

Daring Justice *In Humility*

MARCH 28-29, 2025 (ONLINE)



The next REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERING is almost here! A reminder that the dates are March 28 and 29, 2025. You can click [here](#) to register.

Deep Spirituality - Bold Discipleship - Daring Justice

A Prayer for Daring Justice

God of Love, we see terror and conflict, destruction and death; there is no end in sight.

You know what we seek, Loving God: peace and justice for our world. You call us to support the peace bringers with words of encouragement.

You call us to name the evil-doers and clearly show their intent.

You call us to protect the vulnerable and be their friends.

You call us to confront the powerful and support the persecuted.

Your words tell us to “protect the environment of planet Earth,” and this rings true for us.

Your words tell us “enough food for every child,” and we will help it happen.

Terror and conflict, injustice and despair are alien to you, Loving God.

We are with you, and it will not just be words. We will act to bring change, change that is so desperately needed.

Amen.

—David Sparks, Called to Act: Prayers with Roots in the Gospel of Mark

In This Issue

Deep Spirituality- Bold Discipleship-Daring Justice

A Prayer for Justice p.1

Growth- Renew, Create, Invite

Centennial Celebrations p.2
Invitations p.2

Leadership

Workshop Announcement p.3
E-Learning for Leaders p.3
Stewardship Updates p.4
In Memoriam p.4

Climate

Greenfaith Update p.5
Strategic Initiative p.5

Justice

Migrant Rights Petition p.6
In the News p.6

Indigenous Pathways

Links to newsletters p.6
Application for students p.6

Common Good

F&E Connexion p.6
Fundings and Grants p.7

Community Events

Events p.8
Job Postings p.9
Volunteers Needed p.10
Save the dates p.10

Growth - Renew, Create, Invite



100TH
ANNIVERSARY
Deep • Bold • Daring

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ANNIVERSAIRE
Profonde • Dynamique • Audacieuse

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Sa'tekariwa'sóntere

100th ANNIVERSARY NEWS AND RESOURCES

Send us your local activities and events so we can include them in the upcoming newsletters !
Please send to: aabrams@united-church.ca

Celebrate our Centennial with COLOUR!

Are you looking for a way to engage children and families with the 100th anniversary of the United Church? Read about figures like Lydia Gruchy and Wilbur Howard with our Centennial Colouring Pages. Each PDF features a short story (Grade 3 reading-level), thematic Bible verse, and colouring page exploring the past and present of the United Church. Submit photos of finished artwork to share with the wider church using the provided QR code. Incorporate into a Children's Time during worship, share with children at home, in a Pew Activity bag, or use it as a component in a Sunday School lesson. And keep an eye out for more pages as we draw closer to June 10th (French translations forth coming).

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/100-years-deep-bold-daring/centennial-toolkit>

The Region wants to hear from you!

Esther Guillén, our Community of Faith Support Minister, wants to hear about your community's hopes, dreams, and concerns. She has put together a (short) survey to learn more about each of our individual communities, and looks forward to reading your responses. Please click the link below!

[Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Community of Faith Survey](#)

If you would like to see the anonymized results for your congregation please let us know (minimum 10 respondents per community of faith)!

Strengthen invitation to your community of faith this Lent & Easter

Worship leaders, start your Lent off with invitation in mind. This season, the Growth Team invites you to consider how you can intentionally cultivate an invitational attitude with your community of faith to prepare to invite and welcome in friends new and old this Easter. Get inspired by Growth Animator Scott Reynold's [blog post on making this Easter a time of invitation](#), then use the Plan to Strengthen Invitation This Easter resource, available on the [Easter Sunday worship page](#), to for ideas you can put in place this week! Looking for more hands-on support? Contact your Growth Animator, Tori Mullin, at tmullin@united-church.ca or [book a call online](#).



Leadership

Ministry & Personnel Committee Workshop

There will be a Ministry and Personnel Committee online workshop on Saturday, April 5, 2025 (9am – 12noon). This workshop is open to M&P Committee members (both new and current), Council members, and Ministry Personnel. Learn about this important role in the church!

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dan Hayward dhayward@united-church.ca or Rev. Whit Strong wstrong@united-church.ca

Pre-registration is required. [Register here.](#)



Church Property Network (second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. ET)

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.

This monthly webinar will explore topics to help increase the vitality of your church property. Topics covered will range from increasing revenue through rentals strategies, to energy efficiency, to how to start tackling that leaky roof. Bring all your questions to the Church Property Network so we can learn together.

