



# EOORC News

Friday, December 5, 2025

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

## QUICK LINKS

- [Pastoral Relations Minutes](#)\*NEW (September and October minutes now posted.)
- [Executive Minutes](#)\* NEW (September-November minutes posted.)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
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- "Here from the Beginning" Exhibition This Sunday
- Ontario Blue Box Collection
- Prayers for Scott and Éric
- Rally for Peace
- 2026 Salary Changes
- Webinar: The Work of Trustees
- And more!

### Moderator's Advent Message

Moderator Kimberly Heath has shared an Advent message on [YouTube](#). She talks about how joy, miracles and God's presence in difficult times. **You could share this message in a church newsletter, on social media, or during a Sunday worship service this Advent.** In the YouTube description section, there is also a link to download the video, for churches which might have unstable internet access.

### Resilience – A Blog Post by Rev. Lynne Gardiner

Rev. Lynne Gardiner shares about resilience and call in a recent blog post. She writes: "Maybe resilience isn't about riding on the "talent" in the room—how many gifted volunteers we have, how strong our committees are, or how great the choir sounds. **Maybe resilience is about call. A firm, steady conviction that God still has purpose and mission for this people, in this place, right now.**" Read more [here](#).

### Last Day to Apply to Host a Climate Motivator

Today (December 5<sup>th</sup>) is the last day to apply to host a Climate Motivator. The December 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline has been slightly extended. *The Climate Motivator program strives to help communities of faith become inspired and resilient in the face of climate change. We seek to develop and support hope-filled, adaptive, and effective young leaders.* You can read more [here](#) or apply [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](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.



Black people have played a significant role in the history of The United Church of Canada, but their stories have often gone untold. As we commemorate our 100th Anniversary we invite you to join us in bringing these untold stories to life. **“Here from the Beginning”** is an exhibition that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the church, amplifying voices that have long been overshadowed by the dominant narrative.

This exhibit is travelling across the country and will be at **Emmanuel United Church, 691 Smyth Rd, Ottawa on Sunday, December 7 from 11:30am to 2:30pm.**

Emmanuel invites you to stop by and take in the images and text on about 20 large panels.

Some of the material can also be found in [this video](#) or you can visit the website [here](#). (Note: the in-person exhibit times have not been updated on this website.)

Contact the office at Emmanuel United at 613-733-0437 if you have any questions about visiting the exhibition.

### Changes to Blue Box Collection for Churches in Ontario

*Starting in the New Year, there will be some changes to recycling collection in Ontario. Susan Mailer (of Parkdale United Church in Ottawa) made some enquiries about these changes with the City of Ottawa. She has shared this information with us so that it can help other churches. Thank you, Susan! Some of the information is Ottawa-specific since Parkdale is in the City of Ottawa; if your community of faith is located in a different municipality, you may wish to reach out to your municipality soon for more information.*

Starting January 1, 2026, by provincial legislation, places of worship in the City of Ottawa are not eligible for collection in the Common Collection System under the Provincial Blue Box Program (<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-communities/ottawa/>).

For the City of Ottawa: Council has approved staff continuing with the yellow bag program for small businesses and they have made it so that places of worship can join this program to continue to have their recycling and garbage collected (<https://ottawa.ca/en/garbage-and-recycling/garbage#section-f9b444a3-6862-47b0-b41b-2e51071fd0c7>). You must purchase yellow bags to set out your garbage and with that the City will continue to collect your recycling (blue and black box) and your green bin.

To register for the program you will need to complete the registration form found here - <https://forms.ottawa.ca/en/form/pwes/solid-waste/yellow-bag-program-registration-form> Once they have received the form one of our solid waste inspectors will reach out to confirm registration details.

### Prayers for Scott and Éric Hébert-Daly

As Christians, we know the power of prayer and the importance of holding one another in that way. This week, we to lift our voices in prayer for Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly's husband, Scott as well as for Éric as Scott remains in hospital for further testing after some irregular cardiac results. Éric has given permission to share an update which is [here](#) in the East Central Ontario RC newsletter.

