



First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council
Weekly Announcements
April 6, 2022

info4rc16@united-church.ca

[Staff Directory](#)

[Making Hope Visible Podcast – Justice and Mission Network of the Atlantic Regions of the United Church of Canada](#)

[First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council is on Facebook!](#)

Weekly Prayer – Rev. Russell Small, Retired Clergy

Prayer on the threshold of Holy Week

Holy God, in these Lenten days your Spirit has led us to trace with our minds and hearts the steps of Jesus, as he set his face toward Jerusalem. The journey has been long and not without peril. He has been revealed to us upon the way.

The more we see Jesus the more we discover about ourselves. Tempted and tried in the wilderness he remained faithful to you. In the testing we encounter, so often we settle for that which gives easy and temporary satisfaction. We grasp after glory and power in our dealings with one another. We make cheap bargains with the world for what we think is gain.

Setting Jerusalem before him Jesus moved steadfastly forward. We often draw back. The path is hard. The way is steep. We become fearful, afraid to follow on alone. We keep our eyes on others, not on Jesus. Calling others to follow him, Jesus was clear about the cost. We want to dither over the price or negotiate the terms of our discipleship.

Yet, O God, it is of such as we are, that you would make your church, his body on earth. Who can duly praise that grace which makes this so? Therefore, make of us, O God, the people you would have us be. Let there be more of Jesus to be seen in us so that good news may be proclaimed to the poor, freedom granted to those imprisoned, sight revealed for the eyes of the blind, and all oppressions cease. Help us stand firm that we may see the deliverance which you will work for all your children.

Hear our prayer, in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

Annual Meeting 2022 Registration

Registration for the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council 2021 Annual Meeting is now live on the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council website: <https://ucceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-annual-meeting-2022>

Conversation with Clergy

Please note that the Gathering with Clergy that was scheduled to take place April 19, 2022 has now been changed to April 26, 2022. Detailed information will be sent out closer to the event.

To all Members of the Eastern Regions of The United Church of Canada:

Please see attached link below to a new document entitled “A Congregation as a Whole Being the Governing Body”. This document has been updated, based on The United Church Manual 2022 of The United Church of Canada, for congregations who are considering having the congregation as a whole being the Governing Body. This document serves as a set of guidelines for those small congregations who are considering moving in this direction. It is important to note that approval from the region is needed if using this model of governance.

The new guidelines are found on the regional website under policies, or by using the following link: <https://ucceast.ca/67292-governance-for-a-congregation>

If you have additional questions, or require further information, please do not hesitate to be in contact with your Regional Minister, or myself, at fmaccuish@united-church.ca

Guidelines for Sunday Schools

For more information on guidelines and checklist for re-entry: Sunday Schools and Youth Groups, please visit: <https://ucceast.ca/67309-guidelines-and-checklist-for-re-entry-sunday-schools-and-youth-groups-spring-2022>

First Dawn Eastern Edge United Church Women

60th anniversary of the United Church Women and we are celebrating. The event will take place September 16-18, 2022. For more information please visit: <https://ucceast.ca/67348-60th-anniversary-of-united-church-women-september-16-18-2022>

Regional Council Office Re-Open

The Regional Council Office at 320 Elizabeth Avenue has re-opened effective April 4, 2022.

The office hours are 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday to Friday. Please note the Bookstore is closed daily from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Although restrictions are lifting, public health still recommends that we stay cautious and maintain healthy habits to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, as we make plans for reopening post-public restrictions, we do so slowly and with a degree of caution.

Please note:

- Masks will be required by visitors to the Regional Council Office
- Physical distancing is recommended
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building
- If people have COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that they please not enter the building

Let us move forward with great care for one another. Let us continue to be patient and kind. Let us, with grace and courage, walk into this next phase with love for one another foremost on our minds and in our hearts.

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Nominations

As we are all part of the family of God, and are called to serve for the benefit of the whole, we ask that you prayerfully consider where you might offer your gifts for the work of the church. Members of the Nominations Committee may be in touch with you to help you discern where you may offer your gifts. For more information how to get involved, please visit: <https://ucceast.ca/67301-nominations-2>

Ending Well – Church Closing/Congregational Disbanding Checklist

Some communities of faith in the region are faced with the difficult decision to close their church building, and in some cases also disband as a congregation. The Pastoral Relations Team have worked to develop a checklist for congregations as they consider these options; including considering amalgamation with another community of faith/pastoral charge, and shared ministry with another denomination or organization in the community. It is also important to remember that congregations can continue as a congregation without a building, and can have agreements with local community groups/schools to use their buildings, or even be a house church and still continue as a congregation together. If, and when, all of the future directions opportunities have been exhausted and you feel there is no other option than to close, please see attached link to the document *Ending Well – Church Closing/Congregational Disbanding Checklist*, also available under the Policies tab on the regional website: <https://ucceast.ca/67317-ending-well-congregational-disbanding-checklist>

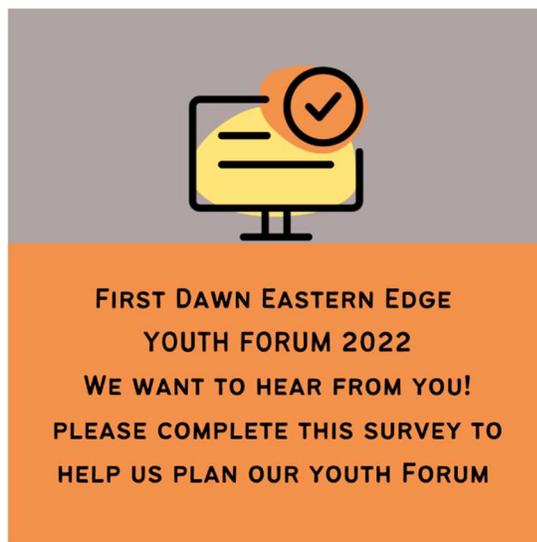
If your congregation is considering its future path, cooperative ministry with another United Church in the area, a shared ministry with another denomination in the community, or other alternatives, please be in contact with the Future Directions Team to discuss options for viability.

Youth Forum 2022

Planning has begun for Youth Forum 2022 and we want to hear from you! Clergy, youth, parent, leaders – please fill out the survey.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzZJxVFFLkUxPvErLbID1sNmfwqlrTqbmUDaNb2xZk7Eqjva/viewform>

Any questions, please contact Catherine at cstuart@united-church.ca



Anniversaries – Milestones in Ministry Celebration

Are you celebrating your 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th or 70th anniversary of Ordination, Admission, Commissioning or Recognition as a Designated Lay Minister in The United Church of Canada? If you are and we have not already been in touch with you, please let us know. These anniversaries are important and as a church we want to recognize yours at our Milestones in Ministry Celebration. Please be in contact with Rev. Brian Colbourne bcolbourne@united-church.ca or Alison Piercey apiercey@united-church.ca

Rethinking, Preaching Conference

[Rethinking Preaching Conference](#) (April 25-26, online), Emmanuel College's [Centre for Religion and Its Contexts](#) and [Shining Waters Regional Council](#) are pleased to be hosting this year's conference with the theme "Intercultural Preaching," featuring the **Rev. Michael Blair** and **Prof. Jerusha Neal**! Please see the full invitation below and share widely through your networks and with friends and colleagues. See full details for this conference and the call for submission of papers (below) [here](#).

Also, a final call for the submission of papers for the [Christian Left Conference 2022](#) (August 5–6, online). This year's theme is "Creation, Land, and Indigeneity: Resistance on Turtle Island and Beyond." Please see the full call for papers below and, again, share widely through your networks and with friends and colleagues. Papers are due April 4.

I hope you can join us at the end of April for the **Rethinking Preaching Conference**... and please consider submitting a paper for the **Christian Left Conference**.

The 53rd Atlantic Seminar in Theological Education

The Atlantic Seminar in Theological Education (A.S.T.E. Seminar) that has often met in Truro each year, will be meeting this year at the Tatamagouche Centre in June. (June 12 – 17, 2022).

Building Respectful Relations - Examining Canadian History from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples. We will learn about Mi'kmaq culture, values and history with presentations on past community life, life after colonization and life now for the Mi'kmaq including their hopes for the future. We will touch on the Residential School reality, MMIWG2S, the Act of Assimilation and songs, stories and poetry will be woven throughout our journey of learning together. Travel subsidies available to people from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

There is a **registration discount for people registering prior to April 20, 2022**. View full details [here](#).

Called to be the Church: The Journey

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Coaching and support to meet your stewardship needs

[Registration is now open!](#)



Create a stewardship team of 3-5 people from your Community of Faith (including your minister or key lay leader, where possible), and spend some focussed time with a Stewardship Specialist and teams from other congregations. Be inspired by a program with a proven track record, and receive personalized coaching and on-going support that reflect your congregations' unique mission, focus, and resources.

