

# Regional Rambler

## Region 4

### The United Church of Canada



February 6, 2019

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## **1. Region 4 News**

### **Youth Rally 2019**

Spread the Word!! All are welcome to a gathering for youth grades 7 – 12 for the 2019 Youth Rally being held at McClure United Church, Saskatoon, from March 15 – 17, 2019. Cost is \$30 before March 3 (early bird deadline) and \$40 after that. Here are the [poster](#) and [registration form](#). Mail the completed form, along with fee, to Youth Rally, McClure United Church, 4025 Taylor St. E., Saskatoon, SK, S7H 5N7. If you have any questions, please contact Laura at 306-373-1753 or email [laura@mcclureunitedchurch.org](mailto:laura@mcclureunitedchurch.org)

### **Regional Council Representatives**

As communities of faith gather for your annual meetings this year, please note that you will need to elect *Regional Council Representatives* to attend the inaugural regional gathering in Swift Current (May 30 - June 2, 2019). More information about this new position can be found [here](#).

## **2. National Information**

### **Important Notice: Official Receipt Book**

New Canada Revenue Agency rules require updated official donation receipts. If you are currently using the Official Income Tax Receipt Book, please be advised that you must change to the new updated book by March 2019. The updated book will be available for purchase via UCRD from January 28, 2019. The product number 800000626 can be found on the front of the book.

<https://www.ucrdstore.ca/official-income-tax-receipt-book.h...>

Shop online at [UCRDstore.ca](http://UCRDstore.ca) or call toll-free 1-800-288-7365 to speak directly with a UCRD team member.

### **Black History Month: new United Church worship and study resources**

Black History Month (or African Heritage Month in Canada), is a time to celebrate the many contributions of Black people to Canadian society and to the United Church. Black people have been part of the United Church from its beginning, and continue to play a vital role in the church today. How do you plan to mark the month? Are you using some [United Church resources](#)? Have you created your own? Explore additional [worship and study resources](#) for Black History Month.

And for Black history in SK: have a look at this [Global News video](#) on Saskatchewan's Shiloh People: the province's first Black farming community, near Maidstone.

### **A Call for Nominations for General Council Committees – Deadline: Thurs, Feb. 21, 2019**

The General Council Nominations Committee has launched a call for nominations for a few key vacancies. People across the church are invited to express their interest, or nominate others who have the gifts to serve well in these leadership roles. You can find more information at [www.united-church.ca/opportunities](http://www.united-church.ca/opportunities)

#### **Academic Awards and Scholarships Sub-Committee**

We are seeking two people to join the Sub-Committee. The mandate of this Sub-Committee is to provide recommendations to the Joint Grants Committee on awarding academic awards and scholarships. The Sub-Committee provides expertise and insight about the suitability of applicants for awards.

#### **Pension Board- Member at Large**

The Executive of General Council is seeking an active or retired plan member to join the Pension Board as one of its members at large. Collectively, the members at large bring additional gifts, including the capacity to articulate the theological values and perspectives of the United Church. Members at large do not need to be pension experts but should bring knowledge and interest in the work of pension boards and a commitment to the broader principles of pension governance. It is a priority of the Board to include people who bring the lived experience of being racialized or are from other marginalized communities not currently present on the Board.

#### **Roman Catholic–United Church Dialogue**

We are seeking one person who understands the United Church well and enjoys respectful dialogue about our faith with other denominations. The Dialogue is seeking one lay or ordered member who has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of The United Church of Canada ethos, theology, doctrine, and polity, preferably with a strong academic theological background. Expressions of interest and nominations can be submitted using this simple [online form](#). However, people are also welcome to submit by email, mail, or whatever method works best for them, **so long as it is received by February 21, 2019.**

### **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: crucial bill stuck in the Senate.**

#### **PLEASE HELP IT GET UNSTUCK**

Bill C-262 is potential legislation that would require Canada to bring its laws into line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration was written by Indigenous people and groups around the world over a 20 year period and endorsed by almost every nation on Earth. It's designed to support basic Indigenous dignity and rights in nations that have a history of colonization. For years the United Church has joined with Indigenous groups and other churches to push the federal government to use UNDRIP as a positive way forward. In fact, this is one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Bill C-262 has passed through Parliament and now needs Senate approval. **Here's the problem:** The Senate isn't exactly fast, it isn't moving on this bill, and we have a federal election in the fall of 2019. If the bill isn't passed before Parliament is dissolved, the bill dissolves too. Years of work will evaporate, and the impact on reconciliation efforts will be profound. We must do better.

Our friends at Mennonite Central Committee Canada have created [an online action](#). **Please: join with other churches across Canada and take just a few minutes to write to the Senate.** Do this individually, or get together and have a writing or phoning bee after church. This concern crosses all party lines: it's about respecting a call from the TRC and residential school survivors. And it's about being serious about reconciliation together as a country.

