To access a link in this newsletter, please press CTRL + mouse click on the highlighted link.

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A beautiful message and a link to celebrate diversity in Canada with ***Against the Grain Theatre Company***in Toronto: songs from Handel’s Messiah sung by a truly cross-Canada performance — in Arabic, Dene, English, French, Inuktitut, and Southern Tutchone, and accompanied by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in its production of Messiah/Complex. Well worth the 80 minutes! Go to the [website and stream](https://atgtheatre.com/upcoming/messiah-complex/) from there, April 1-4. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Save-the-Dates                             Spring Meetings + So Much More** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Events**  **Hon. Murray Sinclair**   * Friday, May 28 at 1:30 pm (EDT)   The Honourable Mr. Murray Sinclair, a recently retired member of the Canadian Senate and a ground-breaking First Nations lawyer as well as the chair of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2009 to 2015 will speak to us on the [Calls to Action](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/921a688d-4228-4a69-b510-cddf1456f8c7/Calls_to_Action_En.pdf) for the Church from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC). [Go to Registration form](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/rr_justice_events).  **Virtual Tour of former Mohawk Institute Residential School.** Limited to 40.   * Tuesday, April 13 at 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (EDT) * Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (EDT)   Hosted by a guide from the Woodland Cultural Centre, we tour the former Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School. Viewers get to see the different rooms in the school: the girls’ and boys’ dormitories, cafeteria, laundry room and the rest of the building. As well, you will hear interviews from Survivors of the Mohawk Institute.[Go to Registration form](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/rr_justice_events).   **UCC, Residential Schools and TRC 101.**   * Thursday, April 29 at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (EDT) * Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (EDT)   An introduction or refresher to key events and issues related to The United Church of Canada’s call to Right Relations between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples.[Go to Registration form](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/rr_justice_events).   **KAIROS Virtual Blanket Exercise.**Limited to 35 participants.   * Monday, May 3 at 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (EDT) * Monday, May 3 at 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm (EDT)   KAIROS has adapted this powerful activity to offer all the learning and impact via Zoom. Click here to learn more about the [KAIROS Virtual Blanket Exercise](https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/). [Go to Registration form](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/rr_justice_events).  As part of our commitment to the work of Right Relations & Indigenous Justice these programs are funded by the Regional Councils of Western Ontario Waterways,Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls.  **SAVE-THE-DATES Regional Council Spring Meeting - ONLINE Thursday, June 10 to Saturday, June 12** The Spring Meeting of the Regional Council takes off on Thursday, June 10 with the first Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm and ends with the Celebration of Ministry Service on Saturday, June 12 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm brought to you from Westminster United Church in Thamesville. More information and registration soon!   * Thursday June 10: 7-8:30 pm * Friday June 11: 4-5:30 pm * Saturday June 12: 9:30-11:30 am, 1-2:30 pm * Celebration of Ministry 7-8:30 pm   **June 6 - Affirm Celebration! ONLINE** We will gather to liturgically celebrate our decision to become Affirming Regional Councils on Sunday June 6, between 2 and 3 pm. All are welcome and details will be circulated soon. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **United Fresh Start continues into May** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | The Human Resources Commissions of our regional councils want to help new (or continuing) pastoral relationships get off to a healthy beginning by inviting you and your minister to take part in the [United Fresh Start](https://www.unitedfreshstart.ca/) program.   ***We invite you to register a group from your community of faith, including your minister, for these modules.***   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **MODULE & Registration** | **DATE** | **TIME** | | [Habits, Norms, Expectations](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/ufs12) | Tuesday, April 6 | 7 - 9 pm | | [Habits, Norms, Expectations](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/ufs12) | Saturday, April 24 | 9 - 11 am | | [Family Systems](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/ufs10) | Tuesday, May 4 | 7 - 9 pm |   Facilitators are prepared to offer modules of United Fresh Start to individual congregations as well. If you are interested in this, please contact [Diane Blanchard](mailto:dblanchard@united-church.ca?subject=United%20Fresh%20Start), Minister, Pastoral Relations, for a list of UFS facilitators. