



EOORC News

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

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

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AGM News



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

The EOORC AGM is this week: Friday May 31 and Saturday June 1. If you are registered for the meeting, you will have received an email with Zoom links, what to bring to the AGM, and a link to the [meeting documents](#).

Two other pieces of information:

1. If you are anticipating submitting a **travel claim**, there is a step for you to complete before the meeting. Please go to the [AGM Page](#) and read the section "Travel Claims – New Process" for more information.
2. The **Nominations Team** encourages you to give some thought and prayer to how you might serve in EOORC. The region is also looking for representatives to GC 45. When you feel ready, there are forms to express interest in serving within EOORC or as a Commissioner at GC 45. You can find more information and the forms at the [Opportunities to Serve/Nominations Page](#).

If you have any questions about the AGM, please contact Communications Assistant Natalie Matkovsky at nmatkovsky@united-church.ca.

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Moderator **Carmen Lansdowne** will be travelling across Canada in 2024, having conversations about flourishing – how we can move from languishing to flourishing – in our churches and for our communities.

The Moderator will be in Ottawa on Saturday September 14th. You are invited to join her for this conversation.

Find out more and register [here](#).

Does Your Community of Faith Need Funding for Youth Ministry?

The Scrivens Baillie Grants has created an [application form](#) to better help support accessing the grants. Interested in learning more? Please visit the [EOORC funding webpage](#).

Among many other possibilities, you can apply for grants of up to \$400 per person to help youth attend Rendez-Vous 2024!

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage

Many folks from EOORC joined the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage in its march to Parliament Hill on May 22nd. Church leaders from across Canada, including Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, participated in the pilgrimage. You can read more about the pilgrimage [here](#).

“Canada can do better. We can avoid being complicit in genocide by imposing a comprehensive and binding embargo on military trade with Israel,” said Moderator Lansdowne. “I join here with my siblings in faith and our membership gathered here in Ottawa today, to not just wish for a better world, but to actively advocate for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.”



Credit: Callie Long/PCC

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The Role of Faith Communities in Driving Change

Citizens for Public Justice is hosting a panel discussion this Thursday evening (May 30). It will be in Ottawa and online. The panel is about public justice advocacy: *The Role of Faith Communities in Driving Change*.

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

Ideas for Summer Family Ministry Week 2: Intergenerational Worship

By Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator

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.

If your Sunday School program closes for the summer, or your church worships all-together on Sundays, consider how to include children in all parts of your worship together.

- Invite children to be leaders taking charge of greeting, name tags, readings, candle lighting, or refreshments.
- Consider a "give and take" table, in which baskets are set out with fun offerings like favourite recipes, stories, art, song lyrics, or scripture verses. Invite community members to bring in veggies from their gardens or fresh flowers, crafts they made that week, or cool rocks they found to share!
- Create activity centers for children to support their worship experience. Hampton United Church NB would have sensory bins in their "Pray and Play" space for different church seasons.
- Dunsford United created "Jesus and Me" backpacks with weekly children's worship bulletin, a note book, and craft supplies. Children often added in their own treasures! On a table beside the JAM packs were baskets with a juice box, fish crackers or fruit or other snack choices so families could select what was appropriate for their family. (Pew activity bags can also be a simple Ziploc bag with items in it.)
- Include a Worship Bulletin with activities that reinforce the day's theme or biblical story (Sermons4Kids and Illustrated Ministry offer some options)
- Consider a play and pray space with little ones in mind. Chose a spot where children can see the action. Add some kid-sized furniture, a comfy chair, floor space to play, a set of plastic drawers with quiet activities and books. Dunsford UN ON even had a pop-up tent with stuffies in their space one summer!

Ensuring that children know that you thought about them before they enter your worship space is an important part of offering them hospitality. But we don't want to stop there! We want our families to know that they are valuable members of our worshiping body, and that sharing in their experience of who God is benefits all of us. Share your favourite ideas from your community of with your Growth Animator (tmullin@united-church.ca), or connect with your regional First-Third Ministry staff for more support (EOO: dducette@united-church.ca, ECO: shull@united-church.ca, Nakonha:ka: sbernier@united-church.ca). Your gifts of growing might be seeds of inspiration for others!

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.Dinner – UTC, Montreal Dio and Rev. Dr. Alyson Huntly

Earlier this month, a dinner was held to acknowledge the significance of the ending of UTC as a formal entity even as while celebrating the ongoing work of theological education of which the United Church is an integral part in the ecumenical college Montreal Dio. At the same time, the dinner recognized the outstanding contribution that the Rev. Dr. Alyson Huntly has made to the theological education of so many students. Congratulations and blessings to Alyson in her retirement!

United Church theological education continues in Montreal through Montreal Dio. Studies are available in both English and French.



