

# Regional Rambler

## Region 4

### The United Church of Canada

January 23, 2019



Welcome to the first edition of the Regional Rambler!!

1. The future of E-notes and Regional communications: What are your thoughts and here's what we are doing for now; website, directory, Region 4 Facebook group, contact lists, possible survey/form
2. Region 4 News
3. Pastoral Relations Ponderings
4. Learning Opportunities: A Free Flow Wellness Retreat, National Affirming Day, Region 4 Affirming Sunday, Region 4 Annual Meeting

#### **1. The future of E-Notes and Regional communication**

The short answer: We don't quite know. But we're working on it!

**First: what are your thoughts?** At many presbytery meetings last fall, communication was identified as one of the key needs. What do you think Region 4 should do and should set up to help communications? What would help you and your community of faith stay connected and informed? How can we put Clusters in touch with each other? Please send ideas to Bev Diebert, [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) and Julie Graham, [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

**Here's what we're doing for communications for now:** In mid January, the staff team for Northern Spirit Region (northern AB), Region 5 (MB and Ontario up to the time change line), and Region 4 (us!) gathered in Winnipeg. Communications were an important part of the conversation. [Here is a summary of staff contact information](#). **TIP:** All staff email addresses now work like this: [firstinitiallastname@united-church.ca](mailto:firstinitiallastname@united-church.ca) Eg: [ogrouch@united-church.ca](mailto:ogrouch@united-church.ca)

Each Region will have its own **website**. Staff will sort out a plan for updating the existing SK site to reflect new structures and needs. Remember: for now, Region 4 updates from the Commission and Executive Minister will be posted at: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca/region-4/> The page was recently updated with a pastoral relations document, a letter about Mission Support funding and a new staff contact list.

We will continue to use the **Conference directory** until there is an opportunity to update it, likely in the fall. Please contact Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) if you have any questions.

There's a **Region 4 Facebook group**. All welcome and anyone can post! Admins are Laura Fohse and Jennifer Janzen-Ball and they can give you permission to join.

**Contact lists:** While presbyteries have ended their formal ministries, their relationships remain. Could your former presbytery executive help keep your contact list going, so that the Region can communicate local news and opportunities more effectively? Get in touch with Bev or Julie to talk further.

There are plans to create a **Region 4 survey or form** that will encourage you to tell the Region about your interests and gifts, especially since the closing of Presbyteries might leave you bored or bereft, with no place to offer your many talents. This will be part of the visioning and movement into the new Regional structure and relationships.

## **2. Region 4 News**

A letter from Annette Taylor, Chair Region 4 Transition Commission, and Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister, explaining the [Mission Support funding decision](#) has been posted on the Region 4 page.

The **Local Global Advocacy Network** has posted a [summary of late 2018 work and some upcoming commitments](#). They are still active - don't hesitate to contact Linda Stumpf, Catherine Christie, or staff support Julie Graham if you have any questions or have a justice concern you want to raise.

Moderator Rt Rev Richard Bott has written a **prayer about the Wet'suwet'en First Nation** and the recent RCMP arrests in their traditional territories as their traditional chiefs say no to a pipeline in those territories. Please pray with him, and share: <https://www.united-church.ca/prayers/prayer-wetsuweten-first-nation>

## **3. Pastoral Relations Ponderings:**

See the attached page for an update on the work of the [new Pastoral Relations Commission](#).

## **4. Upcoming Learning Opportunities:**

**A Free Flow Wellness Retreat- The Art of Creating More Time for What We Love** Monday, February 11 (4 pm) – Thursday, February 14 (1 pm) Ancient Spirals Near Saskatoon. (Note: Please register by January 31, 2019) In this 4 day retreat, participants will receive a copy of "The Art of Stopping Time: Practical Mindfulness for Busy People" which offers 100 short reflections on slowing time down, and creating more energy and enthusiasm aligned with the things we most value and love in life. We will explore numerous themes in the book through creative processes, and experience some blocks of free time as we get off to a great start in living from a perspective of "Time Prosperity." For a full description and details please check out: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

**National Affirming Day: 14 March 2019. Don't give up PIE for Lent!** Yes, you read that right: PIE and pie are on the menu for Lent. What's PIE? Public+Intentional+Explicit= PIE. These are the standards for a real and radical welcome for LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people in our church and community. Draw the circle wide and join in! Host a story telling event complete with pie, and join many others across the land and the church as we learn together how to offer this welcome. All traditions and backgrounds welcome: you do not need to be a United Church ministry or member to join the fun. **Planning resources, full info, and event sign up and calendar:** [www.pieday.ca](http://www.pieday.ca) Co-hosted by Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections (Calgary).

**Remember:** this is all about you and your ministry! If you're planning an event, we need to hear about it. Events in Regina and Saskatoon are confirmed. Don't let them take all the saskatoon berry pie and whipped cream. Plan on your Community of Faith joining the PIE party!

**Hold the date: Region 4 Affirming Sunday, 5 May 2019** News from your Intercultural Network: The Region 4 Council has approved an Affirming Sunday for 2019. Please mark **May 5** in your planners. Many thanks to Calvary United Church in Prince Albert for offering to create worship resources! Keep watching Regional Ramblings and the [Intercultural Network blog](#) for updates. This long-standing SK tradition is a space for all our Communities of Faith to reflect on the gifts LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people. As Region 4 considers entering the Affirming process, to replace the Affirming designation held by River Bend Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference, the welcoming work of all local ministries is a crucial contribution to the Affirming conversation.

**Region 4 inaugural Annual Meeting:** May 30- June 2 in Swift Current.