



First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council
Weekly Announcements
April 7, 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. Heather Sandford, Regional Minister, First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed! Gracious and Holy God, in this season of Easter we are grateful and mindful of the gift that you have given us in the Risen Christ. In a time and a place where what is going around us can get us down, where hope is hard to find some days, we look to you and to the hope that you have given the world in the Risen Christ.

New life and new beginnings are ours and we give you thanks and praise, gracious God. In this time and in this place, we give you thanks for those who care for us, for friends and family both near enough for us to hold onto and touch and to those who are further away. We give you thanks for technology that brings them closer to us. We give you thanks gracious God for those workers who go to work every day who meet many people and who do that day in and day out. For all essential workers, front line workers and first responders we give you thanks for the care and support given to us. God of new life we give you thanks for our churches and leaders, the ministry personnel who care and who support the work of your church here in this part of the world. We ask that you will continue to bless them and all of those who work tirelessly for your mission here on earth as we spread your love to all our siblings.

Loving God, hear our prayers as we gratefully rejoice in the new life and the new beginnings that you give us each day. Amen

Holy Land Visit – MacPherson Family trust Fund

Please visit the Region's website for information for ministry personnel applying for the MacPherson Family Trust Fund 2021 Holy Lands. More information available here: [Holy Land Visit](#)

Conversation with Clergy

Save the date of April 13, 2021 for the next conversation with clergy. Zoom details will be emailed in the coming days.

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting

“**Presence and Hope**” is the theme for the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council 2021 Annual Meeting being held May 14-16, 2021 via Zoom. Some of you will be aware of that format and for some it will be new. Not to worry if you are unfamiliar, we are here to help you. If you are not able to join via Zoom, then you can join the meeting by phone.

The Annual Meeting will begin on Friday, May 14 at 6 pm with Opening Worship and In Memoriam. The evening will end with Milestones in Ministry, a celebration of our Retirements, Anniversaries and an acknowledgement of those ministry personnel who have left or will be leaving our Region. We will continue the meeting again on Saturday morning at 10 am. The meeting will end with the Celebration of Ministry Service (in person invitation only) live streamed on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2 pm. The full draft agenda will be circulated once all the pieces are in place.

Please note that all ministry personnel and lay members will have to register for the meeting. The registration deadline is April 15, 2021. Please complete the registration form found on the website: <https://ucceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-annual-meeting-2021/>

Lay Members of first Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

Lay members are elected by their Community of Faith. We need all Communities of Faith to fill in the online form: <https://ucceast.ca/61182-official-members-form/>

This form confirms your elected members of the Region. This is a required form and provides the Region with the needed contact information. Representatives must be members of the Community of Faith. If you have not had your annual meeting and have not elected new representatives, please confirm with last year’s representative that they are still willing to continue for this year and please complete & submit the necessary forms.

2021 Information Forms

The 2021 Information Forms can be found on our Regional Council website!

If you have had your annual congregational meeting and have elected your governing body for 2021, please click on the below link to complete each form. Once submitted, you will receive copies of the completed forms by email.

If you have not had your annual meeting, and have the same people serving in the governing body, we kindly ask you to still fill out the information forms. [2021 Information Forms](#)

Atlantic School of Theology Continuing Education Programs

Visit the following link for more information on spring continuing education programs.

<http://www.astheology.ns.ca/con-ed/2021.html>

Emmanuel College

The learning environment mirrors the religious and spiritual diversity of the world and its graduates will serve. Please visit the link below to learn more about Emmanuel College. Note that the deadline for applications is April 30, 2021. [Emmanuel College](#)

Light a Candle for a Guaranteed Livable Income

Now is the time to make a lasting change in the system. For more information please visit: <https://united-church.ca/news/light-candle-guaranteed-livable-income>

First Dawn Eastern Edge Region – Nominations Team

Affirm Committee: The terms of reference for the Affirm Committee that was proposed and accepted at our annual Regional Meeting in November, 2021, have now been finalized and accepted by the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Executive. The mandate of the committee will be to provide leadership, guidance and dedication to the Region with respect to understanding and becoming a safe and welcoming place for all people.

Should you be interested in participating on the Affirm Committee, please contact the chair of nominations, Rev. Bruce Rideout, at bruce.rideout@ymail.com to express your interest and/or to see the terms of reference. We look forward to hearing from people from a variety of ages, orientation, ethnicity and gender backgrounds. The committee needs a Convenor, Secretary and 5 members.

