

Northern Spirit Regional Council

Newsletter — April 2020

Next Meeting
NSRC Executive May 13,
2020 via Zoom

*We acknowledge with gratitude the traditional territories of our Indigenous and Metis neighbours and their hospitality.
We offer our respect and commitment to living into right relationship with all our relations.*

Northern Spirit RC Executive

- Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSRC) Executive met **via zoom, Feb. 12, Mar. 11, Apr. 1 and 20, 2020.**
- **Thank you** to Jamie, Julie & Kathy and all the folks who got the web-site up and running.
- Thank you to **Gord Waldie (Chair-elect) and Margaret-Anne Hall** for accepting nominations to the NSRCE. We accepted with regret the resignation of Nam Ok Yoo and wish her well in her new call.
- Like many of you, we have been caught up in emergency planning and still needing to do the ongoing work of ministry and mission!
- We made the decision to cancel the 2020 NSRC face to face gathering planned for Camrose in June. A huge thank you to the Planning Team who has worked so hard and then had to make this difficult recommendation. We are looking at ways to still celebrate our new and retiring ministers; conduct the business that has to happen (including Remit 1 and election of officers and General Council Commissioners).
- We want to be able to help as many Communities of Faith and personnel as possible during these challenging times, but have a limited amount of funds with which to do so. With that in mind, we approved the following Emergency Funding options:

Emergency Relief fund— over \$13,900 available to assist with disaster recovery and extraordinary costs related to the current emergency. (*Not intended for major capital or payroll expenditures*). Please apply through the NSRC office “Attention” Shannon McCarthy.

Interest Free Loans—up to \$1,500 (1 year term, interest free) per Community of Faith to assist with bridging payroll expenses until Federal funding becomes available. Please apply through the NSRC office “Attention: Earl Reaburn or Shannon McCarthy”. We have set aside \$50,000 from our Mission & Ministry Reserve for these loans.

- **up to \$10,000** (5 year term, interest free) per Community of Faith to assist with payroll and community engagement costs until the end of 2020. Please apply through the NSRC office attention: “Mission & Ministry Emergency Loans”. We have set aside \$225,000 from our Mission & Ministry reserve for these loans.

Please contact the NSRC office for more information about any of the above.

- Communities of Faith who want to apply for **General Council emergency loans** may do so on-line (www.united-church.ca). These loan applications will require vetting by Earl Reaburn or Heather Dootoff prior to being forwarded to General Council for approval.

NSRC Executive Gord Waldie (Chair-elect), Shauna Scott, Alistair McKay, Margaret-Anne Hall, Peter Chynoweth, Marilyn Carroll, Mary Annan, Britt Aerhart (Corresponding member—Convener 2020), Shannon McCarthy *Executive Minister*, Ruth Lumax *Chairperson*

Questions? Contact us at northernspirit@united-church.ca or Ruth Lumax @ (780) 352 2157. **Regional office at Kirk Centre is open by appointment!**

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Northern Spirit RC Executive

- We are excited to approve the request of **Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley, to become a Community of Faith in the NSRC**. Communities of Faith Support Committee and the NSRC Executive continue to work with them in this exciting beginning!
- We received the financial information for year to date March 31, 2020.
- We heard from some of our staff about the work they have been doing recently. Much of it is around emergency response, how to support one another and our Communities of Faith and BE the church! Jamie McKay continues on short term leave. Please continue to hold all of staff— Leanne, Jamie, Heather, Julie, Kathy, Earl & Shannon in your prayers.
- We approved Incorporated ministries work relating to Bissell Centre, Coronation Presbytery Hardisty Lake Camp Council and Christian Youth Camps Incorporated o/a Camp Maskepetoon.
- We are working with Incorporated Ministries and Chinook Winds Regional Council to ease the transition and dissolution of the former Property & New Church Development Council.
- We are looking to name people to the Mission & Ministry Grant Task Group and letters will go out for former grant recipients by June.
- We invited Communities of Faith to try **Together We Worship** for the month of April. If you haven't already, please check it out . Contact the NSRC Office to get started.
- This version of the NSRC Executive has two meetings left, May 13 and June 10, 2020. The new NSRC Executive under the capable leadership of Gord Waldie will take over their responsibilities following the June 10 meeting. All of our meetings are via Zoom until further notice.

Nominations are opening for a number of positions across the Northern Spirit Regional Council.

We are looking for UC members or ministry personnel willing to serve through the following opportunities:

- Affirming Task Group
- Youth Council TG
- Remembering the Children Society Board
- 2021 NSRC Gathering Planning Team
- 2020-21 NSRC Convener
- 2020-21 NSRC Treasurer

- 2020-21 NSRC Chair-Elect
- NSRC Executive
- Pastoral Relations Commission (2)
- Property Commission (1)
- Communities of Faith Support Committee