



2025-05-07 Newsletter

Did you know? May marks the celebration of three cultural communities that are an integral part of Canada’s mosaic: Asian, Polish and Jewish communities.

You can find more about the history and some events that are taken place throughout the country, here: [Asian Heritage Month](#), [Polish Heritage Month](#), and [Canadian Jewish Heritage Month](#).

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

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5 Ways to Stand Up Against Racism and Injustice – from Unicef Canada

1. Listen to and amplify Black voices: Pay attention to the voices of people who experience racism every day. Share their stories with your friends and family.
2. Call out bigotry and hate speech: There has been a disturbing increase in hate speech in the U.S. in recent years. If you see something on social media or in the newspaper that reflects prejudice, leave a comment or write a letter to the editor to let others know that intolerant remarks are unkind and uncalled for. If you overhear someone tell a racist joke, speak up and let them know that stereotyping isn't harmless. There's nothing funny about using "humor" to normalize dangerous ideas and perpetuate ugly stereotypes.
3. Teach children about kindness, fairness and human rights: Prejudice and hate are not innate. They are learned behaviors — and they can be unlearned. Racism is a socially transmitted disease whose lifelong negative effects on the health and development of children and adolescents have been documented by the American Academy of Pediatrics. So set a good example. Every human being has a right to feel safe and valued and to be treated fairly. If we want to fix the problem, we need to discuss it openly and be vigilant about it in our daily lives.
4. Stand up for people being harassed — intervene if it's safe to do so: If you see someone being harassed or physically attacked, it is important to help if you can do so safely. Make your presence as a witness known. Make eye contact with the person being attacked and ask if they want support. Don't escalate the situation. When the public stands in solidarity, bigots lose their power. Verbal and physical abuse is wrong and should not be tolerated. All people deserve to be treated with dignity and humanity.
5. Support human rights organizations: How children are internalizing violence against people of color is a child rights issue. Systemic racism is a child rights issue. UNICEF has highlighted and advocated tirelessly for children's rights since its founding in 1946, and knows that all children deserve to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. Children who experience discrimination, racism and violence need our support now.



Growth - Renew, Create, Invite



100TH ANNIVERSARY
Deep • Bold • Daring

100^e ANNIVERSAIRE
Profondeur • Dynamique • Audacieux

100
Enskatewenhniá:we
niiohsérá:ke
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.

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

MCM's Anwar Alhjojo Shines at Blue Met Literary Festival

Anwar Alhjojo captivated the audience at the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival as a featured panelist on Bold & Creative Game Changers. He began by sharing his powerful story as a Palestinian Bedouin from an unrecognized village, his work as a lawyer in the Israeli justice system - defending prisoners and insisting they be addressed by name rather than number - and his efforts to establish a bilingual primary school.



Anwar then spoke movingly of being welcomed by the United Church of Canada upon his arrival in Montreal to pursue a Master's in Social Work. From volunteering at MCM to becoming the coordinator of a new interfaith-intercultural program, and now serving as MCM Assistant Director, Anwar's remarkable journey left the audience deeply inspired. His words were met with enthusiastic applause - and several bravos!



Anwar, you made us proud.

Navigating Growth with Connection and Care

Over the past 18 months, the staff of MCM's legal clinic has tripled, enabling us to assist a growing number of individuals and families, offer mobile legal information clinics in diverse Montreal neighbourhoods and further afield online, and begin laying the groundwork for a new MCM antenna in Quebec City - starting with a pilot legal clinic project, JS2!



As one might expect, such rapid expansion has brought challenges in terms of infrastructure, office space, and professional development. It is therefore essential, as this growth continues, that we carve out time to ensure our team remains connected, supported, and deeply engaged in the work. A recent team supper at a downtown restaurant - after a long and busy day - offered just such a moment: a chance to share stories, laughter, and a deeper sense of belonging as colleagues, and above all, as fellow human beings on a shared and meaningful journey.



Research Project

Launch in June



Resonance Conference in June.

Visit the site web [here](https://www.resonance2025.com) and purchase your ticket [here](https://www.resonance2025.com).

Discount for UCC members!



Leadership

Familial Relationships and Governing Bodies of Congregations

At its most recent meeting, the General Council Executive adopted a policy that makes it clear that family members of ministry personnel cannot serve on governing bodies of congregations without having sought the permission of the Regional Council. If you or your congregation requires an exemption from this policy, please contact your Regional Executive Minister at your earliest convenience: ehbertdaly@united-church.ca. The Regional Council Executive will consider such requests that are accompanied with explanations or mitigating circumstances.

