

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2026-02-11 Newsletter

A Word from the Head of Ministères en français

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo

February is almost upon us. The shortest and coldest month in Canada, it is also Black History Month. It was in 1995 that February was officially declared Black History Month in Canada.

This turns our attention to Africa, the continent that is the source and cradle of humanity and civilizations. Eight years ago, I was in Addis Ababa, at the National Museum of Ethiopia. I was contemplating Lucy, considered to be the grandmother of humanity. My thoughts then took me back to my visit to Egypt, to the Copts, to the monastery of Wadi El Natrun, where the geography and the monks bear witness to the beginnings of Christianity. Standing there, images and questions flooded my mind. Anger and gentleness mingled, taking me back to my research in history, theology, and the Bible when I was preparing my dissertation.

This reflection on the past shocks me, the denial of Africa and its contribution to the progress of humanity. We must recognize that in our current society, racism is making a strong comeback and is becoming commonplace. It is with good reason and certainty that our communities of faith have spoken out strongly against racism lately and have chosen to be an anti-racist Church. This requires monumental courage, a titanic battle, and unwavering leadership in the face of a wave of hatred and discrimination. The hydra has emerged from its lair. In racism, humanity is the first to be attacked, and Africa and Africans are systematically the main victims.

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We must admit that racism against Africa and Africans is deeply rooted in our theology, in the history of the Christian Church, and in our spirituality. Ostracism and marginalization are evident in an objective study. In our narratives, how many of us are aware that the early Church, before it was Roman, was originally African? Think of the founding theologians, Origen, Tertullian, Athanasius, Augustine, Mark whose gospel bears his name, Pachomius, Moses the Black, to name but a few, not forgetting the mothers of the Church such as Monica... think of monasticism... I leave it to you to continue the list.

If we refer to the Holy Scriptures, Africa, before being a land of servitude, was first and foremost a land of welcome and refuge. Consider Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, his father and the tribe of Jacob, Moses, Jesus and his family, not to mention the Church of Ethiopia and Nubia.

Furthermore, when we talk about ancient Egypt, the great pyramids, and civilizations, the narrative tends to minimize or even obliterate the contribution of the black pharaohs who led Egyptian civilization to the height of its splendor. Have you often heard of the pyramids of Nubia? Should I say, along with others, that racism is in the DNA of Christianity? No! However, it is important to recognize and admit with all humility that racism has infected Christianity.

Our Church, the United Church of Canada, which has decided to be an anti-racist Church, is committed to freeing itself from this cancer that poisons our relationships and institutions. Let us continue to drink from the living water of Truth and the Gospel, of Jesus Christ, refugee in Africa.

The celebration of Black History Month and the call for forgiveness for the Church's participation in slavery and colonization signify our willingness as a United Church to move forward in our fight against racism.

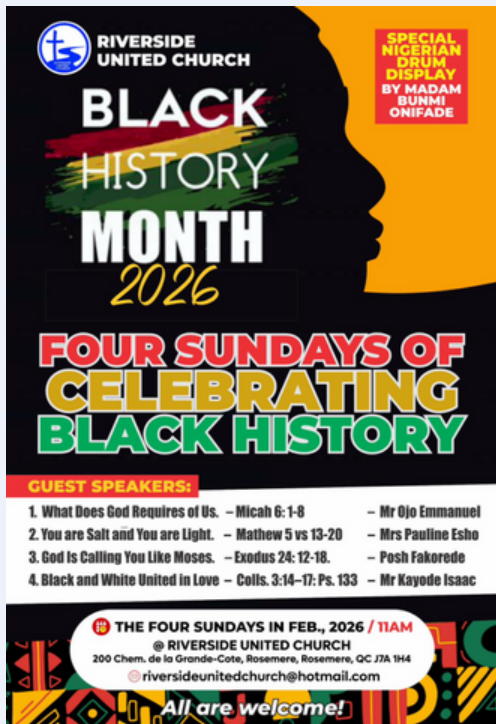
In this struggle, we rediscover our common sources of humanity. Let us reframe our reading, our historical and theological narratives, and conform to the truth that sets us free.

Our second centennial and "Toward 2035" cannot ignore this, much less abstract it.

Together, let us walk toward and in the light of the Morning Star.

Ensemble, marchons vers et dans la lumière de l'Astre du matin.





Black History Month at Riverside United Church

I am grateful to the Regional Council Communication Desk for reaching out to invite me to share how Riverside United Church is marking Black History Month and why this season continues to be significant within our ministry. This invitation offers an opportunity to reflect not only on our activities, but on the deeper values of hospitality, inclusion, and storytelling that shape our congregational life in the United Church.

Two defining experiences have shaped my ministry as a welcoming space for immigrants. The first is food—shared meals that create connection beyond language and cultural barriers. The second is the intentional integration of Black people into the life of the United Church of Canada and into Canadian society generally.

Together, these practices have helped transform our churches into places where we belong rather than mere gathering spaces.

Our commitment to observing Black History Month began in 2018 at Beaconsfield United Church. In those early years, we marked the month by inviting prominent Black leaders in Montreal to speak each week. These encounters created opportunities for meaningful dialogue, raised awareness, and affirmed the contributions of Black communities within both church and society.

When I arrived at Riverside United Church, it was important that this commitment continued and expanded. Over the years, our celebrations have included Nigerian musical bands, Black clergy, and Nigerian social and cultural leaders who engaged the wider community. These expressions of culture and faith have enriched our worship and deepened our understanding of God's work through diverse voices.

This year's Black History Month holds special significance, as it is the first time I am leading the celebrations as Minister-in-Charge at Riverside United Church. Rather than focusing solely on invited guests from outside the congregation, this year's program deliberately looks inward. We are inviting four refugees within our community to share their stories over four consecutive Sundays. Creating space for immigrants to tell their stories strengthens community bonds and affirms that lived experience is an important source of wisdom and faith.

In Week One, the congregation will hear from **Ojo Emmanuel**, our Church Logistics Coordinator. A dedicated refugee and community leader, Mr. Emmanuel coordinates five volunteer drivers who ensure that Nigerian refugees are able to attend worship every Sunday.

Week Two will feature **Pauline Esho**, who joined Riverside United Church last year and quickly became part of the choir alongside her eldest daughter. Pauline will reflect on the call to be “light and salt,” sharing how faith sustains hope and purpose in a new country.

In Week Three, a young voice from our children’s ministry, **Posh Fakorede**, will address the congregation on the theme “God Is Calling You, Like Moses” (Exodus 24:12–18). His message will encourage all generations to recognize their responsibility in bringing about positive change in the world.

The final week will feature **Isaac Kayode**, who was introduced to Riverside United Church in 2025 by **Rev. Marie Claude-Manga**. Since then, Isaac has become an active and impactful member of the congregation. He serves as Assistant Technical Staff, prepares weekly worship presentations, and volunteers as Secretary of the Church Council and Worship Committee. He will share his immigration journey and reflect on the need for Black and White communities to live united in love.

Throughout the month, worship services will also include cultural expressions of joy and heritage. Each week, two Nigerian women (**Olubunmi Onifade and Folashade Adewoye**) will offer African drumming, and a young Black girl, **Esther Esho** will present a solo musical rendition, enriching worship through rhythm, song, and celebration.

While Black History Month is a time to honour the legacy and contributions of Black people, it must also be a call to action. The vitality of Black communities is sustained when opportunities are created and voices are welcomed. At Riverside United Church, our commitment is to ensure that newcomers are not only received but empowered to contribute meaningfully to the life of the church. In doing so, we are not merely remembering history—we are actively shaping a shared future grounded in faith, justice, and love.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.”
— 1 Corinthians 12:4–5 (NRSV)

As we celebrate Black History Month, this scripture reminds us that diversity is not a challenge to unity but a gift from God. When every story is honoured and every gift is welcomed, the body of Christ is strengthened, and the church reflects God’s inclusive and reconciling love more fully.

Rev. Adedeji Sunday Akintayo
Minister in Charge
Riverside United Church



Celebrating Black Scholarship in The United Church of Canada

Through the generosity of United Church people, communities of faith, theological schools, General Council, and more, The United Church of Canada Foundation and The Black Clergy Network are pleased to announce the Black Clergy Network Scholarship program.

A Commitment to Change

To mark the end of the first Decade for People of African Descent and the commitment of The United Church of Canada to become an anti-racist church, the Black Clergy Network initiated the call for Black scholarships, research, and development.

