



# EOORC News

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

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

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- Ideas for Summer Family Ministry
- Rendez Vous
- And more!

### Pride Sunday – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

#### Congratulations to Britannia United Church on becoming an Affirming Ministry!

Britannia United Church will be celebrating this important milestone on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The worship service will be at 10:15 am, followed by lunch. To find out more information or send your best wishes, you can visit Britannia's website [here](#). The poster is on the main page.

#### Kitchissippi United Church Presents the Film "1946"

Want to do something for Pride Sunday? Bring your Affirm team and others to see this film! There's a cool United Church connection too!

Where: KITCHISSIPPI United 630 Island Park Drive

When: SUNDAY JUNE 2nd- doors open 1:30, movie at 2pm

Tickets are \$10 at the door or online [here](#).



Do you have other info or ideas for Pride Month? Write to [nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca)

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## 2023 Statistical Forms

Please note that 37 of our EOORC Pastoral Charges have not sent in their 2023 Statistical Forms. If your pastoral charge is one of these, please keep an eye open for an email from Susan Jackson at the General Council Office regarding this.

### Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace

# JOIN THE CHURCH LEADERS' PILGRIMAGE AND VIGIL



PARLIAMENT HILL  
OTTAWA

Pray with us for peace in Palestine and Israel

**MAY 22**

**8:00 AM Gathering in Minto Park**

**8:30 AM Opening Prayers**

**9:00 AM Begin moving down Elgin Street**

**10:00 AM Vigil at Parliament Hill**

REGISTER AT:  
[TINYURL.COM/OTTAWAVIGIL](https://tinyurl.com/ottawavigil)



Ottawa: Gaza Ceasefire  
Pilgrimage



@kairos.canada

### CALLS TO ACTION

- Enduring and sustained ceasefire
- Immediate flow of humanitarian aid
- Release of all captives
- End all arms transfers to Israel
- End of occupation so a just-peace can begin

Participating organizations and churches: KAIROS Canada, The Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Central Committee of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), The United Church of Canada and more!

National church leaders and representatives are gathering in Ottawa to amplifying the collective calls of Palestinian and Israeli partners, their congregations, communities of faith and Canadians for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Please join church leaders in their pilgrimage and in a public prayer vigil at Parliament Hill. Gather in Minto Park at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, May 22, followed by Opening Prayers (8:30 AM), solidarity movement down Elgin Street (9:00 AM), and a Vigil at Parliament Hill at 10:00 AM. Join for some or all of the morning activities.

Details and Registration:

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/event/ottawa-gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage>

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### We Want to Hear Your Stories!

We're looking for local historical anecdotes from across the regional council about ways that our communities of faith have influenced the national church, made a big difference in society, or impacted the world. Please share your stories with us before May 24th so that we can share them in our Regional Council meeting. You can send stories to [nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca).

### EOORC in the News: Centretown United Church and Rideau Park United Church

Centretown United Church was featured in *The Centretown Buzz* for their community garden project. You can read all about it [here](#).



Photo by Linda Pollock for The Buzz

Rideau Park United Church appeared on *CTV News* for their work advocating a Basic Universal Income. You can read about it or watch the video [here](#).



Photo by Katelyn Wilson for CTV News

### Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Pastoral Relations Liaisons

We have a number of Pastoral Charges that are without, or soon to be without, Ministry Personnel. It is the responsibility of the Pastoral Relations Commission to assign both **Pastoral Charge Supervisors** (to have oversight of a Community of Faith and to be attend Council/Board meeting for quorum) and **Pastoral Charge Liaisons** (to assist the Community of Faith develop their Profile and walk with them in their Search process). Sadly, because we do not have enough people offering to serve in either of these capacities, a number of our Pastoral Charges are either unable to have proper Council/Board meetings, or are “on hold” and cannot move forward in the search for a new minister. Neither of these roles are things to be taken lightly. They require a commitment of time and energy, as well as a depth of knowledge of the United Church’s polity and practice. If you are interested and want to know more, please check out the following links or be in contact with Rev Whit

