



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

October 5, 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, Office Administrator: 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/>.

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.

Featured News ...

Red Deer Indian Industrial School: Learning Together

On **Wednesday, October 13**, 7:00-8:30 pm (MDT), the Remembering the Children Society will host an opportunity to learn about the Red Deer Indian Industrial School and the unmarked burials of students from the communities of the First Nations of Saddle Lake, Goodfish Lake, Paul, Stoney Nakoda, and Maskwacis in Alberta; Nelson House, Manitoba; and the Métis Nation of Alberta. Hear the story of how the Remembering the Children Society has worked to honor the children. Dr. Lyle Keewatin Richards and the Rev. Ross Smillie will be the main presenters. Thanks to Sunnybrook United Church for hosting the webinar. [Please click here to register](#). When you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing the Zoom link.

Thanksgiving Sunday Resources

We're all a bit tired, and maybe you need a few more ideas for Thanksgiving. As always, [click here](#) for some ideas from the national church. Bonus: the link to Thanksgiving 2021's Minute for Mission.

The Struggle Against Poverty: Guaranteed Livable Income Worship Resources

October 17 was designated in 1993 by the United Nations, as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year on **October 17**, Communities of Faith are 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 on 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 soon be posted on the same web page.

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.](#)

In Other News ...

Free to a Good Home

Sharon Vogrinetz is offering robes and stoles that belonged to her mother, the late Jean Mosher, a retired Diaconal Minister. There are five stoles, and two robes, one white and one royal blue. The size is unknown, but Jean was about 5'3" tall, with a medium build. For more information, or to view the stoles, please click [here](#).

Reflections on Emancipation and Anti-Black Racism for Canada

We are pleased to announce to you the publishing of the book, "*Reflections on Emancipation and Anti-Black Racism for Canada*." This book has been published by First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan. At our recent Regional Council Annual Meeting, we proposed that August 1 be observed annually in The United Church of Canada as Emancipation Day. As we discussed the proposal, it was clear that many people did not know about this part of our history. This book is, in part, a response to the need for us to educate ourselves about the history of our country. You are encouraged to purchase and read this publication as we seek continue to build a new day in Canada, and raise awareness about Emancipation Day. The cost per copy is \$15, and it includes contributions from 12 ministers, theologians and historians from across the United Church and beyond. For more information, click [here](#). [You can order your copy here](#). **United Against Racism Lapel Pins** are now available from First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan. The cost is \$5.00 each (plus S&H). To view the design, please click [here](#). Pins can be ordered from the church office: 780-998-4060; fspc@shaw.ca.

Wanted: Digital Images of Northern Spirit Churches

Attention all photographers. We are building a photo library of the 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.

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 Engagement with Anti-Racism for All Ages

Continue the journey towards becoming an anti-racist church with this 40-day time of learning, reflection, activities, advocacy, and action. Each day from **Tuesday, October 12** to **Friday, November 26** (with the exception of Sundays), there will be a new reflection on anti-racism, as well as activities suitable for adults and children. These activities can be done alone, as a family, or in groups. And, every Tuesday will include a live workshop with a resource person. [Full details are right here](#).

Taste of Palestine Live Cooking Webinars

For Part 1 of a two-part series, on **Tuesday October 12th** at 10:30 AM (MDT), a group of United Church people from SK, MB and ON invite you to enjoy learning hands-on (virtually) about Palestinian traditional food, and the realities of living and eating under military occupation or blockade. Haneen AbdAlnabi will be our first host on October 12. She is a teacher and translator living under blockade in Gaza, and, we hope, will come to us live from Gaza. [Please register here to get the Zoom link](#), which will be sent automatically. **Taste of Palestine Part 2** will take place **November 2**, live from the West Bank: [click here for details](#).

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**, at 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](#).

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!

Emmanuel College Upcoming Events

Emmanuel College's [Centre for Religion and Its Contexts \(CRIC\)](#) is offering a rich and varied roster of events over the fall, including a panel discussion on Transgender Theologies and Activism, two book launches, a conversation on the history of Home Missions, and a series of seminars (continuing into winter 2022), entitled, Things They Didn't Teach Me in Seminary. Full event details and registration links are available on the [CRIC Events](#) page.

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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