- Cohort 1a: Wednesday, April 27, May 4, 11, 18 from 9:00 am-11:00 am EST
- Cohort 2a: Thursday April 28, May 5,12, 19 from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm EST
- Cohort 3a: Tuesday, April 26, May 3, 10, 17 from 3:00 pm -5:00 pm EST
- Cohort 4a: Monday April 25, May 2, 9, 16 from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm EST
- Cohort 5a Wednesday April 27, May 4,11, 18 from 9:30 pm-11:30 pm EST

Greetings First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

Walter Farquharson and I have just written a hymn addressing the Ukraine invasion, "I Will Sing to Our God", which is attached. The tune is not new, composed in 1985, but the words that went with it at the time are now quite outdated and not very useful. Walter did not write the 1985 words, but has written an entirely new set of lyrics to the music. The biblical inspiration is Exodus 15, The Song of Moses & Miriam. The current inspiration is Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

As the situation in Ukraine is timely, we are sending the hymn to various destinations with the invitation to use and copy freely if it is useful to whoever. We are not seeking royalties. Please feel free to forward it to anyone you feel might have use of it. If you are interested, please contact the Regional Office for a copy of the hymn.

In Loving Partnership,
Richard Hall
519-357-9583

General Council 44

General Council 44 is starting this Sunday, February 13th! There are ways that you can get involved and stay connected.

1. From Facebook to YouTube, we have many ways for people to **participate** throughout these next several months of GC44! These options are outlined here:
<https://generalcouncil44.ca/about/connect-gc44>
2. If people want to **register to attend online as a visitor**, they can do so at
<https://pheedloop.com/register/UCGC44/attende/?>
3. **Worship resources for congregations** can be found on the website at
<https://generalcouncil44.ca/community/worship-resources-congregations>

The latest **General Council news** will be on the home page of the website: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/>

Annual Declaration of Criminal Records

As ministry personnel (including candidates in Supervised Ministry Education appointments or other appointments) you need to submit your annual declaration on criminal charges form on ChurchHub. This can be done now, and the portal will remain open until May 15, 2022.



Vacancy

Newtown Lumsden Pastoral Charge is currently looking for a half time minister (20 hours/week). Salary will be paid at the appropriate category (A-F) level at a rate of 50% of that rate as determined by General Council. Newtown Lumsden Pastoral Charge is located on a 246 km loop that runs from Gander to Gambo along the northeast coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. The boundaries of the Pastoral Charge extend from Deadman's Bay to Pound Cove and include also the communities of Lumsden, Cape Freels, Newtown and Templeman. Details can be found on United Church Hub.

La Scie Pastoral Charge (Zion United Church – La Scie & First United Church - Shoe Cove) is seeking a full-time, 40 hrs a week, Ordained, Diaconal or Recognized Designated Lay Minister. We are a two-point Community of Faith covering the two communities of La Scie and Shoe Cove with approximately 130 families under pastoral care. Duties to commence on June 01, 2022 or on a mutually agreed upon date. For further information or to apply, please go to Churchhub or contact Randy Critch at rtcritch@eastlink.ca.

Gambo Pastoral Charge is currently looking for a half time minister (20 hours/week). Salary will be paid at the appropriate category (A-F) level at a rate of 50% of That rate as determined by General Council. We are a two-church pastoral charge in Gambo and Hare Bay. Details can be found on United Church Hub.

Memorial United Church Pastoral Charge & Oakland Pastoral Charge - is currently looking for the services of a full-time Minister (40 hours per week). This position is shared equally, 20 hours per week, with each of the two independent pastoral charges. This position provides leadership in planning, organizing, and conducting regular Sunday services each week, at Memorial United and Oakland United Church. Both Pastoral charges are located in Corner Brook, NL, Canada. Details can be found on United Church Hub.

Office of Vocation

The #UCCan Office of Vocation has a new podcast called It's Your Call hosted by Andrew Richardson and Karen Medland. The podcast explores the stories of those who have answered the call to ministry in the United Church of Canada. The most recent episode, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball shares how the Candidacy Pathway came into being through deep discernment. <http://ow.ly/XZ2B50HteAx> #UCCan #podcast #CalledtoServe #Vocation

New Prayer Bench Small Group Study

This five-week Lent Small Group Study weaves the saga of Joseph with the journey of Jesus and invites us to think about hard things like violence, grief, values, temptation and forgiveness, and seek faithful ways to respond. You can review the complete first session to give you a good sense of this study. It includes the study paper written by the Rev. Dr. Hugh Farquhar and process by Janice MacLean. See <https://prayerbench.ca/product/its-our-saga-too-lent-small-group-study/> Written as a small group study, it is also useful as a personal study during Lent or for a worship series. Some liturgical resources for use in worship services will available on the study webpage.

Lent 2022 Email Retreat and Holy Week Series

Lent offers a season of reflection. We make our journey applying our hearts to wisdom through [a Lent retreat delivered in two parts, plus daily Holy Week meditations](#). Learn more at the Prayer Bench: <https://prayerbench.ca/product/lent-retreats-holy-week-reflections/>

Free Lent Calendar

Come by the Prayer Bench to pick up a free Lent Calendar: *40 Gestures Supporting Mindfulness & Presence*. Get it here: <https://prayerbench.ca/lent-calendar-40-gestures/>