



EOORC News

Friday, February 21, 2025

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

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Upcoming Covenanting Services

You are warmly invited to two covenanting services.

1. Celebrating the covenant between Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Trinity United Church (Smiths Falls) and the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. Sunday March 2nd, 2pm. Guest speaker: Rev. Michael Blair. More information [here](#).
2. Celebrating the covenant between Rev. Michelle Robichaud, St. John’s United Church (Kemptonville), and the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. Sunday March 16th at 10 am. Guest preacher: Rev. Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly. More information [here](#).

A Special Invitation to the Rural Churches of EOORC: Meet and Greet with the Rev. Michael Blair

SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE RURAL
CHURCHES OF THE E.O.O.R.C.

Saturday, March 1, 2025

2 – 4 PM



Meet & Greet the General Secretary,
The Rev. Michael Blair
of the United Church of Canada and hear the
UCC Vision as we celebrate this centennial
year and move forward by the Grace of God.

Trinity United Church Smiths Falls
41 Market St N. Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

For further info, call or e-mail the church office:
(613)283-4444 or secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca

All Are Welcome!



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More information [here!](#)

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Grant Opportunity for Affirming Ministries – Due Today (Friday) at 5 PM

The [Tegan and Sara Foundation](#) is offering grants between \$1,500 and \$5,000 to 2SLGBTQ+ leaders and small nonprofits. Our goal is to fund the projects meeting needs of 2SLGBTQ+ people through a diversity of programs, geographies, approaches and communities. Grantees will join a cohort of 2SLGBTQ+ leaders and nonprofits across North America to support each other, and will also benefit from the institutional knowledge of the Tegan and Sara Foundation. For more information and to apply by **February 21, 2025 deadline** visit the foundation's [Community Grants page](#).

Vision and Transformation Grants

IT'S TIME. The deadline for the next submission for a Vision and Transformation grant is March 31 2025. As members of the Vision and Transformation Leadership Team, we hope that you have heard about the grants we offer. Twice a year we receive and recommend grant applications from a variety of communities of faith which include all forms of ministry in our region. Grant applications are then reviewed and forwarded to the next executive of EOOR for approval.

Grants approved from the October 31st submissions promoted a youth worker, a parish nurse, indigenous programming, arts and wellness for seniors, YAYA worship, and more. What are your dreams? What project would you like to undertake? Or do you simply want to envision?

And if you have a story to tell about your success using an earlier grant, please share it with us. We would love to hear from you.

Please look for us on the EOOR website. We can be found under <https://eoorc.ca/resources/funding-sources/>. Information about the grants and the application form can be found there. Questions can be directed to: visionandtransformationeoorc@gmail.com

Registration for EOORC Online Winter Educational Event

Registration is now open! Our theme is “Creative Sparks” and we will learn from folks across our region. For more information or to register, please visit [2025 EOORC Online Winter Educational Event - Eastern Ontario](#)

100th Anniversary Event Survey

We are inviting all communities of faith in EOORC to join in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. This special celebration will take place on June 15th at the EY Centre on the outskirts of Ottawa. Have you filled out this survey? [100th Anniversary Survey - Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council](#) We encourage all communities of faith to take the time they need to decide how they would like to participate, and to fill out the survey as soon as they have made a decision. You can find the latest information about this event [here](#).

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Ontario Election 2025: More than Tariffs A panel discussion Sunday Feb 23, 3:00-4:15 PM EST on Zoom

Information to help you faithfully discern your vote and continue advocacy after the Feb 27th election.

Brief presentations by five panel members on selected topics. Panelists will respond to questions from the audience.

Advance registration required:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/Pfy-0rDhQt-I-V5KqspFkw>

For more information contact:

Thérèse Samuel tsamuel@united-church.ca and John Egger jegger@united-church.ca

Moderator:

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly serves as the Executive Minister to ECO and EOO Regional Councils in Eastern Ontario. He was ordained in 2020. He served for 5 years as Responsible, Ministries in French, for 9 years as the National Executive Director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Éric spent 17 years working in federal political circles and 7 years as a registered lobbyist. He also brings a hope-filled passion for the church.

Panel Members

Charles Barrett is a retired economist, who was actively involved in policy dialogue in North America, and the Asia-Pacific region in international economic relations, human resources development and capacity building. He has broad research experience and has written extensively on Canadian and international policy issues. He is a member of Riverside United Church, Ottawa and Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council.

The Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington is an ecotheologian and ordained minister in the United Church of Canada. Working at the intersection of ecology and theology for 20 years, she inspires people of faith to transform their actions in response to the climate crisis. She currently serves as commissioner on climate justice with the World Council of Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches. Sign up for her weekly newsletter: [Faith. Climate Crisis. Action.](#)

Bryan Smith is a long-term member of the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice, an organization committed to work and advocacy on a wide range of social and environmental issues locally in the County of Oxford and across the planet. It stands in for the Ontario Health Coalition and stands up for public health. Bryan is a retired teacher, and is active in providing school lunches and community dinners, and promoting local foods, the avoidance of waste, community events, and public health.

Rev. Jeffrey Dale (they/he) is the Minister at College Street United Church in downtown Toronto. Jeffrey is a harm reduction advocate and community educator, working with harm reduction advocacy groups throughout the Province of Ontario to educate communities of faith and the wider society regarding the needs of people who use drugs.

Rev. Susan Eagle is the minister at Grace United Church in Barrie. She chairs both the Ecological and Social Justice Commission for Shining Waters Regional Council, and the Steering Committee of the provincial interfaith coalition, ISARC, which does policy analysis and advocacy for income security, homelessness and employment rights. She has worked with newcomer and low-income individuals and sole-support families as a community outreach worker, and served on London City Council for 13 years.

