

## Northern Spirit Regional Council

# Grants for Clusters, Networks and Individuals

The Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSRC) is called:

- To support its Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel in a variety of ways;
- To honour and live into intercultural mission and ministry; and
- To live in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the earth community.

At its Inaugural Meeting in 2019, the NSRC affirmed that:

“We want our new region to be:

- A community of connexion where there is grace to risk, fail, learn and adapt;
- A community that encourages mission as it explores different ways of leading, thinking, and gathering;
- A community that takes seriously the call to be intercultural and that prioritizes the full participation of indigenous voices ... to help people in our communities of faith continue to understand themselves as part of a larger whole ... connecting people into networks and clusters that help their faith come alive.”

One of the ways the NSRC supports the above mission and ministry is to make funds available to support clusters, networks and individuals within the bounds of the Regional Council.

### Clusters

Local Clusters provide community and support for Communities of Faith and their leaders, and focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, and strategic planning.

Priority will be given to Clusters that support the life and work of Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel within a geographic area; and that nurture United Church of Canada identity and connection.

**Applying for Funds:** application can be made at any time during the calendar year. Please include the date, duration, format, purpose of the cluster gathering, some form of budget, the amount of the request, anticipated costs, and other sources of funding. Requests can be submitted to the Regional Council Office: [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).

Clusters meeting regularly are encouraged to submit an annual plan and request for funds.

**Accountability:** a Cluster contact or reporter will provide a report of the Cluster gatherings, including total cost, numbers attending, which communities of faith/ministry personnel were involved and any other information that might assist the NSRC in supporting healthy Communities of Faith. The Regional Council Office will retain these reports for information to the Executive and for inclusion in the NSRC Annual Meeting Workbook

**Reimbursement:** Expense forms are available from the Regional Council Office, and, once they are approved/gathered by the Cluster host, they are submitted to the NSRC Financial Officer.

## Networks

Networks link people working on specific issues (e.g. supportive housing, intercultural ministry, youth ministry) or for project work (e.g. event planning) that function through the whole church, depending on the issue. By their nature, Networks are not based on geographical area.

Priority will be given to events that support the mission and ministry of the Northern Spirit Regional Council.

Funds will be made available to cover costs of speakers (fees, honoraria, travel and accommodations).

Some funds will be made available to assist United Church of Canada Laypeople and Ministry Personnel to attend Network events, where the cost to do so, would be prohibitive. (See criteria for Individual applications below.)

**Applying for Funds:** application can be made at any time during the calendar year. Please include the date, duration, format and purpose of the Network gathering/event, the amount being requested, anticipated costs, and other sources of funding. The request can be submitted to the Regional Council Office: [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).

**Reimbursement:** Expense forms are available from the Regional Council Office. Once they have been completed, they are submitted to the NSRC Financial Officer.

## Individuals

Individuals may apply for funding to attend Network and other events. This funding is offered on a shared basis with the individual's Community of Faith and the Applicant.

Priority will be given to events that support the mission and ministry of the Regional Council.

**Applying for Funds:** application can be made at any time during the calendar year. Please include the date, duration, format and purpose of the event, the amount being requested, anticipated costs, and other sources of funding. Requests can be submitted to the Regional Council Office: [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).

Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.