The Black Clergy Network Fund represents a substantial fundraising/endowment/bequest from estates, communities of faith, theological schools, the General Council Office and the United Church of Canada Foundation, United Property Resource Corporation, and more.

The United Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada Foundation are committed to becoming anti-racist. This scholarship is a small step in the road to becoming an anti-racist church, in light of the 2021 commitment. Furthermore, it demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing systemic issues that have historically marginalized Black individuals within the church.

Purpose of the Black Clergy Network Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund aims to create opportunities and foster growth for Black individuals in the United Church of Canada, through 3 scholarship streams:

1. **Clergy in Training:** This scholarship focuses on providing resources for those pursuing theological education in United Church-accredited institutions, preparing them for future ministries within the church.
2. **Post-Secondary:** Open to all academic disciplines at the undergraduate or postgraduate levels, this scholarship aligns with the United Church's values, encouraging Black students to excel in their chosen fields.
3. **Research:** Prioritizing projects that address systemic racism, cultural competency, and theological innovation, this stream enables scholarship recipients to conduct vital research that may challenge oppressive systems within the church.

Ultimately, the goal of the Fund is to promote change, inspire leadership, and enhance the voices of Black people in the church. With this support, recipients can dedicate their time and efforts to projects of lasting significance, ensuring a broader impact on the church and society. That means we are not only nurturing the next generation of leaders, but also challenging existing systems of oppression.

Applying for Support

The Foundation will manage the fund and granting program. The Black Clergy Network Scholarship Committee will oversee the assessment of applications. This ensures that the voices of the Black community are central in the decision-making process.

The award is open to Black people who are part of, or affiliated with, The United Church of Canada as well as children, including those who are sponsored by or in the care of, Black people who are part of The United Church of Canada.

So, if you or anyone you know qualifies for these scholarships, we encourage you to apply for these exciting opportunities. United, we are creating a more equitable and vibrant church community. One that uplifts all voices and truly reflects the diversity of our faith. To apply for the scholarships, [click here](#).

Get in Touch!

As always, we'd love to answer your questions about this or any of our grant and scholarship opportunities! [Email us](#) to set up a quick consultation with our team.





Le mois de l'histoire des personnes d'ascendance africaine – 2026

Les ministères en français ont prévu des activités en ligne, telles qu'un culte d'ouverture, des conférences et des échanges. Un culte de clôture aura lieu à Montréal.



Le culte de clôture de l'évènement se fera en présentiel en date du 1er mars 2026, dans la paroisse Plymouth Trinity de Sherbrooke.

Les activités durant le mois de février se feront chaque jeudi du mois de février; soit les 5, 12, 19, 26 du dit mois de 19h à 20h30. La structure des activités portera sur des conférences sur diverses thématiques, événements culturels, articles et proverbes à publier.

Les thématiques sont les suivantes :

- Peuples d'Ascendance africaine pour l'éveil de conscience que nous reste-t-il à faire? Que devons-nous changer pour notre essor? Comment porter le flambeau de l'avenir ici ou ailleurs?
- Jeunes d'ascendance africaine d'ici ou d'ailleurs comment continuer à façonner et affirmer pleinement notre devenir en nous positionnant dans un contexte de mondialisation.
- Femmes d'ascendance africaine, épine dorsale de la société, éduquons nos enfants à être fiers de qui ils sont et de ce qu'ils peuvent devenir pour impacter le monde.
- Que pouvons-nous faire pour notre Église? 1 Corinthiens 12:27 « Vous êtes le corps de Christ, et vous êtes ses membres, chacun pour sa part » l'importance de contribuer à l'édification du corps de Christ par : Notre temps- nos Talents et nos Trésors pour Dieu.

Anti-Racism Common Table

The Anti-Racism Common Table will offer feedback, advice, and suggestions for concrete ways The United Church of Canada can live out its National Anti-Racism Action Plan and further deepen the United Church's commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination.

Vacancies: 6 vacancies

4 appointed by the General Council Executive

2 appointed by the National Indigenous Organization

Experience: Lived experience or a background with anti-racism and justice work. Good communication, animation, or analytical skills along with skills in interpersonal relations, group conflict resolution, understandings of racial trauma, and ability to work in the midst of cultural diversity.

Learn more [here](#).

