



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

April 26, 2022

Announcements 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. 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 also be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, April 29 for the next News issue; and Friday, May 6 for the next Events issue.

Family News

The Rev. Hugh D. Bayne

We received word in the Regional Council Office of the death of the Rev. Hugh Bayne, a retired minister who was living in Edmonton. Hugh was ordained in 1968, and served churches in British Columbia; Saskatchewan; and Drayton Valley, Wetaskiwin, Rimbey and Medicine Hat, Alberta, before and after his retirement in 1991. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his wife, Celestina, and their family.

The Rev. Prescott (Scotty) Burrill

We received word of the death of the Rev. Prescott Burrill, father of the Rev. John Burrill, Ministry Personnel at Highlands United Church, Edmonton. With his wife, Shirley, Scotty served pastoral charges in Nova Scotia, in British Columbia, and in Calgary, Alberta, before and after his retirement in 1990. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his son, John, and the rest of Scotty's family and friends.

News from the Regional Council Executive

The April 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.

Vacation Time!

Attention Community of Faith Worship and/or Ministry and Personnel Committees.

Summer is coming ... (as evidenced by the arrival of spring, we hope). If you are wondering about arranging for visiting preachers during your Ministry Personnel vacation time, please have a look at the [Worship Resources](#) page on our web site. Among other resources, there are links to a list of Lay Worship Leaders and Ministry Personnel who have indicated a willingness to provide pulpit supply.

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, *Creating Space for Mental Health and Well-Being (tonight!)*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Called to Be the Church - the*

Journey, Bridging Poverty and Privilege (6 Wednesdays, beginning April 27), Stewardship Best Practices, and more. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory Workshop

April 27, 8:00 AM (MDT); [find out more and register here](#).

Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways regions are offering a practical workshop designed for individuals and communities of faith who are considering either starting a practice of acknowledgment of Indigenous territory in their worship and other activities, or would like to re-visit their current practice. See below for information about a western-focused land acknowledgement workshop from KAIROS Prairies North.

Book Study: *These Mountains are Our Sacred Places* by Rev. Chief John Snow

Wednesday evenings April 27 to May 11, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (MDT); [Zoom link](#) (Meeting ID: 899 4431 3877, Passcode: 311859) Hosted by [Circle M Rural Ministries](#), we'll explore the story of the Stoney People, with facilitation by Chief Snow's sons, Rev. John (Indigenous Minister, Pacific Mountain Region) and Tony Snow (Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region).

Learning About Jordan's Principle and Indigenous Children

REVISED DATE: April 28, 5:00 PM (MDT); [Further information and event link are here](#).

Hosted by Indigenous Ministries and Justice of the UCC, Leeann Shimoda, Independent First Nations Jordan's Principle Coordinator, will be teaching about Jordan's Principle, including discussion of who was Jordan River Anderson, background on Jordan's Principle, who can apply for assistance, and how to apply. This free event is open to anyone but may be particularly helpful to parents/caregivers of Indigenous children, and people who work with Indigenous children. Visit the Indigenous at UCC Facebook page at the date/time above.

CCS Online Open House

Saturday, April 30, 1-2:30 pm (MDT); [Click here to register and get the Zoom link](#)

Join us live on Zoom to get to know the Centre for Christian Studies community. It's a chance to meet current program staff and students, learn about our programs, bursaries, and registration process, ask questions, and meet new friends. Whether you're considering the diaconate, diaconal ministry, or continuing education, there are options for you with CCS. There will even be a mini tour of Woodsworth House. It'll be fun!

Sherwood Park United Church: Celebrating the Ministry of the Rev. Terrie Jackson

May 1, 2022, 10:00 AM (MDT)

At the end of April, the Rev. Terrie Jackson will be concluding her pastoral relationship with Sherwood Park United Church. You are invited to join the congregation as they as we celebrate her ministry with their Community of Faith. The church service will be followed by a tea in Terrie's honour at 11:00, at the church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park, Alberta. We hope you are able to join the celebration!

Decolonizing Ourselves: Exploring the Spirit of Land Acknowledgements

May 3 and May 5, 7:00-8:30pm (MDT); [click here to register](#) before April 30

Two online workshops for faith communities with Dr. Rose Roberts (PhD) and Dr. Stryker Calvez (PhD), Cree and Métis experts who have presented land acknowledgement workshops at the University of Saskatchewan for many years. We're invited to reflect and act on the role and meaning of land acknowledgements in our personal lives and in our faith communities. We will connect with one another to consider our relationships with place, land, people and spirit, and learn how to make our land acknowledgments authentic and genuine. Register before **April 25** to join a "Watch Party" on April 26, to

watch and discuss the videos in preparation for Workshop #1. The workshops are hosted by the KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Working Group and the SK Treaty Land Sharing Network, with support from the United Church and the Mennonite Central Committee.

United Network for Justice in Palestine and Israel Annual Meeting

May 5-8, London, Ontario; [Registration and full details are here](#).

This is an opportunity to learn, regardless of your previous knowledge or engagement with peace and justice in Israel and Palestine. Hear from dynamic and diverse speakers, form connections with like minded advocates from across the country, gather strength and inspiration as we emerge from pandemic shut downs, form community over meals and music, engage in meaningful learning sessions and discussions, and envision how we carry the work forward.

Discussion on the General Council 44 Proposal on the Restructuring of the Indigenous Church

May 11, 5:00 PM (MDT)

The Indigenous Church has extended an invitation to the wider United Church to meet with the National Indigenous Council on the GC44 proposal. This is a time to hear about the work and ideas invested in the proposal for a continued process of creating our way of belonging as the Indigenous United Church. For registration and the Zoom link: please email Liz at lvillegas@united-church.ca.

Our Story in Our Language

May 21 to June 18, 9:00 AM (MDT), Sandy Saulteaux Centre; [Full information and registration are here](#).

In this series of online multi-lingual conversations hosted by the Sandy Saulteaux Centre, participants explore what community leadership training means for Indigenous Communities of Faith. All sessions start at 9:00 AM (MDT) on the second last Saturday of the month. Tickets are \$25/session.

Northern Spirit 2022 Regional Celebration of Ministries Service

Sunday, June 5, 2022, 1:00 PM (MDT), at Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton; and live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMOKXwV3sLQ>.

We will be celebrating an ordination and a number of retirements this year, as well as installing the next Chairperson for the Regional Council Executive, and remembering those who have died since the 2021 Annual Meeting. If you know of someone who should be included in the Memorials, please let Kathy Jackson know: kjackson@united-church.ca.

Religious Community in a Digital World

June 13-16, Online; [More Information Here](#) and [Registration Details Here](#)

Online Community? Church Hybridity? The Digital Body of Christ?

If these are realities which continue to excite, disturb, or otherwise engage you, please join this inaugural online Summer Learning Event, co-sponsored by the three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union (which includes the United Church's St. Andrew's College) in partnership with St. Thomas More College. The keynote speakers are Dr. Deanna Thompson, author of *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World*, and Dr. Jeffrey Mahan, author of *Church as Network: Christian Life and Connection in Digital Culture*.

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