



EOORC News

Friday, February 13th, 2026

The weekly newsletter of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

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Updated Time – Visitation and Celebration of Life for Rev. Fred Milnes

Earlier this week, a note was sent out to our EOORC News list, sharing the news of the death of the Rev. Fred Milnes. Based off an earlier version of Rev. Milnes' obituary, we had listed visitation at 12:30 pm and the service at 1 pm on Saturday February 14th. **The times have since shifted slightly. Visitation will begin at 12:00PM and the Service will be held at 12:30 P.M** – still this Saturday, February 14th. Rev. Milnes' obituary is available [here](#).

Prayers for Kitigan Zibi and Tumbler Ridge

On Wednesday, EOORC shared a vigil for Tumbler organized by Parkdale United Church and Mackay United Church's Meditation and Music Ministry. We continue to hold the people of Tumbler Ridge in our prayers.

On Wednesday morning, there was also tragic gun violence in Kitigan Zibi (near Maniwaki, Quebec). Two children and their father died in a murder-suicide. We invite you to hold their family, friends and the whole community of Kitigan Zibi in your prayers.

EOORC Report Available: Would your congregation like to include a report from EOORC in your 2025 Annual Report? We have written [this report](#) which shares some highlights of our 2025 activities, as well as a summary of the regional meetings. If you are your congregation's EOORC representative, you may have been tasked to write a report on EOORC's activities. Please feel to use this report as is, or to use it and add a section with your own comments. We hope it will be helpful to you.

Covenanting Service with EOORC, Woodroffe United Church and the Reverend Patricia Power

Please join us Sunday, 8th March at 8pm, with a reception to follow in the church hall. The guest preacher for the service will be the Reverend Éric Hébert-Daly (Executive Minister for EOORC) and the guest musician is the Reverend Peter Woods (Minister, MacKay United). Woodroffe United is located at 207 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa, ON K2A 3V1. All are welcome. Parking is available and the building is fully accessible. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at office@woodroffeunited.org or 613-722-9250.

It's Annual Declaration Season!

Each year between **January 1 and April 30 (new deadline this year)**, all ministry personnel, including retired ministers and candidates, are required to complete their **Annual Declaration** in ChurchHub. This short online form asks you to confirm whether you have had any criminal charges in the past year and to attest that you have reviewed three key documents: the *Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy and Procedures* and the *Ethical Standards and Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel*. **Completing the Annual Declaration is essential to remain in compliance with United Church standards and to maintain eligibility for calls, appointments, and, in some regions, licenses for sacraments and marriage.**

To submit the declaration, ministry personnel log in to churchhub.ca, open their **My Ministry Page**, and select the **Annual Declaration** link within the *My Professional Requirements* box. The process takes only a few minutes, and the required policy documents are linked directly within the form. If you have questions or would like assistance submitting your Annual Declaration, please contact your Office of Vocation Minister, **Caroline Penhale Lukacs**, at cpenhale@united-church.ca

You can read the full article here: <https://ch.united-church.ca/hc/en-ca/articles/7238703520141-How-to-Submit-Annual-Declaration>

Montreal Dio – *The Christian Gospel and Popular Culture*

Montreal Dio's next open enrolment offering begins at the end of this month and spans the season of Lent. It's called [The Christian Gospel and Popular Culture](#) and looks at various works of pop culture—movies, television shows, books, and songs—to find where the gospel message is and is not present. It's a chance to reflect on just what the gospel message is, how it can be heard and spoken in a "relevant" fashion in today's world, and how our cultural products support or discourage that message.

The course meets online for five Wednesday evenings, starting on February 25. As with all of our open enrolment courses, there is no homework and no required reading (though we might suggest you watch a few things). The courses are open to both individuals and to groups who want to join the course together and then meet afterwards to discuss the material further among themselves. If you want more information about this or want to be connected to colleagues who've used these courses in the past to support adult formation in their congregations, don't hesitate to be in touch. More information and registration can be found on [The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture - Montreal Dio](#)

Webinar

Rites of Passage: Changing Ways of Marking Death and Dying in Our Communities

On Thursday, February 19th, Compassion Ottawa is offering a webinar on the changing nature of funeral customs. Charles Barrett, who is a member of EOORC and serves on the board of Compassion Ottawa, will be moderating the discussion. The webinar will take place from 10 am – 11:30 am. The event is free and registration is available [here](#).

CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS

rites of passage: changing ways of marking death and dying in our communities

Conversations about death and dying are shaped by faith, culture, and community – and they are changing. In this live Conversations with Leaders event, we bring together voices from diverse religious traditions and the funeral profession to reflect on how end-of-life rites, practices, and attitudes have evolved in recent years. Speakers will explore the impacts of COVID-19, shifting family and community structures, and emerging conversations. Together, they will reflect on how communities mark the end of life, care for one another in times of loss, and seek meaning, dignity, and connection in the face of death.



**The Rev. Canon
Gary van der Meer**
Interfaith Officer, Anglican
Diocese of Ottawa



**Rabbi Daniel
Mikelberg**
Temple Israel
Ottawa



**Imam Sikander
Hashmi**
Canadian Council
of Imams



Nicholas Brown
Funeral Home Manager,
Capital Funeral Home &
Cemetery



Charles Barrett
Director,
Compassionate
Ottawa



**Thursday
February 19, 2026**



10:00 - 11:30 AM



REGISTER HERE



UCW Newsletter - Keeping in Touch + 65th Anniversary Event in Ottawa

The January 2026 edition of the UCW *Keeping in Touch* newsletter is available [here](#). It shares lots of interesting news, including information about the 65th anniversary gathering of the UCW. This event, planned for 2027, will be held in

United Church Rural Ministry Network – February Newsletter

The February edition of the UCRMN newsletter is available [here](#). It has a variety of interesting articles.

Private Refugee Sponsorship Network Workshop: Navigating the Healthcare System

The Private Refugee Sponsor Network (Ontario) is sharing information about an upcoming workshop on *Navigating the Healthcare System*, to be held online on **Saturday, February 21st at 10:00 am at no cost to attendees**. Registration is available [here](#).

Photos – Pancake Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

We would love to include some photos from Pancake Tuesday meals and Ash Wednesday services in the EOORC News. If your community of faith wants to share a photo, please send it to nmatkovsky@united-church.ca. Note: We publish our newsletter online. Please check with everyone in the photo to make sure it is ok for their photos to be online.

Ministry by the Whole People of God - Le ministère de tout le peuple de Dieu

This online workshop is offered by Nakonha:ka Regional Council. Folks from EOORC and all United Church regions are welcome to attend.

Join Esther and Tori as they demystify collaborative ministry as more than just sharing a preacher! Mutual ministry takes place when communities of faith work to empower members to share their gifts in a true “ministry of all believers”. Learn about the characteristics of a co-operative ministry; the skills leaders need to steward them well; and ideas for getting started in your own community of faith.

Details: 7pm-9pm March 17th ONLINE/ZOOM

Facilitators: Esther Guillen (Community of Faith Support Minister for Nakonha:ka RC), Tori Mullin (Growth Animator)

[Register on Zoom](#)

Le ministère de tout le peuple de Dieu

Rejoignez Esther et Tori qui démystifient le ministère collaboratif, qui ne se résume pas à partager un prédicateur ! Le ministère mutuel se met en place lorsque les communautés de foi s'efforcent de donner à leurs membres les moyens de partager leurs dons dans un véritable « ministère de tous les croyants ». Découvrez les caractéristiques d'un ministère coopératif; les compétences dont les dirigeants ont besoin pour bien le gérer; et des idées pour vous lancer dans votre propre communauté de foi.

Détails: 17 mars, de 19h à 21h EN LIGNE/ZOOM

Facilitateurs: Esther Guillen (Ministre de soutien aux communautés de foi, CR Nakonha:ka), Tori Mullin (Animateur de croissance)

[Inscrivez-vous sur Zoom](#)

Cross Country Check In

The General Council Executive meets February 20–21 for its first meeting of 2026. Shortly after, people across the country are invited to join a live [Cross-Country Check-In](#) on **February 25, 2026 (6:00–7:30 p.m. ET)**.

This online town hall is a chance to connect directly with church leadership, ask questions about General Council 45, learn more about how the GCE works, and put faces to names. Whether you choose to listen in or call with a question, all are welcome.

The conversation will be hosted by Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Regional Council Executive Minister, and will feature the Acting General Secretary, Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, along with guests from the GCE.