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **'The Basics' A Ministry & Personnel Workshop With Diane Blanchard, Minister, Pastoral Relations** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Spring is the time for flowers, new beginnings and the time of year when new members are elected to vital M&P committees of our communities of faith. There is lots to learn about these crucial roles. There is one more workshop open to members from Western Ontario Waterways, Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils! More experienced members of Ministry & Personnel Committees are welcome to take this refresher, especially if you haven’t done a workshop recently.  Click on the date to register for this Zoom workshop:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **DATE** | **TIME** |  | |  | [Saturday, April 10](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/mp_workshops) | 9:00 - 11:00 am |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Vaccination of Ministers, possibly in your area?** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | During the last week of March, the Ontario Ministry of Health is starting to roll out vaccinations for Faith Group Leaders through ***some Health Units***. You will will be contacted by your Public Health Unit..  This will apply specifically for those faith leaders who as part of their regular role are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:   * End of life care * Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons * Home visits to unwell persons * Pastoral care in hospitals/LTCHs/RHS or other vulnerable settings | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **General Council 44** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | On March 20 the recalled General Council determined that GC44 will be a virtual meeting. By April 9, the regional council website will have a General Council 44 tab under the EVENTS tab which will include:   1. A position description for a Commissioner 2. The process by which Commissioners will be elected 3. Commissioner nomination form 4. Information on submitting a proposal   Commissioners are expected to:   1. Attend the pre-decision sessions starting in February 2022 2. Be present for the decision-making sessions July 22-26, 2022 3. Share the decisions of General Council 44 with the regional council and 4. Be available at least one day per year for an on-line meeting until the next General Council.   Feel free to be in touch with Executive Minister [Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa](mailto:csampa@united-church.ca?subject=General%20Council%2044%20question) if you have questions at this time. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Financial Support Information** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The regional council has consolidated funds it received from preceding bodies, intended for a similar purpose, and is ready to offer its first round of grants. The deadline for regional council grant applications is June 1, 2021.  The description of the funds and the application forms will be updated on the regional council website under the RESOURCES menu tab on April 9.  With thanks for your patience! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Just Make the Declaration** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 2021 annual declarations for ministry personnel open April 1 until June 30.  If you make your declaration (about whether you’ve had criminal charges in the last year or not) each year, you never have to get a police records check again! Plus, it’s free and only takes a few minutes, by logging in to [ChurchHub.ca](https://www.churchhub.ca/) (just remember to use Chrome or Edge as your browser; do not use Safari).  Need help accessing ChurchHub? Please contact [ministry@united-church.ca](mailto:ministry@united-church.ca?subject=I%20need%20help%20accessing%20Churchhub.ca). If you have questions about the declaration, send an email to [Tanya Cameron](mailto:tcameron@united-church.ca). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Congratulations, Shaela!** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The regional council extends warm congratulations to Shaela Kinting, our Administrative Assistant, Website Management, on their contract to assist with the animation of a film. Shaela is an animator by training and experience and this is a wonderful opportunity for them! We will miss you, Shaela! All the best! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Administrative Assistant, Website Management** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In the next week or two, this ten hour/week contract position, running until December 31, 2021, will be posted on [Indeed](https://ca.indeed.com/jobs)! Please watch for it and consider applying or mentioning it to someone who might be suitable. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **EVENTS** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Promote Creating Conversations Video Program Deadline for your ‘Pitch’ is March 31** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Help the church and youth leaders inspire conversations about a justice, environmental or mental health topic that matters to you by creating a 10-15 minute video. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/8c80e748-d834-46dd-b22c-56ef5c320c3f.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We will pay you for your work, provide technical and content assistance. Just send us your pitch! Click here for [an application](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeV1KSxRzaLFgcfxkVGE4QEDXCBc5dhbzG2HV3ZakwvI8Z-vA/viewform). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Light the Flame for a Guaranteed Livable Income Thursday, April 8** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/video_thumbnails_new/83dfa69700705fa78a95b5d517261756.png](https://youtu.be/HC2pV9MX01k) | | **Now is the time to make history!