



EOORC News

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

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

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Community of Faith in the News – Trinity-St. Andrew's, Renfrew

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church (in Renfrew, Ontario) had a special time of sharing memories on Remembrance Sunday. Member Kurt Johnson invited others in the congregation to share their stories of the home front in Renfrew during the Second World War. You can read more about those stories [here](#).

["No Church Can Expel God's Love"](#)

A Blog Post by Rev. Min Hwang

Rev. Min Hwang, who is the minister at the South Stormont Pastoral Charge, recently wrote a blog post about witness to God's unconditional love. Rev. Hwang describes how a group of Korean Methodist pastors are advocating for LGBTQIA+ inclusion and blessing despite consequences from their denomination. Their witness and hope are inspiring. The United Church of Canada offered public support to Rev. Lee, a Korean Methodist minister who was excommunicated after his LGBTQIA+ blessing and ministry. You can read Rev. Hwang's reflection [here](#).



Rev. Lee and church members supporting LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the Korean church. Photo Credit: Rev. Min Hwang

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Grab your mittens and get ready for Worshiplude - Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2025 Join us in Ottawa for a weekend of SNOW and FAITH and HOT CHOCOLATE. Interested in learning more - <https://forms.office.com/r/HmPqypMHi6>

Canada Summer Jobs

The annual Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program Call for Applications will be launched **during the week of November 18, 2024, and will close on December 19, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.** (Pacific Standard Time).

Don't wait to apply! This year the **CSJ Call for Applications will end before the new year.** Don't risk missing the deadline and apply early for Canada Summer Jobs funding!

Are You Ready?

The CSJ program will once again aim to support 70,000 quality jobs for youth during the 2025 summer season. Not-for-profit employers can receive a wage subsidy up to 100% of the current provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage.

You can read more [here](#).

Read the November Newsletter [here](#).



Good News Story – the Beaverbrook Community Concert Series

The following is a letter from Nicholas Busch (Director of Music at Kanata United Church) to the Vision and Transformation Fund. EOORC is delighted to hear that the Beaverbrook Community Concert Series is thriving! You can learn more about Vision and Transformation and other grant programs [here](#).

Hello,

Last year around this time, my application to the Vision and Transformation Fund was accepted, and with that funding I was able to start and maintain a concert series at Kanata United Church, called the Beaverbrook Community Concert Series. We have had 10 performances so far, with each concert seeing 25-80 guests come into our sanctuary, many of whom are not current members of our church. The community support has been so successful that we have been able to secure funding for an additional year based on donations alone, and already have 8 more performances booked starting in September 2024. None of this would be possible without the support of the EOORC and the Vision and Transformation Fund, and for this support I extend my sincerest gratitude to your organization. The BCCS has grown into a community in and of itself, and I am excited to see how it will grow in the years ahead. Thank you so much for your support of this project.

With respect and thanks,

Nicholas Busch (he/him), Director of Music, Kanata United Church

M.Mus. Literature and Performance (CB), Western University nbmusicstudios.ca

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Faithful Footprints + Congratulations to Bethel United Church!

Bethel United Church (Rideau Ferry, ON) has been working hard on green renovations to the church building. With a grant from the Faithful Footprints program, several eco-friendly renovation projects have been completed. A year after the projects, the church's energy costs are down by 21% and with significantly less greenhouse gas emissions. Congratulations to the congregation on these green renovations!

Are you interested in learning more about Faithful Footprints? You can attend an online information session on Dec. 6th. Register [here](#).



Bethel United Church (Rideau Ferry, ON)

Received a grant to conduct a **virtual green audit**; insulate its attic, hatches, and narthex; install a heat pump, three radiant heaters, and thermostats, including electrical work for the updated system; install two ceiling fans as well as interior and exterior LED lights; weather strip and seal doors as well as caulk windows; insulate its water pipes; replace basement door; and insulate and repair its storage room. **A year following their projects, Bethel United reduced its weather normalized source by 17.1%, total GHG emissions by 16.7%, total GHG emission intensity by 33.3%, electricity usage by 32.6%, and energy costs by 21.6%.**

Camino Reflections

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly spent June and July 2024 walking the Camino del Norte, the Camino Lebaniego, the Camino Primitivo, the Camino Inglés and the Camino Muxia/Finistera as part of his sabbatical. He walked 1458kms carrying his backpack across mountains, fields and coasts while holding communities of faith and ministry personnel in prayer. Éric will share some insights of his journey over the coming months. To read Reflections 1 and 2 - please visit our website.

