



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

March 2025 News from your Ministry Manager

I feel so very privileged to be the ministry manager of the Urban. It's a wonderful community of fellowship, friendship, and caring - it's also a feeling of family. I'm also very fortunate to have a small core group of volunteers who have been helping me for many years. So many times in our conversations together, we talk about how our Urban community gives us far more than we can ever give them in return. We feel so very fortunate to know the people who come to the Urban - to sit together, to laugh and to commiserate together, and to talk together outside as well.

I lead two worship services a month, and some clergy in the MNO volunteer to lead the remaining Sundays.

Communion every Sunday is really important to our worshippers, I bake bannock for the communion bread to go along with the tray of grape juice. I'm a chaplain and not rostered clergy, and the consecration of this is done by Church of the Cross clergy earlier on Sunday mornings. Our worship service is in the lower level of the church at 1:30 p.m. every Sunday. Coffee and tea are served during our fellowship time prior to the worship service. I'm always hoping that we will have members of the MNO congregations/clergy drop in to worship with us (hope springs eternal).

On Sunday mornings I always see many people that I've known for 18 years. It's that long ago that I began volunteering on Sundays at the Sherbrook St. location. In 2008 I joined the Urban board of directors for eight and a half years. In 2014 I began studies in the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care program at Booth University College – while still working full time - with the aim of an eventual career change. Clinical Pastoral Education (at the Victoria Hospital) was my final course that I began a few months after accepting this position of ministry manager - and I used my two days off for six months to complete CPE and graduated in 2017. It's nine years this summer, and I'm so grateful for the support given to the Urban that keeps this non-profit outreach in the west end to keep ticking along!

Our Urban community is strong, kind, resilient, and caring. We have such great conversations in our sharing circles - about the happenings of daily life; perspectives on this world we live in and our place in it; faith; and hope.

To our MNO Congregation Members and Clergy: A wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with our Urban Community - please drop by anytime to our:

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