Want to show a movie or tv show at church? You'll need a video license!

Applications for UCC Discounted Video Licenses are now open until **Friday, May 31st** for licenses starting on July 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2025. You can access the application here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6u3DdenSF8>

Pricing for licenses is based on your Average in-person Sunday Attendance:

ACF with no streaming: \$1 per person, ACF with streaming: \$1.20 per person

Criterion with no streaming (up to 250 people): \$225, Criterion with streaming (up to 250 people): \$275

Please note: No streaming licenses apply for folks who have a physical copy of the film or tv show to be shown (i.e. a DVD). Streaming licenses allow you to show the film directly from the company's website to your church- it does not refer to live streaming to other locations.

If you are not interested in getting a license this round, the next opportunity to apply for a video license will be in October for a license starting January 1st, 2024. You can find more information about Video Licenses, including the updated pricing, on the Buying United website here: <https://rtps.ca/UCC/Categories/license.html>. If you have not yet visited this new Buying United site, you will need to register using the code **united** to access information.

Please contact abelaskie@united-church.ca with any questions.

Healing Pathway, Phase Two: Healing From The Heart

September 13th and 14th at Barrhaven United Church. You can read the brochure [here](#).

Meet Manon: MHI Tenant and Tulipathon Subsidy Recipient

Life had not been kind to Manon. She had endured a series of hardships that left her struggling to find stability and hope. For years, Manon faced addiction, housing insecurity, and the emotional toll that comes with such relentless challenges. But her story is one of resilience and eventual triumph, thanks to the support she found through Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI).

Manon was homeless, moving from shelter to shelter, each day more uncertain than the last. The constant instability took a heavy toll on her health and well-being. It felt like the walls were closing in, and the future seemed bleak. However, Manon's life took a positive turn when she first discovered MHI.

Multifaith Housing Initiative, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe, affordable, and permanent housing, offered her a lifeline when she needed it most. It is MHI's mission is to bring together people of all faiths to help solve the housing crisis, through development of inclusive and affordable housing communities.

When Manon was accepted into MHI's first affordable property, Kent House in Ottawa's Centretown, it felt like a new beginning. Manon knew to be successful in her recovery long-term, she would need to move out of downtown, and jumped at the opportunity to move to MHI's newly built housing community, The Haven, in Barrhaven Ottawa west. For the first time in years, she had a place to call home that she loved. The stability of affordable housing allowed her to focus on rebuilding her life. She no longer had to worry about where she would sleep at night or how she would make ends meet. Instead, she could start planning for the future.

Living at MHI's The Haven, Manon found more than just a roof over her head. She discovered a supportive network of neighbours and volunteers who genuinely cared about her well-being. The sense of community and belonging helped her regain confidence and hope. Manon began to thrive; she has been clean and sober for 13 years, she attends the classes and programming offered by MHI, and even started rebuilding her relationship with her adult children.

Manon's story is a testament to the transformative power of affordable housing and community support. Organizations like Multifaith Housing Initiative play a crucial role in helping individuals and families break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Through MHI, Manon and many others have found not just a home, but a renewed sense of purpose and a community cheering them on.

But none of this would be possible without people like you, MHI's donors and walkers who fundraise for MHI's subsidy program, Tulipathon. Her journey reminds us that with the right support and opportunities, anyone can overcome adversity and rebuild their lives. From Manon she says, "Thank you. MHI saved my life."

To learn more about Tulipathon and how to donate, visit www.multifaithhousing.ca/tulipathon

Memory Book – Rev. Andrew Jensen

Knox United Church is creating a memory book as part of their celebration of 20 years of ministry with Rev. Andrew Jensen. If any colleagues or friends from the region would like to share a contribution, they can send it to office@knoxnepean.ca. **Note:** These need to be received by May 30th.

Volunteer Needed – Centretown United Church Community Garden

The Centretown United Church Community Garden, located on Bank Street in garden boxes in front of the Church, 507 Bank Street, one block north of the Queensway. The Garden Committee is seeking a volunteer with horticultural experience to help with planning and planting. Over the past 8 years, we have had the expertise of Dr. Brian Ure who is in charge of planning the garden beds and directing the work of the garden. Thanks to his in-depth knowledge, Linda Pollock's coordination work, and the hours that dedicated volunteers have contributed, [Centre 507](#) clientele have enjoyed fresh, delicious and very local vegetables in their meals. There is a great opportunity for someone who has some gardening experience and wants to gain more to work closely with Brian to learn the ropes this season and take on the lead gardener role next season. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact centretowngarden@yahoo.com.

News from the General Council Office



The [May 28th](#) issue shares the Moderator's Pride Message. The [May 21st](#) issue shares about Rendez-Vous 2024, and more!

Living into Right Relations

The [May 23rd](#) issue talks about Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples' Day.
