



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

May 31, 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, Office Administrator: [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, June 3 for the next Events issue, and Friday, June 10 for the next News issue.

## Family News

### Condolences

We have received news of the death of Stanley "Peter" Brown, father of the Rev. Deanna Cox, Ministry Personnel at the Daysland and Killam Pastoral Charges. Peter passed away on May 21, at the age of 85 years. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Deanna, and all of Peter's family and friends.

### Appreciation and Congratulations

We take this opportunity to express our congratulations to our Ministry Personnel who are retiring in May and June. **The Rev. John Burrill** and **the Rev. Henriette Kelker** will retire at the end of May, after 38 and 13 years (respectively) of ordained ministry in The United Church of Canada. We offer them sincere appreciation for their ministries, and wish them many blessings on their years of retirement.

## News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

### Garneau United Church, Edmonton: Celebrating Pride Month

Garneau United Church invites everyone to don their rainbow colours and celebrate Pride Month. On Sunday June 12, they will hold a special Sunday service. After the service, you are invited to stay for fun, games, lunch and fellowship! The church school kids are busy planning décor and activities so we hope you will join us. For more information please visit our [website](#) or contact Nichole, [garneauuc@shaw.ca](mailto:garneauuc@shaw.ca)

### Hardisty Lake United Church Camp: Staff Positions Available

Hardisty Lake United Church Camp is happy to announce that they will be OPEN this summer! And they need you to make camp happen. Check out the available positions: Director, Life Guard/Waterfront, Cabin Counsellors, Camp Cook, Cook Assistant. You can see [full details and application forms](#) on the camp website. LET'S BRING THE FUN BACK INTO SUMMER!

### Mill Woods United Church, Edmonton, Position Available

A spiritual mentor is being sought to restart our children's program in September 2022. We are looking for an energetic individual to prepare each lesson with stories, songs, crafts and FUN!! A program guide,

"A Joyful Path", is provided for the curriculum. The position is for 3 hours a week, \$50 per week from September to June, and is for every Sunday except on long weekends. Please email your resume and/or any questions to [amber2@ualberta.ca](mailto:amber2@ualberta.ca). Thank you!

### **Moore Memorial United Church, Redwater**

The United Church in Redwater, Alberta, is preparing for their church property to be sold. They have fourteen 12-foot pews to donate to somewhere they are needed. The pews are padded with a dark red and are in really good shape. For more information, or to arrange pick up, please call Marilyn at 780-576-2280 or 780-307-1041.

### **Sherwood Park United Church: Sunday School Teacher Position**

Sherwood Park United Church is seeking an enthusiastic person to teach Sunday School. We have a small but vibrant group of young children (age 3 to 8 years) for whom we want to have a fun and engaging time on Sunday mornings. Curriculum and supplies would be provided. Click here for [more details, including a job description and salary](#). The deadline for applications is June 30, 2022.

### **Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton: Choral Music Available**

Thanks to the amalgamation of four churches to form Spirit of Hope United Church, we have some choir music to offer to churches in the Region. It has taken a few years to sort and catalogue our combined music, and determine what music we would keep. As a result we now have a listing of about 115 pieces that we would like to offer to any church that is interested. [Click here to view a PDF list of what is available](#). These pieces are available on a first-come basis until **Friday, June 24**. Interested churches can contact [cmeintzer@shaw.ca](mailto:cmeintzer@shaw.ca).

## **Featured News ...**

### **Moderator's Pentecost Message 2022**

In his Pentecost video message, his last message as Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott reminds us that The United Church of Canada is part of the 2000-year community of Christ's disciples: a worldwide communion that is not bound by geography, space, or time. We are people who change the world—with deep spirituality, with bold discipleship, with daring justice.

