



PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada
Weekly News



November 17, 2021

*Information that you would like included in the Weekly News should be sent to Cherry through this email by **4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays**: PrairietoPine@united-church.ca. Include Title of your news piece, Blurb or Write-Up, files or posters to be included (if any). You can also submit announcement for your community events by filling out this [form](#).*

We REALLY want to facilitate the sharing of news about pastoral concerns, celebrations, educational opportunities and events so PLEASE share them with us. Due to the volume of requests, we will be pleased to publish announcements about events on 2 occasions before the deadline for registration and/or the actual event.

NOTE: We will be aiming to send out the Weekly News on **Wednesdays**.

Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Susan Tilleman, and the community of faith of St. Paul's United Church, Beausejour** as they gather to celebrate the pastoral relations Covenant between them and Prairie to Pine Regional Council on **Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** Greetings can be sent through: suzie_tills_1999@yahoo.com

There are still a few pastoral relations covenants that have yet to be celebrated with a liturgy. Arrangements will be shared when those dates are known.

COVID-19 Updates

The current Public Health Orders are available online for Manitoba: [Province of Manitoba | State of Emergency and Public Health Orders \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/state-of-emergency-and-public-health-orders/)

Prairie to Pine Regional Council and its staff have no authority to interpret these Public Health Orders. The **governing bodies of communities of faith and their ministry personnel** are responsible for interpreting them and getting clarification when and where needed. These Public Health Orders **do not clearly cover every activity** that we may hold in a church building **so some interpretation is required**. If you want some assistance with interpreting the orders you can send an email along to the following email address outlining the specifics of your question and noting that you are a faith based community/church: Manitoba Government Inquiry mgi@gov.mb.ca or Sabina.Mian@gov.mb.ca or call at: 204-795-0783

Updates are shared on the Prairie to Pine website. If you are checking for information on the Prairie to Pine website please note that there is a time lag in the posting of updated information there so check the date and time of posting please.

The Public Health Orders are the restrictions that are mandated. Churches (businesses and other locations) can determine their own protocols. Any protocols that you design **must adhere**

to the Public Health Orders but may be stricter than those outlined in the Public Health Orders.

Comments from the General Council Office on communities of faith considering vaccination policies was shared with Communities of Faith in the Weekly News and on the Prairie to Pine website in June , 2021: [Advice re United Church Communities of Faith and vaccination policies | Prairie to Pine Regional Council \(prairietopinerc.ca\)](#)

The Board of the Office of Vocation which has a responsibility for the oversight and discipline of Ministry Personnel and credentials and standards related to the practise of ministry met on September 28 & 29, 2021. Among its business was discussion about Ministry Personnel and vaccinations. On October 14, 2021 an email with details of their decision was sent directly to Ministry Personnel. An interpretative memo and an FAQ sheet are posted on the General Council website outlining the COVID -19 Vaccination expectation for all active Ministry Personnel: [COVID-19 Vaccination Expectation | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

Public Health Orders for the Province of Ontario - updated as of October 25, 2021

The Province of Ontario has released its longterm plan for relaxing restrictions available through:

<https://files.ontario.ca/moh-plan-to-safely-reopen-ontario-en-2021-10-22.pdf>

Like in Manitoba, numbers permitted to attend worship services depend upon whether the Community of Faith has a policy related to full vaccination for attendance or not.

[Covid-19 updates are also available on the Region's website.](#)

Regional News

Communication

The Prairie to Pine Weekly News is our primary means of dispensing information during these times. For those who are not currently receiving, to get registered to receive the Weekly News please email Cherry Abad with your request (cabad@united-church.ca). Some information is also available through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council website: www.prairietopinerc.ca

Leadership Counts Survey

Leadership Counts is the voluntary survey about identity-based data collection (for ministry personnel, national and regional staff, and members of national committees). This week, ministry personnel and members of national committees will receive a personalized invitation to participate in the survey process. (Lay employees who are staff will receive an invitation at a later date.) This survey is voluntary, but the more that people share, the more we can count and recognize the wide diversity of the United Church's leadership.

We are hope that you might be able to help encourage people in your networks to participate! We will be sharing copy in the Regional Council and GCO Communications Team on MS Teams to promote in regional council newsletters/communications. As staff colleagues, you may

receive questions about this survey, so wanted you to be aware that invitations are going out this this week.

- For questions or concerns about the survey: please feel free to contact any of the three of us who are coordinating this project through leadershipcounts@united-church.ca.
- To find out more about Leadership Counts, including answers to frequently asked questions: please explore the website <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/leadership-counts>.

We encourage ministry personnel and members of national committees to participate in this project.