Upcoming sessions:

Learn more and register: <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=229>

Other upcoming webinars through United in Learning:

- Countering Antisemitism in Worship – January to May 2025
- Racial Justice workshops
- Personal and Professional Boundaries
- Stewardship Programming <https://churchx.us3.list-manage.com/>



Learn more and register: <https://mailchi.mp/87a7f4a5819a/united-in-learning-4753763>



Our Latest Stewardship Blog

My colleague, Vicki Nelson, reflects on ways to inspire giving when time seems short in supply in this month's blog: [Making the Time to Inspire a Community of Giving](#)

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.](#)

Bequests and Estate Giving 2025

Join Jess Smith (United Church Foundation) and I for a two-session webinar on how your community of faith can set up your Planned Legacy Program and inspire and invite planned gifts.

April 24th and May 8th, 2025 – 2:30 to 3:30 pm (Eastern Time). Register [here](#).

Stewardship Resource Kits

We now offer a series of free Stewardship Resource kits for download. To access these materials, just complete an online form. Ready to save or print, and share. Click here: [Stewardship Kits](#)

A Stewardship Conversation

Are you looking to grow generosity and involvement in your community of faith? Do you want to learn the best practices needed to effectively reach out and build new relationships with those not yet participating in your church's ministry? Do you want to develop an effective leadership recruitment plan? Why not book a Zoom or telephone call with Roger Janes and start the conversation: [Roger's Booking Page](#).

In Memoriam

Reverend Maurice Nerny

February 2, 1932 - February 25, 2025

E. Nerny passed away peacefully in Verdun, Québec at the age of 93 with his partner Cathy Hasibeder at his side. Maurice graduated from McGill University in Montreal where he earned his degrees in Divinity. He served as minister with the United Church of Canada. He was dedicated to his ministry and to positively impact the lives of people around him. His compassionate interest in people was unparalleled. We remember him as a fun loving and uniquely humorous man. He loved the sun, the beach, a delicious meal with family and friends and some good wine.

He lives in all of our hearts. The family will hold a gravesite service on Saturday, May 17th 2025 at 11:30 am at Rideau Memorial Gardens, 4239 des Sources, Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

<http://rideaumemorial.sharingmemories.ca/site/ReverendMauriceNerny.html>

Climate

Greenfaith Montreal Update

Here are a few initiatives to share from partner climate organizations:

How can you be inspired to create pilgrimages for Creation in your community? Join this event co-hosted by The Centre for Earth Consciousness and Gender Justice and the Centre for Spirituality and Media to find out!"

Register now. See poster attached.

To register for the Pilgrimage for the Planet May 10-11 bike pilgrimage with demonstration taking place in Ottawa on Monday, May 12th: <https://forms.gle/YZPcAJG7pSJB3MsW7> (and note that there are many ways to help this campaign beyond biking the full Montreal-Ottawa trek!)

The Inaugural Meeting of Jewish Climate Action of Montreal will take place March 30th from 1-3pm at Jewish Public Library, 5151 Cote-Ste-Catherine

RSVP to info@jewishclimatemtl.ca (see poster attached)

Mères au front - Montreal - Sit-ins first Sunday of each month from 11am-1pm at 770 rue Sherbrooke Street West.

Also a reminder of the Spring Montreal Interfaith Eco-Action Day taking place on May 19th. More details to follow!

REMINDER - NEW STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: Saying goodbye to oil!



As part of the strategic initiative of the United Church of Canada to reduce emissions from fossil fuels and in light of recent oil spill incidents at two churches in our Region resulting in remediation costs of close to \$1M, the Regional Council has undertaken an initiative to have all remaining heating systems in our churches that use oil, replaced.

The Finance and Extension Board is strongly encouraging these churches to use the Faithful Footprint grants (up to 30 000\$) that are available to execute this work. Please contact Brian Ruse for further information or to discuss financing or to obtain technical assistance for this urgent project: bruse@united-church.ca

Justice

INVITATION: Migrant Rights Petition - Permanent Residency & Rights, Not Cuts

Conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council recently endorsed a letter from the Migrant Rights Network (and sent a letter of our own) to the Federal Government. If you would like to add your voice as an individual, you are invited to do so using this link: <https://migrantrights.ca/take-action/rightsnotcuts/>

In the News:

[Black History Month Calendar: February March April](#)



Indigenous Pathways

You can subscribe to the new LIRR Regional newsletter through this form:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/newsletter/>



Applications for 2025 Indigenous-Racialized Young Scholars are now opened! You can find the form [here](#).



Common Good

F&E Connexion

So let's talk money...

Managing the legacy funds of the Region is a major responsibility of the Finance and Extension Board. It may be the only thing you know about F&E – that we look after the money that has been entrusted to the United Church in our region.

