



EOORC News

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

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

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June: National Indigenous History Month



Photo source [here](#).

June 16th – Indigenous Day of Prayer

Indigenous Day of Prayer, the Sunday before National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), is an opportunity to celebrate First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples' values, customs, languages, and culture. The United Church of Canada has worship resources available [here](#).

New Centre for Anishinabe Nation

After many years of advocacy, members of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation will be getting space for a new and permanent presence near Parliament Hill. You can read about it [here](#). Parliament Hill is located on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

Indigenous Summer Solstice Night Market

Among many special events this summer, the Assembly of Seven Generations is hosting a night market in the Byward Market. Details [here](#).

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Moderator's Flourishing Event + Worship at Glebe-St. James



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](#).

You are also invited to Worship with the Moderator on Sunday September 15th at Glebe-St. James United Church. You can find more information [here](#).

Wall Street United Church in the Brockville Pride Parade!



Newsletter Summer Schedule

Over the summer months, the EOORC News will have a different schedule. Here are the publication dates. If you have an item to submit to the newsletter, please send it to Natalie Matkovsky (nmatkovsky@united-church.ca) by noon on the day before the newsletter is published.

June 26th
July 10th
August 7th
September 4th

After this, we will return to our usual schedule of the EOORC News being published once every two weeks.

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Sabbatical – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly

REMINDER: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly will be on Sabbatical from **June 2nd till September 15th** where he will be walking the Camino del Norte and the Camino Primitivo in Spain. While Éric is on Sabbatical, Rev. Darren Liepold will be acting Executive Minister for June and July and Rev. Dan Hayward will be acting Executive Minister from August 1 to September 15th.

Contact Information:

Rev. Darren Liepold

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Upcoming Ministry Personnel Gatherings

We have heard from many people of the need to reconnect with our ministerial colleagues. In response to this we are in the process of planning some day-long gatherings for Ministerial Personnel in Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Our time together would include some social time, some content for learning/discussion, and a lunch which will be provided.

What we need from our Ministry Personnel are suggestions of topics that would be of interest for the time of learning/discussion. Your input is important for these gatherings to be a success. I look forward to hearing from you with your input and seeing you at our upcoming gatherings! Please send your suggestions to Whit Strong wstrong@united-church.ca

Ministry Compensation Consultation

On June 13th (Thursday – tomorrow!) the Task Group on Total Compensation is hosting a consultation with Ministry Personnel. (Treasurers were invited to a previous consultation.) You need to register for the event to participate.

The Task Group has been directed to focus on two questions:

- Is the total Compensation model that The United Church of Canada uses fair, just and equitable to all ministry staff across the country?
- Is the existing system of Total Compensation **adequate** for ministry personnel and **sustainable** for communities of faith?

You can learn more and register [here](#).

Pastoral Care Training – Fall 2024

The Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program is offering a Basic Course and a Continuing Education Event in Fall 2024. The Basic Course is available in-person or on Zoom. You can find out more at <https://ottawapastoralcare.com/>. Registration is now open.

MHI Launches *United We Dream*

On June 1, 2024 EOORC passed the motion for congregations to participate in fundraising for MHI's new housing development, Dream at LeBreton Flats. Over the next two years (December 2026) congregations will work towards a fundraising goal of \$150,000. Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett Cole of Glebe St. James has created an Indigenous style worship service for congregations to use to fundraise for the capital cost of 30 units for Indigenous individuals and families in a campaign titled, *United We Dream*. The campaign title hearkens back to a previous and very successful campaign, *United We Stand*, where United Churches across the region were instrumental in fundraising for the creation of Veterans' House Canada: The Andy Carswell Building, a supportive housing facility for veterans only. To serve as some inspiration, meet two MHI residents who are giving back with grateful hearts.

Rosenie has lived at MHI's The Haven for approximately two years. When she and her two children aged 7 and 10 arrived from Haiti, they only had temporary accommodations with a family member. After that, she found herself living in a one-room motel which was very difficult, and her boys were not happy. With the help of a social worker, she applied and accepted a two-bedroom home with MHI.

