



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
Rm 25, 560 Arlington Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1Z5
rhonda@theurban.ca
204-774-3143
www.theurban.ca

“Reconciliation is getting to know one another”, Mary Simon, Governor General: National Post, July 26, 2021

October 2025 News from your Ministry Manager

The Lutheran Urban Ministry continues to feed body, mind, and spirit for over 20 years!

Some background of the Urban: It's 20 years ago that I first had the privilege of volunteering at the location on Sherbrook St. when David Lowe (who passed away in 2025) was the first ministry manager. At that time, the Urban was called the Lutheran Urban Mission. A vision committee was formed and under the guidance of Judy Dikkema, the first chair of the board, incorporation in 2007 formed the Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. David Lowe, Denise Warren, the late Sandy Belisle and Deb Kerr, all brought their unique skills, talents, and deep care for others in their leadership of the Urban. In 2009 I became a board member, and later graduated from Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care studies at Booth University College. I was hired in 2016 as the ministry manager, subsequent to Deb Kerr's move to Calgary.

The Urban is grateful that we continue to be vibrant and sustained by the monetary support of congregations, groups and individuals, as well as from the MNO Synod (which donates approximately 16% of our yearly operating budget). We are also so grateful for the meal teams and for the support of donations in the form of pantry items given as emergency food, handmade quilts, knitted items, gently worn seasonal jackets, shoes and boots, etc. Experiences are enriched for attendees through grants we receive for programs such as the 2024-25 *Sharing our Hearts with Art* in the women's sharing circles (grant from the MNO Synod) and our current 2025-26 *Healing with Art in our Men's Sharing Circles* (grant from The Winnipeg Foundation).

Fellowship, friendship, and spiritual care are the bedrock of the ministry of the Urban. Bagged meals and emergency food are a part of what we do; however, the spirit and heart of the Urban is the people who attend: our Urban community, MNO congregation members who drop in to sit with us in our sharing circles, staff and volunteers. Each week our sharing circles begin and end with a prayer. Conversations from the heart. Each Sunday there are so many prayers for family, friends, and the world - dropped into our prayer bucket - and read during the prayers of the church.

I hear so often from our Urban community and from the volunteers: “the Urban is really special”. And it is.

To our MNO Congregation Members and Clergy: Please join us anytime in Sunday worship at 1:30 and pray with us – and join us anytime in fellowship in our sharing circles:

Sunday Worship Service: door opens at 1:00 p.m. with coffee/tea. Worship service 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Men's Lunch/Sharing Circle every Wednesday - Downstairs at Noon

Please stop by at 12:00 p.m. Noon (*ring the doorbell*) for lunch and great fellowship and conversation!

Women's Sharing Circle every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. (until 3:30 p.m.)

Please arrive at 2:00 p.m. (*ring the doorbell*) for coffee/tea/dessert and great fellowship and conversation!

Women's Drop-in every Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Please drop in (*ring the doorbell*) for coffee/tea/cookies and visiting together! Kids & grandkids welcome to come with you and we have colouring and arts and crafts to keep them busy.

Co-ed Sharing Circle every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (please arrive at 4:30 p.m.)

(*ring the doorbell*) Join us for great fellowship and conversation! And coffee/tea/dessert.

- Rhonda Gorham, Ministry Manager, Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of age, ability, health, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expressions, language, sexual orientation, life circumstances, marital status, race, or anything else which sometimes divides us. The Urban is committed to racial equity. We welcome diversity and uniqueness. Our unity is in Christ, whose grace is freely given to all. All are welcome. The Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. is a member of Reconciling Works – Lutherans for Full Participation www.reconcilingworks.org