F&E's constitution includes this responsibility as item nine on the list of our duties:

... to invest and administer as a prudent administrator (but not limited to presumed sound investment restrictions) its endowments and other funds, or funds entrusted to it by the Regional Council or communities of faith or others.

As of December 31, 2024, the value of the assets under F&E management was \$22,836,096. That's divided into two pots – restricted funds of \$7,358,332 and unrestricted funds of \$15,477,764.

“Restricted funds“ are moneys that have been given to the church for specific legacy purposes. Often, these are funds that resulted from the closure of congregations and the sale of the properties they held in trust for

the United Church of Canada. Some of these restricted funds are quite small like the Grand-Mère Fund (at just under \$4,000) that was set up after the closure of our church in that town. Others are much larger – for example the Erskine & American–Mountainside Fund held just over \$4 million at the end of 2024.

F&E's 2023 year-end financial statement is available online and has a complete description of the various restricted funds under F&E management and their intended beneficiaries on pages 7-8:

<https://nakhakaucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-12-31-FIN85001101.pdf>

The return on the unrestricted funds pays for the support that F&E provides to the operation costs of the Region, to the mission work of the church through St Columba House, Montreal City Mission, and other community-based missions, to the bursary program and sabbatical leaves we sponsor, and to all the other tasks we do on behalf of communities of faith in our region. The unrestricted funds have built up over the years thanks to generous contributions from the Hugh Duncan Estate and others and also from the levy that is mandated on property sales, mergers, and disbanding communities of faith. F&E is a registered Canadian charity and so we must disburse a minimum amount of all our assets every year according to Canada Revenue Agency rules.

F&E assets have been managed with the professional help of the Montreal-based firm Fiera Capital for several years. Fiera was chosen in large part because they provide similar services to the United Church of Canada Foundation as well as the retirement fund for United Church ministry and support personnel. They also do a very good job, based on our experience with them.

All our assets are managed in Fiera's "Balanced Ethical Fund A" with an asset-mix target of 45% income and 55% equities. This fund uses various "ethical screens" in its selection of investments that have been developed and are regularly reviewed in close collaboration with the United Church's national foundation and our General Council Executive.

2024 was a very good year for the assets managed by Fiera on our behalf with a return of 12.2%. Over three years we realized 6.3% return and 8.9% over five years. 2025 is looking much less promising for returns on the equity portion of our investments, to state the obvious.

If you'd like to know more about this aspect of our work at F&E as "a prudent administrator" or to receive a copy of our 2024 Financial Statement when it becomes available, contact our Secretary, Caroline Leamon, or our Treasurer, Paul Stanfield, at feendowment@gmail.com.

Legacy Fund – Building Communities through Arts and Heritage

(shared by Lisa Byer de Wever)

As the UCC is celebrating its 100th, we would be eligible. The deadline is before the anniversary date. You can find the details [here](#).

REMINDER - Federal grant for increased security

Please note this grant opportunity from the federal government to provide improved security for churches and other organizations that may be at risk of vandalization or hate-crimes. Learn more [here](#).

REMINDER - Regional Council Grants – next deadline May 15, 2025

Learn more / download forms: <https://nakhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

Video of learning session about grants: <https://nakhakaucc.ca/event/learning-session-grants/>

Community Events and Announcements

Upcoming at Valois United Church

March 29 (Saturday Evening): Valois Concert Series – Enjoy a FREE CONCERT from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Valois United Church, featuring award-winning Montreal musician Antoine Rivard-Landry.



LA CABANE À SUCRE
chez nous!

March 29 at 1 pm

Trinity United Church
5857 7^{ème} avenue

Traditional meal and music
Activities for children

\$25 / adult
\$5 / child under 12 years old

Reserve your place by email at kids@trinityuc.net or by calling 514-721-1830



MONTREAL DIO

JOURNEY INTO EXILE

A Lenten Day of Embodied Reflection at a Time of Global Migration

From students studying abroad to asylum seekers seeking safety, from business travellers to climate refugees, human migration is reshaping societies worldwide. This movement brings benefits but also raises challenges for both migrants and those who welcome them. In this transformation, what role are Christians called to play, and what does the Christian tradition say about migration?

This one-day workshop explores migration through learning and reflection. The highlight is a simulation where participants take on a migrant's identity, navigating opportunities and challenges. The day also includes discussion, biblical teaching on migration, and reflection on home and belonging.

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

When? Saturday, April 5th, 2025, 9:00am to 4:00pm

Where? The Church of St. Mark and St. Peter (1650 Rue Decelles Montréal, H4L 2E6) Côte-Vertu station

Fees: \$30 per person (includes lunch and childcare)

QUESTIONS?
info@montrealdio.ca
514 849 3004

montrealdio.ca/courses/journey



MUSIC UNITED

MUSIC MATTERS 2025:
COMMUNITY HYMN SING!

