



EOORC News

Friday, October 10, 2025

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

QUICK LINKS

- [Pastoral Relations Minutes](#)* NEW
- [Executive Minutes](#)
- [Jobs](#) *NEW
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Submit an Event](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Bay of Quinte Engraved Staff Returned
- Kitchissippi – Affirming Ministry of the Year
- Finding Housing for Asylum Seekers
- Children's Ministry
- Church Extension Committee
- Vision and Transformation
- Indigenous Musical Collaboration
- And More!

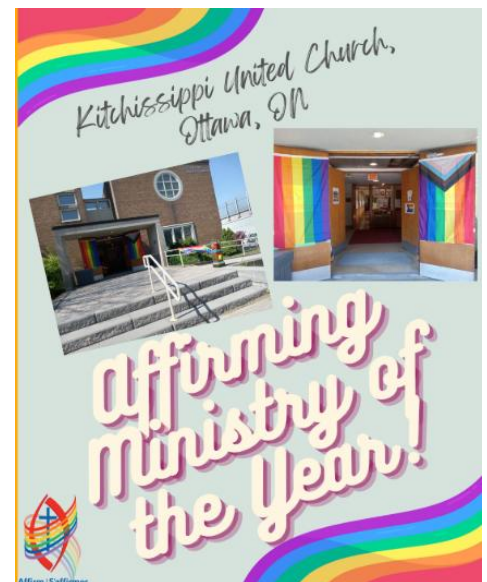
What Was Lost is Now Found

Missing since 2005, the Bay of Quinte president's engraved staff returns to the United Church Archives.

Lori-Ann Livingstone shares the mysterious story of the Bay of Quinte president's engraved staff, which went missing for 20 years before being discovered at the University of Toronto and returned to its home after some archival expertise. You can read the story [here](#).

Congratulations to Kitchissippi United Church – Affirm United's Affirming Ministry of the Year!

Affirm United writes: *In August 2024, Kitchissippi United began a project called God's Beloved – welcoming LGBTQ refugees, and has since welcomed 50+ people. (...) KUC is being public about its affirming witness – sending out invitational posters to service agencies, intentional about its welcome and explicit about its acceptance.*



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 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.

Kitchissippi United Church Members Race Against the Clock to Secure Housing for Asylum Seekers

Over the past several years, many new asylum seekers in Canada have been living in hotels. Market-rate rents are high, the wait for subsidized housing is several years long, and shelters and transitional housing are full. On September 30th, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada ended funding for asylum seekers to live in hotels. All of those living in hotels have needed to find a new place to live or risk being on the streets. Many of the families living in the hotels have young children.

Rev. Daniel Addai Fobi of the God's Beloved Community at Kitchissippi United Church, and Denise Bonomo, Chair of Council at Kitchissippi, were among several Ottawans interviewed about efforts to secure housing for asylum seekers. Volunteers from Kitchissippi United Church have been "driving around the city with claimants, negotiating with landlords and acting as references, all with the goal of helping families find rental accommodation within their price range."

In [this article \(and the included clip from CBC Ottawa\)](#), Rev. Fobi and Ms. Bonomo explain the difficult situation of asylum seekers in need of housing, how we can help, and how caring for our neighbours is part of our call as the Church.

Are You Interesting in Starting a Messy Church?

Or -- would you like to help others start or enrich their Messy Church? As we move into fall it seems a great time to come together and discuss how to start a Messy Church, how to enrich a Messy Church, and to connect with others who are leading Messy Churches in our country! Please join Messy Church Canada as we share some ideas about Messy Church and offer some tips and ideas for starting a Messy Church. We will meet on ZOOM -- for about an hour on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 2pm EST <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4098204079> 2:00 p.m. Hope that you will join us!

From: Carol Fletcher Messy Church Canada Team Lead



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22
10:30AM-11:45AM**

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
ROUNDTABLE**

**Volunteer
Recruitment,
Maintaining &
Appreciating**

**Guest Speaker
Jocelyn Birkes**

Come and share your ideas around recruiting,
maintaining and celebrating volunteers in
Ministry with Children and Youth.

Children's Ministry Roundtable

October 22nd (Wednesday) at 10:30am-11:45am.

Come share your ideas around recruiting, maintaining and celebrating volunteers in ministry with Children and Youth with Guest Speaker, Jocelyn Birkes.

This event is hosted by three regional councils, and EOORC folks are welcome to attend. You can register [here](#).



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 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.

Church Extension Committee – Fall Meeting

The Church Extension Committee of EOORC will be having its fall meeting on Wed. Nov. 12 at 1:00 P.M. via zoom.

If you are interested in applying for a loan or a grant for your community of faith, please go to the EOORC website and use the link below to check-out what the committee does and how to apply.

Link to Church Extension Committee application process: <https://eoorc.ca/resources/funding-sources/>
Deadline For Applications is Nov. 5, 2025.

Thank you, Judy Harms-Potter, Church Extension Secretary

Note: We are currently updating the information on the website with a few important details. Please check back on or after October 17th to ensure all the Church Extension Committee information is correct for the fall 2025 applications. – Natalie Matkovsky, EOORC Communications

Stewardship Update from Rev. Roger Janes

Registration is now open for 2 exciting stewardship courses.

Both of these courses are offered online on the CHURCHx platform. If you are new to CHURCHx and have questions, please get in touch with Roger Janes (rjanes@united-church.ca).

Stewardship Best Practices – Starts the week of October 20th (\$100 per Team)

Good stewardship is about discipleship, generosity, and spiritual growth. Gather a team from your community of faith and sign up for this 8-week program that will transform how you invite generosity, express gratitude, and communicate your vision.

