

**COVID-19 special newsletter, 16 March 2020:**  
**updates, resources, and special Regional Council meetings March 17-19**  
***Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils***

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**In this newsletter:** special online gatherings for ministry personnel and lay leadership March 17-19 and beyond; updates on the status of meetings; updates on resources. Please share this widely! Updates will also be posted at: [www.prairietopinerc.ca](http://www.prairietopinerc.ca) [www.livingskiesrc.ca](http://www.livingskiesrc.ca) [www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca) and on Facebook.

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**Special Regional online gatherings for ministry personnel and lay leadership, March 17, 18, 19 and beyond**

Please help us spread the word. These are Zoom/ land line gatherings to share support and strategies specific to our roles in our communities of faith. We know these are short notice, and more will be planned. Please watch the Regional Council websites and Facebook for details and make sure you're on your Regional Council newsletter list.

If the scheduled time below for your Regional Council's gathering doesn't work for you, please feel free to attend another RC's meeting. All of these event details will be posted in the Regional calendars on the websites.

**If you are not using your computer's audio, the toll free number for all Zoom calls is: 1-855-703-8985**  
When prompted, enter the nine digits that appear in meeting's Zoom link, below. Technical problems? Please text Shannon McCarthy (204-599-1175) or Julie Graham (306-850-1411) and we'll try to help.

1) **Meetings for ministry personnel only:** these will be supportive spaces for ministry personnel to gather with pastoral relations ministers, the Executive Minister, and possibly members of the Committee of Support to Ministry Personnel.

**Prairie to Pine:** Tuesday March 17, 2:00-3:30PM MB/ NWO time.

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/342684599>

**Northern Spirit:** Tuesday March 17, 2:00-3:30PM in AB and NWT, 1:00-2:30 in BC.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/580003396>

**Living Skies:** Tuesday March 17, 3:00-4:30PM SK time.

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/494225068>

**All three Regional Councils:** Tuesday March 17, 7:00PM in AB, NWT and SK, 8:00PM in MB and NW Ontario; 6:00PM in BC. Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/898437463>

**2) Meetings for lay leadership:** pastoral charge supervisors, Board and Council members, M&P committee members, pastoral care teams, and more. All welcome. These will be supportive spaces for lay leadership to gather with pastoral relations ministers, the Executive Minister, and possibly members of the Committee of Support to Communities of Faith.

**Wednesday 18 March**, 6:30 PM AB and SK, 7:30PM MB and NW Ontario, 5:30 in BC.

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/623080479>

**Thursday 19 March:** 7:30PM AB, NWT and SK, 8:30PM MB and NW Ontario, 6:30 in BC.

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/387889611>

## **Face to face meetings and Regional Council annual meetings; Regional staff travel restrictions**

At this time we don't know if 2020 Regional Council annual meetings/ gatherings will take place. **Please continue to hold the dates. We plan to proceed with registration, and full refunds will be given if the meetings are postponed.**

Face to face meetings for Regional Council governance and tasks will be worked out on a case by case basis.

Regional Council staff travel within the Regions is restricted for the foreseeable future and staff will not be travelling to the General Council office or overseas. Travel within Canada will be very restricted. Please contact regional offices before you visit. Whether in the office or at home, staff are still working!

## **Getting updates and resources**

All national United Church COVID-19 updates and resources are now here:

<https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19>

**As always, continue to check updates from your provincial or territorial health authority, and from your own community's governance.**

## **Offering online space for community and worship:**

National resources will be posted on the national United Church page, above. For children and youth:

The GO Project is offering online options: <https://thegoproject.ca/virtual-camp/>

A growing national list of worship live streams is available here:

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/worship-online-during-covid-19>

***God is with us in this, and we are with each other—even when we aren't able to be together.  
We are not alone.***

***Christ's peace is with you.***

The Right Rev. Richard Bott  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada