



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

March 22, 2022

Articles and Information of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news to share, 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. 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://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, March 25 for the next Events issue, and Friday, April 1 for the next News issue.

Family News

Celebration of Life for the Rev. Dr. George Rodgers

On Saturday, April 9, 2:00 pm, at Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park Alberta T8A 1Z6, a Celebration of Life will be held for the Rev. Dr. George H. Rodgers, a long time and well-loved minister of the United Church of Canada, who died on Saturday, September 18, 2021. A more detailed [obituary](#) is posted online.

News from the Regional Council Executive

The March 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.

Translation Help Wanted

The Northern Spirit Communities of Faith Support Committee is seeking a volunteer to assist with translation between the English and Chinese languages. If you, or someone you know, can help us, please contact the Regional Council Office, NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca. Thanks!

Affirming Task Group: Last Call on Interfaith Learning Space

This evening, join Jenson Brown, teacher and chair of the LGBTQ Society of Lloydminster as we reflect on overlapping identities and how these “intersections” can be places for rich learning. Explore together how Jewish scripture brings holy wisdom to these intersections. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirming Task Group as part of the Regional Council’s Affirming journey. [Register here](#). [Facebook Event Link](#).

News from the Pews ...

Two Small Congregations in a Community with a Big Heart

Faith United Church, and St. Mary's Anglican Church, both in Edgerton, collaborated to sponsor a Ukrainian Supper on March 20. Over \$8,200 was raised to send to Ukrainian relief agencies. The supper received tremendous support from the community and the surrounding area. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Free to a New Home

Grande Cache United Church has found a cache of old blue hymn books and sacred choir music. These are available to a church or to a mission service group who would use them. Hymn books or music can be dropped off in Edmonton if needed. For more information about what is available, please contact William Thompson, 780-501-1285.

Sherwood Park United Church: An Invitation

On April 24, 2022, Rev. Kurt Katzmar will lead his final service at Sherwood Park United Church (20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park), before he retires on April 30. We would like to invite you to join us as we celebrate his ministry with our community of faith. The church service is at 10 AM, followed by a lunch at 11 AM. Gluten-free options will be available. If you are planning to stay for lunch, please RSVP to Cindy Camp at cindy_camp@hotmail.com. We hope you are able to join us!

Featured News ...

Student Bursary Fund for Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds Regional Councils

Student Bursary Fund administration has evolved over the past two years. The Bursary Fund Society was dissolved, and the Northern Spirit Ministry Personnel Support Committee now oversees the Fund. Donations can be made to "Northern Spirit Regional Council" or e-transferred to NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca (with a note labelling the donation for the Bursary Fund). Applications for 2022 were processed in March, and 12 Bursaries were awarded to: 8 Candidates for Ordered Ministry; 1 for Designated Lay Ministry; and 3 for Admission to the United Church. In supporting the Student Bursary Fund, we are blessed to be able to provide assistance to our Candidates for Ministry.

General Council 44 Learning Sessions This Week

Wednesday Learning Sessions that are open to all continue. [Full information is here](#). Session 3, on March 23, will include Worship and discussion of Proposals grouped under the theme of one of the five strategic objectives - Invigorate Leadership: Innovating for Bold Discipleship. There will be two sessions on this theme. In this first session, there will be a discussion of Proposals related to ministry leadership and theological education. To access all proposals and agendas, [please click here](#). You will need to look through the file tree to find the documents you need.

New Hymn Addresses the Invasion of Ukraine

Walter Farquharson and Richard Hall have written a hymn, addressing the Ukraine invasion: "[I Will Sing To Our God](#)". Walter has written new lyrics for the music, composed in 1985 by Richard. The biblical inspiration is Exodus 15, The Song of Moses & Miriam. The current inspiration is Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the situation in Ukraine is timely, they are sending the hymn with the invitation to use and copy freely if it is useful. They are not seeking royalties. Please feel free to forward it to anyone who might have use for it.

Statement for Peace in Ukraine and Donations Link

The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. The United Church has joined with partners who witness and work for peace and justice in the world, by issuing a statement condemning the invasion of Ukraine. You can see the [statement and other information here](#), and find a link here to make a [donation to support United Church Mission & Service](#)

[partners](#) responding to rapidly emerging needs. We add our prayers of concern and support for the people of Ukraine, and for their families and friends here and throughout the world.

Reflections on Racism

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was this past Monday, commemorating the 1960 [Sharpeville Massacre](#) of over 180 people in apartheid South Africa. The United Church's [Round the Table Blog](#) offers personal reflections from church members on social justice and intercultural themes all year long, and this week focuses on the impact of racism. All of these can be used from the pulpit, on social media, and more.

Helping United Churches Reduce Carbon Emissions by 80% by 2050

The Faithful Footprint Grants provide up to \$30,000 in matching funds for any United Church congregation, camp, or outreach ministry to carry out energy-efficiency and decarbonizing upgrades. If you're looking for a path towards making your faith building more climate friendly, trying to find a way to save on energy bills, or maybe, your church just has a really old furnace that needs upgrading, [follow this link to find out more](#), or contact Cari Kilmartin, the Faithful Footprints Grant Coordinator for Western Canada: cari@newo.energy.

In Other News ...

Looking at Guaranteed Livable Income through the window of Lent

Lent is the season for truth-telling and repentance, calling us to deep reflection on how we might address the persistent inequities in our country. Since 1972, the United Church of Canada has advocated a policy of guaranteed annual income that is more equitable and effective than existing government support programs. [In a new guide available here](#), resource people from the Pacific Mountain Regional Council offer ideas for Lenten liturgies, prayers, study groups or outreach committees. Each segment contains a suggested scripture, hymn ideas, a reflection or implication for GLI advocacy, and action idea.

Give it up for the Earth Campaign!

To mark the season of Lent, join Citizens for Public Justice and the For the Love of Creation ecumenical group, from March 2 to April 14, and participate in the faith-in-action climate justice campaign, Give it up for the Earth! [To register for materials and more, click here](#).

Korea Peace Appeal Continues ...

The United Church of Canada has heard from colleagues at the [Korea Peace Appeal](#) in Korea that 690 Canadian signatures have been collected since the January launch of the United Church Korea Peace Appeal. That's 7% of our goal of 10,000 by July 2022, and considering that each sign-on will encourage others, we are well on our way! [Sign the petition here](#). See a new video and [the full update here](#). What is the continued impact of a war that never really ended? Rev. Dr. Kyongja (Kay) Cho [shares the story of two Korean brothers](#) forced into the military on different sides during the Korean War.

Together We Worship Now Available at United Church Bookstore

Together We Worship helps worship leaders create engaging worship, with worship resources that empower you to easily lead a service of worship with as little or as much planning as you'd like. All you need is someone willing to read from the leader's sheet and a way for people to see and hear the video sermon. Don't have a church sound system or a projector? Together We Worship can help you find a

solution that works for your church for less than you think. With [Together We Worship](#), your congregation will experience liturgists and preachers from across the country, and around the world to offer meaningful, engaging worship in an easy-to-use package for up to 75% less than the cost of pulpit supply. With many different purchase package options, you are sure to find the package that fits your needs. Explore the [Together We Worship collection](#) at the [United Church Bookstore](#).

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.

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](#).

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