev. Stephen Fetter, and Aaron Gallegos. Join us for a presentation and Q&A discussion with members of The United Church of Canada Digital Team on **using social media in the context of rural ministry**, discovering the most effective means of communication for your rural church, and a look at some of the best practices in social media and digital communications, including the potential and pitfalls of a variety of online platforms.

This presentation offer a time of discussion on both the "how" and "why" to use digital communications in your church. [Register for the workshop.](#)



YOUTH – LOOKING FOR AN ADVENTURE?

Gibimihkaadimin is looking for 10 Indigenous youth from across Canada and 10 non-Indigenous youth from Southern and Eastern Ontario to participate in a reconciliation canoe trip this summer. Gibimishkaadimin (Gib-EE-mish-KA-dim-IN) is an Anishinaabemowin word representing “Paddling together by boat” and is the name of a reconciliation and relationship building opportunity for youth. This trip began over five years ago as an intentional youth reconciliation project between three United Churches in Toronto and is now a part of Indigenous Ministries and Justice and the General Council of the United Church. The purpose of this trip is for youth to participate in collaborative and experiential learning through an Indigenous perspective. Gibimishkaadimin seeks to provide youth with the opportunity to foster relationships with each other, the land and the water during a canoe trip in northern Ontario.

Ages: This trip is for Youth between the ages of 14-18. Youth must be within the age range during the trip.

When: Tuesday, August 20 to Wednesday, August 28, 2024

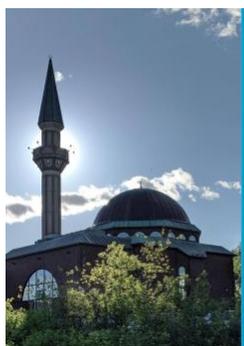
Where: Lake Temagami with Northwaters Outfitters

Cost: There is **no cost** to participate in this trip, this includes all travel, accommodation, and outfitter costs.

Funding is provided by Indigenous Ministry and Justice and the General Council in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s calls to action.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2024. [SEE POSTER](#)

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 21, 2023
Hosted at Ottawa Muslim Association
Registration 2:00 PM | Meeting 2:30 PM

MHI's Annual General Meeting is Fast Approaching! Mark your calendars! We are excited to announce its Annual General Meeting (AGM) set to take place on Sunday, April 21st, 2024. As one of MHI's three major annual events, alongside the Tulipathon and National Housing Day, the AGM holds a special place in our organization's calendar.

As MHI members, the AGM will not just be a meeting for you; it will serve as an opportunity to come together and celebrate the diverse and inclusive nature of our organization. Whether you're a longstanding member or a newcomer, the AGM provides a chance to mingle, share experiences, and strengthen connections within the community.

But don't let the formalities fool you; the AGM is far from a dry affair. Expect engaging speakers, insightful presentations, and, of course, some well-deserved treats! From the President's summary of the year's activities to the Executive Director's inspirational message, the AGM promises to be both informative and uplifting.

Each year, the AGM is hosted in a different venue, reflecting the diverse religious landscape of MHI's membership. Past locations have included mosques, churches, synagogues, and other places of worship. This year, the AGM will be held at Ottawa's Hall of Peace, connected to Ottawa Muslim Association, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere for attendees.

Join us on April 21st, 2024 as we reflect on our achievements, plan for the future, and reaffirm our commitment to creating positive change in our communities. We look forward to seeing you there!

From the Desk of Rev. Whit Strong:

Retired Ministers: If you are a retired minister and wish to retain your Voluntary Associate Minister status, please complete the VAM form right away. [Only those who have the form submitted by April 30th will be approved as VAMs at the AGM 2024.](#) [VAM form 2024-25 RC-12 EN.doc \(live.com\)](#)

Supply Ministers: We have become aware that several of our EOORC Communities of Faith has been approached by people who are presenting themselves as "ordained ministers" and that they are available to do pulpit supply, as well as perform the Sacraments. Just a reminder that the only ministers that are authorized to offer pulpit supply on an ongoing basis or to celebrate the Sacraments in a United Church Community of Faith are active UCC clergy, retired UCC clergy, or clergy of other denominations that have been assessed and approved by the United Church (General Council Office) to offer ongoing Pulpit Supply or to preside over the Sacraments. If you have any questions, please contact Rev Whit Strong, EOORC Pastoral Relations Minister. wstrong@united-church.ca

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News from the General Council Office



E-ssentials

The [April 19th](#) issue shares that preliminary results for Remit 1 should be available next week.



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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