Strong [wstrong@united-church.ca](mailto:wstrong@united-church.ca) 1-800-268-3781 x 6148 [Pastoral Relations: Regional Council Liaisons \(united-church.ca\)](#) [Governance Handbook June 2023 \(eoorc.ca\)](#) (page 43)

Interested in developing your community of faith’s social media? Check out: [“Perspectives: Crafting a relational and authentic social media presence.”](#)

“How can we create a social media strategy for our communities that doesn’t feel like a burden, and instead is a natural extension of our shared life of faith? (...) Social media can serve multiple purposes, but always comes back to relationship.” – Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator

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## May Stewardship Update



**May is PAR Month:** Our Philanthropy Staff Team have just created some resources for pastoral charges to create their own Pre-Authorized Remittance campaign this 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](#) for details and appropriate links. Any questions, e-mail [Roger Janes](#).

I want to say a big thank you to Nicole Beaudry and the folks at Bells Corners United Church in Nepean, Ontario for these beautiful Slides: [PAR Worship Slides](#).

**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, [Getting Started in Stewardship](#), will run on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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](#).

### **Camp Lau-Ren – Newsletter and Spring Cleaning Day**

The summer edition of *The Rock* is now available! You can read it [here](#).

Camp Lau-Ren is having a Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday May 25 from 9am to 3pm. We will be cleaning our buildings to get them ready to welcome our campers in July. We need volunteers to help clean. We will feed you. If you are interested, please contact us at [executivedirector@camplau-ren.rock](mailto:executivedirector@camplau-ren.rock)

### **Ministry Personnel: Returning to Your former Pastoral Charge**

Within our Regional Council we have a number of Ministry Personnel who are retiring or who have moved to new calls or appointments with EOORC. This is a reminder to both ministers and to our pastoral charges that we have a Regional Council policy concerning the type of contact that a minister may have with their former pastoral charge. We ask that both the affected Ministry Personnel and Pastoral Charges refer to the EOORC Governance Handbook (pages 45-46) in order to become familiar with our EOORC Policy. [Governance Handbook June 2023 \(eoorc.ca\)](#).

### **Ministry Personnel seeking Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) status**

If you are seeking VAM status, it is necessary that you are up-to-date on your Mandatory Webinars and Annual Declaration for Police Checks. Your Boundaries Refresher needs to be done every 5 years and the Online Police Check Declaration every year. This is necessary before a VAM request can be processed.

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## Ideas for Summer Family Ministry

Over the next four newsletters, Growth Animator Rev. Tori Mullin shares simple and meaningful ideas for summer family ministry.

### Week 1: Take-Home Activities

Not every church has the ability to run a Vacation Bible School during Summer Break, but that doesn't mean there aren't other fantastic opportunities for ministry with families in your community. Check-out some of these great ideas from different United churches for inspiration.

*During the height of the pandemic, many of our churches created take-home Sunday School or VBS care packages for families to explore.*

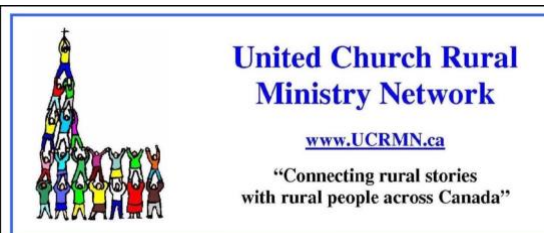


St. John's United Church in Marathon ON called theirs "Camp-in-a-Box", it included a family devotional, a summer playlist, and suggested activities and supplies to get kids playing outside. Dunsford United ON had "Compassion in a Box" which came in a re-usable "fruits of the spirit" grocery bag. At Grace United, Peterborough, "Take Out Church" pizza boxes were hand delivered to homes.

