

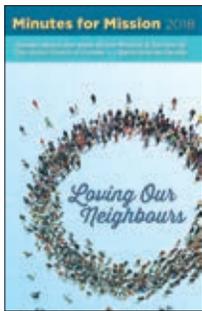


January 2018

What's New?

Resources | Events | On the Web

Recently Released Resources



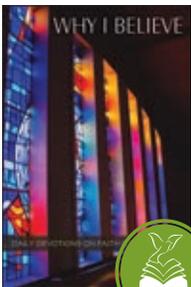
Minutes for Mission

The 2018 *Minutes for Mission* has been mailed to all pastoral charges! These stories of the mission and ministry that our Mission & Service giving makes possible will inspire your community of faith. This year we also offer 24 videos that tell some of the stories of Mission & Service: reconciliation work with Indigenous communities, support for displaced people here in Canada and across the world, overcoming barriers to peace, the compassion our community ministries show every day to those they serve, and so much more. See everything you need at www.UCRDstore.ca/m4m. All the videos can be viewed or downloaded at www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada.

CH11062
D11062

Print booklet
PDF

No charge, but shipping charges apply
No charge



Why I Believe

Daily Devotions on Faith & Discipleship Edited by Alydia Smith

Get your copy of the 2018 Lent book, with daily scripture, reflections, hymn suggestions, personal questions, and prayers for individual devotions or group study. A variety of United Church people shared candid, thoughtful reflections their personal faith journeys. What does it mean to follow Jesus, remain faithful, and choose hope, especially during times of uncertainty and doubt? Study guide included.

Paperback
E-book

978-1-55134-244-3
978-1-55134-245-0

\$12.95
\$7.95  UCRDstore.ca



United Church Resource Distribution
The United Church of Canada

Shop online at www.UCRDstore.ca,
call toll-free 1-800-288-7365 or locally 416-253-5456,
or contact your local presbytery resource centre

Taxes not included in prices advertised. Prices and availability subject to change without notice.

Find Us Online



Black History Month: Worship Resources

www.united-church.ca/worship

Black History Month is a time to learn about the long and diverse history of Black peoples in Canada, to honour their contributions to church and society, and to acknowledge the struggles that Black Canadians endure because of anti-Black racism and systemic oppression. Visit the worship pages for new worship services, a Bible study, and ideas and suggestions on how to celebrate Black History Month in your community of faith.



EDGE—Social Media relaunch

www.facebook.com/edgeucc

Keep an eye on EDGE's social media this year! We'll be sharing exciting and inspiring stories of ministries and communities of faith across the country. You'll also find useful resources such as event registrations and webinar announcements.



Gifts with Vision: Give Meaningfully All Year Round!

www.giftswithvision.ca

Gifts with Vision aren't just for Christmas gift-giving. Any time of year is a perfect time to lovingly celebrate a special occasion and make a difference in the world—with no excessive packaging and no exchanges.

Online at giftswithvision.ca, through the catalogue, or by phone at 1-844-715-7969, we're ready to help you give a meaningful gift any day of the year.



Give It Up for the Earth!

<https://cpj.ca/for-the-earth>

Many Christians mark Lent by "giving up" a bad habit or distracting practice. This symbolic sacrifice provides space to reflect, refocus, and renew our commitment to God. Why not focus your Lenten fast on preserving creation? Please join us and Give it up for the Earth! as part of your Lenten journey. Working together we can safeguard the wellbeing of people and the planet.



Inspire, Invite, and Thank: Monthly Ideas for Your Congregation

www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca

Each month, we provide a new series of generosity, giving, and gratitude ideas—correlated with the liturgical and calendar seasons—that will help you Inspire, Invite, and Thank in your congregation. Links, sermon ideas, and activities to get your congregation thinking about what it means to Inspire, Invite, and Thank are all in one place on www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca.

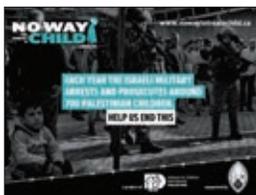
Questions or suggestions? E-mail stewardship@united-church.ca or phone us at 1-800-268-3781, ext. 4029.



Iridesce: The Living Apology Project

www.iridesce.ca

Iridesce: The Living Apology Project is an invitation for story-sharing to all people affected by the United Church's 1988 decision—when the church declared that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are welcome as full members, and all members are eligible to be considered for ministry. Workshops are being held across the country; resources are being made available and stories are being shared remembering, acknowledging, lamenting, and sharing around topics of LGBTQ2+ experience in The United Church of Canada. Learn more and get involved on the Iridesce website.



Israeli Military Detention—No Way to Treat a Child

www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now

Israel systematically prosecutes around 700 children each year in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial rights. Join us in calling on the federal government to take steps to hold Israeli authorities accountable to their obligations under international law. Ask the Canadian government to use all available means to pressure the Israeli government to end the detention and abuse of Palestinian children. Demanding that Israeli authorities comply with international law and stop the abuse of Palestinian children.



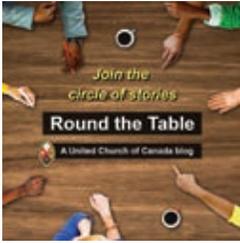
Join Us for GC43 Conversations!

www.facebook.com/groups/GC43conversations

The 43rd General Council is coming up this summer in Oshawa, ON. We invite you to join us on the "GC43 Conversations" Facebook group to discuss the issues being brought before GC43, as well as to surface additional topics the church should be talking about!

Membership in this group is open to anyone affiliated with The United Church of Canada, not just elected commissioners or designated participants. Our hope is that the whole church will participate in these conversations.

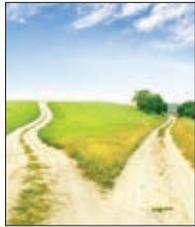
Join in the conversation!



Join Us “Round the Table”!

www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table

“Round the Table” is a blog from The United Church of Canada, offering stories from the life of faith communities across the country. This blog includes ministry best practices, messages from church leaders, stories from our partners around the world, faith reflections, and more. Join the circle of stories!



Vocation Sunday

www.united-church.ca/worship-theme

Many congregations choose to celebrate Vocation Sunday on the 4th Sunday of Easter (April 22, 2018). It is a time to celebrate those who have answered a call to ministry. It is also a great time to consider one’s vocation and where God is calling (or pushing) you to go next. Check out the worship resources available online.



Year Book & Directory Data Collection

The 2018 statistical cycle to collect 2017 data has now started. If you have not yet received your blue forms, please contact the Year Book Office at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2031 or statistics@united-church.ca to request an electronic package. Pastoral charges are actively encouraged to submit their information online. For a simple, smooth process please visit <https://webapps.united-church.ca> and follow the instructions. The Year Book office looks forward to receiving your information.

The United Church Is Social!



The church continues to look for new ways we can communicate and connect with one another. One way is through social media. You can now follow or “like” the United Church on various sites, including:

[Facebook.com/UnitedChurchCda](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchCda)

[Twitter.com/UnitedChurchCda](https://twitter.com/UnitedChurchCda)

[YouTube.com/UnitedChurchofCanada](https://www.youtube.com/UnitedChurchofCanada)

[Instagram.com/UnitedChurchCda](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedChurchCda)

Upcoming Events



Day with Emmanuel—An event for future students & guests

When: Saturday, March 3, 2018
10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Where: Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto

Description: This open house event offers prospective students a chance to experience a day in the life of Emmanuel College.

Learn about our basic degree programs offered: Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theology, and Master of Pastoral Studies which is available in a Christian, Buddhist or Muslim Faith Focus with an optional Certificate in Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy.

Non-degree programs include: Diploma in Buddhist Mindfulness & Mental Health and Lay Certificate in Theology.

Participants will attend a mini lecture, community lunch, prayer and meditation, learn about programs and financial aid, take a tour, and meet students and faculty.

More info: Advanced registration for this free event is required by February 23, 2018: bit.ly/DWE2018ucc



Transfer Your Congregation's Mission & Service Gifts Soon!

