



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

September 28, 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://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>.

Family News

We are happy to share news from the Rev. Scott Reynolds, of a safe arrival for the newest little member of his crew. Sebastian Robert Reynolds started experiencing much more of the world at 11:10 am Sunday, September 26, weighing 8lbs and 3oz. Scott offers his thanks for all of your friendship, your support, and your prayers.

Welcome to the Northern Spirit Region

The Vermilion River Pastoral Charge is pleased to welcome the Rev. Igbekele Segun and his wife, Lola, to serve the three churches in the pastoral charge. The Rev. Igbekele previously served four churches in Lagos, Nigeria. The pastoral charge welcomes his enthusiasm and his willingness to incorporate technology to support his mission here.

Featured News ...

Orange Shirt Day: Thursday September 30

[Orange Shirt Day](#)/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (a new federal holiday). Please check plans at your local school and within the community, or host your own gathering. [Click here for a prayer and resources](#) from Indigenous Ministries and Justice. [Click here for information on a full week of online learning events](#) from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

No Easy Jesus: Affirming Theology and Practice

A 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](#).

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.

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.”*, 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.

In Other News ...

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. You are invited to submit the names of people to be remembered during the service using this form: [All Saints Covid-19 Memorial Service](#). Please submit names prior to **October 1, 2021** to ensure they will be included (every effort will be made to include names shared after this date). For submissions in French, please use this form: [Célébration commémorative de la Toussaint en mémoire des victimes de la COVID-19](#).

Season for Creation Resources

In 2021, faith communities across Canada are invited to work together for climate justice through the ecumenical initiative, [For the Love of Creation](#). Lots of resources and opportunities are outlined [here](#). We invite you to amplify that work by recognizing Creation Time in worship and congregational life.

Networks and Clusters List for Northern Spirit: Help us Update!

[Please click here for a PDF list of all known Networks and Clusters](#) (updated Fall 2021). We'll update this a couple of times a year, and these contacts will also be included in our Regional Council Directory. Don't see your group listed? Give the Regional Council Office a call! Holding a public event or sharing a resource? Please let staff know so we can share it in the newsletter or on the web site. You can find the [Networks and Clusters home page here](#).

Nominations News: Gratitude and an Invitation

Our Nominations Committee has posted an update, appreciation and invitation to help fill vacancies in the Regional Council. Please read it and share it! For more information about Regional Council Roles or to complete the Expression of Interest and Nominations form, please visit the “Get Involved” page on our web site: [here](#).

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 ...

Indigenous Children Then, Now and Tomorrow: Online Panel

The United Church Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit is hosting an Orange Shirt Day panel on **September 29, 2021**, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm (MDT). Panelists Allison Forsberg, Jocelyn Formsma, Leeann Shimoda, and the Rev. Murray Pruden, will explore how Indigenous children and families were and continue to be impacted by colonialism. They will touch on a range of topics including Indigenous Children in Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop, Millennial Scoop, and bringing our children home. For more information or to sign up please visit the [United in Learning](#) website.

Orange Shirt Day Vigil

Indigenous Ministries and Justice Executive Minister, Murray Pruden, will be hosting a candle light vigil to honour the children who never made it home from Residential Schools and survivors. Please join us, **September 30**, at 5:00 pm (MDT) for an evening of remembering, and please bring a candle or a light. This gathering will be live broadcast on the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Facebook page, which is accessible to all: <https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousMinistries/events>.

CCS Fridays are Back!

On **October 1**, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon (MDT), you are invited to join the Centre for Christian Studies for an online discussion of Indigenous Autonomy and Theological Education, and a vision of decolonized

theological training for the Indigenous church that honours Indigenous self-determination. Our special guest will be Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. CCS Fridays are online conversations to help us all to respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested. Each session will be on a Friday from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon (MDT), and in the form of a Zoom workshop. There will be a presentation that will be recorded for future viewing, plus opportunities to engage with the ideas in small groups. The sessions are free but you must [register here](#).

Taste of Palestine Live Cooking Webinar

For Part 1 of a two-part series, on **Tuesday October 12th** at 10:30 AM (MDT), the Living Skies Regional Council invites 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. A second Taste of Palestine will take place **November 2**, live from the West Bank: [click here for details](#).

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](#).

Korean United Church: Jesus and the Marginalized Panel Discussion

On **October 18**, at 5:30 pm (MDT), you are invited to join an online panel discussion of Jesus and the Marginalized, the fourth and latest book from *An Intercultural Adventure*, an ongoing series of seminars for Koreans in The United Church of Canada. 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. The panel discussion will be in English. It will be followed by Korean and English-speaking break-out groups. Participants can indicate which they prefer when registering for the event. Registration link: united-church.zoom.us/j/97926572021. To buy the book, please click [here](#).

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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