** Moderator Richard Bott shares why NOW is the time to call on our government to roll out a guaranteed livable income program. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Moderator Richard Bott and the United Church invite you to light a candle in support of a **Guaranteed Livable Income**and post it publicly on social media (#UCCanlivableincome) in solidarity with small outdoor vigils being held on Parliament Hill, at Minister Chrystia Freeland’s constituency office, and at other MP constituency offices.  ***Poverty can happen very quickly to anyone.***  ***You are also invited to*** contact [Prime Minister Trudeau](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en) and the [Minister of Finance](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/corporate/contact-us.html) and/or your Member of Parliament. Thursday, April 8 is a chance to make this call visible and **Light the Flame** for a Guaranteed Livable Income.  If you’d like to organize a vigil, contact [justice@united-church.ca](mailto:justice@united-church.ca). Resources and information are on the [UCC GLI page](https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-guaranteed-livable-income-program) or start by [downloading this notice](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/89e00f0d-8b92-43e9-aed4-0be34b6dbe90/April_8_Light_the_Flame_GLI.pdf).    Download photos of flickering candles: [#1](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/b523b83b-44fd-4098-8529-f7f438e8095e.gif)   [#2](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/06fef131-53f7-4f33-b8e0-95d4fb6e2023.gif)   [#3](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/0c798d27-5eac-4d38-805f-14da34d3867f.gif)   [#4](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/54616ebc-5385-4c98-9b39-477e068614cb.gif)   [#5](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/adc219bb-0f35-4b11-857d-975a761da890.gif) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **This Changes Everything: The Peacebuilding Power of Biblical Telling Friday, April 9 - Sunday, April 11** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The National Festival of Biblical Storytellers invites you to experience Biblical Storytelling first-hand. Enjoy story theatre bringing the comedy in the Bible, the Bible’s love stories, stories for children and adults and so much more. Indigenous elder Ray Aldred opens with a conversation on story telling and the event closes with Epic Telling, a live tag-team telling of the gospel of Mark! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/6f601f08-29ac-4058-8a2a-5b2cba2c2f3f.png](https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/register/this-changes-everything-04-2021) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Register](https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/register/this-changes-everything-04-2021) to begin or refine the craft of telling scripture **by heart**. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Church Musicians Conversation April 12 from 7 - 7:50 pm** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | To register for the conversation, please email Jeffrey Dale at jdale@united-church.ca or Kathy Douglas at kdouglas@united-church.ca. [Read the invitation.](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/783c4a0c-c09b-4677-9474-f3a8e903913f/Music_United_Invitation.pdf)  The Zoom link: https://united-church.zoom.us/j/92955239315 | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Book Study: Cathedral on Fire Monday, April 12, 19 and 26 from 7 - 8 pm** | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/96d1f36c-ea70-4b4d-bff1-ff7c99d3b737.jpg |  |  | | --- | | A church handbook for the climate crisis by Rev. Brooks Berndt, United Church of Christ Minister for Environmental Justice.  Burning forests and rising temperatures raise concern for all of God’s creation. Join us to discover the unique gifts we can offer. Berndt uses the Genesis story of beginnings to explore a biblical basis for caring for God's creation amidst the climate crisis with love and trusting in God. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Retired clergy Marg Murray and Carey Wagner of Antler River Watershed Regional Council's Social and Ecological Justice Network have a passion to integrate climate justice and its impact on the most vulnerable. Their backgrounds in environmental planning and the fossil fuel industry inform this book study.  The [first chapter](https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Cathedral-on-Fire_SAMPLE_PAGES.pdf) is available here. Please get in touch with your nearest Resource Centre Bookstore to order your own copy.  To register, email [cgwagne@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgwagne@sympatico.ca?subject=Book%20Study%3A%20Cathedral%20on%20Fire). Information and link to follow. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Youth and Young Adult Leadership Gathering Tuesday, April 13 at 1 pm** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Let's share the challenges and celebrations of Youth and Young Adults Ministry. To join the 75-minute webinar, email [kdouglas@united-church.ca](mailto:kdouglas@united-church.ca?subject=Youth%20and%20Young%20Adults%20Ministry&body=Please%20send%20me%20the%20Zoom%20link%20to%20join.) to get the Zoom link. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Lay/Volunteer Pastoral Care Teams Tuesday, April 13 at 7 pm or Wednesday, April 14 at 10 am** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Join this webinar to share insights, questions and resources for Lay Pastoral Care Teams in Communities of Faith. Using round-table sharing with experienced commentary/reflections from Rev. Sula Kosacky, Rev. Karen Eade and Kathy Douglas (DM).  