In addition, a reminder that there are excellent learning resources regarding boundaries (financial/gifts, retirement issues, social media, etc.) available that are provided by the United Church of Canada: United in Learning: Boundaries Courses.

GCE44 GS 128 Amendments to Section B.7.3.1 for March 2025 | General Council | The United Church of Canada



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>



Stewardship Update

May is PAR Month: Our Philanthropy Staff Team have just created some resources for pastoral charges to create their own Pre-Authorized Remittance campaign next month (or whenever)! Resources include a Step-By-Step Guide to creating your Own Par Campaign, A Sample Plan, A PAR Sermon, communication messages, as well as links to other previously shared resources.

Check out the downloads section of our [PAR Webpage](#).

Called to Be the Church: The Journey: When you are ready to make good stewardship a core part of your community of faith, we are here to help. Each course has a specific focus, enabling you to set goals, create a plan, and be successful, including both learning and practical elements. Here are our slated for this Spring and Summer:

Bequests and Estate Giving - 2 sessions that will teach participants about the varieties of Planned gifts and how to inspire and invite people to make a planned gift. April 24th and May 8th.

Setting Up Your Giving Program - 2 sessions that are designed for you and your Stewardship Team to develop the resources you need to get your Congregational Giving Program off the ground! April 30th and May 15th .

Getting Started in Stewardship, will run on June 19th and July 17th .

SABBATICAL LEAVE

The Sabbatical Leave Committee, which is a committee of the Finance & Extension Board, is presently inviting requests for sabbatical leave from ministry personnel for 2026.

The following is taken from the United Church of Canada website: Every pastoral charge should provide a paid sabbatical of at least three months to members of the order of ministry and recognized designated lay ministers of the United Church of Canada who have completed at least 5 years of service in one call or appointment. The purpose of a sabbatical is to allow ministry to take time away from congregational responsibilities and give time for reflection and rejuvenation. Sabbatical Leave grants provide funding for the community of faith for pulpit supply and other replacement costs as well as some funding for activities for the applicant.

Contact us to talk about your plans. We will need to see a plan outlining your objectives during your time off. Do you plan to travel and/or attend workshops and/or read books in your garden or down by the lake? When do you want to do this? How much will it cost you? Discuss your plans with your M&P Committee. Remember we can help with the costs to your community of faith as well as some of the costs you will have during your Sabbatical.

Email Diane Campbell (dj.campbell@sympatico.ca) or Jim Fyles (jim.fyles@mcgill.ca) to ask questions and then email us again with your preliminary plans by June 1, 2025.



Climate

Greenfaith Montreal

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

If you are only joining us for the demonstration on May 12th (happening at noon on Parliament Hill), and not biking the full pilgrimage, you do not need to register, but we strongly encourage you to RSVP through this brief form below, helping us to get a better sense of the numbers we are expecting: <https://forms.gle/K5e441YyjLZx69j7>

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/>



Indigenous Pathways

You can subscribe to the new LIRR Regional newsletter through this form: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/newsletter/>



Common Good

Bursaries for students: Hugh Duncan Bursary, I.F.E. Bursary and St. John's Hall Bursary

Hugh Duncan Bursary

Financial assistance may be offered each year to full-time university students who are members of a United Church community of faith in the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. The amount of the award depends on the number of applicants. It will not exceed 2,000 \$ and can be attributed 2 times to the same person.

Institut Français Évangélique (I.F.E.) Bursary

The Foundation I.F.E. may offer up to \$1,000 per person to full- or part-time university students at college (CEGEP) level or part-time university students, who are also members of a United Church community of faith in the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

St. John's Hall Bursary (travel)

The St. John's Hall Bursary Fund makes available bursaries to commemorate the St. John's Hall which was used for the education of protestant children in Québec City. Applicants do not apply for this bursary; instead, it is awarded by the Committee to those students awarded a Hugh Duncan bursary or an I.F.E. Bursary. Applicants should note high travel costs within Québec in their application.

Deadlines are June 2, 2025. For more details: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/bursaries/>

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://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

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

Allocation pour la croissance des communautés de foi émergentes 2025

(In French only. Bursary for emerging francophone communities across the region)

Dans le cadre du soutien et accompagnement des activités de croissance des communautés de foi, un montant maximum de \$5000,00 est disponible pour toutes les communautés de foi ayant un projet. Les projets au-delà de \$5000,00 seront étudiés cas par cas selon leur pertinence innovatrice et leur relevance a l'ensemble de l'Église Unie du Canada .