### Rally in Ottawa – Invitation from Canadian Friends of Sabeel

From the Kairos Churches Forum, Canadian Friends of Sabeel: We invite you to come to Ottawa on Thursday, December 11 to bear public witness to the agony of the Palestinian people and the “silent genocide” that is now occurring on the illegally occupied West Bank.

This urgent action is organized by Christian believers but is open to anyone who supports the struggle for a just peace in Palestine. We will gather at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (corner of Wellington and Kent, and across from the Supreme Court) at 12:00 noon on December 11, with the exact location of our outdoor public event TBD. For more information, contact: [info@friendsofsabeel.ca](mailto:info@friendsofsabeel.ca)

### Camp Lau-Ren is Hiring!

Camp Lau-Ren is now hiring for summer 2026. You can find out more [here](#).

### Affordable Housing – Independent Living – for Retired Ministers

I am pleased to draw to your attention to the affordable housing for independent living which is available at Albright Gardens Retirement Community in the village of Beamsville on the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. This community is for retired or retiring ministry personnel.

The information is available in the following Pilgrim Praxis blog link:

<https://www.minister.ca/seniors-affordable-housing>.

Currently there are units available and when there is no vacancy a wait-list is maintained for applicants interested and eligible for this amenity made available by the generosity of the Rev. Raymund Albright and Ms. Elsie Watt during the 1950s.

Sincerely, Harry Oussoren

### Canada Summer Jobs – Application Period Closes December 11<sup>th</sup>

Would your community of faith like to participate in the Canada Summer Jobs program? You can access funding to help hire a young person in summer 2026. The program covers up to the amount of your provincial minimum wage. More information [here](#).

## 2026 Salary Changes for Ministry Personnel

The 2026 Minimum Salaries & Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel document is now available online. You can find it in the Downloads section at the bottom of the [Ministers' Salary Schedule and Cost of Living Groups webpage](#).

The increases to salaries of ministry personnel are not automatically made by ADP. General Council Office staff do not update ADP with minimum salary data. Your pastoral charge ADP administrator must update the minister's salary in TeamPay or inform ADP of the new salary amount for the pay period beginning January 1.

If ministry personnel have moved up a salary seniority category (A–F) for 2026, they need to inform the treasurer and ADP administrator in their pastoral charge of this change so that their 2026 salary is accurate, based on years of eligible service. Please ask your ministry personnel if they are moving up a salary category in 2026. Ministry personnel are able to check their salary category information in their ChurchHub account. Salary category increases can be checked in January of each year.

A recent audit of the compensation of ministry personnel identified a number of ministry personnel who had been paid below the minimum salaries because the proper salary figures were not provided to ADP by their pastoral charge. We hope this reminder will decrease the number of issues for 2026.

### Church Property Network

**Next Gathering:** Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.  
The Church Property Network is an initiative led by The United Church of Canada and [United Property Resource Corporation \(UPRC\)](#) to support Communities of Faith with property solutions.

Looking to secure funding for your church property? The Church Property Network is here to help! This monthly webinar series explores practical strategies to enhance your church's sustainability while aligning with your congregation's mission.

#### Session Topic: The Work of Trustees

Trustees provide essential care for church property, holding it in trust and ensuring its proper use and maintenance. Their significant role involves legal, practical, and spiritual responsibilities. The Property Network meeting will cover their core duties, collaboration with other groups, their powers, and good stewardship practices.

Find more information and register at [CHURCHx](#).

### ECORC Women's Retreat

One of our neighbouring regional councils, East Central Ontario, is hosting a women's retreat in 2026. It is also open to EOORC. More info [here!](#)



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## News from the Wider United Church

**E-ssentials United Church Newsletter** – You can read the December 3<sup>rd</sup> edition [here](#).

**Centennial Newsletter** – As we wrap up the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, the Centennial Newsletter November edition is available [here](#).

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