

Northern Spirit Regional Council

Newsletter — January 2022

Next Meeting
NSRC Executive February
9, 2022 via Zoom

*We acknowledge with gratitude the traditional territories of our Indigenous and Métis neighbours and their hospitality.
We offer our respect and commitment to living into right relationship with all our relations.*

Northern Spirit RC Executive

- Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSRC) Executive met **via zoom**, on **January 19, 2022**.
- As we began our meeting we were very happy to appoint Helen Reed as Chair-Elect. Helen will take on the Chair role at the end of the Pastoral Year (June 30).
- At this meeting the Executive was informed that Kathy Jackson has announced her intention to retire at the end of September this year. By the time her retirement begins Kathy will have been working in her role for 25 years, first with ANW Conference and then with NSRC. Many of us are used to hearing Kathy's voice when we call the office. We will miss her and wish her all the blessings retirement can bring.
- As usual we had a report from Earl Reaburn about the work of the committees and commissions he resources. This month Earl's report led us into a discussion of how best NSRC can respond to emergent issues such as the rise of the Omicron variant just before Christmas 2021.
- We spent some time at this meeting and at a special meeting on January 12th talking about how to determine what the ministry needs of the RC Council are. This included a discussion about what we do and don't already know about what is happening in the Communities of Faith. Our next step will be to start to broaden communication between the various committees and commissions in NSRC so that information is shared that will allow our best work to happen.
- We had a brief discussion about the 2022 Annual Meeting/Gathering of NSRC. It was determined that the best time for this to happen will be in the fall, after GC44 has met so that we can hear back from our Commissioners.
- Speaking of GC44, this meeting will open on February 13th. Before then the Commissioners will have an orientation on the online platform for the meeting (PheedLoop). Information about that should be coming from the General Council Office shortly. We are also going to have a Zoom session for NSRC Commissioners, probably on Wednesday February 2nd. As the GC meeting progresses over the next few months we may have other sessions where Commissioners and interested folk from NSRC can discuss the work of General Council.
- A question was raised in the meeting about Congregational Annual Meetings. GC has extended the permission to defer these meetings until later in the year. However, at some point Congregations MUST have Annual Meetings for each year to receive reports and Financial Statements. As we catch up from the pandemic these meetings can be held on the same day but will have to be separate meetings for each year's reports.

NSRC Executive Gord Waldie (Chair) Donna Kline, Alistair McKay, Margaret-Anne Hall, Peter Chynoweth, Marilyn Carroll, Leslie Penny, Mary Annan, Shannon McCarthy *Executive Minister*,

Questions? Contact us at northernspirit@united-church.ca or Gord Waldie @ (780) 532 2415 or gwaldie@stpaulsuc.ca.