Ici depuis le début

Célébrer l'histoire de Célébrer l'histoire de l'Église Unie du Canada à travers l'objectif de la population noire



Here from the beginning

Celebrating the history of The United Church of Canada through the lens of Black People

Visit the virtual exhibition [here](#).

Psalm for Black History Month

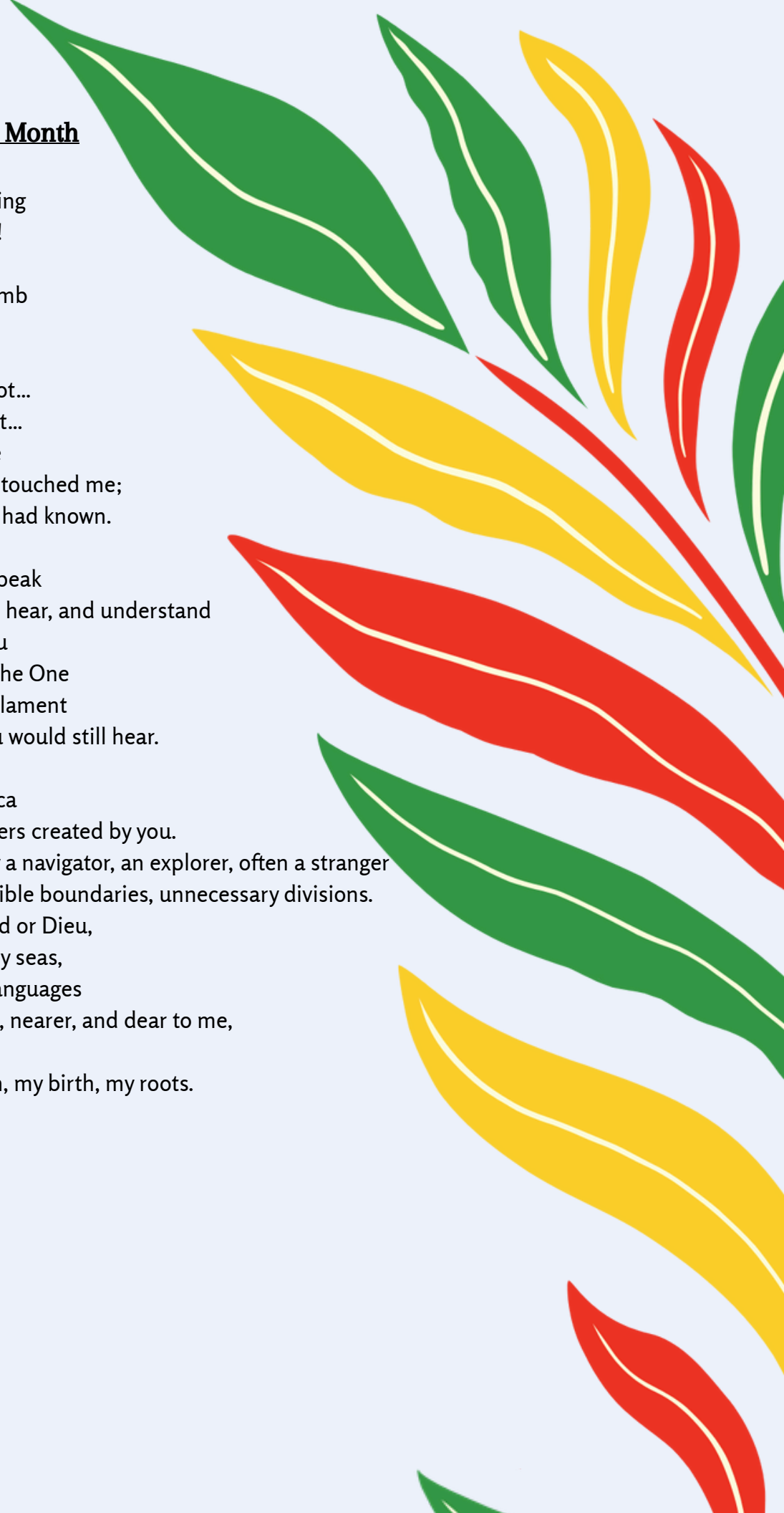
From everlasting to everlasting
World without end, You Are!

Wrought in my mother's womb
And even before then
You knew I would be.
Who I would become—or not...
Where I would dwell—or not...
What skin tone I would have
Especially after the sun had touched me;
All these, you, Creator God, had known.

