

Well, hello there Confirmationers of Trinity United Church! I'm thankful for Rev. Janice for many reasons, but today I'm especially thankful for this opportunity to greet you and tell you a little about my work at the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada, located in Toronto.

My name is Amy Crawford, and I'm the Team Leader for Faith Formation and Congregational Mission. That's a long title, but not the longest here in our office! There are somewhere around 130 people who work here doing everything from IT, graphics, social media and all different kinds of communications, bookkeeping, fund-raising, pension and benefits, Indigenous justice, meeting planning, legal work, mail room and reception to, of course, the Moderator and General Secretary of The United Church of Canada!

The best work of all happens in the Church in Mission Unit, which is the unit I work in. There are 32 of us and we are organized into Teams: Discipleship and Witness, Ministries in French, Refugee Support, Church in Partnership, People in Partnership, Edge, and Faith Formation and Congregational Mission, plus the Leadership Team, which includes all of the Team Leaders, our unit Supervisor (called the Executive Minister), and administrative support.

Here is just a little of the work we do:

Discipleship and Witness - racial and environmental justice, intercultural and disabilities ministry, advocacy with the Federal Government, working with Canadian partners, including camps, campus, and community ministries;

Ministries in French - supporting current and emerging French speaking congregations, and their ministry personnel, through resource development and translation support;

Refugee Support - helping congregations who want to sponsor refugees fill out the many forms required, advocating on behalf of refugees, and helping refugees once they arrive in Canada;
Church in Partnership - meeting with and supporting all of the Global Partners that the United Church works with to do important ministry all over the world - these people travel a lot!

People in Partnership - helping Global Partners come to Canada and meet with congregations and groups, and supporting United Church groups visit our Global Partners;

Edge - resourcing and working with all kinds of new programs and ministries, coaching, helping churches who want to sell or redevelop their buildings;

Faith Formation and Congregational Mission (my team) - supporting and resourcing ministry with children, youth, young adults, and United Church Women, providing resources for worship and music leaders, supporting racialized and migrant churches and leaders.
AND SO MUCH MORE!

We also do this in partnership with staff of the Regional Councils.

I want to especially invite you to consider coming to [Rendez-vous 2020](#) in Calgary August 11-14. [Rendez-vous](#) is a big United Church youth and young adult event that happens every three years. This year our theme is "Faith Gone Wild!" We sing, pray, learn, serve, and play together. It is so much fun and so energizing. You are fortunate to have at least three other youth in your church - some children and youth go to church and don't see anyone else their age. It can feel kind of lonely. Rendez-vous helps youth know that they are not alone - there are lots of other young people who call the United Church their faith home. It also helps you learn more about the activities and ministries of churches and youth groups from Newfoundland and Labrador to Vancouver Island, from Yellowknife to Toronto. Many youth groups raise money and ride buses with other youth groups from their Regions for even more fun and adventure. Let's start nagging Rev. Janice right now to help you go too! Please say hi to me when you arrive!

Well, I'd better let you finish your fruit salad. Please know that I'll be praying for you as you make this Confirmation journey together. This is your opportunity to say, "Yes!" or "Yes, but...!" to the faith that your parents and church prayed you might have from the time you were babies. Enjoy this time together and ask Rev. Janice lots of hard questions.

Peace,

Amy