



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

November 16, 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/>.

### Featured News ...

#### **2021 No Room in the Inn Campaign**

Since 1990, the Edmonton and District Council of Churches, through its *No Room In the Inn* Committee, has coordinated this ecumenical justice housing initiative based on the Biblical story of Mary and Joseph seeking a safe place to stay when there was no room in the inn. This annual campaign invites people of Edmonton and area churches to think about those in our community who do not have adequate and safe housing. During this pandemic when we have had to spend so much time “at home” we have become more aware than ever of the importance of a safe place to live. The 2021 *No Room In the Inn* campaign is now under way, and is inviting Communities of Faith to support L’Arche Edmonton, which provides supportive housing and help for adults with special needs. With the funding raised in this year’s campaign, L’Arche Edmonton will be renovating and upgrading one of their seven houses in the Edmonton area. For more information about the campaign, please see the 2021 [Poster](#) and [Brochure](#), or email [nrii.edm@gmail.com](mailto:nrii.edm@gmail.com). For more information about L’Arche Edmonton, please visit their [web site](#).

#### **2022 Multifaith Calendar Now Available**

The Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action is a non-profit society. Currently it is selling the 2022 Multifaith Calendar (published in Canada) which shows the major and minor holidays, feasts and fasts, of thirteen different religions. There is a description of each festival and a complete list for the whole year arranged by religion. Calendars cost \$16 each, plus shipping, and can be ordered through the society’s [web site](#).

#### **Advent Resources!**

The season of Advent is almost upon us, and [Advent Unwrapped](#) is here to support you with at-home activities, worship resources, blog posts, and lots more! Keep up to date with all the latest news and content by checking out the [Facebook page](#) or subscribing to [the newsletter](#).

#### **News from the Regional Council Executive**

The November Newsletter from the Executive is now posted to the Regional Council web site. Please click on [Executive Newsletter](#) to see what the Executive has been doing on our behalf.

## **Community of Faith 2022 Assessments are Now Posted**

Many people have been asking how to access information about their 2022 Assessments. This information is now posted on ChurchHub. Communities of Faith are able to access their 2022 Assessment information, including the calculations, through their ChurchHub accounts ([www.churchhub.ca](http://www.churchhub.ca)). **Hint:** once you sign into your account, go to the “Assessment” tile, select “Reports”, then “Target Assessments”, and click on “Download PDF”. You can also access the current status of your 2021 Assessment. If you have any questions, or need help, you can view a recording of the October 27 [Webinar for Church Treasurers](#) (the discussion of Assessments begins around the 50 minute mark), or email [assessments@united-church.ca](mailto:assessments@united-church.ca).

## **44<sup>th</sup> General Council in 2022**

Asking Jesus’ question to his disciples, “Who do you say I am?”, General Council 44 is meeting in virtual space in 2022. This venue will offer some exciting challenges and opportunities. Plans are well underway. If you are a Commissioner, Youth Forum Participant, invited guest, or someone who wants to know what is being planned, visit the GC44 Website: <https://generalcouncil44.ca>. And, if you’re looking for information on Moderator nominations, [please click here](#).

## **In Other News ...**

### **Projection Screen Available**

Lots of things have happened over the course of COVID. While preparing to restart in-person services, McDougall United Church, Edmonton, reviewed their technology requirements, and determined that they have a powered projection screen that is surplus to their needs. The screen is about 10 feet square, with a dark brown casing that is about 12 feet wide. It is electric, so that it rolls up if desired, and is in excellent condition. The price is negotiable. For more information, contact Gerald Watts (780-479-5742; [watts\\_gv@telus.net](mailto:watts_gv@telus.net)) or McDougall United Church (780-428-1818; [finance@mcdougallunited.com](mailto:finance@mcdougallunited.com)).

### **Master of Theological Studies at St. Stephen’s College**

St. Stephen’s College, Edmonton is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 academic year to all of our programs, including Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry. Applicants interested in various dimensions of human services, care, and social transformation are invited to explore [newly crafted MTS programs](#) in “Faith and Culture”, “Spiritual Care”, and “Contemplation, the Arts, and Social Engagement”. For more information, please contact [st.stephens@ualberta.ca](mailto:st.stephens@ualberta.ca) or 780.439.7311.

### **Save the Date: VST Sunday**

January 30 has been designated as VST Sunday 2022. For several years, Vancouver School of Theology has been organizing VST Sunday, a day when students, faculty, staff and alumni head out into the worshipping communities and share in worship. VST folks blend into the church service as clergy wish: a faculty member may preach, a student may offer a prayer, and during pre-pandemic times, the VST person would stand at a table with VST “swag” during coffee time to chat about the school and give away pens! The pandemic has shown us that so much is possible with live and pre-recorded faculty and student options (sermons, testimonials and/or prayers), and to do live Zoom. Interested? E-mail [Julie at VST](#).

## 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 on Anti-Racism: This Week's Highlights

This week's content (from **Day 31, November 16**) explores experiential learning, a “game” like Jeopardy, and more! Here's what you can anticipate for this coming week: [The Effect of Internalized Racism](#), by Alcris Limongi; [Words to Combat Systemic Racism](#), by Samuel Vauvert Dansokho; [Become an Ally](#), by Adam Kilner; [Race and Space](#), by SunDo Hyun; and [Anthropology and Racism](#), by Samuel Vauvert Dansokho. The links above will bring you to each day's content; or, you can explore everything on the web site: [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism website](#).

### KAIROS Prairie North AGM and Learning Event

On **Saturday November 20**, come out and support the KAIROS ecumenical movement in Alberta and Saskatchewan. At 10:00 am (MST), the AGM will include updates and regional sharing.

The AGM will be followed by the Decolonizing Ourselves Workshop (below). [Register here](#) for both! Facebook event link to share: <https://fb.me/e/3VTmNt4Lo>

### Decolonizing Ourselves: Rediscovering Treaty with the Earth

At 12:00 pm (MST), **Saturday, November 20**, explore ecological racism and Treaty as covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stan McKay and the Rev. Dr. Bob Haverluck. This learning event is presented by the KAIROS

Prairies North Decolonization Group and the Treaty Land Sharing Network. More information or registration is [here](#).

### **National Webinar for Church Treasurers**

The next installment in this continuing series is on **November 24**, at 5:00 pm (MST). [Click here for details](#).

### **Faithful Footprints Workshops**

On **November 30**, at 12:00 noon (MST), learn how to access up to \$30,000 in grants for green retrofits of church buildings, to improve energy efficiency or invest in renewable energy, as well as resources, energy efficiency tips and tricks. Join us! Please contact [jhisco@faithcommongood.org](mailto:jhisco@faithcommongood.org) for more information, or to register.

### **United in Learning**

See and share all the latest information about events from United-in-Learning! [Click here](#) to find out about all of the learning opportunities offered by United in Learning, including *A John the Baptist Christmas*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Anti-Racism and Music Ministry*, and much, much more. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

### **Preparing the Way: An Advent Evening Retreat**

Spend an evening of prayer and reflection in sacred spaces as we begin Advent, preparing our hearts for the Christmas season. You will be welcome to walk and pray the indoor labyrinth by candlelight, and to spend quiet prayer time in our chapel. On **Tuesday, November 30**, prayer reflections offered by Providence Renewal Centre, in collaboration with the Edmonton and District Council of Churches, will alternate with silent reflection time in the chapel from 5:30 to 8:30 pm (MST). Come when you can, for as long as you can, whether that be a short prayer break on your way home from work, or to spend a full evening in silence and retreat time. For more information, or to pre-register by **November 24**, visit the [Providence Renewal Centre](#) web site.

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