To join the 50-minute webinar, email [kdouglas@united-church.ca](mailto:kdouglas@united-church.ca?subject=Lay%20Pastoral%20Care%20Teams&body=Please%20send%20me%20the%20Zoom%20link) to get the Zoom link. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **United in Learning is Busy!** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Check out the spring offerings at [United-in-Learning.com](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars).   * [Preparing for Retirement](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/373-preparing-for-retirement-a-practical-spirituality?mc_cid=fa53161608&mc_eid=1807891ded): April 15, 22, 29  1:00-2:45pm * [Racial Justice Workshop](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/racial-justice-sessions-3-4?mc_cid=fa53161608&mc_eid=1807891ded)Sessions 3 & 4: April 20 * [Racial Justice Workshop](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/rj-workshop?mc_cid=fa53161608&mc_eid=1807891ded): May 22, 12 and 4pm * [Personal & Professional Boundary Issues for Church Leaders](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/boundaries-workshops?mc_cid=fa53161608&mc_eid=1807891ded): April 24 * [Boundaries Refresher - Finances & Gifts](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/boundaries-workshops?mc_cid=fa53161608&mc_eid=1807891ded): April 16 * [Boundaries Refresher - Retiring with Grace](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/boundaries-workshops?mc_cid=fa53161608&mc_eid=1807891ded): April 28   If you missed a webinar, you can find all the recordings on [United-In-Learning.com](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings?mc_cid=0e54d4288b&mc_eid=1807891ded). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Online Regional Clergy Gathering Wednesday, April 28 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Each month colleagues in ministry within each region come together online. It is an opportunity to connect with one another, to share relevant information and ask questions in these challenging times. It is also a time for mutual support with each other and regional staff. The sessions consist of a time of information sharing by regional staff, breakout rooms with colleagues and ongoing conversation. If you have not received an invitation to this gathering before, please send an email to [pkukadia@united-church.ca](mailto:pkukadia@united-church.ca) requesting one.  I look forward to seeing my colleagues at the April Clergy Gathering. Peace, Kevin Steeper Regional Pastoral Support Minister  Please Note: These gatherings are geared toward active clergy. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Spiritual Care Advanced Workshops** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | April 21 – **Family Dynamics at End of Life** with Joan Silcox-Smith May 19 – **Pain & Suffering from a Spiritual View** with Ann Veyvara-Divinski June 16 – **Mental Health** with Jan Temple-Jones  All workshops are on Wednesdays and are 90 minutes long from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Email [ehazen@gbhs.on.ca](mailto:ehazen@gbhs.on.ca) to be sent the Zoom link. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/907f9480-fd0f-4ffd-9d7e-30363e604926.png**Music United Conference                                              April 22 - 24** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Come one, come all! Our annual gathering for Music United is online this year. Join us for workshops, worship, a cross-Canada hymn festival and our Annual General Meeting.  [Program details here](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/783c4a0c-c09b-4677-9474-f3a8e903913f/Music_United_Invitation.pdf), and registration is through Eventbrite. We’re suggesting a contribution of $50 for the event, with options to pay less or more, according to your circumstance. Once you have registered you will be sent a Zoom link to attend. See you on Zoom!  [Music United](http://musicunited.ca/) promotes, supports & advances music ministries, and those who provide music leadership in every level and community of faith in The United Church of Canada. Music United provides musicians opportunities to work together, by means of communications activities, special projects, programs, workshops, consultations & publications, all for the greater glory of God. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Introduction to Indigenous Lands & Issues in Canada Sessions through to June 1** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Join us for a monthly series of online conversations that began in February.  Adrian Jacobs, Sandy Salteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC) Keeper of the Circle, and Indigenous elders from across Canada, invite you to explore the cultural and historic foundations to today’s headlines. Join us for a series of online conversations in response to the Indigenous education mandates from Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Final Report. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/d1a35b6b-d4f6-4e24-a999-c146e1508e0e.png | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **SESSION** | **TIME** | **TOPIC** | |  | April 17 | 9  - 11 am (CST) | Indigenous Child Welfare | |  | May 15 | 8  – 10 am (MST) | Indigenous People & Resource Development | |  | June 19 | 8 - 10 am (PST) | Traditional Lands & Environmental Protection |   [Registration](https://sandysaulteaux.ca/event/introduction-to-indigenous-lands-and-issues-in-canada) is $25/session or $75 for the 5-part series. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Emmanuel College’s Christian Left Conference Call for Papers Conference: July 23 – 24, 2021** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Emmanuel College’s Centre for Religion and Its Contexts, Trinity St. Paul's United Church, the Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics of The Institute for Christian Studies and the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre are hosting the second [Christian Left Conference](https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/christian-left-conference/) (free and online) from July 23–24, 2021. [Download the poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/a6272f2a-c0b0-4031-8527-183b3e449d56.jpg). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/03042fbe-23f7-4df6-a40d-70411b69563e.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This year’s theme is Rethinking the Christian Left from the Belly of Empire: Charting New Paths Beyond Colonization. Paper proposals are due March 19, 2021 and can be [submitted online](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JsKqeAMvTUuQN7RtVsVSEPPJaGxaHCpEvDKPihpEmi1UOU1LMVNPRjJKMUJDOUhXT0Y2QVYwRjYxRi4u). | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **GENERAL COUNCIL NEWS** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Moderator's Good Friday Service: April 2, 9:30 am EDT From the Table to the Cross** | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/6450fce4-87f7-4ea0-99ee-4274a61ae2da.png |  |  | | --- | | On the morning of April 2, join the Moderator and members of the General Council Executive for a Good Friday service on the United Church's [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKYjQvHY5ndMCmrBjCu-N5A).  We will gather online to remember stories of Jesus' final hour, and sing and pray together. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The 44th General Council 2022 will be Online Only** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In a historic decision, commissioners of the 43rd General Council decided on March 20 to conduct the 44th General Council ***online only*** in July 2022. This will be the first time in the church’s 97-year history that the triennial meeting will not be in person. Lingering effects of the pandemic may still be felt in 2022 and commissioners made this decision based on the best available information. Stay up-to-date by checking the website of the [44th General Council](https://generalcouncil44.ca/). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Do You Want a 2021 Manual? To Have & to Hold?** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Manual of The United Church of Canada, 2021 edition, came into effect on March 1, 2021.  There are two important changes to this edition, although the wording changes involved are relatively small: The Basis of Union 10.0 has been revised to reflect the remit that passed to declare the Order of Ministry open to persons of all gender identities. New chapter C-NIO has been added to reflect the constituting of the National Indigenous Organization by the General Council at its annual meeting in October 2019. French translation is currently underway, and we hope to have Le Manuel 2021 on the French-language website this spring.  The United Church Bookstore at the First Dawn Eastern Edge Resource Centre is printing copies at the price of  $19.95, including tax. Please send an email with your request, indicating how many copies you would like and where they are to be shipped. Or call Leona Laundry at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6141 to arrange the shipping and determine the shipping cost. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **STEWARDSHIP ..... MISSION & SERVICE** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Mission & Service** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/video_thumbnails_new/76649d73caac347bedd2ae751637a31d.png](https://youtu.be/kBOHYqYgVPY) | | This Easter, make a gift through Mission & Service. Help transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. [https://united-church.ca/donate​](https://www.youtube.com/redirect?event=video_description&redir_token=QUFFLUhqa25ZWDEzN045MEo3RVZZdjRIUndlZzEyUTd2UXxBQ3Jtc0ttdlA2UHNoS0JtS2pYaUVnc0oza1F3Q1ZtY3ZZUERrY0ZzMnN3SkZsR0ZzNGJzNThBOFF1cF82ak5yd1ZhM0czUjV6a1hESHE3YkIyTXlEcV8zU0hJc2FUcmh5VVpUTFVMU05UbXVua2JLMTZGVDN0Yw&q=https%3A%2F%2Funited-church.ca%2Fdonate%E2%80%8B)​ Download the video here: bit.ly/30ZNAhm. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 1. You asked for more Mission & Service video resources… Our Easter video is now available above, featuring thoughts from many ministers about the world of today and how we can help to change it for the better. 2. Make A Special Easter Gift! [Jesse’s amazing story](https://united-church.ca/stories/new-hope-and-new-life-jesses-story) is proof that your generosity through Mission & Service truly does help transform lives! The transformation that began on Palm Sunday is at the heart of the Easter story.  Jesus lived, died and rose again to show us what it means to shelter each other with God’s transforming love—a love stronger than injustice, deeper than despair, and more expansive than poverty.  Everyone deserves love. No one should be sleeping in a storage unit. No one should go hungry. No one should feel alone. Everyone is someone’s child.  You and I can do something to help. Please make a special Easter gift through Mission & Service. Let’s be the hands and feet of the risen Christ for everyone who needs to feel his abiding love. Thank you for your generosity.  [Donate](https://united-church.ca/donate). 