The language that I would speak
Or how many I would speak, hear, and understand
How I would know to call you
And know that you are still the One
How I would pray, praise, or lament
And hope and trust that you would still hear.

My mother continent is Africa
Vast lands and lakes and rivers created by you.
You were there before many a navigator, an explorer, often a stranger
Created invisible lines, invisible boundaries, unnecessary divisions.
Before I knew to call you God or Dieu,
Languages from across many seas,
I learned to call you in the languages
Of my kin and others, closer, nearer, and dear to me,
Present or gone before me
In the continent of my origin, my birth, my roots.

Nyasaye (Luo)
Mungu (Kiswahili)
Mulungu (Ngoni)
Ngai (Kikuyu)
Enkai (Maasai)
Chukwu (Igbo)
Unkulunkulu (Zulu)
Lesá (Bemba)
Mwari (Shona)



You who sees all, hears all, knows all
You who are many in One,
Present everywhere all at once;
You in whose image I am made,
You whose nature is
Love, Unity, Harmony, Sameness,
It matters not in what land I currently dwell.

To you I pray,

Breathe your nature in me
Breathe courage and wisdom in me
Breathe healing over wounds that may still be open
Breathe over scars that may still be tender
Breathe to soothe the hurt that may still linger
Breathe, so that unforgiveness may not inhabit or overwhelm me

Breathe that I may fully live to
Love and be loved
Understand and be understood
Accept and be accepted
Value and be valued
Listen—and be listened to

That I may not be singled out
Because of mere suspicion or stereotype
That I may not be considered as not belonging
Because a person, a people, a system
Just cannot believe or accept that I do

That I may be viewed neither as a token nor an object of pity
But truly and sincerely be recognized as a worthy and deserving human

In the here and now and beyond now

Amen

—Akinyi Owegi-Ndhlovu



MCM NEWS

Montreal

Welcome Nurses!

MCM is delighted to welcome 6 nursing students from the McGill Ingram School of Nursing for the 2026 winter season: Hannah, Alicia, Olivia, Omansan, Maya and Mehrsa. The students will be interacting with the newcomer women at our Pollinators Sewing Bee that now runs out of Église St-Jean.



Finding Community at MCM

Working at the United Church of Canada Foundation as an Individual Giving Associate, while being based in Montréal, often means long solo hours on the computer. I was therefore deeply grateful when MCM set up a workstation for me and welcomed me into their space on the third floor of St. James United downtown. Connecting with the team a couple of times a week has made a real difference, reminding me how much a warm, collegial environment and shared purpose enrich our work.

I was also happy to join MCM on a recent trip to the Eastern Townships, where the team met with local United Church leaders and other community partners to explore the possible expansion of MCM's ministry. It was a gift to see MCM in action, bond with the staff, and experience a bilingual gathering while discovering another part of Quebec - an added delight as an Ontarian learning French in Montréal!

Merci, MCM! Luke Wilson

I No Longer Call You Servants, Instead I Have Called You Friends – John 15:15

This year, we celebrated Muslim Awareness Week by exchanging friendship candles during our Sunday service at St. James United, reflecting on nearly a decade of connection with our Muslim neighbours. For Jesus, friendship was the deepest form of relationship - marked by caring, vulnerability, shared risks, and mutual presence.

After the service, we gathered to share stories, laughter, and conversation, deepening the ties that sustain our community. In today's world, where hostility toward migrants and newcomers is on the rise, such friendships are more vital than ever. Standing side by side with our neighbours, we bear witness to justice, compassion, and a more inclusive society - one conversation, one shared moment, one candle at a time.



The Gift of Welcome at Cedar Park United

It was a moment of happiness and blessing to celebrate with our friends at Cedar Park the 10th anniversary of their sponsorship program which opened the door to a Syrian Muslim family. A delicious meal, lively music, and moving testimonies kept us warm on that cold January evening. Kudos to the tireless efforts of Elizabeth Jones, Paul Clarke, Martha Randy, and all the unnamed saints, whose dedication and generosity gave the gift of welcome, friendship, and a safe home.



