



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

October 12, 2021

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. 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://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>.

Family News

We received word in the Regional Council Office, of the October 3rd death of Denny May, husband of Margaret May, who was, for many years, the Secretary of the former Edmonton Presbytery. Denny was the son of the late Wilbert “Wop” May, a famous Alberta bush pilot. Denny devoted much of his time to providing education about Wop’s incredible career, volunteering with the Alberta Aviation Museum, and as the Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories Executive Director for Scouts Canada. We continue to hold Margaret and her family in our sympathy and prayers.

We have also just received news of the death of Bill Glebe, husband of the Rev. Lilley Glebe, on October 4. Bill was a farmer all his life, caring for his land and his cattle, a heritage he celebrated with his family in 2019, when the family farm marked its 100th Anniversary. He also gave his volunteer time to his community and the Pickardville United Church, Camp Mackinicholea, and as a 4-H Leader. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Lilley, and all of their family and friends.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

The Northern Spirit Pastoral Relations Commission has authorized the following people to be Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, serving for the pastoral year, 2021-2022: Catherine Bailey, Barb Boschman, Eileen Gerrits, Gaie Goin, Sherrie Hughes, David Lent, Carol Loewen, Cathy Pearson, Elie Robinson, Merlin Rosser, Carolyn Smith, Jackie St. Goddard, Elaine Stewart, Trudy Tanner, Paul Verdin, Lesley Verdin, and Gayle Williams. We extend our appreciation to these laypersons for their willingness to offer their gifts and graces to the ministry of worship leadership in our Regional Council.

Featured News ...

Red Deer Indian Industrial School: Learning Together

On **Wednesday, October 13**, 7-8:30 pm (MDT), the Remembering the Children Society will host this opportunity to learn about the Red Deer Indian Industrial School and the unmarked burials of students. Hear the story of how the Remembering the Children Society has worked to honor the children. Dr. Lyle Keewatin Richards and Rev. Ross Smillie will be the main presenters. [Please click here to register](#). When you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing the Zoom link.

The Struggle Against Poverty: Guaranteed Livable Income Worship Resources

On **October 17, 2021**, the church is invited to celebrate GLI Worship Sunday as an opportunity to draw attention to the need and the growing call for a Guaranteed Livable Income. Worship resources can be found the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) page of the United Church web site. Watch this [video message](#) from Moderator Richard Bott promoting GLI Sunday. Moderator Bott has also recorded an introduction, a call to worship, and an opening prayer that you can use in your online worship service; these will be posted soon on the worship page.

A Message from Gord Waldie, Northern Spirit Annual Meeting Convenor

Hello Friends. Last spring, when we were planning our Annual Meeting for the Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSRC), we lacked the time to have an educational component to the meeting. A common feature to our in-person gatherings within the United Church is a chance to explore a topic, and so we were sorry not to have that as a part of our Annual Meeting.

So, we decided we would have a separate event, hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirming Task Group in the fall. Now it is fall and the time has come!

I would like to invite all of you to join us, via Zoom, from 7:00 to 9:00 (MDT), on the evening of **Wednesday October 27** for "No Easy Jesus: an evening exploring Two Spirit and 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming Theology and Practice in our contexts". This event is a part of the journey as NSRC discerns whether or not to officially become an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada. I know there are various congregations who are on the same journey of discernment and I trust that this event will give them wisdom to use within their process as well. To learn more, go to [No Easy Jesus](#) , or contact the Regional Council Office. I hope to see you there!

Gord Waldie, Chairperson of the NSRC Executive, and Annual Meeting Convenor.

Help Wanted!

Has your Community of Faith contemplated extending Christ's hospitality to a stranger seeking to become Canadian? Has concern about being overwhelmed with the needs of a family held you back? Please consider this opportunity to sponsor a single, 25-year-old Syrian male seeking the opportunity to re-locate and begin anew. He has just completed a degree in Textile Engineering. Once his university sends him final papers, the army will be looking for him, and life with a future will become very uncertain. He reads and writes English very well but knows his spoken English needs time and practice. He is eager to learn about Canadian culture and to work, and he does have a family member about two hours out of Edmonton who is eager to offer emotional support as he adjusts to a new life. For further information, please contact: Dianne, Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley: 780.542.5653.

All Saints Day Memorial Service

On Monday, November 1, 2021, All Saints Day, the Moderator, Richard Bott, and other leaders will lead a service of remembrance for those we have lost through the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please visit: <https://united-church.ca/events/all-saints-memorial-service>.

In Other News ...

***Then Let Us Sing* Planning Committee Invitation**

The *Then Let Us Sing* Development Committee is working on a new digital hymnal for the whole United Church. The committee's work will include music selection, development, education, animation, and promotion. Interested or know someone who is? [Here's the link to more information](#).