3. God's Mission, Our Gifts Get all the latest Mission & Service, Minutes for Mission, stewardship, and Gifts with Vision information straight to your inbox! Subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter: [God’s Mission, Our Gifts](https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=53a49c9e28). 4. Called to Be the Church: The Journey  Module 1**"was incredibly worthwhile and I appreciate it so much… you have inspired the team.” –**Rev. Jennifer Ferguson, Knox United Church, Parksville, BC  Introducing **Called to Be the Church: The Journey**—tailored and topical modules with coaching and ongoing support to meet your stewardship needs.  **Module 1: Stewardship Best Practices** is launching in many regions this spring. Four 2-hour online classes to dive into these vital best practices:    * Claim Your Mission –its really why people give to you    * Cultivate Generosity –practical ways to increase giving    * Create A Culture of Gratitude –saying thank-you is critical    * Stewardship Is Discipleship –integrate stewardship in all your spiritual growth programming   Module 1 also includes a **Stewardship Analysis report**, customized with your community of faith’s giving and stewardship data. Along with ongoing coaching and support after the four classes, the recommendations in the report will help you set solid, achievable, stewardship next steps.    **Register NOW for Module 1**: Stewardship Best Practices starting the first week of May! Contact Dave Jagger: [djagger@united-church.ca](mailto:djagger@united-church.ca). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Rainbow Camp Wins Governor General's Award Your Mission & Service story for April 11** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Out of the blue, Chris Southin and Harry Stewart learned that they had won an award from the Governor General recognizing ***great Canadians for exceptional deeds that bring honour to our country***. They received the honour for co-founding Rainbow Camp® based in northern Ontario. Since 2012, the camp has welcomed young people of all sexual identities and gender expressions. Your support through Mission & Service has been there from the beginning. [Here’s the story](https://united-church.ca/stories/rainbow-camp-receives-governor-generals-award) about how your gifts support award-winning, safe, welcoming spaces like Rainbow Camp®. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **RESOURCES** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Embracing the Spirit](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgeneralcouncil43.us3.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8%26id%3D9b18602e58%26e%3D1807891ded&data=04%7C01%7Cpkukadia%40united-church.ca%7C2e8eea5120f742b7b53a08d8ea4b5e5a%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C637516956730936574%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4kjW7Ffx1zA5%2B5ZtfklhiV2iSce%2Bm3jQaF4RyzZyIbs%3D&reserved=0) is a learning network and innovation fund offering funding and support for innovation ideas hatched out of faith communities and communities in ministry. Some of the stories and best practices that are happening throughout the United Church are [shared in this newsletter](https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=53a49c9e28&utm_source=E-Newsletters&utm_campaign=20262d112c-ETS_171011_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_53a49c9e28-20262d112c-188942713&goal=0_53a49c9e28-20262d112c-188942713&mc_cid=20262d112c&mc_eid=1807891ded). If you have an idea that you want to launch, reach out and tell us about it! Proposal deadlines are quarterly, and due on the 15th of the month: January, **April 15**, July and October. Find out [more](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgeneralcouncil43.us3.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8%26id%3D9c027dc757%26e%3D1807891ded&data=04%7C01%7Cpkukadia%40united-church.ca%7C2e8eea5120f742b7b53a08d8ea4b5e5a%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C637516956730936574%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1YdCyXbtbLy2EcoNgS2x7cTjupGQImvBcsf1rOng6N8%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Sharing the Sacred and Putting People First an Embracing the Spirit funded program** | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/6ff02ff6-be38-4495-9465-d7e1c77efb78.jpg |  |  | | --- | | The desire for connection has never been as omnipresent as it has been over the last year. **Sharing the Sacred** has deeply leaned into this and identified a huge barrier - that we simply don't know how to connect and that there are few spaces to do so. Sharing the Sacred is all about how to make open spaces that encourage this type of connection between people. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The main practices are :  **Head** = meditation practices and being still. Just stopping to be.  **Heart** = story sharing - so natural to all of us as story people.  **Hands** = the spiritual practice of art. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/video_thumbnails_new/a9677afd4c4a953288032b2654428d97.png](https://youtu.be/DI76AaJ9tHw) | | Since February 2020, there has been leadership wanting to create new open spaces for others to join in. Sharing the Sacred ministry has partnered with Emmanuel College. Watch for news of this program! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Grand River Bookstore: Book Displays by Zoom** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***'Pat the Hat' can hold your Book Display virtually via Zoom. Call and ask us how!*** | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/534b2d88-e4f9-466e-a39f-c19d7b38d000.png |  |  | | --- | | Visit our website [www.grandriverbooks.ca](http://www.grandriverbooks.ca/)or send us an [email](mailto:sales@grandriverbooks.com).  