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August Newsletter:

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SUMMER STRATEGIES

Regional council leaders have started to plan for fall meetings and will soon be sharing dates and locations with the candidates for the Celebration of Ministry service. The Ontario lockdown would have eliminated candidates/applicants/admittands from having any guests present in person in May and June--and that did not seem desirable to anyone! We thank them for their patience and look forward to their fall celebrations. With the exception of the service, the rest of the fall meeting will be virtual. In-person meetings are being discussed for the spring of 2022. We have started plans for the fall regional council meetings and the business that will happen there. We remain hopeful that we will be able to hold the Celebration of Ministry services this fall.

Before fall events begin, several staff members are enjoying well-deserved time away. During COVID, most of us have transitioned to working from home. That has benefits: less carbon emissions and no time spent commuting. It does, however, require each of us to be intentional about drawing a line between our work days and our time for rest and play. My prayer for all our church leaders—ministry personnel and lay—is that they will take time this summer to be unplugged from devices, off of screens and committed to nothing but their own rest and well-being. It has been a long

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expect this fall to be another new learning for us, perhaps not as steep as the move to being virtual was but just as critical. How will we find hybrid models that draw on the best that the pandemic has taught us but provide for the moments that the pandemic has stolen from us? As Ontario opens, this will be the discussion our leaders need to have. My prayer is that you will come to it rested and ready to embrace new possibilities.

Take care of yourselves,

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
Executive Minister

COMING UP SOON

Application to be a Communicator at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches Assembly Deadline for Young Applicants, August 15, 2021

While the assembly takes place in Karlsruhe, Germany, a majority of the communicators will be supporting it remotely from their home countries under the supervision of experienced staff in the WCC communication team.

More Details



World Council of Churches
communication team staff and
stewards at the Conference on World
Mission and Evangelism in Arusha,
Tanzania, 2018

Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

MINISTRY HELLOS & GOODBYES

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His Honour, Murray Sinclair

His Honour graced our regional councils with his presence and his wisdom on May 28th, the same day the number of unmarked graves in Kamloops was announced. His Honour served as Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. His words were wise and stirring.



If you missed this event or wish to experience it again, it can be accessed through the following link. Access to this link is available until May 27, 2022.

[Watch on YouTube](#)

***NEW* Website Feature**

NEWS

A newsletter with reopening information is coming soon!

INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

For recent statements from the United Church of Canada, information about territory acknowledgement and other resources for building right relations, please visit the Indigenous Justice page on our website.

[Visit](#)

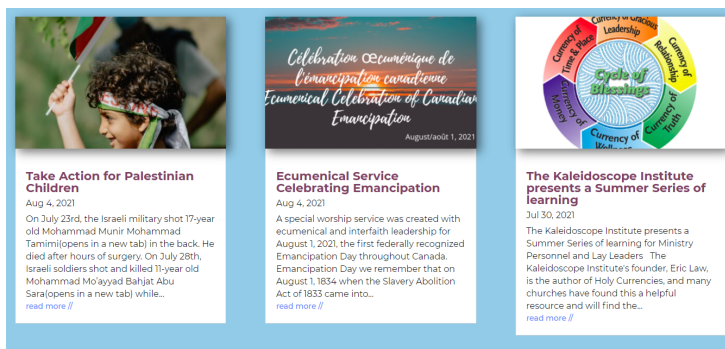
The Regional Council is now an Affirming ministry!

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The newsroll blogs are a great place to share information, regional updates, upcoming events, good news articles, social justice advocacy, faith in action pieces and more!

You can submit development ideas, stories or content you think might add to our regional community by contacting Michele Petick at:

MPetick@united-church.ca



NOTE: Please make sure you have permissions in place, ie permission to share images especially those with people/children in them, not sharing copyright protected content (text, poems) or music, include permission license #'s, consider privacy issues and photo credits if applicable. Content for the regional websites may be edited or modified to adapt to the web.



For information and to see the Affirming Ministry Celebration Service from June 6, 2021, please visit the Affirming Ministry page on our website.

[Visit](#)

NEW

For up-to-date news and events, check out our new "Newsroll Blogs" and events section on the website homepage!

[Visit Website](#)

STAFF UPDATES

Please welcome **Elizabeth Marshall** to our staff team. We ask that you hold Pretima Kukadia-Kinting in prayer. Pretima has been on medical

Please also welcome **Micol Cottrell** who is serving as our Acting Minister, Pastoral Relations during Diane Blanchard's sabbatical. Thank you,

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leave will be for several months with an anticipated return to work late in the fall. We are delighted to have Elizabeth assist on a half-time basis. Elizabeth's primary responsibility will be preparing and distributing newsletters. If there is an upcoming event that would be of interest to the regional council, please let Elizabeth know. emarshall@united-church.ca.

and special thanks to Grace Groh, Hanover, for granting Micol leave to do this. Diane will be resting and exploring how we can strengthen our pastoral relations process to support diverse leadership in communities of faith. Contact Micol at: mcottrell@united-church.ca.

Kathy Douglas, Minister, Faith Formation

Later this month Kathy Douglas will return from her sabbatical where she explored the concept of pilgrimage in connection with adult faith formation. Part of her sabbatical plan is the development of a resource for congregations who want to design an experience like this. Kathy has been exploring the G2G Trail, the Guelph to Goderich trail, so that her pilgrimage connects her with this area, incurs minimal carbon emissions, and explores the Indigenous history and current United Church witness where she is walking.

Michele Petick,

Admin Assistant-Website Management

Michele Petick, who also joined our staff team on July 1, 2021 as Administrative Assistant, Website Management, is updating information on our websites. Our website is being renovated. For up-to-date news and events, check out our new "Newsroll Blogs" on the website homepage.

Covering for Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support & Mission

Fred Monteith in Horseshoe Falls and Judith Fayter in Antler River Watershed are settling into their role as Acting Minister, Congregational Support and Mission, since joining us July 1, 2021. We are grateful that two experienced leaders with a history of caring for congregations stepped in to cover Lynne Allin's medical leave. We touch base with Lynne regularly and look forward to her return to work later this year.

Judith Fayter, Acting Minister,
Congregational Support and Mission,
Antler River Watershed.
jfayter@united-church.ca

Fred Monteith, Acting Minister,
Congregational Support and Mission
for Horseshoe Falls.
fmonteith@united-church.ca

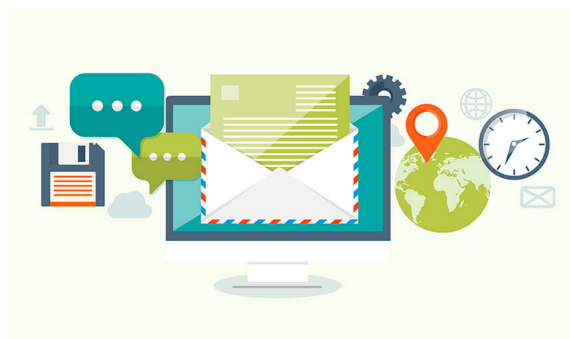
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From the Executive Minister

Since the start of 2021, we have not had a full staff complement and we will remain slightly under staffed throughout the fall. As the supervisor, I want to thank the members of the staff team who stepped up and covered more than their own portfolio throughout this period to ensure that all important work was accomplished. I count myself blessed to work with such gifted and dedicated colleagues! I also want to express my gratitude to people who have expressed concern for the staff or who have shown understanding and patience with the fact that this has meant work had to be triaged according to urgency so more informational matters waited for a response.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
Executive Minister

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For newsletter information and contributions, please contact:

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