Annual Assessments

The 2022 Assessment information is now on Church Hub. Communities of Faith are able to access 2022 assessment information including the calculations through your Church Hub account (www.churchhub.ca). Once you sign into your account, go to the Assessment tile, select Reports, then Target Assessments and click on "Download PDF". You can also access the current status of your 2021 assessment.

If you require more information you can consult the recording of the October 27, 2021 Webinar for Church Treasurers, the recording of which is available through United-in-Learning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMTFscWHGhc>

NOTE: The discussion around assessment starts at about the 50-minute mark in the presentation. Questions or further assistance can be directed to assessments@united-church.ca

The next Webinar for Church Treasurers is scheduled for November 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. CT with more information available through: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/316-congregational-finances>

Significant Revisions to the United Church Groups Insurance Plans effective 2022

The Executive of General Council in a meeting on September 25th, 2021, after careful consideration and a fulsome discussion, the Executive of the General Council (GCE) approved the closing of the Optional plan and redesign of the Core plan. Starting January 1, 2022, there will be only one plan, paid for by the employer, for all eligible active ministry personnel and employees of the church. The details of the coverage and maximums will be communicated later in the fall with a comprehensive FAQs to address questions members and employers might have. Changes will also be made to coverage for Retirees. Please consult the United Church Benefits website: www.uccan-benefitscentre.ca/news

Here are the links to **proposals that went to the General Council Executive**, available in through the United Church Commons:

[GS114 Active Members Group Benefits Plan 2022](#)

[GS115 Group Benefits Plans 2022-Retiree Health and Dental](#)

A video commentary on the changes is now available through:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXMz9wRQy_U

Ministry Personnel Support Gathering

MINISTRY PERSONNEL are invited to participate in the ZOOM gatherings that resumed after the summer break. Next meeting is Tuesday, November 30th at 3:00 p.m. The Zoom link is available [here](#). If you have problems with the link, call 204-390-0098.

AFFIRMING GATHERING, 18 November, 7:00-8:30 PM (CST)

Calling all Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Affirming, in-process, and seriously curious ministries! Join the Regional Equity and Diversity Committee for a get to know each other and support time together. Bring your good news, your questions, and your struggles to this time of prayer and conversation. [Full information here on the Prairie to Pine calendar](#). Zoom registration required. For more information, please contact Regional justice staff Julie Graham, jgraham@united-church.ca

Trinity United Church (Brandon) Affirming Celebration

Trinity United (Brandon) is excited to announce its Affirming Ministry Service of Celebration on Sunday, November 21, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. (Trinity United Church, 1515 - 6th Street, Brandon, Manitoba) Note: Regathering protocols for worship, approved by the Board, will be in effect. Everyone must be fully vaccinated.

Last Chance to register for This Friday's Travelling Youth Group

This month it is being hosted by Westworth United Church at 1750 Grosvenor
We want you here!

- Theme "Music and Art as an Expression of Your Faith"
- All grade 7 and above are welcome! (young adult supporters and youth leaders also welcome) - *Registration required to comply with host church's Covid policies.*
- [Click here to register](#) (whether you are a youth, young adult or youth group leader)

Wpg UC Youth Band

Looking for youth who like to sing, play guitar, drums, bass, ukulele, keyboard or do actions. Grade 7+ welcome. Meeting at St. Mary's Road United Church (613 St. Mary's Road) Tuesdays from 6:30 until 7:30, Nov 30th and Dec 7th. Ongoing dates TBD by group. Call Twila for questions and to confirm your wish to give it a try. 204-781-8124.

First Walk with the Thunderbirdz was a success!

On Nov 11th, despite icy roads and illness that kept some people from coming, two families joined 4 regular walkers. One of the walkers works in harm reduction for drug users and was able to give us a bit of an explanation of the work she does. Two of the other walkers offered a smudge and couple drum songs before we headed out walking.

Our grant provided sandwiches, bottled water, granola bars, mini oranges and bananas to people living in encampments along the river and those we met along the street. The fresh snow provided brightness and beauty to our walk. The experience provided food for thought

and a desire to do more.

I encourage families and youth to sign up [here](#) to walk next Tuesday, November 23rd. Grade 8 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. We will meet at 231 Isabel Street at 4:45 pm to prepare sandwiches.

[See pictures here.](#)

YARG Games Night

Friday, Nov 26th from 7 to 9pm, the Young Adults are inviting Youth 14 years and up to join them for a night of games at St. Mary's Road United Church. In case you are wondering YARG stands for Young Adult Recreational Gatherings and is a ministry of the YAAY Committee.