Cette allocation est faite pour favoriser la croissance et dynamiser les communautés de foi dans leur appel et vision et selon le plan stratégique 2023-2025 de l'EUC. Un rapport est attendu avec évaluation et analyse des activités, leurs objectifs et résultats attendus.

Voici le lien pour postuler à cette allocation : <https://forms.office.com/r/TP3UA5cf7S>



Community Events and Announcements

Here are some suggestions for Justice-Based Activities:

Get involved with **Project Genesis**, a community organization committed to the values of social justice, equality and non-discrimination, and empowerment. They work towards social change with the goal of improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged.

If you'd like to be involved in the Storefront, Home Advocacy Services, Housing Rights Committee, Outreach or Anti-Poverty Committee, follow [this link](#).

Help fight food waste with « La saine alimentation : un défi alimenTERRE ! », a project that consists of a large scale recovery of fruits and vegetables collected directly from local food producers. Recovering these products allows them to reduce food waste. You can sign up [here](#).

You can find many more volunteering offers on the [Volunteer Bureau of Montreal website!](#)

You are invited to [join us](#) on Wednesday, May 7th from 7-8pm for an information session, hosted by ECORC's Equity Forum -

Building Bridges: Equity Awareness Training and Information: an event that aims to deepen our understanding of equity and its importance within our community.

You will hear from current forum members why they joined the Equity Forum as well as learn about scorecards, where to find information and more. The evening will end with a Q&A session as well as an invitation. All are welcome to join!



“A Call to Revive: Renew Refugee Sponsorship and Rejuvenate the Community” - event hosted by the United Church of Canada

All Communities of Faith are invited to the upcoming National Refugee Sponsorship Conference on May 13, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (ET).

The conference is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and organized by the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) and the United Church of Canada's Refugee Team.

You can register and find more info [here](#).

Taking on a Student Minister: A workshop on Appointments with a student for a Supervised Ministry Experience (SME), or a Diaconal Field Placement.

May 21, 2025 07:00 PM

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

We will cover competency-based learning, the learning site, expectations of the Community of Faith, expectations of the student minister, and confusion around "Learning Goals".

The workshop is for anyone involved with Pastoral Relations, current or future PR Liaisons, and Communities of Faith interested in being a learning site.

The workshop will be facilitated by Whit Strong (Pastoral Relations Minister-EOORC), and Janet Nield. Janet is a Diaconal Minister, and has much experience in presbytery Education and Students, Regional Pastoral Relations, and being a Liaison; and having supervised M.Div students in their SME and In-Ministry year at UCS at DIO, and in mentoring diaconal students with the Center for Christian Studies.

Our presenters will be Marcie Gibson, Interim Principal at the Centre for Christian Studies; and Rev. Caroline Penhale, Vocational Minister responsible for Quebec and East Ontario. Marcie will educate us on learning goals; and how CCS prepares and supports students and the community of faith during placements in learning sites. Caroline will help us understand the role of the Office of Vocation in preparing communities of faith to support a student minister.

Celebration of Ministries Service

May 31st, 2025, 12pm
Wesley United Church, Montreal



Tickets now on sale: **Valois United Church Dinner to mark 100 Years in the United Church of Canada.**

On Saturday, June 14, beginning at 5:30 pm Valois United will hold a special Anniversary Dinner celebration to mark the year in 1925 when families of Valois Union Church agreed to join with the newly formed United Church of Canada, effectively changing its' name to Valois United Church. We hope you, family and friends can join us for a fun evening of entertainment, food and fellowship! This will be a catered buffet dinner with wine and refreshments, dessert, tea and coffee. Tickets: \$30 Adults, \$5 youth 6 to 12, free for 5 and under. Click [HERE](#) to reserve your tickets online, or contact our church office at admin@valoisunited.ca to reserve your spots.

RESONANCE2025.COM

Resonance 2025

Join us for a **three-day bilingual conference** exploring where the secular and spiritual meet

Une conférence bilingue de trois jours pour explorer les liens entre le séculier et le spirituel

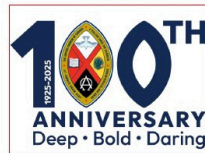
info + tickets/billets

5 / 6 / 7 June 2025
PALAIS DES CONGRÈS
MONTREAL CONVENTION CENTER

Guest Speakers / Conférenciers invités
Charles Taylor & Hartmut Rosa

Simultaneous French-English translation / Traduction simultanée français-anglais disponible

The South Shore and Valleys Cluster invites you to St. Lambert UC:



85 boul. Desaulniers, J4P 1L8
5:00 pm – Sunday, June 8, 2025
Celebratory Livestream Service & Communion, from Gower St, NFLD.
Supper, Cake & Fellowship follows!



