



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Announcements and Information of interest the people of the Northern Spirit Region. If you have news to share or information about an upcoming event, please send it to Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support: kjackson@united-church.ca, or post it to the Community of Faith Events Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>

The writers, editors and publishers of this Newsletter are taking some time off during July and August. Therefore we will only publish a newsletter if there is vital breaking news to share. Until we connect again, we wish all of our subscribers a summer that includes the blessings of sun, fun, rest and relaxation.

Breaking News ...

Today: Chinook Winds Town Hall with Representatives from Dr. Hinshaw's Office

Ministry Personnel and Lay Leaders in the Northern Spirit region are invited to join the Chinook Winds Town Hall with representatives from Dr. Deena Hinshaw's office. Dr. Kathryn Koliaska, Medical Officer of Health Provincial Lead - Safe Healthy Environments; and Nicole Merrifield, Director | Community Engagement & External Relations; will make a presentation, and then respond to questions. The focus will be on safe opening. This will be a Zoom gathering today at 3:00 p.m. (MDT). Join Zoom Meeting: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/98594036256?pwd=VVV1T1Y2T0xLcUF5UFdOemVaUzN1UT09> Meeting ID: 985 9403 6256. Password: 363477. To join by telephone: 1-855 703 8985 Canada (Toll-free)

United Church Appeal for the Devastation in Lebanon

The tragic explosion in Beirut on August 4 caused immense destruction, and the death toll continues to rise. The United Church of Canada has been in contact with our Mission and Service partners in the region about how best to respond to this tragedy. Please continue to pray for the injured and those who have lost their lives, as well as the families, communities, and first responders to the disaster. You can help those affected by donating to the United Church Appeal: <https://www.united-church.ca/lebanon> Donations will be matched by the Canadian government until August 24, 2020.

Re-Opening your Church Building: Discernment and Planning Resources

As we continue the discussion about opening our buildings to various gatherings and needs, we know that complex discernment and planning are necessary before any doors can be opened. Information and advice continue to be shared and updated. The United Church of Canada web site is a good source of information for Communities of Faith: <https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19>. Lay leaders and ministry personnel need to be part of these conversations. To assist, we've created two resources, a discernment process, and a blank planning template. For these, and other resources, [please click here](#).

As well, the Federal, and all Provincial and Territorial Governments have provided guidance and direction regarding re-launching after the pandemic. Be sure to continue to monitor the web sites for your jurisdiction: [Health Canada](#) [Alberta](#) [British Columbia](#) [Northwest Territories](#)

Ongoing Regional Ministry Personnel Check-In and Support Meetings

The Regional Council has continued online Tuesday afternoon gatherings of Ministry Personnel over the summer months. However, there will be no gathering on Tuesday, August 18. Information will be distributed before gatherings resume on August 25.

In Other News ...

2021 Mission and Ministry Grants

The Regional Council Executive is already planning for its work in 2021. One of the important tasks will be to consider applications for Mission Support and Regional Council Grants to support the mission of Communities of Faith in 2021. For information about the application process, please visit the Regional Council web site: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/documents-forms/funding-ministry/>. The application deadline of August 31 is fast-approaching ...

COVID Busting Outdoor Concert

St. Andrew's United Church (9915 148 Street, Edmonton) is hosting a COVID-Busting Outdoor Concert on Friday, August 21, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Featured will be Vince Anderson on keyboards and Ryu Yokoo on guitar, both musicians being aficionados on their instruments. Between them, you'll hear all your favourites in multi-genres and enjoy a lovely summer evening under our blue prairie sky. We will be situated on the lawn on the east side of the church. It's been far too long since we heard live music. All social distancing protocol will be followed. Please bring your own lawn chairs and beverages.

Please note that the church building will not be open during the concert.

A freewill offering will be collected at the door. In case of inclement weather the concert will be postponed to the following Friday, August 28. For more information please contact Heather at hcmiller@shaw.ca or 780-904-6575.

Camp Mackinicholea History Book

Did you attend Camp Mackinicholea, near Jarvie, Alberta? The Long Island Lake Society published a history book about the camp, some time in the 1980s, and is looking for a copy. This would be a blue, soft-cover book that describes the history of the camp, decade by decade, from the 1940s onward. If you have a copy, please contact the Regional Council Archivist, Leanne Templeton, by email to: ltempleton@united-church.ca

United Church Rural Ministry Network

A new network has been formed with a focus on rural ministry. The United Church Rural Ministry Network has launched a new web site: UCRMN.ca, and has posted its first newsletter (linked to the home page). The newsletter includes some information about what is happening across Canada. You are encouraged to check it out, and if you like what you see, feel free to subscribe to receive further newsletters. A 2-hour Zoom Workshop is being planned for September 23, to help rural folks share stories about how it has been to live through COVID. Newsletter subscribers will automatically be kept up to date, and get the details for joining the Workshop.

Learning Opportunities ...

Expressing Wonder Conference, Seeing the World with Eyes Wide Open

You are invited to participate in the fall on-line conference, Expressing Wonder, Seeing the World with Eyes Wide Open, October 2-4, 2020, sponsored by SSUC - Spiritual Seekers United in Community, Edmonton and Saskatoon (Southminster-Steinhauer United Church).

Theme Presenters include: Ali Akbar, CEO for the Saskatoon Open Door Society, a refugee and immigrant who is passionate about social justice and overcoming social inequity; Ernie Louttit, a member of the Saskatoon Police, who is a Missanabie Cree, an award winning author, blows the lid off of taboo topics around policing and racism; and Mitch Babin will share his art. On hand will be Nancy Steeves and Christopher New as well as Gretta Vosper and Scott Kearns with their spiritual message and music leadership. Cost is \$75 per viewing device. For all the information, the conference schedule and registration form, follow the link <https://ssucedmonton.com/expressing-wonder-2020>

New Wine: Western Intercultural Ministry Network Gathering Online With Eric Law and Tony Snow

Join us for a cross-Canada gathering of people living out the United Church's intercultural vision. Rev. Dr. Eric Law and Tony Snow will be our lead resource people.

The event will be held over 3 Fridays: September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2020. Cost: FREE. (*Thank you for your support through Mission and Service!*)

These will be three-hour sessions, with presentations, reflection, song, and small group discussion. Tools for engaging with your ministry between sessions will be offered, and so will afternoon/evening informal conversation groups. For full information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2CqFRjt>

Sessions are free but registration is still required; [please click here](#) to register.

If you would like more information, please contact the Western Intercultural Ministry Network Executive through staff support Julie Graham, jgraham@united-church.ca.

Reminder: Funds Available for Your Anti-Racism Learning

Your Regional Council is offering the beginnings of a [recommended reading and viewing](#) self-education resource list. The Regional Council is offering up to \$30 for resources of your choice, whether from this list or beyond. Please see the recommended reading link for details. As we (hopefully) remain in the slower, gentler time of summer, consider taking the time to reflect on a book or movie that points us towards and challenges us to live into the commitment to being anti-racist churches.

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