

Northern Spirit Regional Council Newsletter — June 2020

Next Meeting
NSRC Executive Sept. 9,
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, June 10, 2020.**
- **Thank you to all staff, ministry and lay people** who are offering leadership, supporting one another, and being the church in the midst of very unusual times! While we all learn new technologies, navigate financial plans, begin to wonder about re-opening plans, the NSRC Executive continues to find ways to support the mission and ministry within our regional council bounds.
- This was the first meeting with Gord Waldie assuming the Chair. We thank Ruth Lumax for the many hours of work she has given to NSRC both on the Transition Commission and then as Chair of Executive.
- You are reminded of the **two dates for a fall on-line gathering of the full regional council for business. 7—9 pm, Oct. 14 and 7—9 pm, Oct. 21. Please mark the date** and watch for further information. One of the items we will be dealing with in the fall is a Remit. There is an information session relating to this Remit on June 24th. Check the NSRC website for more information!
- The **2021 Mission & Ministry Grant** budget was discussed. We are getting less money from the National fund this year but have chosen to keep our budget the same and make up the difference from our own pool of funds. However that is not a solution that will work for succeeding years.
- The Affirming Task Group is meeting and working on process to engage the Regional Council.
- We had wide ranging discussions about re-opening places of worship. We continue to recommend that congregations not open for worship at this point in time. Waiting until at least September is a preferred choice as this allows time for the congregation to plan how to minimize the risks involved with gathering for worship and time to get any needed extra cleaning supplies on site. The loan programs mentioned in the last newsletter are still available. Information about both NSRC and GC loan programs is available on the reverse side of this newsletter.
- Earl Reaburn has been intentionally reminding Ministry Personnel and congregations that Ministry Personnel can (and should) still take their holidays even in the midst of the pandemic.
- We agreed to provide financial support for a fall event being hosted by the Western Intercultural Ministry Network
- We reviewed and accepted the Audited Financial Reports for 2019.

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

Questions? Contact us at northernspirit@united-church.ca or Gord Waldie @ (780) 532 2415. **Regional office at Kirk Centre is open by appointment!**

Northern Spirit Regional Council

Newsletter — June 2020



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

- We named Marilyn Carroll to a 1 year term on the Executive. We also named Scott Reynolds to the Task Group that is creating the Youth Council. Scott is working on recruiting others for this task
- Earl Reaburn will be taking some Sabbatical Time this year. We wish Earl well with his learning.
- We want to be able to help as many Communities of Faith and personnel during these challenging times, but have a limited amount of funds with to be able to do so. With that in mind, the following Emergency Funding options are being made available:

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).*

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.

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