



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

Friday, August 7, 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/>

Please take note: 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.

Vital Breaking News ...

Webinar: Congregational Finances during the Pandemic

Wednesday, August 12, 5:00 pm (AB and NWT); 4:00 pm (BC)

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program has been modified significantly and extended to December 2020. Almost every ministry with a payroll account is potentially eligible for some degree of support. Other programs have been modified or will be winding up. Join us on August 12 for the latest on what to do and how to do it. This webinar will review the details of the revised CEWS program, as they apply to our ministries, and walk through the steps to calculate and apply for it. We'll also respond to any other questions Treasurers may have about the various pandemic relief financial programs. Further information and a link to join the webinar: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/upcoming-webinars/covid-19-response>.

In Other News ...

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.

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 this Fall 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.

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