



# EOORC News

Thursday, December 19, 2024

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

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### Moderator's Christmas Message 2024

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada, shares a hopeful Christmas message. Reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the future, Moderator Lansdowne encourages us to embrace the spirit of the season and work towards a more just and compassionate world. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ and commit ourselves to living out God's love in our lives. Watch the video message [here](#).

### Merry Christmas from the EOORC Staff Team!

We hope that you have a peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year! May Christmas be a chance for your community of faith to share God's love with your neighbours. May you find wonder and joy among the busyness of Advent and Christmas activities...and then some good rest after Christmas Eve!

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, EOORC's executive minister, recently shared a message of Christmas hope. If you missed it, you can read it [here](#).

The EOORC and General Council offices will be closed starting on December 24<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Some staff are taking holiday time in the first week of January, while others will be back.) We look forward to serving and ministering with all our communities of faith in 2025!

*EOORC News* is a bi-weekly newsletter that provides information Communities of Faith of the EOORC, published every second Wednesday. If you want an item placed in the newsletter, please send it to [nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca) by 12 noon on Tuesday the week of publication. If you do not wish to receive this weekly newsletter, please send me an email to the same address above.

## Denominational Assessments and Mission and Service Funds

*Please share this message with the treasurer for your community of faith!*

It is that time of year when our communities of faith transfer their denominational/regional assessments and their Mission and Service funds. As we know the Canada Post strike has posed a number of challenges for this process, including an anticipated long back log once mail does begin to flow.

Have you considered an electronic payment option? The General Council office has published a helpful mailing with information about how to pay using online banking, pre-authorized payments, or by visiting an RBC branch near you. You can access the guidelines [here](#).

If you ever receive an online payment request, you can always contact us to make sure that it is from a genuine source! If you write to Natalie Matkovsky ([nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca)), Natalie can connect you with someone who can help you verify this.

2024 assessments and M&S funds must be sent (electronically or by mail) by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Seniors Community Grant Program

The Ontario government is offering grants to help alleviate seniors' isolation (up to \$25k). Our congregations are really good at this!

The Seniors Community Grant (SCG) Program funds local not-for-profit organizations and individuals representing local unincorporated community groups to deliver projects, supports and resources that help older adults (aged 55+) live independently, ensure their safety and security, connect them to their community, avoid isolation and help them achieve greater financial security and social connections. Grants are available between \$1,000 and \$25,000.

You can read more about the grants [here](#) or see the full guidelines [here](#). The deadline is January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

## 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 shares a new reflection entitled "Mobile Village":

*What is often described as the most beautiful Camino, and also one of the most challenging, is the Camino Primitivo. It starts in Oviedo, and cuts through the mountains between the Camino del Norte and the Camino Frances. For most people it is a 13 day walk to Santiago, with an extra two days if you start from the Camino del Norte at Villaviciosa. Read more [here](#).*

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### Visions and Dreams: The Moderator's New Year Address on Jan. 13, 2025, 6-8 pm ET -

It's 2025, the Centennial year for The United Church of Canada! Kick off a year of hope and looking outward-upward-inward by joining the Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, for a New Year's address and town hall built around the theme of visions and dreams. And growth as a sign of hope.

Joining the Moderator will be the Growth team leadership, and the new church plant leads. As well as a pastoral welcome to the new and Centennial year, this session will be a national introduction to Growth and emerging Communities of Faith. Find out more about the three streams of work underway to revitalize and activate growth in the denomination: Renew; Create; Invite. Where do you see signs of hope in the church? [Register here for this event.](#)

### Help Children in Need With Your Gift This Christmas

This year, the Mission and Service Fund is inviting us all to make a Christmas gift which will go to help children in need. You can [learn more here](#) or [donate here](#).

### Reminders for Communities of Faith

1. **For Community of Faith Treasurers:** All ministers will be receiving a cost-of-living increase to their salaries in 2025. Some ministers will also be moving up a salary category. Please note that you will need to contact ADP to make these changes; ADP does not make the changes automatically.
2. **For all:** Please be sure that all of the information about your pastoral charge or ministry profile is up-to-date in ChurchHub; pastoral charges please be sure to identify all the key contacts in your pastoral charge, along with their contact information (eg. Regional Representative, Music Director, Treasurer, etc.) If you need help with this, please contact Natalie Matkovsky ([nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca)).

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**CLIMATE FRESH**  
Understanding Climate Change in 3 hours

A Community Board Game AND Learning Event

Exploring Climate Issues through the Climate Fresh Board Game

Friday  
January 17, 2025  
5:30–8:30 pm  
St. Paul's & Dunrobin  
United Church (Carp)  
3760 Carp Rd, Ottawa, ON K0A 1L0

FREE PIZZA!

Co-hosted by  
St. Paul's & Dunrobin  
United Church (Carp)  
and CAFES Ottawa

Spots limited.  
R.S.V.P. required at link:  
<https://bit.ly/stpaulscarp>

More details at: <https://eoorc.ca/event/st-pauls-dunrobin-cafes-event/>

### EOORC Website Updates

Recently, there have been a few small updates to the [EOORC website](#)'s organization. There will be more changes in the coming months. If you have trouble finding anything in its new spot, please contact Natalie Matkovsky ([nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca)).

## News from the Wider United Church



The [December 10<sup>th</sup> edition](#) talks about peace in the Phillipines and how we can help.



The [December 10<sup>th</sup> edition](#) talks about the United Church of Canada's history with ecumenism.

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