Some people have already expressed an interest, but we do need more. Please submit your expression of interest to Nominations by March 31.

Soul of the Preacher

Each week preachers come to a text or theme and sit with it, think about it, work with it, leave it alone, struggle with it, write it, and finally dare speaking. Sometimes the words come easily. Sometimes they don't. We live by words. And each week we start over, again and again.

This is not a preaching course. We come together online (Zoom) for a chance to pause and connect. We consider ways of nourishing our soul by intentionally recollecting whatever energy we bring. We ground ourselves in creative approaches that spark imagination and nurture contemplative insight into sacred texts. We try out spiritual practices, ancient and new. We find ways to support letting it all go only to begin again.

The three eastern regions have joined together to offer a 25% discount to all participants in *The Soul of the Preacher* Zoom program beginning April 15. Use this coupon code to claim a 25% discount for this program. **Soul25**. Find Information here: <https://prayerbench.ca/product/soul-of-the-preacher-zoom/>

Spring Book Study: Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired*

The Region 15 Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee will be leading an online book study at 10am on Wednesdays, April 21st – May 12th. Our title is Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, selected for its youthful voice, accessible approach to the interpretation of scripture, and imaginative retellings of well-known stories. Participants are asked to obtain their own copy in advance, but no reading is required for the first session. Lay people and ministry personnel across the Regions are invited to join us, please register by April 13th for what is sure to be a lively and inspiring group: <https://ucceast.ca/61453-rc15-inspired-book-club/>

For the Love of Creation

We are holding our 2nd annual call.

Concerned about the climate? Want to learn more and involve your faith community? Mark your calendars and [Register](#) to attend a United Effort For the Love of Creation Zoom Spring 2021 session! The conversation will be hosted by members of the United Church Climate Advisory Circle and GCO staff. A chance to receive updates and share experiences with Faithful Climate Conversations, Faith-in-Action advocacy effort and theological reflection, and gear up for Earth Day. This is the 2nd of 3 national conversations. **When:** Monday, April 12, 5:30pm NDT

Rural Routes Atlantic

The [United Church Rural Ministry Network](#) (UCRMN) is a grassroots initiative for Rural Ministry in the United Church. The goal is to connect the many Rural Ministry Initiatives across Canada by sharing the successes, the opportunities and the culture of Rural Ministry. On the UCRM webpage is a tab more specifically for the Atlantic region You can find us on the webpage under Resources, then Atlantic. There you'll find a couple of podcasts we've done and a few other resources.

UCRMN provides workshops, the most recent two, [How Covid is Preparing Us for Newness](#) and Technology for Rural Churches.

Even in these heavy days new life is growing and we can nurture it together. This is a time when we have much to offer one another from our rural places. I would love to invite people to visit this website and sign up for the newsletter. I would be especially glad to have people from the Atlantic regions visit our Atlantic tab, click on Resources and then Atlantic. There will be further podcasts posted there around the delights and concerns of rural faith communities and connections to resources developed for and growing out of the Atlantic Rural experience. [Table Church](#) is one such resource. Once the pandemic ebbs away, we will plan another in person Rural Routes gathering. We would love to hear from those in Regions 14,15 and 16 with feedback, stories or suggestions. You can contact the Rural Routes Cohort through Catherine Smith at ruralroutesatlantic@gmail.com

The Network of Bible Storytellers of Canada & Pacific Mountains Region

You are invited to attend The Festival of Biblical Storytelling! This year's theme is This Changes Everything: The Peacebuilding Power of Scripture Telling. Dates: April 9-11, 2021, all online! For more details see: <https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/festival-of-biblical-storytelling-2021> or email Catherine Stuart cstuart@united-church.ca or Linnea Good lg@linneagood.com

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

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](#)

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.

United Church Bookstore

We are taking pre-orders again for **Fellowship Communion** cups.

This little pack, seen below, holds the wafer and the juice in one container. Instructions are below describing exactly how to open the cup. You just peel back the cover to use. It's a wonderful idea to be able to use these during communion services. Everyone can handle their own cups. These items will not expire until one year after packaging. Deadline to order is April 13, 2021.

Fellowship Communion Box

Box of 100 \$61.95 tax included
Box of 250 \$139.95 tax included
Box of 500 \$199.95 tax included

