



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

May 4, 2021

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Announcements and information of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit region.

If you have news to share or information about an upcoming event or learning opportunity, please write a short article, and send it to Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support: [kjackson@united-church.ca](mailto:kjackson@united-church.ca). We are unable to include posters or other attachments, but links to further information may be included. Alternatively, our Community of Faith Events Calendar is open 24/7 for posting about online events that are open to the public. Events can be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>.

### Regional Council Annual Meeting (Final) Updates ...

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regional Council Meeting: Session 1 Tonight!

The Regional Council is meeting, online via Zoom, **Tuesday (today), May 4 and Thursday, May 6, 2021**. Those who have registered to attend the meeting, should now have received a Confirmation Email. Everyone who intends to join the Annual Meeting Zoom, must be registered in order to receive the links to the two sessions. If you have registered, and have not received an email with the Zoom links and other information, please contact the Registrar ([kjackson@united-church.ca](mailto:kjackson@united-church.ca)). The Annual Meeting Workbook is posted on the Annual Meeting page of the Regional Council [web site](#).

#### Video: Greetings from St. Andrew's College

Richard Manley-Tannis, Principal, and Shawn Sanford Beck, Recruitment Office, have produced a short video to be shared with the Regional Council. This is their opportunity to pass along their greetings and good wishes for Northern Spirit Regional Council, and to talk about their role in training for ministry. Here is the links to the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/Joue19CGMq8>.

#### Pentecost Service for the Whole Regional Council

Join Northern Spirit Region on **Sunday, May 23**, for a Pentecost service! Led by ministers and lay people from across our region, this service shares the theme of the Regional Council Annual Meeting (May 4 and 6): "Loving Our Neighbour and Ourselves." We encourage you to use the service as an alternative to your community of faith's regular Sunday service, and offer your worship team a Sabbath Sunday. The service will be available on the [Northern Spirit Region YouTube channel](#), where you will be able to play the video from there, or share it on your own YouTube channel. It will also be available on Google Drive, so that those with a slower connection can download it in advance. The download link will be emailed in the Regional Council E-Newsletter during the week before the service.

## Featured News ...

### **Asian Canadian Women: Support, Strength, and Solidarity Gatherings**

If you are of Asian descent in The United Church of Canada and self-identify as woman, genderqueer, and/or nonbinary, you are invited to gather together in Asian Heritage Month this May. On **May 2 and 5**, 4:00-6:00 PM (MDT), we will take time to get to know one another, to talk about our places in the church, and to explore the intersections of our racial identities and gender identities. Asian women are particularly visible and vulnerable during this pandemic time. Please be welcome to a safe meeting space to connect, lament, and honour one another. To register, please send an email to: [anti-racism@united-church.ca](mailto:anti-racism@united-church.ca) with your full name, your email address, and your Asian ancestry.

### **Centre for Christian Studies Discussion on Anti-Asian Racism**

On March 12, the Centre for Christian Studies hosted an online discussion of the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic exposes long-standing racial divisions and systemic injustices, and to imagine opportunities for change. The special guest was Kim Uyede-Kai, Minister for Communities of Faith Support and Right Relations in the Shining Waters Regional Council of the United Church of Canada. The discussion was recorded, you can [have a look at the video here](#).

### **Mental Health Awareness Week Resources**

**May 3-9** is Mental Health Awareness Week in Canada, and this year, the United Church marked Mental Health Sunday (May 2) for the first time. [Worship resources](#) will be coming soon, and during the week itself there will be [live sessions with chaplains and ministers](#) on the church's [Facebook page](#). General Council Office staff person Amy Crawford has also written a blog post entitled "[Breaking the Silence about Mental Health](#)".

### **National Worship Service of Apology and Lament for the Church's Role in Coerced Adoptions**

On **May 9**, from 1:00-3:00 pm (MDT), The United Church of Canada will acknowledge its role in forced adoptions through maternity homes operated by the church. During the service The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator, will offer a formal apology to mothers and all those affected by historical adoption practices. Please [see this link for more information](#).

### **Employment Opportunity: Accompanist**

Riverbend United Church, Edmonton, is seeking a qualified candidate with excellent piano skills and experience with choral accompaniment. Previous church accompanist experience would be an asset. For the Job Description and other details, please visit: [Riverbend Accompanist 2021](#). The closing date for applications is **May 14**. Riverbend is an open, welcoming, and affirming church, situated just off Whitemud Drive in southwest Edmonton. For more information about the congregation, please visit: <http://riverbendunited.org/>.

### **Employment Opportunity: Director of Music**

Robertson-Wesley United Church, Edmonton, Alberta, is inviting applications for a Director of Music, to commence in the summer or fall of 2021. This is a 30-hour position, which includes organ playing (on a Gabriel Kney three manual tracker-action organ), direction of a 25-30 voice choir with paid section leads, two handbell choirs, and collaboration with the ministry team. Further information and the application procedure can be found at [www.rwuc.org](http://www.rwuc.org).

## In Other News ...

### **Kirk United Church Centre**

Interested in being a Board Member or member-at-large for a not-for-profit and Incorporated Ministry of The United Church of Canada? Kirk Centre is looking for United Church members and community-minded people to join in creating a unique community hub environment in the heart of northwest Edmonton and for all the surrounding Communities. For more information, please visit the Kirk Centre web site: <https://www.kirkucentre.com/memberships>.

### **Emmanuel College Announcement**

Emmanuel College is pleased to announce the promotion of the Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg (Emm OT6) to the rank of full professor. Kim-Cragg has held the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professorship in Preaching since 2019. Before she joined Emmanuel, Kim-Cragg held the Lydia Gruchy Professorship in Pastoral Studies at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon for over 10 years. She is the first racialized person to be promoted to full professor at Emmanuel College, making this a truly historic moment in the Emmanuel College and Victoria University community. [Read the full news release here.](#)

You are invited to join with others to celebrate HyeRan Kim-Cragg's recent Promotion to Full Professor and the launch of her book, *Postcolonial Preaching: Creating a Ripple Effect*. The celebration will be held on **Wednesday, May 12**, 10:30-11:30 am (MDT), with moderator, Michelle Voss Roberta, Emmanuel College Principal. For more information, or to register, please visit [this web page](#).

### **Opportunity for Young Adults:**

#### **Ecumenical Stewards Programme 2022 World Council of Churches 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Germany**

The United Church of Canada is encouraging interested young people to apply to serve as an Ecumenical Steward with the [Stewards Programme](#) for the 2022 Eleventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany. Click [here for more](#) details from the United Church. The deadline for application is **May 25**.

### **Research Study: Bi-Vocational and Part-Time Ministry**

With the support of the United Church Foundation, the Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, Director of United Church Formation, and Adjunct Professor at Atlantic School of Theology, is conducting a study of the experiences and conditions of the growing number of bi-vocational and part-time ministers within The United Church of Canada. Some estimates suggest that over 40% of clergy will be serving in part-time appointments/calls by 2030. Yet we know very little about this rapidly growing group. Dr. Bartlett is hoping to provide the church with a baseline of data from which to consider a wide range of its governance and employment policies. More information can be found [here](#).

<https://northernspiritrc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/R.BartlettSurveyInvitation.pdf>

### **Being Black on the Prairies Series**

As part of continued work on Black Lives Matter, the CBC is offering an exciting multimedia story series on being Black in a Prairie context. Through five themes - Migration, Putting in Work, Black and Indigenous Relations, Politics and Resistance, and Black to the Future - this project places Black people's experiences at the centre of the Prairie narrative. [Click here for more information.](#)

## COVID-19 Concerns Continue ...

### Seeking Information and Guidance from the Church?

As we continue to face the challenges of the current pandemic, new information is produced almost daily. In order to keep up with this kaleidoscope of change and concern, we invite you to visit our [Regional Council web site](#). If you visit the [United Church web site](#), and search for “covid” you will find links to a page on *Faith Communities and COVID-19*, as well as links to reflections, news, prayers, stories of hope, and much more.