When: January 31, 2018

Description: Please ensure that all Mission & Service gifts for 2017 are transferred and received at the General Council Office by **January 31, 2018**. If you make transfers by cheque, you may want to consider using PAR or an online bank transfer to streamline the process.

More info: To make any changes to how you transfer gifts for Mission & Service from your pastoral charge, please contact Nicole Chicote at nchicote@united-church.ca or 1-800-268-3781, ext. 3072.



Congregational Goal-Setting

When: March 30, 2018

Description: As you fill out this year's congregational goal-setting form, we invite you to set a 2018 giving goal that is aspirational and achievable—and in particular, to invite new people to start making a meaningful annual gift for Mission & Service. As you finalize budget for Mission & Service giving and local church ministry for 2018, please share your giving goals with us.

More info: Contact Mission & Service at ms@united-church.ca or 1-800-268-3781, ext. 3050.

Credit: Siloam United Church



Summer Student Grant 2018

When: March 31, 2018 deadline

Description: Check out this grant offered to congregations that hire a student or young person this coming summer! Successful applicants will receive half of the provincial minimum wage that they must pay the student. Further details and the application are available online.

More info: www.united-church.ca, search "summer student grant"



Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry

When: 2018 dates to be announced

Where: Victoria, BC; Saskatchewan; Barrie, Toronto, ON

Description: A dynamic ecumenical program for church leaders. Are you interested in nurturing faithful relationships across difference, gathering insights on cultural relevance, and deepening awareness in your faith community? Try this practical program offered by the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning of the Canadian Council of Churches. United Church bursaries are available to help offset the program's cost; for details, e-mail cim@united-church.ca.

More info: www.interculturalleadership.ca/duim



Save these dates! As part of the 43rd General Council, a "Festival of Faith" will be held **Saturday, July 21, to Thursday, July 26, 2018**, on the campus of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, ON. This special celebration of faith will feature performers, ceremony and liturgy, inspirational workshops, and much more! The Festival of Faith is open to everyone and every age, active member, seeker, and just curious—you don't have to be a GC43 participant to attend. Watch the United Church website for more information: www.united-church.ca.



United-in-Learning Webinars, Winter 2018

www.united-in-learning.com

United in Learning offers a variety of distance education opportunities for church leaders. Whether you're clergy or lay, whether you have years of experience under your belt or you've just joined your first committee, we have ways to connect you with like-minded people across the country to help make your church more vibrant, exciting, and alive. For most programs, all you'll need is a computer with Internet access and a telephone.

Personal and Professional Boundaries for Church Leaders

As of July 1, 2017, all ministry personnel and licensed lay worship leaders are required to take a course in personal and professional boundaries, and to renew the credential every five years. Check www.united-in-learning.com for details; these courses repeat a few times throughout the year.

Strengthening Youth Ministry

This series of monthly webinars is designed to support youth ministers. We're halfway through the series, but you can still join us. Each program is "self-contained."

The Importance of Play & Games in Youth Ministry January 9, 7:30–9:00 p.m. Eastern

Faith and Sexuality February 13, 7:30–9:00 p.m. Eastern

Gender Inclusion March 13, 7:30–9:00 p.m. Eastern

Racial Justice Workshop

When: Saturday, January 20, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Racial justice training is required for all ministry personnel and licensed lay worship leaders, and we're also encouraging anyone else who's interested to join us for this course as well.

Creatively Creating Accessible Worship Spaces

When: Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

The workshop is being offered by Our Doors Are Open. This is a project which offers diverse faith-communities in Ontario simple and creative ideas to help increase inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities in worship services, events, and communal activities, and offers free training seminars and services to all Ontario faith communities. Consider sending a team of 2–3 leaders from your congregation.

Online Licensed Lay Worship Leader Training

Registration for the next unit will open at the end of January

If you're interested in becoming a licensed lay worship leader, discuss with your presbytery whether this might be the educational course you need. The program includes a couple of larger webinars, six small-group sessions using Internet tools, and some one-on-one mentoring.