Quebec City

That We May Know Each Other

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good... to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

“O humanity... We made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another.” (Surah 49:13)

In 2004, the Interchurch, Interfaith Committee of The United Church of Canada published *That We May Know Each Other* to encourage deeper Christian–Muslim understanding in Canada. More than twenty years ago, our church recognized God’s call to *le vivre-ensemble* - to truly know one another. It is a call that continues to shape the work of MCM today.

That call took on painful urgency after the islamophobic attack of January 29, 2017. The following evening, I stood in vigil in the freezing cold near the Grande Mosquée de Québec, along with thousands of others. Only then did I realize how little we know our neighbours - until we have to admit that we don’t know them well enough to rush to the phone to find out if our friends are safe.

Since then, and now through my role with MCM, I have taken part in initiatives that bring Muslim and non-Muslim neighbours together. Most recently, I attended an open house at the Grande Mosquée as part of this year's commemoration. Warmly welcomed inside, I reconnected with familiar faces and made new friends.

Through conversation, prayer, and a shared couscous de l'amitié, mutual understanding deepened. Some learned more about me and my work at MCM; I was reminded that remembrance is not only about the past, but about honouring those who continue to carry its wounds and celebrating a community's resilience.

While awareness of Islamophobia has grown, its reality persists. Dismantling fear and prejudice takes time and relationship building. Every open mosque door, every MCM gathering, and every welcoming heart is a humble step with God toward justice for all.



Sherbrooke

Some of the MCM team headed out to the Eastern Townships recently to meet with church, government, and community partners. In the morning, we were graciously welcomed at Lennoxville United for a roundtable with members of the St. Francis Cluster to discuss their ministry, local needs with regards to legal support for migrants - in particular temporary foreign workers - as well as the potential to foster further ecumenical and interfaith work. In the afternoon, team members met with the CIUSS Estrie, the City of Sherbrooke, and other local counterparts, to continue exploring opportunities for collaboration.

The idea of an MCM satellite in the region with a legal clinic and community liaison program is still at an early stage, and would require securing funding for staff and infrastructure. Yet, in the face of pressing realities - especially for migrants with precarious immigration status - our faith calls us to take risks and envision together how we can respond.



Leadership



Stewardship Programming

When you are ready to make good stewardship a core part of your community of faith, we are here to help. Each course below has a specific focus, enabling you to set goals, create a plan, and be successful, including both learning and practical elements.

Find more information and register at CHURCHx.

- [Bequests and Estate Giving -- On Demand Course \(Free until June 10, 2026\)](#)
- [Getting Started in Stewardship Winter 2026](#): Online session January 26, 2026, and optional reunion March 9, 2026
- [Stewardship Best Practices Winter/Spring 2026](#): February 23 to March 23, 2026
- [Bequests and Estate Giving Spring 2026](#): April 2 and May 6, 2026
- [Setting Up Your Giving Program Spring 2026](#): April 15 to April 30, 2026

For more information on these and other stewardship supports, contact called@united-church.ca.



Cross Country Check-in

February 25, 2026, 6:00-7:30 p.m. ET

The General Council Executive meets on Feb. 20-21 for the first time in 2026. This is an opportunity for you to engage with GCE members – soon after it happens. Possibly you have questions about General Council 45, or want to hear more about how GCE works together.

Or maybe you just want to put faces to names.

Whether you're a listener or a caller, this check-in is where people in the United Church across the country can have a conversation with leaders in real time, reflect and embrace the richness in our diversity and difference.

Join the acting General Secretary, Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and guests from the GCE LIVE ONLINE as they make themselves available to hear from the church across the country. Whatever happens in this meeting enriches their preparations for decision-making and other leadership meetings. To learn more and to register, visit CHURCHx.



Common Good

REMINDER - Regional Council Grants – next deadline February 15, 2026

Please note that Erskine-American-Mountainside grant applications are only accepted once a year (February) except for urgency, new situations, unforeseen emergencies.

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

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



Faithful Footprints Grant 2026 Funding Cycle is Open

Eligible United Church communities of faith can receive up to \$20,000 to support decarbonization building upgrades.

The United Church of Canada's Faithful Footprints Grant Program has funded over 300 energy efficiency and decarbonization building retrofit projects, helping United Church communities of faith lower energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening long-term sustainability and renewing mission work across the country.

Following a temporary pause beginning in April 2025 to review and strengthen the program, Expression of Interest intake has reopened for a 2026 funding cycle, supporting carbon reduction retrofits of United Church buildings.