Call Pat or Cindy at 519-442-3366 or toll-free at 1-888-668-0871. Be Safe and Be Well. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **For the Love of Creation: Faith-in-Action Campaign** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The United Church of Canada is encouraging its communities of faith to become a part of ***For the Love of Creation’s*** new [faith-in-action campaign](https://united-church.ca/news/love-creation-nows-moment?mc_cid=20319c2afa&mc_eid=1807891ded), running now through October 4, 2021. [Read the full news piece](https://united-church.ca/news/love-creation-nows-moment?mc_cid=20319c2afa&mc_eid=1807891ded).  ***Let’s put our faith into action for climate justice.***  For the Love of Creation is an ecumenical initiative of more than 30 national churches and faith-based organizations, including The United Church of Canada. You are invited to read more, involve your faith community, and take action for climate justice. To receive updates, sign up to the [Concerned for Climate Justice](https://rch.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=0d61dbd548&mc_cid=20319c2afa&mc_eid=1807891ded) email list. If you have questions, you can email [justice@united-church.ca](mailto:justice@united-church.ca). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Is Emmanuel College Calling?** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | At Emmanuel, the learning environment mirrors the religious diversity of the world its graduates will serve. Future leaders of the United Church of Canada, Muslim, Buddhist and other faith traditions develop side-by-side through coursework and community life. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/7533c722-38af-4f12-8cb4-be23cbb363aa.png](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/explore-your-faith-united-church-theological-school) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The resources of the Toronto School of Theology further facilitate Christian ecumenism. Far from watering down an education in one’s own tradition, these relationships lead to a deepened self-understanding that only comes through rigorous engagement with diverse neighbours.  Explore your faith through [UCC Theological Schools](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/explore-your-faith-united-church-theological-school). | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SOCIAL JUSTICE** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Broadview Magazine Call for LGBTQ2 Writers** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **"We recognize that Broadview can play an essential role in drawing attention to persisting inequalities affecting the LGBTQ2 community, as well as social movements working for equality and inclusion.We especially seek to give focus to LBGTQ contributors navigating their experiences within the Christian church and other faith communities."**  If you have a story to tell and are an experienced queer writer, here are the [submission guidelines](https://broadview.org/submission-guidelines/) for the Broadview publication. We look forward to hearing from you. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **A Prayer for Two Michaels and Others** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Gracious and loving God,  We turn to you in this time with heart-felt concern for Michael Spavor, Michael Kovrig, and their families, and others in similar situations whose names we may and may not know; Canadian kindred in distress.  We pray by Your Spirit for a peaceful end to their captivity. We pray for those charged with securing their release - that they know Your wisdom and discernment so a clear voice is heard to set the captives free.  Lord, you are a God of justice and mercy, come quickly, bring justice to the innocent; restore the nations in truth, so that people everywhere would live together in right relationship.  Lord, we know you hear our prayer, and journey beside us in all situations, give us grace, peace, and faith. Your humble servants, united together.    Amen                                                                          Written by Stephen Huntley | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Canadians Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig were [detained in December 2018](https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/after-shadowy-trials-what-awaits-canadas-two-michaels), linked to an unrelated dispute in Canada-China relations. The trial for Spavor took place last week with a verdict to be announced. The trial for Kovrig took place this week with few details available.   **"And so we pray for justice for individuals and for peace between nations."**  Although these are the stories we hear in the news, they are not the only people imprisoned in what appear to be arbitrary detentions around the world. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Are you Called to Share Your Gifts with Affirm United?** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | If you have interest in working with Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble, we would appreciate having you complete this form with your experience and the reason you are interested in this opportunity.   The council, through a process of discernment, will select the person who is best suited to fill the positions. We will prioritize those who are marginalized within the LGBTQ+ community: Indigenous folks, Black folks, and other folks of colour and disability. Every applicant will receive a response. Fill out the [online Expression of Interest](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYdua4hVkPBF72jv0iQDJPkb-1HrrMuT-gz8Miy4CeqMwqaA/viewform) form. Send any questions to [communications@ause.ca](mailto:Is%20God%20calling%20you%20to%20share%20your%20gifts%20by%20serving%20Affirm%20United/S'Affirmer%20Ensemble?