Youth Forum at GC44

- If you are a youth who has been waiting for information about how youth will be included in the work of General Council in 2022...
- If you know of a youth who is a leader in the United Church at the local level or beyond, who you can see leading our church into the future...

The details are finally available and applications are due December 15th for participants and January 14th for Home Group Leaders. Please click [here](#) to see the details unveiled! Contact Twila TMacNair@united-church.ca if you have more questions after reading the materials, or would like some help to proceed with an application.

40 Days of Anti Racism continues: this week's highlights (updated)

Here's what you can anticipate for this week: This week's content explores experiential learning, a "game" like Jeopardy, and more!

- [Simulate to Stimulate](#) - by Dianne Hope
- [The Effect of Internalized Racism](#) - by Alcris Limongi
- [Words to Combat Systemic Racism](#) - by Samuel Vauvert Dansokho
- [Become an Ally](#) - by Adam Kilner
- [Race and Space](#) - by SunDo Hyun
- [Anthropology and Racism](#) - by Samuel Vauvert Dansokho

The links above will bring you to each day's content; or, you can explore everything on the [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism website](#).

44th General Council in 2022: more details

Asking Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?", General Council 44 is meeting in virtual space in 2022. This venue will offer some exciting challenges and opportunities. Plans are well underway. If you are a Commissioner, Youth Forum Participant, invited guest, or someone who wants to know what is being planned, visit the [GC44 website](#). And, if you're looking for information on Moderator nominations, [please click here](#).

Advent resources!

The season of Advent is almost upon us, and [Advent Unwrapped](#) is here to support you with at-home activities, worship resources, blog posts, and lots more! Keep up to date with all the latest news and content by checking out the [Facebook page](#) or subscribing to the [newsletter](#).

November 28th - In support of Palestinian Children's rights

Nov. 29th is United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Please join church groups and others including folks from the Palestinian and Jewish communities at **Vimy Ridge Park, 821 Preston Ave. Winnipeg on Nov. 28th Sunday, 12:00- 12:30 until 1:30 pm**: Canada Stand Up for Palestinian Children's Rights.

This event is in support of a request to the Canadian Government to appoint a Special Envoy to monitor and report on the situation of Palestinian children living in occupied Palestine pertaining to the standards of international law and UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, signed by both Israel and Canada. This event is organized by the Mennonite Church Manitoba.

In Other News

Church gowns to donate

Rosser and Sparling United Church has about a dozen blue church gowns to donate. The gowns are in good condition and were cleaned before they were stored. If interested, please email rgisministries@outlook.com.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Winnipeg invites you to join us to the Fellowship of the Least Coin In-Gathering Service on Thursday, November 18, 2021, via Zoom at 1:00 pm.

Theme is: "Touch or Lives, Heal our World" and the guest speaker is Audrey Martel who will speak on Poverty and Youth. Register at [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) and a Zoom link will be sent to you. [Please see poster for details](#).

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Every year, the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is observed on November 20th, and the week leading up to November 20th is officially known as Transgender Awareness Week.

There are local organizations who provide services, resources and advocacy work to the Transgender community in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba:

- **Trans Manitoba** (<https://www.transmanitoba.org>) (and on Facebook)
- **Klinic** (www.klinic.mb.ca)
- **Rainbow Resource Centre** (<https://rainbowresourcecentre.org>)

The Transgender community is a resilient community that needs broader support and allyship from society.

Decolonizing ourselves: Rediscovering Treaty with the Earth,

1:00 pm SK/MB. Explore ecological racism and Treaty as covenant with Rev. Dr. Stan McKay and Rev. Dr. Bob Haverluck. Presented by the KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Group and the Treaty Land Sharing Network with a special invitation to all Prairie to Pine people. [Register here!](#) Facebook event link to share: <https://fb.me/e/3VTmNt4Lo>

Workshops: Faithful Footprints grants for green retrofits of church buildings, November 15 and 30, 1:00 PM CST.

Access up to \$30,000 in grants to improve the energy efficiency or invest in renewable energy for Faith Buildings, as well as resources, energy efficiency tips and tricks. Join us! Please contact jhisco@faithandthecommongood.org to register.