For supper RSVP by May 27th - slunitedchurch@videotron.ca

Venez-vous à nous pour fêter les 100 ans de l'église unie du Canada!

Les églises de la Rive-Sud et des Vallées vous invitent à l'église unie St. Lambert:

85 boul. Desaulniers, J4P 1L8, à 17 h – dimanche 8 juin 2025

Service de célébration en direct avec communion, de Gower St, Terre-Neuve.

Un souper, gâteau et échanges suivront!

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.



Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region UCW
In Partnership with Quebec Region UCW
88th Summer Event
July 25, 26, 27, 2025



COME AND BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT



Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre
805 Brookdale Avenue, Cornwall ON. K6P 4P3
613 933 8000 or 1 888 900 5762

THEME SPEAKER - VIRGINIA WALLACE
Music Leader - Karen Koivumaki

Registration Cost \$135.00 Registration & Room Deadline is June 20, 2025

Includes: Saturday Program, Lunch, Dinner and Sunday Lunch
You are responsible of booking your hotel rooms – mention Summer Event

Friday Night Program: THE RHYTHM ROOM – DRUMS FOR FUN
Cost \$10pp, payable on Friday night

For more information, please contact Summer Event Chairs
Kim Baird (EOOR) 613-362-0640 or bairdk@outaouais.com
Valerie Nickson (Quebec) 514-268-0228 or valerienicksonucw@gmail.com

A WEEKEND OF WORSHIP, STUDY, MUSIC & FELLOWSHIP ALL ARE INVITED

[Registration Form](#)

Events at Chalmers-Wesley United Church

Chalmers-Wesley United Church, located at 78 rue Ste-Ursule in Old Quebec City, is OPEN to VISITORS daily from June 19 to September 13, Mondays to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays following the 11:15 a.m. worship service, to which all are welcome, until 4:30 p.m.

In addition, every Wednesday from June 25 to September 3, at 12:05, we hold our Musical Wednesdays noon-hour concert series featuring a great variety of local, regional and international musicians, with, this year, everything from a tuba and piano duo to opera singers, 78th Fraser Highlanders pipes and drums, a violinist and at least three organists, and even a saxophone quartet of the Royal 22e Régiment!

Entry is FREE of CHARGE, but we do suggest a donation of at least \$10 per person to help offset our expenses. For more information, contact Shirley Nadeau at scanadeau@videotron.ca or call 418-717-5394.



Register [here](#).

Jobs Postings

Building on two years of planning and the work of an Interim Executive Director, **Saint Columba House** is now seeking a full-time Executive Director to lead our organization into its next chapter. The Executive Director will provide strategic leadership, manage day-to-day operations, oversee fundraising, cultivate partnerships and carry out our mission.

This is a full time, permanent position, starting summer, 2025.

Applications must include a cover letter and resumé, and be submitted by email to schsearchcommittee@gmail.com, by May 9, 2025.

Saint Columba House is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

For more information, send a request to the email above, or visit our website at <https://saintcolumbahouse.org/>

Vienna Community Church, based in Vienna, Austria, is looking for a Part-time Pastor. You can find the details [here](#).

Participation in the Friends of the United Church of Canada Foundation centennial events is entirely voluntary.

You may have received correspondence and offering envelopes for this project in recent weeks. This group is organizing independently of the formal United Church of Canada structure, so if you wish to participate in what they are proposing, please feel free to be in touch with them directly.

Our Regional Council is not involved in any formal way.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed at the Indigenous Health Centre of Tioitià:ke!

You can find the sign-up form [here](#).

Volunteers needed at Projets Autochtones du Québec!

-If you wish to become a volunteer at PAQ, you can contact Chloe Turqtuq at chloe.turqtuq@paqc.org.
-If you wish to donate to PAQ, you can do so by contacting Sarah Clark at sarah.clark@paqc.org. -If you wish to organise a fundraiser for PAQ, you can send an email at respect.kanoronhkwatshera@gmail.com.

Volunteering projects needed at Ivirtivik Center!

If you're in need of volunteers, the Centre is looking for volunteering activities for its members. Volunteers are also needed at the Center. If you'd like to help with computers skills and give a few hours of your time from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

You can contact Claudia Sescu at csescu@ivirtivik.org or call at 514-564-3051, for more info!

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.



Save the Dates

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2025

June 7, 2025 (hybrid) – Palais des
Congrès

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**

May 14

May 21

May 28

June 4

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



Community Calendar:

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