### Resources for Online Congregational Annual Meetings

Many communities of faith are going ahead with congregational meetings online, and have many good questions about voting. [Here are some thoughts](#) from Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy on not-so-secret ballots and your community of faith’s online Annual Meeting. [Here’s a good resource](#) from some of our kin in the Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils that outlines the various options. (Hint: there’s really no such thing as a completely secret ballot for everyone.) The Centre for Christian Studies has just released a great [recorded “how to”](#) workshop (and a [hilarious video](#) that may sound just a wee bit familiar).

### Federal, Provincial and Territorial COVID Pandemic Guidelines

Please continue to check the Federal, and all Provincial and Territorial Governments for updated guidance and direction related to the pandemic: [Health Canada](#); the provinces of [Alberta](#) and [British Columbia](#); and the [Northwest Territories](#).

## Events and Learning Opportunities ...

### Seeking to Reduce Harm

On **Wednesdays, May 12, 19 and 26**, at 5:00 pm (MDT), this national series will consider the idea of drug decriminalization. Our Regional Council Executive is a co-sponsor of this series, which gives us space to talk about this complex issue without taking a position on it. Themes will include Harm Reduction and UCC Engagement on May 12; Decriminalization of Illicit Substances for Personal Use on May 19; and the Theology of Harm Reduction on May 26. [Click here](#) for details and to register.

### Introduction to Indigenous Lands and Issues in Canada

Hosted by Adrian Jacobs, Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre’s Keeper of the Circle, and Indigenous Elders from across Canada, the next session will be on **Saturday, May 15**, 8:00-10:00 am (MDT), and will focus on the topic of Indigenous People and Resource Development, with the Rev. John Snow Jr. Join us for conversation in response to the Indigenous education mandates from Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Final Report. [Registration info here](#). Please check the times carefully!

### International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

On **Monday, May 17**, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm (MDT), You are invited to join Affirming Ministries for their International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia [Livestream Event](#), featuring songs, prayers, stories and reflections from Two-spirit & LGBTQIA+ folks, and their experiences. We will hear about how inclusion and acceptance within society and within the Church helps to end homophobia, transphobia, & biphobia, how folks have overcome these challenges, and

what allies can do to help support the Two-spirit & LGBTQ+ communities. This free event is open to everyone! The [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#) was created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people, and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and/or expressions.

### **Affirming Leaders Day**

You are invited to join in, from anywhere in the world, for [Affirming Leaders Day](#)! On **Saturday, May 22**, from 10 am to 4:30 pm (MDT), Affirming Connections will host this faith-based development and connection day for allied and LGBTQ2S+ folks, featuring, Civil Rights Activist, the Rev. James Lawson; Queer Singer/Songwriter, Semler; and Pop Culture Critic/Scholar/Author, Anthony Oliveira. The gathering will reflect on the ways in which our communities have been strained and constrained by the pandemic and the increasing polarization of an "us vs. them" mentality, and how we can resist the urge to "other" others, while still standing our ground and working for justice. To purchase tickets for this Zoom Webinar, click [here](#). For 25% off the ticket price, use Promo Code: NORTHERNSPIRIT.

### **Affirming Gathering for Northern Spirit: Pride Planning Edition**

All Northern Spirit Affirming and LGBTQIA+ supportive ministries and people are welcome to join in on **May 26**, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (MDT) as we share plans for supporting Pride month through June and beyond. Hold the date and watch for more details.

### **United in Learning**

[Click here](#) to read the April 26 Newsletter from United in Learning, with information about this week's webinars and other upcoming learning opportunities.

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