

Northern Spirit Regional Council Newsletter — MONTH 2020

Next Meeting
NSRC Executive October
14, 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, on September 9, 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!
- You are reminded of the **two dates for a fall on-line gathering of the full regional council for business. 7:30—9:30 pm, Oct. 14 and 7:30—9:30 pm, Oct. 21.** Ministry Personnel and Lay Delegates elected by their Community of Faith should have received an e-mail with information about registering for this meeting. If you think you should have received this e-mail but did not please contact Kathy Jackson. If your Community of Faith has not let the Regional office know who your lay delegates are please do that as soon as possible. Only delegates elected by their Community of Faith will have a vote at the Regional Council meeting. Once you have registered you will get more information about the logistics of having a meeting this size over Zoom
- Business at the full meeting of the NSRC will include a report from the Affirming Task Group as we consider if NSRC should name itself as an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada.
- The other major piece of Business will be hearing about (on October 14) and then voting on (on October 21) a Remit. This Remit deals with gendered-language within the Basis of Union when discussing who is eligible to be a member of the Order of Ministry. You can learn more here: <https://generalcouncil43.ca/council/remit>
- We started our meeting this month by officially installing Gord Waldie as Chair of Executive, this was deferred from the June meeting when we ran out of time. Gord then led as we celebrated Communion.
- We spent time discussing the various aspects of churches resuming in-person gatherings and re-opening their buildings. The Executive is trying to figure out how best to support Governing Bodies as they work out local protocols and plans. As a result of this conversation Gord and Shannon sent out a letter to all Ministry Personnel and Chairs of Governing Bodies. As long as government guidelines and rules are followed local plans need to be developed by the local Governing Body.
- We amended the Policy regarding sale of church property to change how proceeds from the sale of a manse are handled.

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 6157. **Regional office at Kirk Centre is open by appointment!**

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- We continue to monitor the use of Together We Worship within the NSRC. We have a sense that this resource is invaluable to some communities of faith as they plan worship and so would like to provide support for those who use the resource. We hope that collecting usage data will help us know how best to offer that support.
- Last spring the Government of Alberta passed Bill 1 into law. This legislation speaks to where and how protests may occur within the province. There are some in our midst who find the legislation concerning and so we are wondering how (or if) the NSRC should make a formal response to the legislation.
- Earl Reaburn (Pastoral Relations Minister) shared a document regarding Part-Time Ministry. This is a document to help Ministry Personnel and Communities of Faith work out what a reasonable part-time position description would look like. Contact Earl if this document would be helpful in your setting.
- Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister) shared a document from General Council regarding meetings and travel. The recommendation in it was that face-to-face meetings only happen when that is essential, with all other meetings continuing to be held in virtual space.
- The deadline for 2020-2021 Mission and Ministry Grants (aka Mission Support Grants) is quickly approaching. Executive will be hearing about those applications at either our October or our November meeting.
- Our next meeting of the Executive will be on October 14, via Zoom. As this is the same day as the first half of the general meeting we hope that we can keep our agenda for this meeting fairly brief.

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:

- Youth Council TG
- Remembering the Children Society Board
- 2021 NSRC Gathering Planning Team
- Convenor for the 2021 NSRC Meeting
- 2020-21 NSRC Chair-Elect

- NSRC Executive
- Communities of Faith Support Committee
- And probably many more... where do you feel called to serve?