



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

April 19, 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, April 22 for the next Events issue, and Friday, April 29 for the next News issue.

Family News

Appreciation and Congratulations

We take this opportunity to express our congratulations to two Ministry Personnel who will retire at the end of April. **The Rev. Ian Kellogg**, after 11 years of ordained ministry in The United Church of Canada, will be retiring at the end of this month. We offer Ian our sincere appreciation for his ministry, and many blessings on his retirement. **The Rev. Kurt Katzmar** has served over 36 years as an ordained minister, first in the United Church of Christ (USA), and then in The United Church of Canada. We offer Kurt our sincere appreciation for his ministry, and many blessings on his retirement.

We also extend our appreciation to **the Rev. Wendy Galloway** for her ministry with the Moose Hill Pastoral Charge, Redwater; and to **the Rev. Terrie Jackson** for her ministry with Sherwood Park United Church. Along with our appreciation we offer Wendy and Terrie many blessings on the next pathway of their ministry journeys.

News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

Your Church History

Each year the ANWC Historical Society (a United Church Incorporated Ministry) publishes a *Journal* which often includes stories of churches celebrating major anniversaries. If your church is celebrating a major anniversary, particularly 100 years, in 2022, please contact Gayle Simonson by email at kgsimons@telusplanet.net. Help us tell your story!

Featured News ...

Letter Concerning Ukraine: United Church Ethnocultural Networks

Members of the United Church Ethnocultural Networks have written an open letter to Communities of Faith, expressing deep concern over manifestations of racism in the midst of the war in Ukraine. News media have reported that Black and south Asian students have been hindered from leaving the country

to find safety elsewhere, primarily because of their skin colour. Concern is also expressed over mainstream media coverage of the war in Ukraine to the neglect of other disturbing events and conflicts, nationally and globally. The letter invites United Church members and Communities of Faith to write to their respective MPs, asking the Canadian government to take steps to stop such expressions of racial discrimination. [Click here for more information and a link to the letter.](#)

Attention All Ministry Personnel: Active and Retired

We are now well into April, and it's after Easter ... You may have noticed that the Annual Declaration is still open. After some consultation about when is the best time to complete the AD, it is active from **January 1 to May 15** this year. We hope that this will offer 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 the Rev. Dr. Karen Medland, Office of Vocation Minister, kmedland@united-church.ca.

Korea Peace Appeal Continues ...

The [Korea Peace Appeal](#) continues to collect signatures since the January launch of the United Church Korea Peace Appeal. Each signature on the petition brings the Appeal closer to its goal of 100 million signatures world-wide. Please consider signing, and encouraging others! [Sign the petition here](#). See a 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.

In Other News ...

Moderator's Easter Message

In his Easter video message, Moderator Richard Bott asks: Who are the messengers of the resurrected Christ today? What, if anything, is making it hard for us believe them, and to act on those beliefs? Please [click here for the video](#).

Ukraine Appeal: Appreciation and Encouragement

The generosity of our United Church community through Mission and Service has, for many years, supported the Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT), the world's largest network of Protestant and Orthodox churches and agencies. Your generosity through Mission and Service contributes to humanitarian relief and advocacy efforts, in Ukraine, and in areas where the impacts of war on the regions where global partners are responding. Thank you for faithfully supporting Mission and Service, so that we can be there as part of the world-wide community when and where it matters most. To find out what these funds are supporting, [click here for details](#). To donate, [please click here](#).

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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