Reflection 3: Mud ... There are times when walking the Camino that the conditions were less than ideal. Walking the Camino del Norte from the Spanish/French border meant that my first day of walking included 32kms and 1000m of climbing and another 1000m of descending. It was a bit of a baptism by fire, not having been able to spend a lot of time climbing mountains in my part of the world. But my most difficult day wasn't as a result of the mountains, it was related to the rain and mud. To continue reading, [please click this link](#).



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Stewardship Update



The most recent stewardship update from Rev. Roger Janes includes information about Gifts with Vision, support for creating stewardship campaigns for your community of faith through a workshop (Nov. 19 or Nov. 20) and a resource kit. A link to schedule a conversation with Roger is also available. Learn more [here](#).

INVITATION - Bike pilgrimage and demonstration re Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty - Date TBD (shared by Étienne Eason, Climate Justice Committee of the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC)

We are planning a pilgrimage from Montreal to Ottawa that will be completed by bicycle in two days, culminating in a large demonstration in downtown Ottawa on the third day calling on the federal government to sign onto and implement the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. In order to make this initiative as accessible as possible, we are also hoping to provide a bus that could take people from Montreal to Ottawa the day of the demonstration. The main "pillars" of this initiative are as follows:

1. We want to take collective action in a way that is congruent with our identity as church. By engaging in a pilgrimage, we are building on a legacy that stretches back millenia, and undertaking advocacy in a way that has a liturgical foundation.
2. By making the journey on bicycle, we are committing ourselves to fossil fuel-free transportation for 200km, allowing us to embody the action we are demanding of the government. This heightens our credibility, commitment, and sincerity in the public eye.
3. We want to do something fun! With so many minds plagued by climate anxiety, it is important that we channel our unwavering demands for ambitious climate policy in ways that are positive and hopeful! Another reason for doing a pilgrimage is that it makes for a more interesting story than a typical march or demonstration, which will hopefully be productive toward garnering the media attention necessary to raise public awareness and conversation on the issue at hand. Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>

Learn more: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jsb5p68r1n2E6HJ-LLLYJ7GEekMEG0UhYzHVmFoyUI/edit?tab=t.0>

Contact Étienne if you are interested in participating: stevie.easonbout@gmail.com

"Finding Our Way Into Advent Hope" ...

St. Andrew's College, in partnership with Living Skies Regional Council, invites you to our next **contemplative gathering**, to be held with the Saskatoon Theological Union Chapel community on **Tuesday November 26, at 11:40am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. Join us via zoom, and be welcome! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82963758924>

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Intergenerational Ministry: Revisiting an Age-Old Concept (In-person & Online Workshop)

November 28, 2024 | 8:45 am - 3:30 pm | Dio Theological College

Cost: \$80 | [REGISTER](#)

Join Dio for a dynamic workshop that will explore the relevance of intergenerational ministry in today's congregational contexts. This event will provide valuable insights and practical ideas for fostering community across generations. Instructors: Rev. Tanya Yuen, Children and Family Ministries Associate, Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, and Nikki Nel, Coordinator of Intergenerational, Children's, and Youth Programme, First United Church Ottawa.



MULTIFAITH
Housing Initiative

Multifaith Housing Initiative News – submitted by Sue Smarkala

Amalgamation Status

The amalgamation of Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) and Gloucester Housing Corporation (GHC) was approved unanimously by MHI members attending a Special MHI Members Meeting, held September 25, 2024. With all members of GHC approving as well, the way was clear for a formal amalgamation of these entities as of November 1st, 2024.

Unfortunately, one very important approval was not received as of October 31st. Canada Revenue Agency – Charities Directorate have not yet formally confirmed that the amalgamated entity, resulting from a registered charity – MHI, amalgamating with a non-registered charity – GHC, would retain its charitable status. The amalgamation will not proceed until our continued charitable status is confirmed. Until then, MHI and GHC have a transitional agreement in place. The next target for true amalgamation is December 1, 2024.

Upcoming event - National Housing Day, November 24, 2024.

“Marimba Players will be gracing us with performances, and we will learn about MHI's latest projects from Executive Director, Suzanne Le. Because this is an interfaith prayer celebration, we will hear from Indigenous Grandmother Irene Compton (cofounder of Minwaashin Lodge) and an opening prayer from Rabbi Idan Scher, Congregation Machzikei Hadas. Our keynote speakers are Rabbi Blum and Dr. Aisha Sherazi.

The event is free to attend and takes place at Sir John A. Macdonald Building from 3:00 PM - 5:00PM. For more important information about this event, please visit [here](#).

News from the Wider United Church



The [November 5th edition](#) of Essentials talks about Church Calendar orders and more!

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