National Webinar for Church Treasurers, continuing series. November 24 6:00PM Central Standard. [Click here for details!](#)

Resources

- Those interested in finding space for study or retreat might want to consider the Pembina Valley Lodge and Interpretive Centre. Some details are available though their website: <https://www.pvlodge.ca/> or by speaking to Karen Tjaden, Ministry Personnel at Crossroads Pastoral Charge (Carman and Elm Creek)
- Looking for resources related to our care of creation and stewardship of the environmental, check out For the Love of Creation: <https://forthe loveofcreation.ca/>

Education Opportunities & Events

United in Learning

United-in-Learning continues to offer online webinars this fall. For the list of offering follow this link: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars>

They include:

- Boundaries -Introductory and Refresher webinars (various dates)
- Racial Justice Training (various dates)
- **A “John the Baptist” Christmas:** an advent unwrapped event November 23, 2021

Interim Ministry Network

The schedule of the Interim Ministry Network training for 2022 is now available. The core curriculum is Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry, consisting of two online classes and a small group fieldwork experience. The first step is Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry: The Work of the Leader (FTML). The second step, Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry: The Work of the Congregation (FTMC) builds on the information and experiences of FTML. The curriculum is designed for experiential learning throughout. Please click [here](#) for more information and schedule of classes. You can also visit their website at <https://imnedu.org/>

Repeat News

Reminder: Be careful with photo copyright! Here are some tips

Photos are vital to our websites, social media, worship PowerPoints and much more. They add a lot to our online ministry and in-person PowerPoints. And they're sometimes a little too easy to

take and share. So please beware, and follow good copyright practices. [Click here for some further information](#), resources, and ideas for copyright-free or fair use photos.

Looking for participants for a research project

I am doing research on non-clergy people, age 19+ in the Prairie to Pine region who have had an experience of God during weekly worship and who would be willing to be interviewed about that experience. Interested participants can phone me for more information at 807-598-0189. My name is Susan Girard and I am in my final year for my M.Div. at the Atlantic School of Theology. Thank you!

Cookie Drive Thru / Walk Up

Windsor Park United Church (1062 Autumnwood Drive) invites you to our **Cookie Drive Thru / Walk Up** in the church parking lot. on **Saturday, November 27, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.** Containers will be pre-packaged and sealed with a minimum of three dozen cookies! Cost is \$10.00 a container (containers are bio-degradable) Cash, debit or credit accepted. All Public Health Protocols followed. Please note this is **NOT** a nut-free environment.

Grey Street United Church 75th Anniversary Tea and Bazaar, Saturday, November 26, 2021. Grey Street UC at 651 Sandhurst Ave in Winnipeg invites you to their 75th Anniversary Tea & Bazaar Saturday November 6, 2021 for full details [see poster](#).

Sacred Items to Donate

For decades, [these items](#) have played a significant role in the life and worship of Riverview United and Rosedale United. Now, they are looking for a new home. Email Churchill Park United if interested: office@churchillparkunited.ca

Thank you from 1JustCity

The Winnipeg Presbytery donated a fund to cover staff costs during times of illness they had saved to 1JustCity. At this very moment, three of our staff are on short term health leave and this fund is ensuring that all our sites can run in their absence, that they can rest and recover safely without worrying about what that means for the organization. Thank you so much for making that possible - The 1JustCity Team

Tessa's Letter to Donors

Here is a [letter](#) that Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud wrote on her last day as Executive Director of 1JustCity.

VST Sunday-Save the Date (January 30th, 2022)

For years VST has been organizing VST SUNDAY – a day where students, faculty, staff and alumni all head out into the worshipping communities and share in worship. VST folks blend into the church service as clergy wish – a faculty member may preach, a student may offer a prayer, and during pre-pandemic times the VST person would stand at a table with VST Swag during coffee time to chat about the school and give away pens!

The Pandemic has given us the opportunity to share pre-recorded options (faculty and student sermons, student testimonials and prayers) and do live zoom! Interested? Email Julie at jlees@vst.edu

Emmanuel College's Centre for Religion and Its Contexts: Upcoming Events Emmanuel College's [Centre for Religion and Its Contexts \(CRIC\)](#) is offering a rich and varied roster of events over the fall, including a panel discussion on *Transgender Theologies and Activism*, two book launches, a conversation on the history of *Home Missions*, and a series of seminars (continuing into winter 2022), *Things They Didn't Teach Me in Seminary*. Attached is a listing of our fall 2021 lineup. Please feel free to share this with your communities, colleagues, friends and family via email, websites and social media. Full event details and registration links are available on the [CRIC events page](#). If you would like more information or a shareable poster for a particular event, please don't hesitate to contact Shawn Houston at shawn.houston@utoronto.ca! And I hope to see you at some or all of our events! [The 2021 Fall CRIC Events is available here.](#)

UCC Resources

- [The Manual 2020](#)
- [ChurchHub](#)
- [The United Church of Canada e-Newsletters](#)
- [United Church Bookstore](#)
- [United in Learning - Upcoming Webinars](#)

Previous Issues and Subscription to the Weekly News

To see the previous issues, please click [here](#).

To subscribe to the Weekly News, please click [here](#).

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