She and her boys are happier than ever. They are doing well in a nearby French school and love playing with the other children at The Haven. Rosenie was an accountant in Haiti for 11 years. She wants to help others with creating their household budget and savings plans and is about to embark on providing financial literacy workshops to other MHI tenants. She is already giving back to the community that has welcomed her with open arms.

Connie has lived at MHI's The Haven since it opened in 2017. She had been on Ottawa's Housing Registry for a long time and has felt comfortable at The Haven since the very beginning. When she first moved in, the other tenants were very welcoming, and she now reaches out to other new tenants to help them feel at home in their new place.

Connie sees the community room and grounds as an extension of her home, and volunteers to maintain the spaces in an attractive and safe manner. She spends a lot of time in the community room, hanging out and tidying up either by herself or with the company of other women who live there. At the Annual Christmas Party, she dresses up as an elf or Mrs. Claus, helping to hand out gifts and cookies. Connie is grateful for The Haven and shows her appreciation by being as involved as possible.

Supporting *United We Dream* and the capital campaign for Indigenous homes is a powerful way for congregations to actively participate in Reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, our brothers and sisters. By contributing, congregations can help empower marginalized communities, providing them with safe and affordable housing and opportunities to grow and thrive.

The Sunday Service booklet and video components are ready for download on MHI's website and can be used in part or in whole at www.multifaithhousing.ca/united-we-dream. Do you have questions about *United We Dream* or want some fundraising ideas? Contact Sheldon Leong, MHI's Manager of Fund Development at fund.development@multifaithhousing.ca

Ideas for Summer Family Ministry Week 3: Special Events & Encouraging Connections

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.

Special Events

Consider hosting a special event like an ice cream sundae social, sing-a-long, field trip, movie night, or church picnic. Make sure to personally invite your families to attend, and ask if there are any

accommodations that can be made to encourage their participation. Considering the timing of the event for children with young families or those who work during the summer. Transportation can also go a long way to ensure participation. Focus on taking time to get-to-know your families better, encouraging mingling between older and younger church members. Could the movie be followed up with an intergenerational discussion time? Could fun conversation starters be left on the tables at the social? Or, consider playing People Bingo with a prize!

Britannia United Church in Ottawa ON hosts free family movies on Fridays in their Sanctuary. They offer a matinee and an evening movie – the afternoon film is geared more to seniors and the evening to children. They make a point to emphasize that all families are welcomed to join, including families of one, families without children, and chosen families. Sometimes movies are chosen to make you think and other times just for a “good belly laugh”, says Rev. Jennifer Power.

Encouraging Connections

- Pair up community members as “Summer Prayer Buddies”, inviting them to pray for one another throughout the summer as folks enjoy their summer break.
- Start a summer pen pal program where kids and seniors write letters to put in a “mail box” at the church on Sundays during the summer break. They can share stories about their adventures and pick-up letters when they're able to attend a service.
- Make a community “scrapbook” of your summer where folks can add pictures and stories from their adventures.
- Encourage children to offer their pictures or cards they make to be taken to residents in retirement and long-term care homes.
- Encourage cottagers, campers, those on vacations to send in photos that might be put on a screen, or short video clips to say hello to those gathering.

Are there other events your community of faith can hold to encourage further relationship building? 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).

Rendez-Vous 2024 – Registration Deadline

The deadline to register for Rendez-Vous 2024 has been extended to June 15th! You can learn more about this extraordinary youth event [here](#).

Do You Need Resources for Sunday School or Family Ministry?

Are you looking for some great ideas for Sunday School or to share with the kids in your life? Rev. Tori Mullin and Shanna Bernier (both from the United Church of Canada) have created a fun online magazine of ideas to help children explore the themes of diversity and God's love. The ideas are suitable for churches & families of all sizes.

You can [download the magazine here](#), or find more Family Ministry ideas at their blog: [Jesus, Glue and Glitter](#). The blog offers ideas, crafts, colouring pages and more!



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

News from the General Council Office



Living into Right Relations

The [June 11th](#) issue shares about the Centennial Kick-Off Service for the United Church of Canada.

The [June 4th](#) issue shares a video from the Mission and Service Fund about Pride and God's Love...and more!

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

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