### Common items to include are:

- A devotional (check-out products from Illustrated Ministry, Salt Project, and Jesus, Glue & Glitter)
- A notebook
- Colouring books or pages with markers, crayons or coloured pencils
- A craft and necessary supplies (not everyone will have glue or scissors at home)
- Snacks: microwave popcorn, a box of baking mix (cake, cookies, brownies), s'mores kit
- Outdoor activities: bubbles, balls, skipping rope, scavenger hunt list

Even if you don't have enough resources to run an in-person family ministry event, sending families home with a take-home activity tells them that you're thinking of them and you want to support their spiritual growth! A letter to parents offering encouragement, or a follow-up pastoral care phone call during the summer could also go a long-way to strengthening your relationship with these community members. Share your favourite ideas from your community of with your Growth Animator ([tmullin@united-church.ca](mailto:tmullin@united-church.ca)), or connect with your regional First-Third Ministry staff for more support (EOO: [dducette@united-church.ca](mailto:dducette@united-church.ca), ECO: [shull@united-church.ca](mailto:shull@united-church.ca), Nakonha:ka: [sbernier@united-church.ca](mailto:sbernier@united-church.ca) ). Your gifts of growing might be seeds of inspiration for others!



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

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## Glen Cairn United Church – Honouring Retired Ministers and VAMs

Glen Cairn United Church recently had a special celebration in which they honoured the retired ministers and VAMs associated with their congregation. Rev. Elaine Beattie, Glen Cairn's current minister, prepared a worship service that acknowledged their many years of ministry and she asked the ministers to suggest a hymn that was meaningful to them and why. Rev. Dr. Boyd and Rev. Beattie co-officiated at communion.



From left to right: Rev. Anne Montgomery, Rev. Whit Strong, Rev. Marilyn Richardson, Rev. Dr. Donald Boyd, Rev. Brian Copeland, Rev. Arlyce Schiebout, Rev. Elaine Beattie

### Congratulations on many years of ministry!

Rev. Fred Milnes – 1963 – 61 years

Rev. Dr. Donald Boyd – 1964 – 60 years

Rev. Brian Copeland – 1979 – 45 years

Rev. Christine Gross – 1984 – 40 years

Rev. Whit Strong – 1984 – 40 years

Rev. Marilyn Richardson – 1992 32 years

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout -1995 29 years

Marion Milnes – 1999 – 25 years

Rev. Anne Montgomery – 2010 – 14 years

### Rendez-Vous – A Message from Dana Ducette

Hi All - A little over 6 weeks until [Rendez Vous 2024: Audacious Hope](#).

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

**When:** July 3-6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**What:** Rendez Vous is a National United Church event for High Schoolers. There are workshops, activities, guest speakers and worship over four days and three nights and the cost includes all accommodations and meals. See the [Brochure](#) for more details.

**Registration:** The Early Bird pricing of \$425 has been extended and **registration closes May 31<sup>st</sup>**. To register click [HERE](#)

**Financial Support** The Scriven's Baillie Fund in our Region offers; \$350 per participant, or \$150 per leader Contact me if you would like to apply.

There is a National UCC Youth Travel bursary for Rendez Vous. Participants traveling from our region can receive \$50 towards each registrant. For details about travel and more info, please visit the [website](#).

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## News from the General Council Office



### New Shared Office Space

It's official! The United, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches have signed leases to share national office space at the redeveloped site of Bloor Street United Church at 300 Bloor St. West. in Toronto. The agreement reflects the churches' ongoing commitment to nurturing ecumenical relationships and cooperation, to reducing costs, and to lessening their carbon footprint.

### Your Invitation to the Centennial Kick Off Service From General Secretary Rev. Michael Blair

Friends –

Because we have faith, we are bold. Because our faith is strong, we are grounded.

In June we will launch the Centennial. The United Church of Canada is turning 100 years old. We celebrate this milestone boldly, grounded as hopeful and faithful people.

*On Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. ET, a special Centennial launch service will take place at Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St E, Toronto, ON, near the location of the first General Council of the United Church in 1925.*

*The service will be livestreamed.*

Read the rest of the letter [here](#).



The [May 14th](#) issue shares the United Church of Canada's statement condemning the Israeli military assault on Rafah. The [May 7th](#) issue shares the Moderator's Pentecost message.

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