There are a lot of new rules set out by head office, which you can find on the grant page.

A brief summary:

1. Bulk assessments for approval are now done in June. I am not approving anymore. Head office along with Regional Councils (they are thinking ministers...) together in June.
2. Expression of interests can come in until April 30, then the window closes. Applications can come in until May 30, then it closes. That's it for the year.
3. There is no guarantee for success anymore. There is a specific budget and they will not be exceeding it at all.
4. The new financial requirements laid out in the eligibility criteria are directly in line with their capital loans program. These requirements will exclude a large portion of congregations.

[Learn more](#)



Community Events and Announcements

Mount Royal United Church JOB POSTING: Church Administrator & Building Manager

Applications are due by February 27th, 2026.

Mount Royal United Church (MRUC) is a multi-cultural, affirming United Church of Canada congregation of approximately 150 members, with as staff: a Minister, 3 regular employees, a part-time Bookkeeper and several part time employees & is located in TMR. MRUC is currently seeking a highly motivated & multi-faceted individual, to fill the position of Church Administrator & Building Manager.

Hours and compensation: This permanent position will require a 5 day/35 hour work week, with the potential of remote work. Base salary will be between \$48,000-\$58,000 plus benefits which include medical, dental plan and pension.

To apply: Please forward your resume by e-mail to both: alisonsmithlaurin@gmail.com and elaineconway@videotron.ca. with the subject line: Application for Church Administrator & Building Manager.

Your resume will be reviewed in confidence. Note: you do not need to be a member of the United Church to be considered. For more information on the church, please visit: mountroualunited.ca.

thursday february 12th - free webinar
4:00PT/5:00MT/6:00CT/7:00ET/8:00

WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW DO WE RESPOND?

Are Minneapolis, or authoritarianism, or related issues on your mind? Come hear Rev Travis Norvell of Judson Memorial Baptist Church (Minneapolis) share his wisdom about this moment in history.

brought to you by [r.daye](#)/[r.fennell](#)/[j.pentland](#)/[p.wood](#)

REGISTER HERE:
<https://forms.office.com/r/Haj@DemKv4>

WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW DO WE RESPOND?

Webinar with Travis Norvell on Thursday, February 12th.

Registration required. You can register [here](#).

Memorial March HONOURING MMWG2S+

FEBRUARY 14th

5 PM

CABOT SQUARE

March with us to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Kin and to demand justice and change!

Organized by the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
Iskweu Project in partnership with SQIA

There is an upcoming major concert at St Lambert United Church in association with Concerts Centr'art;

Love n'Tune : February 18, 2026, 7:30PM - St. Lambert United Church

The show Love n'Tune, featuring soprano Cloée Morissette, baritone Marc-Antoine d'Aragon and six other musicians. The repertoire will cross genre boundaries : from popular music (Queen, Jacques Brel, Billy Joel, John Denver) to musical theatre (West Side Story, Moulin Rouge) and the classical repertoire (Andrea Bocelli, Mozart).

Join the Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationships forum for sharing and learning with Dr. Shelley Knott-Fife.

Thursday, February 19th, 7-8:30pm EST
'Sacred Medicine Teaching'

Tuesday, May 12th, 7-8:30pm EST
'What You May like to know About Attending a Powwow'



Anishnaabekwe, Shelley Knott-Fife, resides where she was raised, in Curve Lake First Nation and attends Curve Lake United Church. With the honour of being mom to son, D.J., and daughter, Jaime, she has a career spanning over 20 years in First Nation education. She has been Curve Lake First Nation's Education Manager, a provincial school board consultant, an Indigenous Education Officer with the Ontario Ministry of Education and is currently an education specialist with Indigenous Services Canada and has just received her PhD in Indigenous Studies (Trent) focusing research on Special Education, Shelley has a B.A. (Waterloo), a B.Ed. (Trent) and holds an M.Sc. in Special Education (Purdue).

More info and registration [here](#).

Merging Waters United Church
24 rue Maple, Sainte Anne de Bellevue

A SEASON OF PALESTINIAN FILMS
with guest speakers from Independent Jewish Voices & others

Sat. Jan.17
7pm

Fri. Feb.20
7pm

Sat. Mar.14
7pm

Sat. Apr.18
7pm

entry cost : free will donation

Ministry by the Whole People of God

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.

