



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Learning and Gathering

February 8, 2022

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Announcements and information of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have 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 events that are open to the public. Events can be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>.

### They're Almost Here! Changes for this E-Newsletter

After considering feedback from subscribers, and aiming to make newsletters more accessible, we will publish the "news" and "events" sections separately. Every other week, we'll release "news" highlights from the Regional Council, with a short list of wider church and ecumenical/interfaith news and resources. In the alternating weeks, we'll send an "events" summary, listing upcoming events in date order, with a section for larger events and regular annual occurrences. Event announcements must include a date and time, and will be removed once they are over. "Family News" will be included in either issue, as it is received in the Regional Council Office. These changes are now set to begin next week, **February 15**, with an "Events" issue. After 3 to 5 months, we will ask for feedback in early May. Because of the two-week rotation, we have established submission deadlines, which will be listed in each issue. Submission deadlines will be on the Fridays for each Newsletter.

Next Events-only deadline: **Friday, February 11**. Next News-only deadline: **Friday, February 18**.

### Featured News ...

#### From Karen at the Office of Vocation

We are now into February, and you may have noticed that the Annual Declaration is now open. After some consultation about when is the best time to complete the AD, it is now active from **January 1 to May 15** this year. It is hoped that this will be a more convenient time to complete this. You do not need to get a new police records check done each year. A new police records check is only required if you are declaring new criminal charges or if your police records check is older than 2011. If you need assistance with completing your AD please contact me at [kmedland@united-church.ca](mailto:kmedland@united-church.ca).

#### General Council 44: Key Information and a Blessing

The 44<sup>th</sup> General Council begins February 13 and our prayers go with the Commissioners, faith and global partners, staff, and resource people, as they embark on a great deal of work on our behalf. [Click here for a blessing, information on how to access visitor registration, and more](#). And, [this post introduces Commissioners](#) from within the Northern Spirit Regional Council, and offers some key links for overall information. Much about this process was new even before COVID meant that the church could not gather in Calgary this summer. Please help your Community of Faith engage the important work of the General Council by sharing these links and helping them to access the [General Council 44 Website](#).

## Have a Heart Day

**From now through February 14**, all United Church Communities of Faith are invited to take some time by February 14 to mark a different kind of Valentine's Day. Have a Heart Day is a project of the [First Nations Child and Family Caring Society](#). Led by Dr. Cindy Blackstock, this non-profit organization works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of all ages to educate about, and advocate for, the rights of Indigenous kids across Canada, working directly with Indigenous kids and communities to do this. Have a Heart Day is about kids, and we hope non-Indigenous kids can learn about the different experiences of kids in Canada and take action out of a sense of compassion. We also hope Indigenous kids can speak from their hearts about what they want and need. For more information, ideas for activities, and resources, visit the [United Church Have a Heart Day](#) web page. And have a look here for suggestion on [Regional Council Snow and Ice Art Project to Have a Heart Day!](#)

## Pastoral Relations Liaison Training Workshops (Updated)

The Regional Council is offering 3 workshops in February which we hope all ministry personnel and interested lay leaders will attend. The material covered will not only explain to Liaisons and ministry personnel how to guide Communities of Faith in creating their Profile, but also help ministry personnel to understand what they are seeing when they search for a new position. Now that ChurchHub is developed and stabilizing we can actually tell people how it works (more or less), and show how ministry personnel and Community of Faith accounts differ. The workshops are 2 hours in length (7:00 pm to 9:00 pm MST), and are scheduled as follows:

**Session One: Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>:** All Communities of Faith are to have a "Living Faith Story" posted in their ChurchHub account. What is it? Who writes it? And, where do they start?

**Session Two: Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:** Applications, Interviews and an assorted variety of pitfalls and possibilities!

**Session Three: Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Guiding a Community of Faith on using ChurchHub. What does their account look like? What's in there (statistics!)? And, how does it work?

We would like to know how many people might attend each of the sessions, so please send a brief email message to [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca), or call Kathy Jackson at 780.435.3995.

**Zoom Link** (all sessions): <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/96452997146?pwd=MWhDUkNEUys4aWh4bWlwWDMxYzI4dz09>.

Meeting ID: 964 5299 7146; Password: 656653.