%20From%20time%20to%20time,%20AUSE%20seeks%20volunteers%20and%20paid%20staff%20to%20assist%20the%20organization%20in%20its%20work.%20If%20you%20are%20interested%20in%20working%20with%20the%20Council,%20we%20would%20appreciate%20you%20completing%20this%20form%20outlining%20your%20experience%20and%20the%20reason(s)%20you%20are%20interested%20in%20this%20opportunity.%20%20%20The%20council,%20through%20a%20process%20of%20discernment,%20will%20select%20the%20person%20who%20is%20best%20suited%20to%20fill%20the%20positions.%20We%20will%20prioritize%20those%20who%20are%20marginalized%20within%20the%20LGBTQ+%20community%20,%20Indigenous%20folks,%20Black%20folks,%20and%20other%20folks%20of%20colour%20and%20disability.%20%20Every%20applicant%20will%20receive%20a%20response.%20Fill%20out%20the%20form%20below%20and%20return%20to%20communications@ause.ca). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The Children Remembered Residential School Archives Project** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/3268707b-b470-4f01-a332-abc4b5f083ca.jpg](http://thechildrenremembered.ca/) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The United Church Archives has recently redesigned its website detailing the United Church's history of residential schools, [***The Children Remembered***](http://thechildrenremembered.ca/). It includes narrative histories of, and photo archives from, the schools and serves as an important memorial. (If you are a residential school survivor and viewing this site causes you or someone you know distress, please call the Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Dismantling White Privilege in the Church** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | As part of the series of articles for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21, 2021, Executive Minister for Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils, Shannon McCarthy, writes about the ways she is learning to confront White supremacy in the structures of the church. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***"I am not sure exactly when I realized I was part of the problem of racism and not actively part of the solution.."*** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Read the rest of this blog](https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/dismantling-white-privilege-church?goal=0_425d9dcc60-5935a5e2e5-188942709&mc_cid=5935a5e2e5&mc_eid=1807891ded) from the former chair of the General Council’s White Privilege Working Group and a member of The Anti-Racism Common Table.  She began this work following a sabbatical where she spent her time focusing on power and privilege, decolonizing structures and understanding her own role and power in the system of the United Church. This arose as the regional councils she resources work to understand what it means to be intercultural.+-  Subscribe to [Round the Table](https://united-church.ca/subscribe-updates) to regularly share stories of life, faith and ministry in the United Church and beyond. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Are you interested in peace and justice issues in Israel and Palestine? [UNJPPI](https://unjppi.org/index.html) (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel) is a grassroots network of United Church and other folks, working toward a just peace by calling for an end to Israel’s military occupation of Palestinian lands and equal rights for all who live in Palestine/Israel. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Read more](https://unjppi.org/mandate.html) about UNJPPI. [Subscribe here](https://us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7f4ab9a5a57204972eba6a8cf&id=3ebd6591af) for our monthly Network News containing resources, opportunities for learning and campaigns to get involved in justice and peace in the region. | | | |
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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Antler River Watershed Regional Council newsletter welcomes submissions of upcoming events, regional news and educational opportunities. This is also the place to keep up-to-date on information from the regional office.  Check out the [https://mcusercontent.com/3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b/images/cab77de6-f20d-465d-bca4-5af8cefd0b43.png](https://www.facebook.com/groups/arwrcucc/) page and the [https://mcusercontent.com/3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b/images/114af828-242c-42b9-a93f-07bc3a02816b.png](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNUcub3St5941GPwyu7yOA/) channel! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith  Antler River Watershed Regional Council The United Church of Canada | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [SUBSCRIBE!](https://mailchi.mp/07a0cefeb0c7/antler-riverwatershed-regional-council-newsletter-sign-up) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2021 The United Church of Canada, All rights reserved.  Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](https://arwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/profile?u=ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b&id=afa2614952&e=f0ca4e4c45) or [unsubscribe from this list](https://arwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b&id=afa2614952&e=f0ca4e4c45&c=97e7b4f718).  [Email Marketing Powered by Mailchimp](http://www.mailchimp.com/email-referral/?utm_source=freemium_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=referral_marketing&aid=ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b&afl=1) | | | |