[Click here to view and share the video.](#)

### **Healing the Healers: The Art of Living and Dying**

The Regional Council is preparing to host this four-part internationally acclaimed series of experiential workshops to explore the four essential elements of emotional-spiritual wellbeing: Meaning, Forgiveness, Relatedness and Hope. The intention of the program is to enhance people's ability to go deeper in conversation with others in their Communities of Faith. A virtual information evening for all people who are interested, is planned for Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 to 8:30 pm (MDT), to introduce the series. Please contact the Regional Council Office for the link to join the information evening. The first workshop will be held August 12-13, to discover how the world's great wisdom traditions provide valuable insights into the meaning of life, death and all the transitions in between ([click here for workshop information](#)). There is no charge for the information evening, and costs of the workshop series will be reduced, based on the levels of participation.

### **Video Invitation to Affirming Ministries: Let's Create Together!**

The Rev. Laura Fohse at McClure United, Saskatoon, Treaty Six, writes, "I would love for all of the Affirming Ministries across Canada to send me a short and simple video clip! I will use these clips to create a montage of Affirming Ministries sharing their love. **I need all videos by end of day on Sunday, June 12th.**" [Please click here for the full invitation and instructions.](#)

### **Finding Friendship, Mutuality and Solidarity in a New Land**

As Asian Heritage Month closes, the Rev Woong Youm [reflects on his journey](#) to reaffirmation, transformation and interconnectivity. He reminds us that all identities and struggles are connected. As we journey into June, which is both Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month, may his words help us see our relationships and responsibilities to one another.

### **Resources for June: Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month**

June is Indigenous Month as well as Pride Month. In both cases, please have a look for local options you can engage and support through public signage, donations, practical assistance, and your respectful ministry of presence. Large and small, public and private, our support as the church matters. Get to know your Two Spirit, LGBTQIA+ and Indigenous neighbours, so that you can be fully present.

**Pride Sunday, June 5:** See elsewhere in this newsletter for a video invitation for Affirming ministries. [Click here for a resource collection from the national church.](#) Have your own resources to recommend, or resources you created? Please email Julie Graham at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca) by June 1.

**Indigenous Day of Prayer, Sunday, June 19:** [Click here for a new service of worship](#) by the National Indigenous Council; please use it freely and with gratitude! There is also a [comprehensive list of great resources here](#).

**National Indigenous Peoples Day, Tuesday, June 21:** Please look carefully at local gatherings; show up whenever and however you can; and use your Community of Faith signage and space to lend your public support.

## **In Other News ...**

### **Northern Spirit 2022 Regional Celebration of Ministries Service**

We will be celebrating one 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](mailto:kjackson@united-church.ca). On **Sunday, June 5, 2022**, at 1:00 PM (MDT), you are invited to celebrate with us at Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton, or live-streamed via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMOKXwV3sLQ>.

### **Newsletter Evaluation: Help us Make it More Useful to You**

Please help evaluate an experiment! This weekly Regional Council newsletter has to carry a lot of different content, as all you sainted former Presbytery Secretaries can tell us. This has resulted in problems with length and complexity. So, the newsletters team divided the content into News and Events, and continues to alternate those weekly. Please help us evaluate this decision. Help staff also understand what content is a priority for you, and why. [Here is the link to the Northern Spirit survey](#), which has been kept as short as possible while inviting longer responses if you wish. Many thanks for your help as we continue to live into our new church structure.

## **Temporary Travel Rate Change for Ministry Personnel**

At its April 30 meeting, the General Council Executive approved the following proposal. Community of Faith Treasurers will be informed directly of this change. The motion covers the mileage rate in the Minimum Salaries for Ministry Personnel 2022: “Considering the recent spike in gasoline prices and the prediction that they may remain at these levels for some time, it is proposed that the Executive of the General Council temporarily, to September 30, 2022, increase the current minimum reimbursement rate to 75% of the CRA 2022 “reasonable allowance rate ... for the first 5,000 kilometers driven”, or \$0.46 per kilometer; and authorize the General Secretary to extend this temporary increase to December 31, 2022 if fuel prices remain high.”

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995  
[www.northernspirirc.ca](http://www.northernspirirc.ca)

Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister  
[ereaburn@united-church.ca](mailto:ereaburn@united-church.ca)

Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support  
[kjackson@united-church.ca](mailto:kjackson@united-church.ca)