

*We acknowledge with gratitude the traditional territories of our Indigenous and Métis 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 8, 2021**.
- Earl Reaburn joined us and gave a detailed report about the work that is being done by the various committees that he works with. One of those pieces of work is reviewing/amending the Standards of Practice for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. This document will not only guide LLWLs in their ministry but will hopefully help the rest of us support them in that ministry.
- Earl shared that the weekly Clergy gatherings are continuing and that those have been helpful opportunities for sharing and discussion as clergy work out how best to guide congregations through the unknowns of being the church during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We had a brief discussion about the criteria that will be used for Mission & Ministry Grants when the Committee meets to review applications later this month. We also determined that the pool of money available for these grants would remain at \$150 000 for this year. Maintaining this number means using money from our reserves as the grant from the national Mission & Service fund does not cover it. A question was raised whether there was any way to allocate more dollars to these grants. That will be discussed in later meetings.
- We committed to having a detailed discussion about the 2022 budget (and hopefully pass it) at our October meeting.
- We talked about the 2022 Annual meeting. Given both the need to start planning that meeting as soon as possible and the ongoing uncertainty related to the pandemic we determined that this will again be an electronic meeting. Hopefully the dates for that meeting will be set next month. We have 2 members of a planning committee, and a possible convenor, but need more people to help plan it!
- When we held the 2021 Annual Meeting in May the plan was that the May gathering would be our Business Meeting with an educational gathering in the fall, led by the Affirming Task Group. The that gathering will be on October 27th from 7-9 (Alberta Time). If desired there may be a chance for a Zoom drop-in on November 3rd as a follow-up to the October 27th session.
- The executive did receive an answer from Adrianna LaGrange, Minister of Education to the letter we had sent regarding the Draft K-6 Curriculum. If you wish to see this response, or the original letter, please contact the Regional Council Office or Gord Waldie.
- Finally, a reminder that we are looking for a Chair-Elect for the Executive. Gord is in his 2nd year as Chair.

NSRC Executive Gord Waldie (Chair) Donna Kline, Alistair McKay, Margaret-Anne Hall, Peter Chynoweth, Marilyn Carroll, Leslie Penny, Mary Annan, Shannon McCarthy *Executive Minister*,

Questions? Contact us at northernspirit@united-church.ca or Gord Waldie @ (780) 532 2415. **Regional office at Kirk Centre is open by appointment!**