### **Two opportunities to share your views: 1) Public Witness conversations; 2) Intercultural survey**

**1) You are invited to participate in a Public Witness** research project to help the General Council Office strengthen the church's public witness in its varied expressions. The questions being explored: Where and how should the church focus its energy (human, spiritual, financial, programmatic) over the next five years?

You can get involved in the Live Justice initiative by facilitating or participating in a Kitchen Table Conversation (KTC) related to public witness. A KTC is a brief (60–90 minute) small-group discussion process that takes place in someone's home or at a local venue. Here are all the materials: <https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/live-justice#downloads>

If you'd like to participate, please let the Region 4 Local Global Advocacy Network conveners know - email Julie Graham at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca) and she'll put you in touch.

**2) Intercultural survey for everyone from the national church:** Faithful readers of E-Notes may remember the Conference's Intercultural Network survey from last year. (That survey was very helpful, by the way, and led to a pre-annual meeting event).

The national church is asking for similar help now. Can you spare a few minutes for an important new survey from the United Church? They're hoping for input from all the varied voices that make up our church. Reflect on your experience of church, good and bad, and offer suggestions for the future. The survey is open to anyone who is a part of a United Church congregation or community of faith.

[You can find the survey online](#) until **February 22**. Your experiences and suggestions are important for us! Please consider participating, and encourage others in your community of faith to participate as well.

### **Regional and National Facilitator opportunities - deadline this Sunday**

**Regional Facilitator (2)** – Iridesce: The Living Apology Project [Job Description](#)

The United Church of Canada is seeking two individuals to focus on relationship building, story collection, and facilitation of workshops for Iridesce: The Living Apology Project. This is a fee-for-service contract role (may also require some volunteer time), from February to June, with the option to renew for July to November. Submit resumes to [jsullivan@united-church.ca](mailto:jsullivan@united-church.ca) by midnight **Sunday, February 10, 2019**.

**National Facilitator-Coach** - Iridesce: The Living Apology Project [Job Description](#)

The United Church of Canada is seeking one individual to provide coaching for faith communities wishing to engage in Iridesce: The Living Apology Project. This is a fee for service contract role from February to June 2019, with the option to renew for July to November 2019. Submit resumes to [jsullivan@united-church.ca](mailto:jsullivan@united-church.ca) by midnight **Sunday, February 10, 2019**.

**Researcher** - Iridesce: The Living Apology Project [Job Description](#)

The United Church of Canada is seeking one individual to undertake a) focused research and information gathering about the United Church's history associated with the 1988 decision, and b) collect theological resources around LGBTQIA2S+ welcome, both then and now. This is a fee-for-service contract role for a period of time to be negotiated. Submit resumes to [jsullivan@united-church.ca](mailto:jsullivan@united-church.ca) by midnight **Sunday, February 24, 2019**.

### **3. Others**

Rev. Tracy Robertson, of St. Thomas United Church in Calgary, Alberta is doing a research project. She writes: "My name is Tracy and I would like to invite you to participate in my crazy project, The Spirituality of Fandom. Spirituality? What is spirituality? I'm sure it's different for everyone. For me, spirituality is the feeling of being connected. Fandom is sharing that connection with others who feel the same way. Connections can be through nature, relationships, faith, sports, pop culture, tractor pulling, dog showing, quilting, etc. – you get the idea. I'm wondering, what is your take on spirituality? My family is involved in many different, pop culture fandoms: comics, superheroes, video games, furies. I like learning how those loves of pop culture enhance our spirituality. I would also like to learn about yours!

You might find some of the questions don't fit into your particular fandom, and THAT'S OK. I want hear about it all! Please answer those questions that most relate to you and don't worry about the rest. [Click here to participate in the survey](#)

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

#### **Don't give up pie for Lent! Announcing Affirming PIE Day 14 March 2019**

What's PIE? Public+Intentional+Explicit= PIE. These are the standards for a real and radical welcome for LGBTQIA2S+ people in our church. On March 14, 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. Planning resources, full info, and event sign up and calendar: [www.pieday.ca](http://www.pieday.ca)

All PIE stories are an important source of inspiration (and possibly nutrition).

Communities of Faith in Region 4 have already planned at least three events. We'd love to see many more! If you're planning an event, be sure to submit it at <https://pieday.ca/submitevent/> We'll also promote it on [the Region 4 Facebook group](#).

Co-hosted by Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections. All traditions and backgrounds welcome: you do not need to be a United Church ministry or member to join the fun.

### **5. Reminders:**

[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)

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.

**Hold the date: Region 4 Affirming Sunday, 5 May 2019** [See the details on the website calendar.](#)

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