Come celebrate song & praise in community with the Music United Delegates! Singing beloved hymns and introducing new favorites!

Friday April 25 7:30pm

Union United Church
3007 Rue Delisle,
Montréal

Join us at Music Matters 2025!

Music Matters 2025 is our annual gathering of United Church musicians and musicians from the surrounding community who believe in the power of music in worship. Join us in Montreal, from April 24-27 at St. James United Church and Union United Church for a weekend of inspiring workshops, meaningful conversations, and unforgettable music-making. Whether you are a musician, lead a choir, play an instrument this is your chance to connect, learn, and celebrate the role of music in our community of faith.

Don't miss this chance to learn, sing, and grow with the Music United community.

For details and registration, visit [this site](#). Don't miss this chance to learn, sing, and grow with the Music United community!



RESURRECT YOUR BIKE AND PLANT SALE

Live with respect in creation

Evaluations and Minor Tune-up for free

As part of our commitment to live in respect with creation, Ste Genevieve United Church is offering to give your bicycle a boost of life on Earth Day Sunday

This event is open to people of all faiths and no faith

We can get your bike ready for the season and advice about any major repairs it might need

27 April 2025 et 4 May 2025 Noon to 2:00 pm (weather permitting)

Église Unie Ste-Genevieve, 4697 St-Jean, Dollard-des-Ormeaux

<http://stegennys.org> joelle@stegennys.org



100th Anniversary Service

A 100th anniversary joint service for The United Church of Canada will be held on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at Knowlton United Church.

This service will include Emmanuel United from Cowansville, Creek United Church, St. Paul's United Church in Waterloo and Knowlton United congregations coming together to celebrate this special occasion.

The service will be held at 11 a.m. followed by a 3-cake cutting event in the church hall.

All are welcome to join us.



Jobs Postings

Richmond-Melbourne United Church
247 Principale Sud, Richmond, QC JoB 2Ho

Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program Job Description

With the retirement of Rev. Scott Patton at the end of June of this year, the Richmond-Melbourne United Church is looking for someone, preferably an order of ministry person, to replace Scott as of July 1, 2025.

The Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program Coordinator is responsible for providing high quality pastoral and spiritual care for seniors (primarily United Church, but not exclusively) in the Richmond-Melbourne communities. It is a half-time appointment through the Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

Charlotte Griffith, Chair of Official Board and Program Coordinator
819-826-6204

Minister - Carleton Memorial United Church

Ottawa, ON – Carleton Memorial United Church is inviting applications for a 75% time order of ministry position. We are a small, but resourceful and united community who seek to love God and neighbour, and “honour the past by building a peaceful future.”

The full job description and Community of Faith are available on ChurchHub.ca. We are accepting applications, including a letter of interest, CV, and statement of faith, from interested candidates. Please e-mail to cmuc.search2024@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed



Why be a Mission and Service volunteer?

Why be a Mission and Service volunteer? You might have **Community Spirit**: You're already involved in your community of faith or your local community – or maybe you want to find a way to be more involved. Volunteering for Mission and Service is a good way to start.

As a volunteer, you can choose to send handwritten thank-you cards to donors from lists we provide (we also provide the cards and stamps!)

Contact us today and learn more about how you can help!

Mission and Service Volunteer Program
The United Church of Canada
ms@united-church.ca
1-800-465-3771



Serving the Wider United Church of Canada

Member Engagement has just launched the call for nominations for various committee vacancies for the 45th triennium. Please visit our [volunteer opportunities](#) page to learn more.

The following groups have vacancies: General Council Executive, Judicial Committee, Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee, Audit Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, Nominations Committee, Board of Vocation, Admission Board, Credentialing Committee, Remedial Committee, Response Committee, Vocational Standards Committee, Candidacy Boards and Other Candidacy Pathways Volunteers. Use our [online nominations form](#) to nominate someone or express your own interest.

The Table des Ministères en français

Is looking for people who would like to be part of their board of directors. If you are interested, please write to Ruth Sandeu at rsandeu@egliseunie.ca

Save the Dates

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2025

March 28-29, 2025 (online) Click [here](#) to register.

June 7, 2025 (hybrid) – location TBD

If you have ideas for presentations or would like to help plan future meetings, please contact Valerie Nickson: vepps_nickson@hotmail.com

Newsletter Schedule

Submission Deadline	Publication Date
April 2	April 9
April 16	April 23
April 30	May 7

Submit your news and events to:
aabrams@united-church.ca

Community Calendar:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/>