Join us in-person or live on Zoom!

Three workshop options:

- Ministry Personnel, 2pm-4pm March 9th IN-PERSON
- General public, 7pm-9pm March 9th IN-PERSON
- Combined event, 7pm-9pm March 17th ONLINE/ZOOM

In person location: Westmount Park United Church 4695 Blvd. De Maisonneuve Ouest, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1S4

The event will take place at Westmount Park United, with wheelchair accessible parking lot at the back of the church, barrier-free access to the meeting space, wheelchair accessible bathrooms, gendered and non-gendered washrooms available. The church is 12-minute walk from Vendome metro station, 4-minute walk from the 24 Sherbrooke bus stop. Limited parking is available, please indicate if you will need parking reserved due to mobility needs.

[Register for in-person](#) | [Register on Zoom](#)

Standing Up to Hate: Justice Work Across Faith Traditions

PANEL DISCUSSION

Monday, 23rd February, 2026

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Networking & Iftar/Dinner 5:00-6:30 PM

3480 Rue McTavish. (University Centre - SSMU Building)
2nd floor, Room 203.

Prof. Eric Caplan
PANELIST

Paula Kline
PANELIST

Imaduddin Balkis
PANELIST

Prof. Patrice Brodeur
MODERATOR



An Open Enrolment Course

The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture

The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture

Wednesday evenings February 25th to March 25th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, online.

<https://montrealdio.ca/the-christian-gospel-in-works-of-contemporary-culture/>

Previously offered at Dio, this course is now back with a fresh lineup of movies, music, and media. Even if you've taken it before, you'll encounter new material and new angles on how the gospel speaks into today's culture.

Two thousand years after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, his good news—what Christians call the gospel—still speaks powerfully to the world we live in. But where do we see that message in modern culture? And where is it missing?

This course invites you on a journey through the movies, music, books, and media shaping North American life today. Together, we'll explore how these cultural voices echo—or distort—the gospel message, and why that message remains profoundly relevant in our time.

There are no exams, papers, or homework. Instead, students will engage with selected cultural works and learn more about how they speak to central gospel themes. Whether you want to learn more about Christianity, are fascinated by pop culture, or are eager to see how the two intersect, this course offers fresh insight into the good news that continues to transform lives and societies.

MARCH 11 MARS 2026

Café 440, 146 Rue Wellington S, Sherbrooke

5 à 7
5 to 7

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Trapped in Migratory Vines

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Online Open Enrolment Courses

- Christian Faith in a world of Artificial Intelligence**
 Explore how Christian faith engages with Artificial Intelligence examining ethics, identity, and ministry in a rapidly changing technological world.
 Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm
 27 January - 10 February + 16 February
- The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture**
 Engage with cultural works, reflect on their messages, and see how Scripture, theology, and faith intersect with today's North American life.
 Wednesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm
 February 25 to March 25
- Introduction à l'Église Unie du Canada - son histoire et sa théologie**
 Approfondissez votre compréhension et votre engagement dans la vie liturgique de l'Église Unie.
 Les mercredis, de 18h à 21h
 Du 21 janvier au 8 avril

Scan here  OR Visit our website montrealdio.ca/our-courses More information 514 849 3004 info@montrealdio.ca



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 ETUDES DE L'ÉGLISE UNIE

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FRENCH DISCUSSION GROUP: CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND THEOLOGY

Fourth Monday of the month
 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Zoom

information + registration 
montrealdio.ca/courses/french-discussion-group



Convocation 2026!

Montreal Dio's Convocation will take place on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 PM at St. George's Place du Canada. Join us as we celebrate our graduates and honour their achievements in ministry and theological education. Save the date and celebrate with us!

Where: St. George's Place du Canada | 1101 Rue Stanley, Montreal, QC H3B 2S6

When: Monday, May 4, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Visit montrealdio.ca for updates!

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2026

March 20th - 21st, 2026 - Online AGM

June 6th, 2026 - Montreal, QC (TBC)

November 20th-21st, 2026 - Online Fall Meeting

If you have ideas for presentations or would like to help plan future meetings, please contact Virginia Wallace: virlynwal@hotmail.ca

Newsletter Schedule

Submission Deadline **Publication Date**

February 18

February 25

March 4

March 11

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

Community Calendar:

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

