



**TORONTO
UNITED
CHURCH
COUNCIL**

The Toronto United Church Council works with the church community to connect resources with ministry. Offering access to professional advice, financial support and leadership development, Council helps our church address the social and spiritual challenges of the day.

Contact us:

Toronto United Church
Council
24-30 Wertheim Court
Richmond Hill, ON
L4B 1B9
Tel: 905-771-5124
Toll Free: 1-800-235-8822
Fax: 905-771-5159
Email: mail@tucc.ca
www.tucc.ca

**TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL E-NEWS
MAY 18, 2016**

**Recognizing our Church's Extraordinary Youth -
Nominations for the Baillie Award are due May 30
2016**

Our congregations include many young people who devote their spare time to volunteer service: lending a hand to hot meal programs and food banks, providing leadership to church youth groups, participating in community development projects, and the list goes on.

Toronto United Church Council's **Baillie Volunteer Service Award** seeks to recognize such young people for their commitment to building healthy churches and communities. The Baillie awards were introduced in 2014. Up to twenty awards per year - each with a value of \$500 - will be presented to youth nominated by United Church congregations or mission units. The awards serve to thank them for their work and to assist with their financial needs for education, travel, and personal care.

The next round of applications is due at the end of May. As you were reading the above did a young person from your congregation spring to mind? Please consider nominating them! For more information on award eligibility and selection criteria and to download an application form [click here](#).



Kierra McGregor of Collier Street United Church received the Baillie Award in fall 2015. She is pictured here with her family.

Reconciliation with First Nations an Important Concern for Contemporary Congregations

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report on the history and legacy of Canada's residential school system in December 2015. Within the broader United Church and within local congregations, many of us are wondering how to move towards right relations with First Nations.

On May 9 2016, Toronto United Church Council's

[Heart & Vision Awards](#) honoured **Dr. Marie Wilson** and **Dr. Roberta L. Jamieson** for their contributions to the process of reconciliation.



Dr. Marie Wilson and Dr. Roberta L. Jamieson at the 8th Annual Heart & Vision Awards. Photo credit: Nadia Angelini.

This was a first step in Council's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. Now, Council's Green Awakening Network is working with Grand River Interfaith, Divest Waterloo, Sacred Water Circle, the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and Faith & the Common Good, to plan a forum on June 11 that will offer support for faith communities to move toward allyship with Indigenous communities in the context of climate justice in Canada.

"Climate Justice and Indigenous Allyship: What does it mean? How do we get there?" will take place between 10 am and 4 pm on Saturday June 11 2016 at Wilfrid Laurier University (75 University

Avenue West, Waterloo). ***Shared transportation is being arranged from Toronto, Hamilton and other locations (contact network@faithcommongood.org for information).***

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Keynote speakers will be **Elder Myeengun Henry** and **Byron Williston**. Panelists will include **Sheri Longboat, Melissa Ireland, Dorothy Taylor, Lindsay Gray, John Dillon, Mardi Tindal, John Milloy, and Leah Gazan**. The speakers will address the complexities of Canada's climate future and our relationship with Indigenous people through a faith lens. Interactive panels will ensure that participants have an opportunity to engage with Indigenous teachings, ask questions, and join in conversations.

Earlybird tickets are available until Friday May 20 and are \$25 (this includes lunch). A number of "Pay What You Can" spaces have also been set aside. You can purchase a ticket or request a PWYC space on the [event's website](#).

[Download an event poster to share with your congregation.](#)

[Download a sample text to include in your weekly bulletin.](#)



"Salmon" by Don Skillen, Métis Artist 4. Change

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Our mailing address is:

Toronto United Church Council
24-30 Wertheim Court
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1B9
Canada

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