



# **NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL**

## The United Church of Canada

### **Regional Council News**

April 5, 2022

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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](mailto: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://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, April 8 for the next Events issue, and Friday, April 15 for the next News issue.

## **Family News**

### **The Rev. Dr. Donald Laing**

We received notification of the death of the Rev. Dr. Donald Laing on March 29, 2022. In 1958, Don graduated from St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, and received his M.Div. in 1960. Later he received a S.T.M. degree from Vancouver School of Theology, and his Ph.D. from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Don was ordained in The United Church of Canada in 1958, and served United Churches in Leask, Cabri, Regina, Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw, SK, before serving at Robertson-Wesley United Church, Edmonton. After retirement, he was made Minister Emeritus of St. Andrew's United Church, Moose Jaw. Don held many church positions, including President of Saskatchewan Conference, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, and Interim President of St. Andrew's College. A memorial service for Don Laing will be at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamesEtobicoke>. Please click here for [the full obituary](#). We extend our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends.

## **News from the Pews ... and other Communities of Faith**

### **Bissell Centre Teams up with Faithful Footprints UCC Grants**

Bissell Centre's COO, Louise Traynor, sat down with the Faithful Footprints Western Regional Support Coordinator, Cari Kilmartin at Newo Energy, to discuss Bissell's experience completing a LED retrofit at their thrift store, with the support of the Faithful Footprints program. Click here for the [full interview](#). Click here to learn more about [Faithful Footprints grants and supports](#).

### **Inner City Pastoral Ministry Seeks Board Member**

As an Incorporated Ministry, the Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) in Edmonton has a long history with the United Church, and is currently seeking a United Church member to serve a three-year term on their Board of Directors. Board members are asked to sit on one (or more) committees, depending on their interests and time. Committees include Ministry and Personnel, Communications, Stewardship, Finance, and an Our Common Ground Committee, arising from Truth and Reconciliation. The Board meets monthly, from September-June, and committees meet twice a year, or more often if needed. Please visit the [ICPM website](#) for information about their mission and work.

## **Faith Lift Campus Ministry**

For news about Faith Lift, United Church Campus Ministry, and Easter Greetings to all, please click on this [Footnotes](#) newsletter link.

## **Featured News ...**

### **Responding to Pope Francis**

In a public audience on April 1, Pope Francis spoke to the First Nation, Inuit, and Métis delegates who had travelled to Rome. Time and care must be taken as we reflect on what was shared. As part of our commitment to the [94 Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and the Caretakers' [Calls to the Church](#), The United Church of Canada is seeking the wisdom of the Elders' Council and National Indigenous Council as to how we might respond. The church is invited [to pray](#) with the Moderator for the delegates who travelled to Rome. (from the United Church E-ssentials Newsletter)

### **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](#).

### **Attention: Church Treasurers**

As you may know, webinars for Church Treasurers, are being held, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. In April, the webinar will be hosted earlier, on April 20. If you are new to the position of Treasurer, the special focus of the April webinar will be on you, and any questions you may have. All Church Treasurers are invited to join in, for support and edification. More information can be found on the [United in Learning](#) web site, using the "Webinars" tab. From there you can find information about upcoming webinars, and links to recordings of past webinars.

### **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](#).

### **Embracing the Spirit Grants: Deadline April 15**

Until April 15, *Embracing the Spirit* is accepting applications for both [Innovation Grants](#) (up to \$5,000), and [Growth Grants](#) (up to \$25,000). See the [story map](#) of initiatives that are already happening across the country, and reach out to have a one-on-one conversation about your Community of Faith, and some of the things that you are thinking about at [embracingthespirit@united-church.ca](mailto:embracingthespirit@united-church.ca).

## In Other News ...

### Ukraine Appeal Update

The extreme violence in Ukraine continues to be beyond words, as is the case for so many around the world who confront armed conflict in their communities. The United Church community has raised \$402,000 for humanitarian relief so far. Of that, \$240,000 has been sent via the ACT Alliance. Spanning 127 countries, the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance is the world's largest network of Protestant and Orthodox churches and agencies, including the United Church. Your generosity through Mission & Service has long supported ACT's humanitarian relief and advocacy efforts. Plans are being finalised for disbursement of \$162,000 and funds that continue to come in. What are these funds supporting? [Click here for details](#). To donate, [please click here](#).

### Accessing General Council 44 Documents and Learning Sessions

Everyone is welcome to the learning sessions currently underway weekly. Information on these is [on the General Council 44 site](#). All related documents are also publicly available. Some people who are not signed up as visitors have had some difficulty accessing these, so new summary instructions have been checked with General Council staff and [posted on our website](#). Please have a look, and remember- do not share the actual folder link, as this causes access problems. Instead, share these instructions.

### Resources from the United Church Bookstore

Have a look at the latest Easter titles and resource packs in [UCRD's latest newsletter](#), just in case you need something last minute.

## 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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