**To join by telephone** (Please use local number if feasible): 587 328 1099; or 855 703 8985 (Toll-free).

**iCalendar (.ics) files** (if desired, you can download and import the following to your calendar system):

[https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/tJlpcuuhpzwrHtLCSukRzbyTZwSTJerrPvkj/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCuqi4oE92SsR2BRowABo\\_4a\\_PxmGZcgrdxvyzwCBJJYBrCDPVxBph6Asrg](https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/tJlpcuuhpzwrHtLCSukRzbyTZwSTJerrPvkj/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCuqi4oE92SsR2BRowABo_4a_PxmGZcgrdxvyzwCBJJYBrCDPVxBph6Asrg)

## In Other News ...

### Worship Planning: February is Black History Month

The celebration of February as Black History (or African Heritage) Month continues all through February. Officially recognized in Canada since 1996, this is a time to honour the contributions and struggles of peoples of African descent. [Click here for a wide range of worship resources.](#)

## 2022 World Day of Prayer Service Planning

World Day of Prayer 2022, with the theme, I Know the Plans I Have for You (based on Jeremiah 29:1-14), will be **Friday, March 4**. World Day of Prayer is a movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with those of Christians from other countries and cultures, and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. This year's service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. If your Community of Faith is not planning a service, please plan to join one hosted by another local church. A service video has been produced and will be available for anyone to view after February 1. Go to [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org) and click on "World Day of Prayer 2022 Service Video". This video will be shown on many local cable TV channels: check your local cable network listings for Friday, March 4.

## Regional Snow and Ice Art Competition: Share your Photos

More teams are signing up to share their group art, sculptures, or mighty snow forts. Any team or individual can register if they want a shot at a prize, or they can simply post photos and follow along. Share your photos with us! [Here's our public Facebook group](#). And, [here's the latest update](#).

## Events and Learning Opportunities ...

### CCS Fridays

**Friday February 11**, at 10:00 am (MST)

The Centre for Christian Studies is hosting, "Painting Canadian Lives", an online discussion of art and history and learning with artist Kellen Hatanaka. You can find [more information on the CCS website](#) at. Please [register online](#) to participate and to receive the Zoom link.

### Celebrate a New Affirming Ministry in the Northern Spirit Region!

On **Sunday, February 13**, everyone is invited to join Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton, at 1:30 pm (MST), to celebrate the community of faith's decision last June to become an Affirming Ministry. People can attend in-person (under covid protocols) at 7909 82 Avenue NW in Edmonton, or online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQjtHaUrQltTzkMqUoV1ug>.

### Queer Virtue Discussion

On **Friday, February 18**, 6:30-8:00 PM (MST), you are invited to join a discussion with the Rev. Liz Edman, author of the book, Queer Virtue. She will give us some key insights into what she has discovered in her work and how the elements of "queer virtue" can challenge us to rupture false binaries, "queer" lines that pit people against one another. All identities and backgrounds are welcome - and bring your questions! Registration is required and free. [Register here for the Zoom link](#). [Learn more about Rev. Edman here](#). [Link to the Facebook event here](#). This event is co-presented by Affirming Connections and Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble, as part of our lead up to National Affirming/PIE Day, which happens every year on March 14! [Learn more here](#).

### Jesus and the Jews in the Gospel of John

On **February 23**, at 6:00 PM (MST), the University of Winnipeg is hosting a public lecture by Dr Amy-Jill Levine, inviting us to ask: "What might Christians do to make sure the Gospel of love does not convey a message of hate?" Register for the Zoom link by emailing Professor Jane Barter, [j.barter@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.barter@uwinnipeg.ca).

### **Taste of Palestine Live**

On **February 24**, at 8:00 AM, (MST), Join in a live visit to the Hakoritna family farm in Tulkarm, Occupied Palestinian Territories. This is part of an ongoing series on food under military occupation, shared by a number of Regional Councils. [Click here for details and to register](#).

### **Hopeful Economics unConference**

On **March 3-4**, you are invited to join this United Church national event. Hopeful Economics is a way of looking at the world, the assets and abundance that it has, and making that work for everyone. Join in as people and partners from across the faith and social sectors dive into hopeful economics. [Details and registration are here](#).

### **Online Lenten Event for Ministry Personnel**

**March 17-18, 2022**

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support in the Living Skies Regional Council, and St. Andrew's College, are partnering again to host an online Lenten Event. A prepared worship service will be provided for March 20, to enable Ministry Personnel to fully engage in this continuing education event. Details, including registration information, will follow.

### **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, *Lesser Evils*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Daring To Share: What you need to know about Anglican-United Shared Ministry*, *Preaching the Big Questions*, *Racial Justice Workshop*, and much, much more. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

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