



First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Weekly Announcements January 27, 2021

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. CHRISTOPHER MAZHANDU, LA SCIE Pastoral Charge

Gracious and loving God, we come to you with humble and contrite hearts, to thank you for helping us go through one of the most difficult years in our church history. Difficult due to a world pandemic called COVID-19. Lord, we the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are happy and thank you that you have spared us the severity of this disease and ushered us into a new decade.

Lord, its not money that you want from us, but our hearts that are devoted to you. I bring to you Lord the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Executive and its various committees. They need your encouragement and the blessing of your spirit to be able to continue with your work. At times, it is very hard, but at those times you do not leave us alone. You hold our hands and take most of the load that is weighing us down off our shoulders.

As we enter a new decade, Lord continue to be with your church. Shine our paths with your light of love, compassion and justice. Always convict us when we are about to get distracted by the bling-bling and the noise of this world. Lord make us dwell in your shelter and always see you as our refuge. As we look forward to the new year we have begun, let our lives be transformed by your spirit. Amen.

Tri-Regional Town Hall Meeting

Please save the date for a Tri-Regional Town Hall, to be held using zoom video conferencing:

Topic: Congregational Annual Meetings

Date: January 28, 2021 at 12:30pm (Atlantic)

Zoom Instructions can be found here:

<https://ucceast.ca/60963-tri-regional-town-hall-january-28-2021-at-100-pm-nst/>

Certificate of Ministry of Supervision

Certificate of Ministry of Supervision is being offered February 22-26, 2021, by Vancouver School of Theology. For more information please visit: [Ministry of Supervision](#)

Stewardship Updates

Just a reminder that the deadline for transferring 2020 **Mission & Service** gifts to the General Council Office is this Friday (January 29th).

New Stewardship Program: Called to Be the Church: The Journey

As a Philanthropy Unit, we have been striving to provide Stewardship Support to Communities of Faith and their leaders.

We have produced an Annual Stewardship Campaign program called, **Called to Be the Church** for the last 6 or 7 years. We have produced other congregational resources in print as well as in electronic format. Further, I have provided workshops to charges and geographic areas, and have worked more closely with some charges.

We have received some good feedback and tracked some decent results. However, we are finding that many charges and their leaders do not have much experience, training, and sometimes confidence, with stewardship best practices. Many charges no longer have Stewardship Committees. So, while the Called to be the Church Program was meant to be "plug and play" with very little additional support needed, we have found that many leaders want and need more. This comes at a time when many Faith communities are in decline with fewer givers and increased expenses.

So, taking all of this into account, as well as the reality of fewer field staff, more geography to cover, and no travel for the foreseeable future, we have created a new initiative - **Called to Be the Church: The Journey**. It is an eight-hour (over 4 weeks) training course in Stewardship Best Practices and Discipleship. The goal is to host Courses in each region with 3 or 4 Pastoral Charges at a time. The Charges will select a team of three or four people, ideally including the minister. We will collect information and at the end of each course will provide an Individualized Stewardship Report with Analysis and Recommendations. It is then our plan to do a follow-up with past participants and provide coaching and ongoing support as they take on Stewardship initiatives.

Further, we hope to provide even more coaching/support for the **Called to Be the Church Campaign** (2021 materials are soon on their way to Charges).

What can you do now? Please promote and discuss The Journey Program with your congregations, and if you are interested in participating, please contact Roger Janes - rjanes@united-church.ca The first run of the course, one per Region, are being set up for February.

Call for Nominations

Are you, or do you know, a young adult (18-30) who is passionate about the church and ecumenical conversations in Canada?

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) is adding three Youth Members to its Governing Board. The United Church of Canada is invited to nominate one of our members for these positions.

[43-52 Youth Member Governing Board](#)

Anglican and United Church Colleges Enter into a Strategic Alliance

The United Theological College and Montreal Diocesan Theological College are entering into a strategic alliance that will deepen and build on their long-standing collaboration in theological education. UTC will continue to send updates as they become available. Your questions and your support are welcomed. Go to the link on our Regional Council website for more information: <https://ucceast.ca/61078-anglican-and-united-church-colleges-enter-into-a-strategic-alliance/>

Confirmation Resources

Six professionally produced You Tube Videos (produced 2014) to supplement your program and a print resource, written by Robyn Brown Hewitt (updated 2020), with process and activities for six complete sessions.

When you register you immediately receive by email a link and password to the site where you can access the videos and download and print the resource package.

For more information visit: <https://ucceast.ca/42897-narthex-confirmation/>

Justice & Mission

If we were getting together at meetings or church events in person, we would be seeing you in workshops, talking to you over the teapot, in the hallway, or across the pews. As the Justice, Mission, and Outreach Team gets established they are looking for input from you to help shape their future work. Since we aren't together for these conversations, please take 3 minutes to complete the survey:

<https://forms.gle/Yp9ooTSeNPPaPZ7J6>

St. Andrew's College ReJUNEvation 2021

St. Andrew's College ReJUNEvation is going virtual for 2021. The conference will be held June 16 – 18, 2021. Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman will present on the theme, "Now it's Springs Forth.

For more information, please visit: [ReJUNEvation 2021](#)

Atlantic Regions Ministry & Personnel Committees – Managing Conflict

A webinar for lay members of M&P Committees

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Atlantic, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon Newfoundland

[Register here](#), deadline to register Feb 15, 2020

This webinar will be resourced by the three Regional Ministers of the Atlantic Regions - Kendall Harrison (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters), David Hewitt (Region 15) and Heather Sandford (First Dawn Eastern Edge). Topics will include roles and responsibilities, stages of conflict, strategies for addressing conflict, resources and support. For more information, please contact the Regional Minister for your Region.

Prayer Bench 2021 Subscription Packages available until Jan. 31, 2021

You may notice that I am offering a smaller package of resources this year and at a lower cost, to open space for study and personal reflection in 2021. It is a semi-sabbatical as I enter the 7th year of the prayer bench part-time ministry and serve a part-time pastoral charge.

The new resources for 2021 reflect the most popular resources: Stroll for Your Soul, Email Retreats, daily emails during Holy Week and an Advent small group study and a new program, Fall Rambles. There are other benefits to being a subscriber, like 50% of other resources, including Soul of the Preacher, and a zoom course coming this year. There are other changes in the delivery of the group package to make resources more available for communities of faith during COVID. Review what is included in the two packages by visiting the Prayer Bench Shop and try out the samples provided to give you a taste of prayer bench resources.

Visit the Prayer Bench Shop <https://prayerbench.ca/shop/>

These packages are available until January 31, 2021. Resources are then available for full price from the shop as they become available.

Making Hope Visible

Senator Nancy Hartling has deep roots in frontline work for social change. In this conversation, we hear how even as a child she was seeking to understand the experiences of others and wanting fairness for all. She offers us a short primer on the role and function of the Canadian Senate. Then we discuss Guaranteed Livable Income and why this idea is an important conversation for Canada today. Senator Hartling is a member of the United Church and is a living example of how faith, and hope, and political life can be well integrated. [Making Hope Visible](#)

Ministry Innovations in Midst of a Pandemic

A virtual lunch and learn series, free of charge, with a special welcome to students

All sessions will be on Thursdays at 1:00 - 2:00 pm (Atlantic Time)

Schedule

February 4	Rev. Dr. Kimberlynn McNabb	Two- bit Itty Bity Bible Study
February 11	Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner	Topic TBA
March 4	Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crittenden	Preaching: Where Two or Three are Gathered?
March 11	Rev. Tammy Hodge Orovec	How Virtual Worship Has Made us a Stronger Church Family
March 18	Rev. Mitchell Anderson	Vision & Renewal
March 25	Rev. Dr. Dave Csinos	Topic TBA
April 15	Rev. Dr. Sadekie Little-Forbes	Good News or Bad Times – Preaching in a Pandemic
April 22	Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton	Faith Formation

*More dates and topics to be added. To register visit: [Ministry Innovations](#)

Pine Hill Divinity Hall Continuing Education Bursary Guidelines 2020-2021

Please visit the following link for all the information on bursary guidelines: [Education Bursary Guidelines](#)

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Webpage Emergency Response Link

Stay updated with [Emergency Response Updates on COVID-19](#) on the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council web-page.