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Vaccine Passports

Several communities of faith have inquired if the vaccine passport being instituted in Ontario applies to them.

The legal advice the regional council has received to date is that communities of faith do not have grounds to request this information. Privacy legislation protects medical information and there has been no provincial action mandating such information be shared in a community of faith. In fact, worshipping communities have been specifically exempted from the vaccine passport.

There is also the ethical/faith issue of denying people access to the church. How do we make the faith available to all and protect those who gather?

Communities of faith are encouraged to:

1. continue to follow provincial legislation and local public health advice when gathering in person;

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3. follow best practices when in-person: masks, maintain social distance, manage traffic flow through the building, provide sanitizer, minimize contact, follow advice re singing).

Several months ago Dr. Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, met with religious leaders asking us to encourage vaccinations. Dr. Tam outlined the research behind the vaccine and its safety and asked faith leaders to be partners in promoting vaccinations. Communities of faith are encouraged to follow these steps to manage risk.

This is our current advice. Throughout the pandemic, advice has changed based on new information. We will keep you posted if new information comes our way. As always, the decision rests with the governing body of the community of faith and these are recommendations to them.

Any governing body that feels vaccine passports should be required for worship is encouraged to write their local Member of Provincial Parliament, Minister of Health, the Honorable Christine Elliott and Premier, the Honorable Doug Ford, to advocate for an expansion of the legislation.

Hellos & Goodbyes - September 2021

The Human Resources Commissions of Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, and Western Ontario Waterways share with you the following Hellos and Goodbyes stemming from the meetings in August. We hold in prayer the ministers, candidates, and communities of faith named.

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United Fresh Start: Transitions

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councils want to help new (or continuing) pastoral relationships get off to a healthy beginning by inviting you and your minister to take part in the United Fresh Start program.



There are over 20 modules of resources to support learning together. In October, we will be offering the module "Transitions" on two different dates for you to choose from:

- Tuesday, October 19 from 7-9PM
- Saturday, October 23 from 9-11AM

We invite you to register a group from your community of faith, including your minister, for these modules.

Register Online

Watch for more sessions and United Fresh Start Peer Groups when Diane Blanchard returns from her sabbatical in November.

Facilitators are prepared to offer modules of United Fresh Start to individual congregations as well. If you are interested in this, please contact Micol Cottrell, Acting Minister, Pastoral Relations (September – October), for a list of UFS facilitators. The schedule above is offered without charge. Engaging a facilitator for your community of faith alone has a suggested fee of \$221 per module, negotiated with and payable to the facilitator.

RIGHT RELATIONS EVENTS 2021

The following Right Relations events are all being offered by Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways regions of the United

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do not have access to video calls. For more information contact Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice at TSamuel@united-church.ca.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR RIGHT RELATIONS: Networking and Resources Workshop

Wed. Sept. 22nd, 1:00-2:30pm

Interested in Indigenous justice and right relations? Whether you are just beginning or have been doing this work for years. Hear from networks and other organizations who offer education and programs in our regions. Share your work and/or interests and hear what others are doing.

Please register in advance for this session. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[Register Here](#)

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION Orange Shirt Day - Thursday, September 30

Wear an orange shirt to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential schools.
Take a picture to share on Facebook and Twitter

Do you have a particular ministry initiative that might need funding?

Take a look at what is available through the regional council – details and applications are now live on the website!

Financial Support



The United Church of Canada, in conjunction with For the Love of Creation, is searching for delegates to form a virtual delegation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26).

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Challenge your friends and family to do the same.

If you buy an orange shirt, please seek out an organization that supports Indigenous initiatives & communities, such as Atlohsa Family Healing Services in London, ON.

Atlohsa Orange Shirts

Orange Shirt Retailers Authorized by
Orange Shirt Day Society

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Join Indigenous Ministries and Justice Executive Minister Murray Pruden for a **candlelight vigil at 7:00 p.m. EDT** on the Indigenous Ministries Facebook page.

[Indigenous Ministries on Facebook](#)



Painting by
Martha Pedoniquotte.

TOGETHER IN SONG

**All Saint's Day -
Monday, November
1st at 7:00pm**

*Light a candle and
remember all those who
never got to go home.
Indigenous and non-
Indigenous, we join
together with songs of
hope and healing.*

Please register in advance for this series. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not have video, you can still join the Zoom meeting with a regular phone call.

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ENGAGING THE TRC CALLS TO ACTION

Four Tuesdays from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Become acquainted with the Calls to Action and consider a faith-filled response. These sessions will be opportunities for interactive learning. If needed, we will adjust the plan to respond to the movement of the Spirit.

Oct. 12, Session 1: Introduction to the TRC Calls to Action

Oct. 26, Session 2: What is the role of the church?

Nov. 9, Session 3: What has been done? What can we do?

Nov. 23, Session 4: Networking and Planning

Please register in advance for this series. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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Caring for the Caregiver

A night for churches family and friends to learn about what caregiving is, who caregivers are, what support can be offered by the Ontario Caregiver Organization and the church.

Date: September 28, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Port Nelson United Church (PNUC) and live streamed

Registration details: Pre-registration is required for both in person and on line streaming through karen@portnelson.ca. Streaming information will be available after September 21. For more information contact karen@portnelson.ca.

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The views expressed are the views of The Ontario Caregiver Organization and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province.

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