



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

May 10, 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, May 13 for the next News issue; and Friday, May 20 for the next Events issue.

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 being offered by United in Learning, including, *Webinars for Church Treasurers, Called to Be the Church - the Journey, Bridging Poverty and Privilege*, and more. There is always something new, so visit the site often. And, in case you missed something, you can view [recordings of past webinars here](#).

Mental Health WISE Church: Communities of Faith as Places of Welcome, Inclusion and Support

May 10, 2022 (Today), 5:00 PM (MDT); [Click here for details and registration](#).

Part Three, Final session, of the series, *Creating Space for Mental Health and Wellbeing*, offered by United in Learning.

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

Final session, Wednesday evening, 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).

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

May 11, 5:00 PM (MDT); for registration and Zoom link: please email Liz at villegas@united-church.ca.

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.

Book Study: *Caring for the Caregivers*

May 11 and 18, 6:30 (MDT), online. Register with First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan, 780-998-4060, or fspc@shaw.ca. Are you, or someone you know, caring for an adult in your family? Are you the

caregiver for your grandparent, parent, adult child, partner, or close family friend? The Rev. Trisha Elliot has written, *How the Light Shines: Stories, Strategies and Spiritual Practices for Caregivers of People with Dementia*, for caregivers who want to hone their caring skills, and deepen their relationship with God through their care. It explores feelings of loss and challenge, but turns always to potential and hope.

Bold Discipleship: Climate Crisis, Leading the Way through the Storm

May 12, 10:00 AM (MDT); [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

You are welcome to join this online opportunity to engage the climate crisis with Global, Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners at General Council 44, beyond the formal GC44 sessions. The speakers will include Bishop Melzar Labuntog, United Church of Christ, Philippines; Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya, Council of Churches, Zambia; Marcelo Leites, World Student Christian Federation; and Dr. Masiwa Ragies Gunda, World Council of Churches.

A Gathering with Douglas Cardinal

Saturday, May 14, 2:00 pm (MDT); Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/iYpBxBds5G37gNJx7>.

at the Manluk Theatre, Wetaskiwin. Wetaskiwin Family and Community Support Services will host this presentation and Q&A with Douglas Cardinal. The hope is to open an important and needed dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Wetaskiwin. Douglas Cardinal is a Canadian Indigenous architect, based in Ottawa. He was born in Calgary, Alberta, and attended St. Joseph's Convent Residential School near Red Deer. He has also worked extensively throughout his career to advocate for, and promote, the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Please note that space is limited.

Grace United Church, Edmonton: Online Auction

May 18 - 25, [Auction Website](#); [Download the online bidding app here.](#)

Grace United Church, Edmonton, is holding an online auction to raise funds to help pay for replacement of their aging boiler. Over 100 carefully curated items and services will be available to bid on. You can view the auction items and register to bid on the auction web site (link above), as well as access the mobile app. Winning bidders will be able to pick up their items at Grace United Church, May 28 and 29. Please see the auction website for more information and bidding rules.

Webinar for Church Treasurers

May 25, 5:00 PM (MDT); [Click here for details and registration.](#)

It's back and it's nationwide! Join this monthly support and information session for all the church's blessed Treasurers.

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.

Daring Justice: Courageous Conversations Across Divides

June 1 (note corrected date), 11:00 AM (MDT); [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

The United Church is hosting an online engagement event with General Council 44 Global, Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners to discuss increasing inequities, injustice and deepening polarizations, all compelling issues for people of faith. Moderated by Aisha Francis, Executive Director, KAIROS Canada, the conversation will include, among other leaders, Bishop Susan Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church

in Canada, the Rev. Eun-kyung Kim, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, World Methodist Church.

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

Anti-Racism Action Planning for Communities of Faith

June 8, 15, 22, and 29, 6:30-8:00 PM (MDT); Please [see the registration form](#) with further information. Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils invite one lay member and one ministry personnel from up to 24 communities of faith within our bounds to this series of four weekly sessions. We'll focus on the new book [Wait - is this racist?](#), by Kerry Connelly, with Bryana Clover and Josh Riddick. We'll bring this work into the Canadian and United Church context with resource people and a focus on the United Church Anti Racism Action Plan. We hope this will support and encourage your anti-racism commitments and work, and that you will help the Regional Council move its own commitments forward.

Learning on Purpose

June 13 to 24, at Metropolitan United Church, London Ontario; [more Information and Registration](#). This 2-week leadership development course and introduction to learning in community is offered by the Centre for Christian Studies. It is a practical, holistic, hands-on, theological, learning community experience. Those who take it come out feeling transformed (in a good way!). The course can be taken as a stand-alone Continuing Studies course, as the beginning of the Diaconal Ministries program, or for personal discernment. If you would benefit from this kind of learning and can make it to London in June, check out the link above or email info@ccsonline.ca for more information. There is still time to register.

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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