



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

## October 2022 News from your Ministry Manager

**What is marginalization?** It's the act of placing a person or group into a position of powerlessness, isolation, and the feeling of being set apart on the margins of society. People can be marginalized because of race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, poverty/economic status, physical/ intellectual ability, language, and/or immigration status. The root of marginalization stems from discrimination - and those on the margins are treated as, or seen as, insignificant.

*“My neighbour is the one who crosses the road for me.” - Henri Nouwen*

**The Urban** is an outreach of care, fellowship, and spiritual care here in the west end of Winnipeg.

- We're all neighbours in this big picture of life and those who stop by the Urban for the first time or have been part of our Urban community for years and years know that the Urban cares about them. When our bagged lunch program began outside the side door in mid-March 2020, we have continued to see the resilience and strength of spirit in those we see occasionally or regularly. It's always wonderful when someone comes by and there's time to catch up on life events or the happenings of the past week. We'll all have a lot to talk about when our sharing circles begin again!
- We are so grateful for all of the support and care for our Urban community from so many directions: individuals, churches, organizations, and volunteers.

**This spring, Arms of the Cross Housing Inc. donated a picnic table** that was placed under the tree near the Arlington St. sidewalk. Since then, so many individuals and families have sat down at that picnic table to rest. Lots of conversations happen, and friendships have formed. I'm sure that some lively chats under that tree have sometimes revolved around solving city and world problems!

**Pandemic Notes: Pandemic worries are not yet over in Winnipeg and the Urban continues with the following:**

**Until Further Notice:** the Urban is continuing the suspension of all regular programming (coffee hours, sharing circles, men's group, worship services, etc.) in the lower level of Lutheran Church of the Cross, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. *Struggling and vulnerable single people and families (in the same numbers as pre-pandemic times when we were open downstairs) are continuing to come to the Urban - bagged lunches 4x/week are distributed outside (Wednesday men's lunch, Wednesday & Thursday supper times and Sunday lunch). Our meal teams are happy to help us in this way and we are so very grateful for this. Our website calendar shows available dates for meal teams. Fellowship is happening briefly in the parking lot as long as weather permits! Worship services and sharing circles will resume when the pandemic is over.*

We have changed our pre-pandemic emergency food bags to an equitable “one food item” (if enough in our pantry) per person (two items if a family) once or twice each week during the distribution of bagged lunches. Gloves, socks, seasonal jackets etc. (and weekly bread/pastries) are also distributed outside.

**Masks and 2 m social distancing continue to be mandatory on the church sidewalk and parking lot.** The line sometimes overflows to the city sidewalk if necessary and all current gathering sizes are enforced as per provincial regulations. The Urban provides a disposable mask if needed.

**Our website:** [www.theurban.ca](http://www.theurban.ca). Check out our new video on our website, “Urban Gratitude”! Please keep our vulnerable Lutheran Urban Ministry community in your prayers. Please contact me: [rhonda@theurban.ca](mailto:rhonda@theurban.ca) for additional information, or to have your meal team added to the calendar.

Kind regards, 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](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)