



# **NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL**

## The United Church of Canada

### **Regional Council News**

November 2, 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/>.

#### **Covenanting Services**

A Covenanting Service has been planned for the Rev. Lloyd Nyarota and the Manning-Deadwood Pastoral Charge on **November 7, 2021**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. (MST). Everyone is welcome, and can access the service on the St. John's United Anglican Face Book page or with this [Zoom link](#) (Meeting ID: 862 6176 8231; Passcode: 304437).

The Covenanting Service between the Rev. Linda McLaren, Jasper United Church and the Northern Spirit Regional Council is planned for **Sunday, November 14** at 10:30 a.m.

#### **Featured News ...**

##### **The SPAM Riot: Telling the Truth about the Edmonton Indian Residential School**

The United Church-run Edmonton Indian Residential School was no better than any of the hundreds of other such institutions across Canada. In 1961, the children took action against their poor and insufficient diet. Read about this important history in [Tasting Freedom, a new story from CBC Interactives](#) that combines text, art, and audio files. Let's keep absorbing and accepting the truth.

##### **Take Action in Support of Palestinian Mission and Service Partner**

Six leading, respected Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations have been extraordinarily and suddenly designated as "terrorist organizations" by the Israeli government. [Defence for Children International-Palestine](#), a United Church Mission and Service partner, is one of the six organizations. This means all of their activities are now banned, and it authorizes the Israeli government to close their offices, seize their assets, and arrest and jail their staff members. It also prohibits funding or even publicly expressing support for their activities. Imagine this happening to your Community of Faith, your Regional Council office, or the General Council offices. To find out what you can do, please see this [action invitation](#) posted on the United Church's United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) webpage, and a [letter from Michael Blair](#), United Church General. Please consider sending a short email to your Member of Parliament, and to the new Foreign Affairs Minister, the Hon. Mélanie Joly ([Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca)).

### **When COVID is Both Global and Personal**

On November 1, All Saints Day, the United Church held a [service of remembering](#) that carried hundreds of names of those who have died from COVID. We are a global church, a small part of the body of Christ, and so many of those names came from around the world - especially the Global South, the majority of the planet's population, where millions cannot get access to vaccines or enough medical care. The Rev. Japhet Ndhlovu, Church in Mission Executive Minister, shares his [personal story of a dear friend lost to COVID](#), and weaves the Rev. Reuben Daka's story into the reality of a world where the equity God calls us to is not practiced.

As we remember the dead, may we fight for the living. Mission and Service continues to work with global partners to secure vaccines and [your donations to this urgent work](#) make a difference. The church also continues to call on the Government of Canada to use its influence and global aid budget to make desperately needed vaccines and medical supports available.

### **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](#).

### **40 Days of Anti-Racism**

As we move through these days together, we'll encounter people from our own Region, and the wider church and world. Please consider joining this important journey of reflection and transformation. [Here's the latest newsletter](#), for November 1 onwards.

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

### **Continuing in Hope: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of United Church Women**

The UCW turns 60 in 2022! Registration is now open for the national 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to be held July 11-15, in Sydney, Nova Scotia. For more information, or to register, please click [HERE](#). Please note that registrations are limited to 22 participants from each Regional Council.

## **COVID-19 Concerns Continue ...**

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Expectation for Ministry Personnel**

In response to requests from Communities of Faith and Regional Councils, the Office of Vocation for The United Church of Canada, on October 14, released its expectations that Ministry Personnel will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect the vulnerable in their churches and communities. For the full story, and a downloadable FAQ document, visit the United Church website: [Vaccination Expectation](#).

### **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 ...**

### **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](#).

### **Faithful Footprints Workshops**

On **November 15 and 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@faithcommonsgood.org](mailto:jhisco@faithcommonsgood.org) for more information, or to register.

### **Wholistic Care and Wellness: Webinar**

InterChurch Health Ministries Canada (ICHM) is hosting a free webinar at 10:30 AM (MST) on **November 17**, entitled, Wholistic Care and Wellness. This project was made possible by a United Church of Canada Embracing the Spirit Innovation grant, and will feature the Rev. Dr. Helen Wordsworth, International Consultant, Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing. ICHM is a volunteer non-profit organization that is trying to promote the event. It is free to register for the webinar, and further information can be found at <https://www.ichm.ca/wholistic-care-and-wellness-webinar>.

### **Decolonizing Ourselves**

Save the date, **November 20** at 12:00 noon (MST): 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**

See and share all the latest October and November events [here](#) in the United-in-Learning Newsletter! [Click here](#) to find out about all of the learning opportunities offered by United in Learning. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

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