Your team will need to attend 4 Learning Sessions (lecture style) and on alternating weeks 4 Cohort Sessions (small group discussion). You can get more information and look at dates and times on CHURCHx.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me. It is a bit confusing.

The cost for this program is \$100.00/ team. One team member needs to register and pay. From there they will receive a link to send to the rest of the team.

Registration and more information can be found right [here](#).

We will also have a course on **Legacy & Planned Giving** (October 15th and 29th). **FREE**

If you are interested in that course, please let me know and I will add you to my list to send more info, as it becomes available. Find more information, and register [here](#).

Thank you!
Roger

Thanksgiving Event at Grace United Church – Chelsea, Quebec

Grace United Church invites you to join in celebrating Thanksgiving. There will be worship with the Laurentian band AEternal, followed by a delicious potluck meal. 11 am, Sunday October 12th, Grace United Church Chelsea. (537, route 105, Chelsea, Quebec)



United Church of Canada Nominations

This season's calls for nominations have just launched. We are seeking lay people and ministry personnel for a number of committees:

- The Manual Committee
- Moderator and General Secretary Accountability Committee
- Finance Advisory Committee
- Pension Board
- Benefits Committee
- Academic Awards and Scholarships Sub-Committee

Do you have the expertise the church is seeking for these national committees? Do you know someone who does? Serving on a national committee is great way to connect with others and put your God-given gifts into the service of a deep, bold and daring church.

Learn more about these [opportunities to serve](#).
[Express your interest or nominate someone else!](#)

Deadline: Thursday October 16.

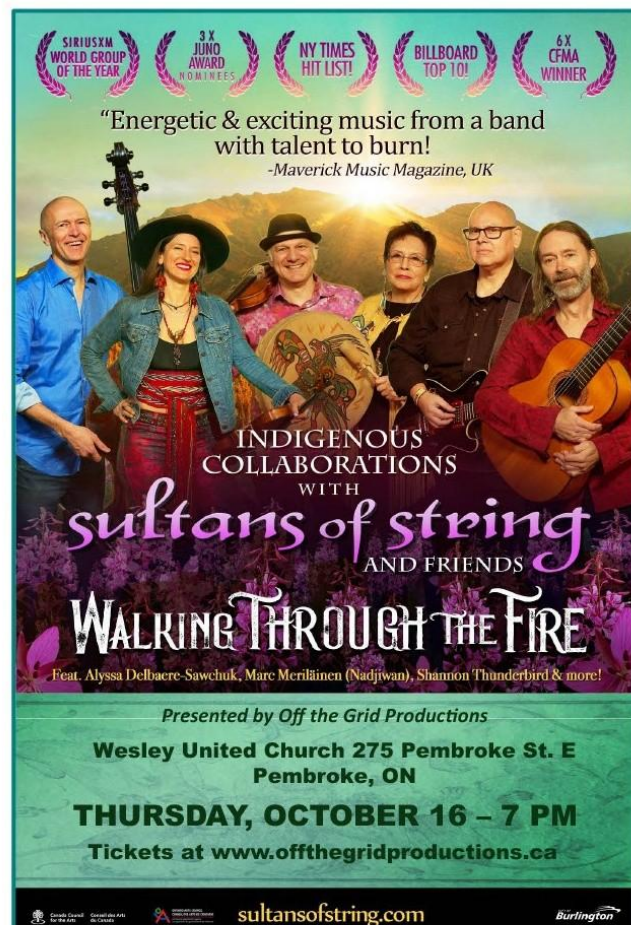
Questions? Nominate@united-church.ca

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 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.

Walking Through The Fire, at Wesley United Church, Pembroke

Walking Through The Fire is an Indigenous musical collaboration with award-winning First Nations, Inuit, and Metis musicians and Sultans of String, 4x JUNO nominated Canadian Roots band. From Métis fiddling to an East Coast kitchen party, rumba to rock, to the drumming of the Pacific Northwest, experience the beauty and diversity of music from Turtle Island/Canada.

This collaboration was conceived in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation to create a positive path forward towards understanding, healing, and reconciliation. Walking Through The Fire, a critically acclaimed multimedia concert, will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, October 16 at Wesley United Church, 275 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke.



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 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.

First Aid Course at Riverside United Church

Tuesday, October 14th 9:45 a.m. to 12:00: First Aid for Seniors - National Capital First Aid Pre-registration Required \$ 50.00 per person.

This one-of-a-kind comprehensive 2 hour course offers EASY TO UNDERSTAND instructions on how to respond to a multitude of first aid and emergency situations as they may apply to seniors. We sincerely hope that you never have to use first aid but we want you to feel confident in your skills and ability to appropriately respond to the situation at hand. This course follows the latest guidelines in first aid and CPR and is taught by a Red Cross first aid instructor with extensive medical background.

Please contact Riverside United Church, (613) 733-7735

Vision and Transformation Grants

IT'S TIME. The deadline for the next submission for a Vision and Transformation grant is October 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 March 31st submissions supported a reconciliation event, Ukelele church, a Parish Nurse project, outdoor furniture, a visioning exercise, and a number of multiyear projects. Yes, projects up to three years are accepted. 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

Looking Ahead in the Faculty of Theology – St. Paul's University

Trustworthy Ministry

This webinar series brings together experts in New Testament, Practical Theology, and Dogmatics to address the question: What makes a trustworthy minister? And how can I recognize a trustworthy minister? This is a critical topic, not only for those considering clerical or lay ministry, but for anyone who engages in the life of the Church. We look forward to a lively exchange!

Learn more and register [here](#).