

Nominations Committee Report 2019 Northern Spirit Regional Gathering

As of January 1, 2019, the Northern Spirit Regional Council of The United Church of Canada came into



being. It is made up of Lay Representatives from Communities of Faith, Ministry Personnel (active and retired), and others within a geography encompassing 1,567,442 km² and four Treaty territories: 6, 8, 10, 11. In order to provide initial structure, planning and decision making for the Northern Spirit Regional Council, an Executive Commission, appointed by the 43rd General Council of The United Church of Canada, also came into effect on January 1, 2019. The appointed Executive Commission has consisted of:

Ruth Lumax, Chairperson (OM, Wetaskiwin)
Shauna Scott (Lay, Treasurer)
Scott Reynolds (OM, Viking)
Britt Aerhart (OM, Sherwood Park)
Marilyn Carroll (OM, Dawson Creek)

Deanna Cox, (OM, Killam)
Nam Ok Yoo (OM, Hardisty)
Leigh Sinclair (OM, Edmonton)
Susan Waldie (Lay, Edmonton)

(OM=Ordained Minister, DM=Diaconal Minister, DLM=Designated Lay Minister, Lay=Lay Representative)

The Nominations Committee would like to thank these individuals for serving during the start-up period for the Northern Spirit Regional Council. The Nominations Committee also thanks Marlene Lightning (Lay, Maskwacis) and Joan Kennedy (OM, Valleyview) who left the Commission prior to January 1, 2019. Finally, the Nominations Committee would like to thank Leigh Sinclair for additionally serving as the Convenor of the 2019 Annual Gathering in Valleyview, Alberta.

At the first Annual Gathering of the Northern Spirit Regional Council in May, 2019, the appointed Executive Commission will be replaced by an elected Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive. The Regional Council Executive has the powers of the Regional Council in between full Council gatherings, except for those areas the Regional Council intentionally reserves only for itself. According to the Manual (2019), the Executive may also serve in the place of the full Regional Council for the purposes of holding an annual meeting.

In developing the basic structure for the Northern Spirit Regional Council, the Executive Commission plans a full Regional Council Gathering to take place in 2020. Frequency of full Regional Council meetings will be discussed at Valleyview and again in 2020. The Commission has also developed two presiding positions within the Regional Council, an Annual Gathering Convenor and a separate Chairperson of the Regional Council Executive.

The Convenor of the Annual Gathering, upon election, will preside at the next Annual Gathering, and will have a place on the Regional Executive as a corresponding member. Additionally, the Annual Gathering Convenor will be a member of the Annual Gathering Planning Team. The Convenor will also have a role encouraging ecumenical and interfaith linkages within the Region and will represent the Region at local community of faith events and milestones.

Nominations Committee Report 2019 Northern Spirit Regional Gathering

The Chairperson of the Regional Council Executive will have a focus on presiding at the much more frequent Executive meetings. The Chairperson would be the public spokesperson for the Regional Council if needed, and would attend occasional meetings within the United Church requiring a Regional Council Executive representative.

Two Commissions and several committees will form the basic working structure of the Regional Council: a Pastoral Relations Commission, a Property Commission, Committees for Ministry Personnel Support, Community of Faith Support, Lay Leadership Support and Nominations, and an Annual Gathering Planning Team. Together the Executive, the Commissions, the Committees and the Teams work with Northern Spirit Regional Staff to provide decision-making and follow-up action for the basic goals and functions the Regional Council must fulfill within our developing structure. ¹

Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive Structure



Nominations submitted with this report specifically fulfill the functions and offices as described. All nominations take effect upon the rise of the 2019 Annual Gathering in Valleyview, Alberta. Nominations have been sought by the Nominations Committee using a rolling nominations process. A rolling nominations process seeks out and invites nominations for vacancies as they arise, rather than waiting to fill them via nominations from the floor of the Annual Gathering. In the rolling nominations process, the Nominations Committee presents a yearly report for ratification at each Annual Meeting. There are nevertheless two positions reserved for open nomination at the 2019 Annual Gathering: the 2020 Annual Meeting Convenor and the Chair-elect for the Regional Executive. There will be a call for nominations to these positions during the 2019 Annual Gathering. Nomination forms separate from this report will be available.

It is important to note that for a rolling nominations process to work fully, the Nominations Committee needs information about the range of gifts, skills, interests and capabilities present among the members of the Regional Council. Participants in the 2019 Annual Gathering are invited to complete and submit a self-report to jump-start the information gathering the Nominations Committee needs in order to do its future work. A blank self-report will be distributed and collected separately from this report. Finally, it is important to note that the Nominations Committee has attempted to follow the diversity parameters established by the General Council of The United Church of Canada as well as the Calls to the Church by the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle. Therefore, to the best of our ability at this time, we have made an effort to represent a diversity of identities, lenses and geography among nominees to positions.

