



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

July 13, 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/>.

Please take note: the writers, editors and publishers of this Newsletter will be taking some time off during July and August. Therefore, we will only publish a newsletter if there is vital breaking news to share. The next scheduled E-Newsletter will be sent out on September 7, 2021. Until we connect again, we wish all of you a summer that includes the blessings of sun, fun, rest and relaxation.

### Vital Breaking News ...

#### Challenging Colonial Legacies through the Commemoration of Emancipation

The Black Clergy Network of The United Church of Canada will present this Panel Discussion on Sunday August 1, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. (Atlantic), 7:00 p.m. (Eastern), 5:00 p.m. (Mountain), and 4:00 p.m. (Pacific), on the [Black Clergy United Church YouTube Channel](#). For more information, and to see the list of panelists, please visit: [Challenging Legacies Panel Discussion](#) on the Regional Council web site.

#### Moderator's Message: Doing our own Work as the Non-Indigenous Church

On June 29, the Moderator offered a message in the wake of more confirmation of graves associated with residential schools. He said, "Over the past few days, I've been hearing a number of settler Communities of Faith who are looking for contacts with Indigenous communities and their Elders. Often this has come with an explanation that the settler communities would like to ask for guidance in some way. I'd like to make a really strong suggestion. Stop it. I think one of the things those of us who are of settler/colonizer/newcomer descent need to recognize is that this is \*our\* stuff to deal with. Even if the Community of Faith I was a part of had an ongoing relationship with an Indigenous community and their Elders, this is \*not\* the time to ask for guidance." [Please click here for his full message.](#)

If you need advice or support when working with a memorial or other initiative related to residential schools, please contact the Regional Council Office, and we can talk through options together. We are striving to recognise and honour the intense pain and re-traumatization currently facing Indigenous communities and church members, as more announcements of unmarked burials are absorbed and anticipated. This includes giving Indigenous communities and people space, even as non-Indigenous people consider what their responsibilities are.

#### Global Equity for Vaccines: Action and Donation Opportunities

As many Canadians begin to see the way out of the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccines, The United Church of Canada is adding a [vigorous advocacy campaign](#) to its [COVID-19 Global Response](#) and continuing to ask people to financially support global partners dealing with the ongoing pandemic. ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches, notes that Global South nations will reach herd immunity levels only in 2024, if ever. The new chapter of the COVID-19 Global Response appeal asks people to [advocate](#) with the Canadian government for more vaccine sharing; [donate](#) to the ongoing appeal; and show solidarity by [buying a vaccine](#) for someone in the Global South. [Here's the full article.](#) Please share and consider prayerfully what you or your Community of Faith might offer.

## Communities of Faith and Vaccination Policies

Some Communities of Faith and church leaders have been asking whether Communities of Faith may set rules around COVID vaccinations for members and others who participate in church activities on site. Cynthia Gunn, Legal Counsel for The United Church of Canada, has prepared this [Q&A Resource](#) to help Communities of Faith discern how they will deal with this issue. She notes that the advice given doesn't apply to Community of Faith employees, as the law for employees is different.

## In Other News ...

### Celebration of Ministry Service Now Available

On June 27, the Northern Spirit Regional Council ordained the Rev. Matthew Heesing, and admitted the Rev. Johnny Rhoad to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada. Congratulations on this next step in your ministry journeys. Please celebrate with them by enjoying this [video recording](#) of this very special Worship Service.

### Mission and Ministry Grants: Applications Now Being Received

The Regional Council Executive and the Grants Committee gearing up to consider applications for Grants to support the Mission and Ministry of Communities of Faith in 2022. The process for applying for Mission and Ministry Grants is relatively straightforward. An application form can be downloaded [here](#) (found under "Regional Council" bar). Completed applications and required supporting documentation can be sent to the Regional Council Office: [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca). The Grants Committee will review the applications and make its recommendations to the Regional Council Executive for decisions re 2022 Mission and Ministry Grants. The deadline for submission of Mission and Ministry Grant applications is **August 31, 2021**.

### Transformational Learning Fund

The United Church of Canada Foundation is happy to announce a new bursary which is eligible to United Church individuals. The **Transformational Learning Fund** provides bursaries to individuals enrolling in educational programs, and who demonstrate an openness to being transformed through their learning experience. While individuals may apply directly for this bursary, we are also seeking nominations from United Church of Canada Outreach Ministries and Regions. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit: <https://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca/grants/general-grant-opportunities/>.

## Learning Opportunity ...

### Growing in Wisdom: Seeking Deeper Generativity

This two-year ecumenical program, offered by [Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre](#) in Saskatoon, is designed for those seeking to engage in their maturing years with wisdom and grace. First sessions begin in September. [Please click here for details](#).