*This workshop is presented by the **Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC)** with representation from Eastern Ontario Outaouais, East Central Ontario, Shining Waters, Canadian Shield, Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada. **Engage, Pray, Vote.***

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Concert in Support of MHI's Odenak Complex – Details [Here](#)

Retrosonics
Rock n' Roll & Celtic
LIVE MUSIC

Free-will donations will support
Multifield Housing Initiative's
Odenak Complex at LeBreton Flats.

Tax receipts issued for donations of at least \$20.
*Visa and MasterCard payments accepted.
Refreshments served.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 @ 7:20 PM

Barrhaven United Church, 3013 Jockvale Road, Barrhaven
Call Dianne at 613-827-7275 for details

Rotary Club of Ottawa South

MULTIFIELD Housing Initiative

Rural Ministry Town Halls

Rural Ministry Town Halls are a chance for those in rural ministry to gather together to share joys and concerns, insights and challenges, successes and failures. We hope to create a network where folks can share ideas, ask questions, raise concerns, and build a network of support. Aware that rural can take different formats, if you define yourself or your church as rural, please join us and share your thoughts! Visit [Rural Ministry Town Halls](#) for more information and to register. This month's gathering is on Wednesday, February 26, 1-2:30 pm ET.

AI and Church: Prophets, Priests, and Prompt Engineers: Every fourth Wednesday of the month. Curious to dive deeper into conversations about the impact of artificial intelligence technology on society and church? This group meets monthly to explore both the ethical implications of AI and how to responsibly use these tools for the work of the church. The next session is scheduled for February 24th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. More information [here](#).

Is Your Community of Faith Hosting Pancake Tuesday or Ash Wednesday?

A note from the editor: Pancake Tuesday and Ash Wednesday can be an excellent time to reach out to new folks. If your church is hosting a pancake supper or an Ash Wednesday service, you could advertise this on a church sign, a community notice board, a community e-newsletter, with posters, on your website, on social media...however you communicate. (As well as of course inviting friends and neighbours!)

Southminster United Church (Ottawa) is hosting a Pancake Supper on March 4th – yum! Details [here](#).

Pancake Supper



Southminster United Church
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & FUNdraiser

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
5:30 - 7:00 pm in the lower hall
Pancakes & Maple Syrup, Sausages, Baked Beans,
Fruit Dessert, Juice, Tea & Coffee

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Prayer Cycles Website

The Prayer Cycles website encourages us to pray for churches across our region. If you go to the list for [EOORC](#), you can find a few churches to pray for each week. Prayer Cycles used to produce a newsletter, which is no longer available, but the prayer prompts remain available online.

Growth - Renew, Create, Invite! We're working on gathering resources that can be helpful to you. To help us focus our efforts, we'd love to hear what kind of information, tools, or support you're looking for. Please share your thoughts on or before March 4th. Thank you!



This June, *Broadview* will publish a historic keepsake edition celebrating the United Church's 100th anniversary—a once-in-a-lifetime issue filled with powerful stories, pivotal moments and reflections on the past, present and future of the church. Learn more by visiting [100th Anniversary Keepsake | Broadview Magazine](#).

Webinar – Works in Action: Supporting Anti-Racist Initiatives

The United Church Foundation is hosting webinar *Works in Action: Supporting Anti-Racist Initiatives* on February 27th, 2024 at 12PM EST. This one-hour webinar will showcase projects that engage with anti-racism, with the support of the United Church of Canada Foundation. It will feature a panel of past grant recipients who will share insights into their projects, lessons learned, and experiences working with the Foundation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the meaningful work being done! Register [here](#).



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United Church of Canada Foundation – Grants Available

Do you have a dream or project in mind? The United Church of Canada Foundation may be able to help make it a reality. You can visit their [website](#) to learn more about the grants available, to donate, or to hear inspiring stories from across the United Church of Canada. Note: The next round of Centennial Grant submissions is due March 15th.

February Stewardship Updates from Rev. Roger Janes

Our Latest Stewardship Blog

Rev. Brenna Baker celebrates the small acts of giving that surround us, and shares how to inspire and capture the spark of generosity in your community in this month's blog: [What I Learned About Generosity From Holiday Shopping](#).

Mission and Service

The 2025 Mission and Service Goal Setting form is [here](#).

Are you a Mission and Service Enthusiast/Volunteer. Please let us know so we can add you to our e-mail list and send you regular updates and resources!

Questions? Email [Mission and Service](#) or call us at 1-800-465-3771.

Get Support to Create your Stewardship Campaign!

If your congregation hasn't undertaken a stewardship campaign in a while, consider registering for a 2-week learning module on creating a congregational giving program with Called to be the Church: The Journey. There are 2 opportunities to participate in the online program this Spring - one starting on **April 30th** and the other starting on **May 1st**. [Learn more and register here](#).

Getting Started in Stewardship – **March 11th** - two options – 4:00 pm or 6:30 pm start (Eastern Time).

Come on your own, or come with a team and join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles.

For more detailed information and the rest of this note from Roger, please click [HERE](#).

News from the Wider United Church



E-ssentials: The [February 11th edition](#) discusses humanitarian aid in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Coronation Medal for the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parody, an ecumenical call for a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and more.

The [February 18th Edition](#) talks about Centennial grants, an upcoming webinar about how to talk to elected officials...and more!

The [February edition](#) of the Centennial newsletter is entitled "Reflection on Our Anti-Racism Journey"

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