-Submitted by Marilyn Carroll and Britt Aerhart

¹ The full description of the duties and responsibilities of a Regional Council and the Regional Council Executive in The United Church of Canada can be found in The Manual (2019).

Northern Spirit Region 2019 Nominees

1. Annual Meeting 2020¹

Position	Name	Term Length	Comments
Convenor, 2020 Annual Meeting	Britt Aerhart	1 year, renewable	OM, Sherwood Park

2. Regional Executive

The following nominations to the Regional Council Executive are presented, effective May 23, 2019. The usual term length for Executive members is two years, with an option for renewal. Some terms for this first election are one year to ensure staggering of tenure. The Chair-elect will become Chairperson after the current Chairperson's 1-year term is over.

Position	Name	Term Length	Comments
Chairperson, Executive	Ruth Lumax	1 year	OM, Wetaskiwin
Chair-elect, Executive	Heather MacKenzie	2 years	Lay, Edmonton
Member-at-Large	Marilyn Carroll	1 year	DM, Dawson Creek
Member-at-Large	Nam Ok Yoo	1 year	OM, Hardisty
Member-at-Large	Mary Annan	2 years	OM, Edmonton
Member-at-Large	Peter Chynoweth	2 years	Retired OM, Yellowknife
Member-at-Large	Alistair McKay	2 years	Lay, Ft. McMurray
Member-at-Large	R.W. Hoekstra	2 years	Lay, Member-at-Large
Treasurer	Shauna Scott	1 year	Lay, Member-at-Large

2. Northern Spirit Regional Council Commissions

Nominations to two Commissions which report to the Northern Spirit Regional Council via the Executive are as follows:

Position	Name	Term Length	Comments
Pastoral Relations Commission			
Member	Gaie Goin	1 year, renewable	Lay, Wetaskiwin
Member	Lloyd Henderson	1 year, renewable	Lay, Yellowknife
Member	Lois Belanger	1 year, renewable	Lay, Edgerton
Member	Blaine Gregg	1 year, renewable	OM, Leduc
Member	Kimberly Roy	1 year, renewable	DM, Edson
Property Commission			
Member	Erin White	1 year, renewable	Lay, Mewassin
Member	Martha Dawson	1 year, renewable	Lay, Grande Prairie
Member	Jim Belliveau	1 year, renewable	Lay, Cold Lake
Member	Greg Parker	1 year, renewable	OM, Provost
Member	Bob Miller	1 year, renewable	Lay, Edmonton

¹ OM=Ordained Minister, DM=Diaconal Minister, DLM=Designated Lay Minister, Lay=Lay Representative

Northern Spirit Region 2019 Nominees

3. Northern Spirit Regional Council Committees

Position	Name	Term	Comments
Ministry Personnel Support Committee			
Member	Dirk Jessen	1 year, renewable	OM, Devon
Member	Deborah Springer	1 year, renewable	DM, Whitecourt
Member	Ray Olsen	1 year, renewable	Retired OM, Edmonton
Community of Faith Support Committee			
Member	Chang Lee	1 year, renewable	OM, Onoway
Member	Wendy Galloway	1 year, renewable	OM, Redwater
Member	Vera Engel	1 year, renewable	Lay, Killam
Member	Steven Johann	1 year, renewable	OM, Edmonton
Lay Leadership Support Committee			
Member	Lesley Verdin	1 year, renewable	Lay, Edmonton
Member	Linda Roberts	1 year, renewable	Lay, Dawson Creek
Member	Tazvionepi Nyarota	1 year, renewable	OM, Zimbabwe United Methodist Church
Nominations			
Member	Marilyn Carroll	1 year, renewable	DM, Dawson Creek
Member	Susan Waldie	1 year, renewable	Lay, Edmonton
Member			
Annual Meeting Planning			
Member	Annual Meeting Convenor	1 year, renewable	
Member	Britt Aerhart	1 year, renewable	OM, Sherwood Park
Member	Deanna Cox	1 year, renewable	OM, Killam
Member		1 year, renewable	
Member		1 year, renewable	

6. General Council Commissioners

General Council Commissioners serve for a term of three years and were already in place prior to 2019. The General Council Commissioners for the Northern Spirit Region are:

Lay Commissioners

Georgina Baron (Lay, Vegreville)
 Alison Cartwright (Lay, Moberly Lake)
 Gae Goin (Lay, Wetaskiwin)
 Katharine Moore (Lay, Edmonton)
 Lorraine Stewart (Lay, Stony Plain)
 Grace Tessier (Lay, Edmonton)
 Margery Wright (Lay, St. Albert)
 Paul Wright (Lay, Youth, St. Albert)

Order of Ministry Commissioners

Britt Aerhart (OM, Sherwood Park)
 Deanna Cox (OM, Killam)
 Blaine Gregg (OM, Leduc)
 Catherine MacLean (OM, Edmonton)
 YoonOk Shin Kang (DM, Edmonton)
 Stephen Sparks (OM, Bonnyville)