



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

November 9, 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/>.

Please note: the Regional Council Office will be closed on Thursday, November 11, in honour of Remembrance Day. At this time of remembrance, we give thanks for all those who have given so much in hopes of making our world a better place.

Welcome to the Northern Spirit Region

We are happy to announce that the Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha has arrived from Kenya to serve the Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge. We offer words of welcome and blessings on hers and their ministry together!

Covenanting Service

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. The service will be available online, via Zoom. To connect, please use this [link](#) (Meeting ID: 923 3389 1359; Password: 078853).

Featured News ...

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). **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.

Share a Smile or Two

A suggestion from Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton Are you interested in brightening up your day or the day of someone else? Sign up for a weekly email newsletter prepared by Jerry Fry. Jerry finds smile worthy pictures and stories and puts them together for your enjoyment. It all started with his mission to bring a smile to his friend in a senior's residence. See [more information](#) in this article published by Alberta Health Services. You can sign up simply by sending Jerry an email and asking to be

put on his list: cheerfuljerry@gmail.com. Here's another idea: do you have a friend or neighbour without internet access? Sign up for the newsletter and then print off a copy and give it to them!

National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering

From August 9 to 14, the National Indigenous Council will be hosting a Spiritual Gathering at Lister Hall, University of Alberta. If you will be in the Edmonton area during that time, you are very welcome to come and join them for part of a day or more. As more information becomes available, it will be included in future e-newsletters.

In Other News ...

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 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 consider 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).

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](#).

44th 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](#).

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 ...

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 *Preaching the Big Questions* (Tonight, **November 9**, 5:00 pm (Mountain), *A John the Baptist Christmas*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, and much, much more. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism Continues: This Week's Highlights

This week's topics (from November 9 (Day 25)), include presentations that explore the impact of the past, migration, transformation, and more! Here's what you can anticipate in the upcoming week: [Reflecting on My Family's Internment Experiences](#), by Michiko Brown-Kai; [Indebtedness to the New Motherland](#), by Emo Yango; [Our Racist History Leads to Our Racist Present](#), by Beth Baskin; [Transform your Religions Organization](#), by Adam Kilner; and [Can We Be Allies?](#), by Carmen Ramirez. The links above

will bring you to each day's content; or, you can explore everything on the [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism website](#).

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@faithcommongood.org for more information, or to register.

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:

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. [Register here](#) for both! Facebook event link to share: <https://fb.me/e/3VTmNt4Lo>

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995
www.northernspiritrc.ca
NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca