



# EOORC News

*Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

The weekly newsletter of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

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### EOORC News – Upcoming Changes

*The EOORC News* will have a few changes over the coming months. First, we are moving to a **weekly publication schedule**. The newsletter will be more concise and up-to-date. (There will be weeks, such as Christmas holidays or certain weeks of the summer, when the newsletter is on break. These will be announced in advance.) Secondly, we are moving to a **Thursday publication date**. This will flow more naturally in the rhythm of the week. Finally, **in the coming weeks, we will make the transition to a simpler format**. You will be able to read *The EOORC News* directly in your email, and will not need to follow a link to a PDF. We hope that this will create a better reading experience. Over half of EOORC news subscribers read this newsletter on a mobile device, and it can be difficult to make the text of a PDF an appropriate size on a phone.

*The EOORC News* will continue to be a place to share stories, resources and important information amongst the communities of faith in our regional council. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Natalie Matkovsky ([NMatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:NMatkovsky@united-church.ca)).

### Regional Report for Your Community of Faith

EOORC will be preparing an annual report from the regional council. If your congregation would like to include this report in your 2025 report book, you will find it in the next *EOORC News*. If you are the regional representative elected by your congregation, you may have been asked to submit a report to your congregation’s 2025 report book. You are welcome to use this report as is, add to it, or use it as a starting place in writing your own report.

*EOORC News* is a weekly newsletter that provides information for Communities of Faith of the EOORC, published every Thursday. If you want an item placed in the newsletter, please send it to [nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca) by 10 am on Wednesday. If you do not wish to receive this weekly newsletter, please send me an email to the same address above.

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## Save-the-Date

**EOORC's Winter Educational Event**— Saturday March 7th. This will be an online event.  
**AGM** – Friday May 29th and Saturday May 30th at Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls

## An Invitation from Parkdale United Church, Ottawa

Join us on Sunday, January 18, as we celebrate the legacy of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** with special guest preacher, the **Rev. Michael Blair**, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada. Rev. Blair has worked at the United Church's General Council office since 2008, first as executive minister for ethnic ministries and then for the Church in Mission unit. In November 2020, he became the first person of African descent to be the General Secretary, The United Church of Canada's top administrator. Rev. Blair traces his call to ministry to a moment as a teenager in Kingston, Jamaica, where he stepped in for a minister who was late arriving, and as they say, the rest is history. A passionate person of faith with a deep sense of purpose for the church we look forward to sharing in worship with him, **with conversation and lunch** to follow in Memorial Hall. **Alongside Rev. Blair, we will also be welcoming renowned vocalist Michael Hanna.** Michael enjoys the improvisational styles of Jazz, the freedom of the blues and the spiritual fire of Gospel, cultivated throughout various times of his life. Join us for what is sure to be a worship experience that is deep and meaningful.

## Workshop: "Raising Inclusive Children"

Orleans United is holding a workshop entitled "Raising Inclusive Children" on February 1 at 1:30 pm. The workshop will be led by Corinne Davison, retired secondary school educator, mentor coach and equity and inclusion educator, and will explore how everyday words, actions and attitudes influence children's understanding of difference, helping families nurture empathy, kindness and belonging. It is free of charge, and open to all adults who play a role in the lives of children.



The poster features a light pink background with green floral corners. At the top, there is a small illustration of a heart with leaves. The title "RAISING INCLUSIVE CHILDREN" is in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below the title, the subtitle "How adults model empathy, fairness, and belonging" is in a smaller, italicized serif font. In the center, there is a circular portrait of a smiling woman with dark hair, identified as Corinne Davison. To the left of the portrait, the "Workshop Details" are listed: "Sunday, February 1, 2025", "1:30 – 3:30 PM", and "Orleans United Church". To the right of the portrait, Corinne Davison's bio is provided: "Corinne Davison, Equity and Inclusion Educator • Mentor Coach, Retired Secondary School Educator". Below the bio, the tagline "Creating spaces of empathy, awareness, and belonging" is written, followed by the note "Open to all adults who play a role in the lives of children". At the bottom, the Orleans United Church logo is shown, consisting of a stylized cross and people, with the text "Orleans United Church" and the tagline "believe. belong. become.".

## The Manual 2026

The 2026 version of The United Church Manual is now available and in effect. You can find it [here](#).

## News from the Wider United Church

E-ssentials Newsletter: [The January 13<sup>th</sup>](#) edition shares a statement from The United Church of Canada and Latin American partners, condemning US Actions in Venezuela. It also shares Lenten devotional information, and update on the General Council office move, and more.

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