



# EOORC News

Thursday, January 9, 2025

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

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### Communities of Faith in the News

**St. Andrew's United Church** in Bainsville, Ontario is sometimes called "the church on the hill." This congregation recently completed a project to map their cemetery (the previous map was 127 years old!), repair headstones and install new plaques on unmarked graves. You can read about it in the [Seaway News](#).

**Wall Street United Church** in Brockville, Ontario participated in Brockville's New Year's Eve concerts. The Brockville Recorder and Times writes: "The churches open their doors for free and free performances are given by local talent, as people walk from church to church attending scheduled performances until midnight." You can read more [here](#).

Wall Street United Church was also featured in the news for their participation in "Sunday Suppers," a meal offered at no charge to their community. This helps address food insecurity and loneliness. The meal series is discussed in [this article](#). It is an ecumenical collaboration.

**Note for Ministers and 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 treasurers will need to contact ADP to make these changes; ADP does not make the changes automatically.

Data from the GCO shows that some ministers have not been paid according to the salary schedules. It is important that all ministry personnel and treasurers verify that ministers are being paid according to the salary schedules. More info [here](#).

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## EOORC Strategic Plan Update

In 2023, the “Setting Our Sights” working group held many visioning sessions and created a Strategic Plan. This plan was approved by EOORC in autumn 2023.

A little over a year into the Strategic Plan our first update is available! You can read our November 2024 Update or the Strategic Plan itself at: <https://eoorc.ca/resources/strategic-plan/>



### 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. This event will be as bilingual. **Registration now open** in [English](#) and [French](#).

### Save-the-Date – EOORC Upcoming Events

#### Winter EOORC Meeting (Online Educational Event)

- Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

#### EOORC AGM

- Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>-Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
(We will certainly be meeting in-person Saturday and possible online on Friday.)

#### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada

- EOORC-Wide Event Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*We invite all EOORC members to put the Winter Meeting and AGM dates in their calendars. Your whole community of faith is encouraged to join us for the big celebration on June 15<sup>th</sup>!*

### New Phone Numbers for EOORC Staff

You will notice on our [Staff Page](#) that some EOORC staff now have new phone numbers as we transition from our previous phone service to our new platform. We will be completely switched over to our new phone system on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 so be sure to update your contacts before that time. Thank you!

While our mailing address is at First United Church, regional staff do not work at this location. Staff work from home offices and travel throughout the region as needed to support EOORC communities of faith, teams and networks.

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## After the Service – Then and Now

Have you ever wondered what “drive sheds” of years gone by have in common with coffee hour today? Kurt Asmis has written a new article: “After the Service – Then and Now.” It explores the heritage, architecture and music of Manotick United Church, with much to learn about this congregation. The article concludes with an interesting link: In the years of wagons, buggies and sleds, a drive shed was important for community-building. It “facilitated (...) social gathering by allowing people to linger without immediate concern for their transportation or animals.” Today, a cup of coffee after church has a similar function – helping to build community. You can read the full article [here!](#)

Register [here](#) for Worshiplude!

A poster for Worshiplude 2025. The background is dark blue with a string of warm white lights at the top. The text is white and yellow. It reads: "WORSHIPLUDE 2025", "FRI. JAN. 31ST – SUN. FEB. 2ND", "OTTAWA, ONTARIO", "Join us for a weekend in Ottawa for Winterlude activities and gather with us for Dinner and Worship Saturday night at Southminster United Church (15 Aylmer Ave, Ottawa)", "\$20 PER PERSON", "REGISTER FOR MORE INFO", "DANA DUCETTE", "DDUCETTE@UNITED-CHURCH.CA", and a QR code. At the bottom, there are logos for the United Church of Canada, the Eastern Ontario Quakers, and a rainbow flag.

## Denominational Assessments and Mission and Service Funds

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

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](#).

Whether or not your congregation uses electronic payments, it is important to be careful of cyber scams. If you ever receive a financial email claiming to be from the Regional Council or General Council, and want to verify whether it is genuine, you can 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.

**Website Changes:** We have made a few changes to the menu in the [EOORC website](#). If you have trouble finding anything, please contact Natalie Matkovsky ([nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca))

## Should My Community of Faith Continue to Accept 2024 Donations?

Sarah Charters of the United Church Foundation notes that “best advice is to proceed as normal and only issue 2024 receipts for donations that arrived or were mailed with a post-mark of Dec 31<sup>st</sup> or earlier.” Initially, it had been suggested that donations for the 2024 tax year might be allowed until February 28 2025 because of the postal strike. However, we don’t know for sure until parliament resumes at the end of March, and even then the extension may not be approved.

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### Volunteers Needed – Worshiplude 2025

We are looking for volunteers who can help to set up and prepare for Worshiplude 2025 at Southminster United Church. We need help setting up starting on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm. If you can help, please contact Dana Ducette. ([DDucette@united-church.ca](mailto:DDucette@united-church.ca))

### Camp Lau-ren Newsletter – The Rock

Camp Lau-ren's winter newsletter is now available. It includes information about summer jobs, as well as registration for camp in summer 2025 (registration is now open!). You can read more [here](#).

### Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program

Registration is now open for the spring session of the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program! Courses are open for lay people and ministry personnel. You can learn more [here](#).

### Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality

The winter session for the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality is now available! You can learn more or register at <https://www.osts.ca/courses.htm>.

### Ré-unis – A Francophone Youth Gathering



This autumn, the first ever United Church gathering “of francophone youth took place in Canada’s Eastern Townships with the theme “We are no longer strangers.” More than 100 youth participated, including some from EOORC. You can read more [here](#).

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## Stewardship Updates - January 2025

THANK YOU! On behalf of Mission and Service we want to thank you for your 2024 contributions. The money received from Communities of Faith like yours enables us to feed hungry children, help those devastated by natural disasters and war and fund the vital work our partners are doing. A reminder that the Mission and Service transfer deadline for Communities of Faith to submit 2024 gifts is January 15th. If you have questions on how to do that, please contact us at 1-800-465-3771 or at [ms@united-church.ca](mailto:ms@united-church.ca). *Read about more upcoming workshops and more in [this update from Rev. Roger Janes!](#)*

### A Prayer for Those Battling the Wildfires in Los Angeles, California

Compassionate God, you join us in tears as we watch our siblings in California struggle, escape and suffer loss in wildfires. Despite all the political tension between our two countries at this time, our hearts reach out to fellow souls who sit in fear of losing their homes, their parks and their neighbourhoods.

God, we know that we have been poor stewards of your creation and have contributed to these fires by our neglect. And yet, you still love us, you still walk with us, you still cry with us when we lose what you have given to us in trust. Continue to accompany those who face uncertainty, displacement and grief. Be with them as they navigate the ruins of what was, and as they rebuild.

Our prayers stretch across the continent, offering comfort and consolation. We ask you, through your divine spirit, to cradle them with our intentions and give them strength. Amen.

-Written by Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly

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