St. Andrew's College News

St. Andrew's College has recently produced a College Tour video: <https://youtu.be/t3FRRzMqPAQ>
Please feel free to share this within your congregations, and especially with anyone in your circles who might be interested in pursuing theological education. For more information, please contact the College Recruitment Officer: shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

St. Andrew's also has a library of digital College Sunday worship services, with themes ranging from Vocation to Leadership to Wisdom in Creation. To find out how to access these services, please contact the College Secretary: melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

Wanted: Digital Images of Northern Spirit Churches

Attention all photographers. We are building a photo library of United Church buildings in our Regional Council, and we could use your help. We ask that submissions be in JPG or PNG formats (phones take JPGs), 1 MB or larger. The minimum preferred dimensions are 600x400 or 400/600. Bigger is better than smaller. Images can be emailed to the Regional Council Office: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca, and submissions must include wording as to how to credit the photo, and permission for its use in all media.

Called! A Longshot's Story: Memoir

This coming-of-age story recounts the Rev. Gordon Postill's life from 1970-1980, a decade that pivotally shapes how the rest of his life will unfold. Initially a story of failure, self-loathing, addiction, and deceit, it is ultimately a story of grace, faith, hope, and transformation. Gordon graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College in May 1980, and was ordained by Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada. He served congregations in Nova Scotia and Ontario before spending the last twenty-four years of his ministry providing spiritual care to hospice patients and their families in Florida and Massachusetts. Please visit www.gordonpostill.com to learn more and/or to buy the book.

COVID-19 Concerns Continue ...

Seeking Information and Guidance from the Church?

As we continue to face the challenges of the current pandemic, new information continues to be produced. 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.

Supporting Equitable Access to Vaccines for All Our Neighbours

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 (you can do this as a gift, and even choose when the gift is delivered. [Click here for the summary page](#). Please share and consider prayerfully what you or your Community of Faith might offer.

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 ...

40 Days of Anti-Racism: Conversation

On **Tuesdays, October 12-November 23**, these online sessions are a chance to go deeper on the week's readings, working with resource people and each other. [Click here](#) and scroll down for the schedule.

Faith Leaders for Such a Time as This

These times continue to be disorienting, challenging and require rapid adaptation for all church leaders. On **October 13, 20**; and **November 3, 10**, join Cheryl Bear and Kim Uyede-Kai online to dig into this call, for those of us holding responsibility for many kinds of leadership roles in our faith communities. Click here to register and find details at [LeaderShift](#). The total cost for all sessions is \$50.

Korean United Church: Jesus and the Marginalized Panel Discussion

On **October 18**, 5:30 pm (MDT), theologians, clergy, and a United Church national staff person will discuss how this book relates Jesus Christ to the hopes, joys and struggles of Koreans in the United Church. The panel will assess its attempt to enculturate Christology into the Korean diaspora context in Canada, its meaning for the United Church as an intercultural church, and its contribution to Asian American theology. Non-Koreans are welcome to attend and join the conversation. Registration link: united-church.zoom.us/j/97926572021. To buy the book, please click [here](#).

No Easy Jesus: Affirming Theology and Practice

Regional Council-wide Affirming event! On **October 27**, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm (MDT) The Northern Spirit Affirming Task Group offers this post-Annual Meeting education space for us to explore through the Bible, and our own stories, what a Two Spirit and LGBTQIA Affirming theology and life, might look like. All Annual Meeting delegates and all people in the Regional Council are invited. [Click here for more information and the link](#).

Taste of Palestine Live Cooking Webinar Part 2

On **Tuesday November 2**, at 10:30 AM MDT. a group of United Church people from SK, MB, and ON invite you to enjoy learning hands on about Palestinian traditional food, and the realities of living and eating under military occupation. Join Claire Anastasis from Bethlehem, along with Canadian resource people Jan McIntyre and Ineke Medcalf. [Click here for details](#).

ENGAGE! Love and Justice Gathering

The Church in Mission Unit invites you to participate in this United Church conference, **November 3-7**. This is an opportunity for United Church people and communities to ENGAGE! in the many and diverse ministries of love and justice in our church. The online gathering will move through 5 daily themes, with worship, keynote speakers, workshops, and interactive booths. [More Information and Registration](#).

Decolonizing Ourselves

Save the date, **November 20** (in the afternoon): KAIROS Prairie North invites us to a free online conversation with Stan McKay and Bob Haverluck, as we explore together how to get ourselves out of colonization. More details to come!

United in Learning

[Click here](#) to find out about Fall 2021 learning opportunities that are being offered by United in Learning. Upcoming topics include webinars for Church Treasurers, Bridging Poverty and Privilege, Pathways Toward Regeneration, and Racial Justice workshops. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

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