



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

June 14, 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://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, June 17 for the next Events issue, and Friday, June 24 for the next News issue.

Please note that there will not be regularly scheduled Newsletters during July and August, as the Editors will be seeking rest and relaxation during vacation times. Urgent, breaking news will be shared if needed. In the meantime we wish for all of our readers a safe, restful and enjoyable summer!

## Family News

### The Rev. James (Jim) Beal

We received word in the Regional Council office of the death of the Rev. Dr. James (Jim) Beal, who resided in Hythe, Alberta for the past few years, moving to Edmonton a few months before his death on June 8. Jim was ordained in 1966, after which he was settled in the Edson Trail Pastoral Charge, Valleyview, Alberta. Jim then served in Clairmont, Alberta, during which time, he, along with the Rev. Bob Harper, formed Peace River Counselling. Following that, he earned a D.Min. in Boston, then served congregations in Ontario, and as Staff of the former Bay of Quinte Conference. After his retirement in 1991, Jim lived in Mill Bay, B.C. A life-forming event for him was serving as a General Council Commissioner in 1988. We offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to Jim's family and friends.

### Honouring Elder Alberta Billy

Alberta Billy, the We Wai Kai Elder who in 1985 demanded that The United Church of Canada apologize for its role in colonization and the loss of Indigenous languages, culture, and spirituality, passed away on June 13, 2022. The Moderator and the General Secretary offer their deep condolences to Alberta's husband Dan, their family, and their community. [Please read and share the news here.](#)

In August 1986 the Apology was offered at the Sudbury General Council, and was heard and acknowledged, but not accepted. ([All texts related to the Apology are found here.](#)) May we ever honour elder Alberta's memory by living into the Apology

***Moving Forward Together, Marking the 30th Anniversary of the United Church Apology to First Nations People:*** you can [view the video here](#). It's a conversation with Alberta Billy, the Very. Rev. Bob Smith, Pam Hart, and Lawrence Sankey about how the Apology came to be, and what is needed to make it real. A written [reflection on the anniversary is here](#).

## Regional Council Appreciation and Welcome

There have been a few changes in our Governance positions to report in the Regional Council.

We extend our appreciation to **Gord Waldie**, who has completed his term as Chairperson for the Regional Council Executive. We will not say farewell, however, as Gord has been appointed to continue to serve on the Regional Council Executive as a Member-at-Large.

Earlier in the year, we welcomed **Helen Reed** to the Executive, and now we express our appreciation for her willingness to take on the position of Regional Council Executive Chairperson.

The Executive bade farewell with much appreciation to **Marilyn Carroll** at the end of her final term. Marilyn was a member of the Executive since its inauguration in 2019, having served on the Region 2 Transitional Commission from 2018-2019. We are grateful that Marilyn will continue to chair the Nominations Committee.

The Pastoral Relations Commission said farewell and expressed their appreciation for the time and effort that **Lois Belanger** gave to them, beginning when the Commission was instituted in 2019, and completing her final term this month.

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

### 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, and remuneration has been increased to \$75 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).

### **St. Andrew's United Church, Edmonton: Concerts and Music Camp**

**Big Drum Summer Music Camp:** Do you know any budding musicians? If so, pass this on! St. Andrew's is collaborating with Edmonton percussionist, Darren Salyn, to put on two weeks of music camp for kids from Grade 5 through High School. The camps run from [July 18-22](#) and [July 25-29](#). Click on the date links for program and registration information.

**Curbside Concerts Return:** St. Andrew's had such a good response to their Friday night summer concert series last year that they're doing it again. The series begins June 24, at 7:00 p.m. with [Ben Sures](#). They've got some returning artists and some new faces as well. The format remains "pay-what-you-will", and you can click here to [reserve a spot for Ben](#).

### **Featured News ...**

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

You are invited to join an information session, this evening, June 14, at 7:00 p.m. (MDT). The session is hosted by Sacred Art of Living, to introduce you to *Healing the Healers*, a four-part internationally acclaimed series of experiential workshops to explore the four essential elements of emotional-spiritual wellbeing: Meaning, Forgiveness, Relatedness and Hope. This virtual introduction is offered to all people who are interested, both Ministry Personnel and Laypersons. The intention of the program is to enhance people's ability to go deeper in conversation with others of their Communities of Faith. The first workshop will be held August 12-13. There is no charge for the information evening, and costs of the workshop series will be reduced, based on the levels of participation. Please [click here for workshop information](#). And use this link to join tonight's Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87662165478> (Meeting ID: 876 6216 5478).

#### **Small Town, Big Impact: New Affirming Video Series**

Here we are in Pride Month! Alberta-based and United Church-based Affirming Connections offers us a great way to engage a gift that many of our ministries carry: the impact of being and becoming Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Affirming in a small town, village, reserve, or remote community. Affirming Connections and its generous supporters have made this resource freely available. Think about how you can use this in your own ministry setting, this month or in the fall. [Please have a look at the video series here](#).

#### **Honouring Indigenous Peoples' Month: Resources**

June is Indigenous Peoples Month. Please visit our Regional Council web site for some [important resources and reminders](#). 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, On Indigenous Day of Prayer, June 19, on Indigenous Peoples' Day, June 21, and on the upcoming Orange Shirt Day, September 30. Get to know your Indigenous neighbours. Discern with them how to be supportive and fully present.

#### **Solidarity Letters Requested for LGBTQIA-Affirming Korean Methodist Minister**

In 2020, the Rev. Lee Dong-hwan of the Korean Methodist Church accepted an invitation to bless the crowd at the Incheon Pride Festival. As a result, on October 15, 2020, the church stripped him of his ability to practice as a Minister for two years. His appeal of that decision was finally begun on June 13, 2022. The United Church of Canada has many connections to Korea and to Korean Christians through

our partner churches, and as part of that global family, our letters of support for Rev. Lee and the Korean LGBTQIA community are requested. [Please click here for the request and background.](#)

### **Guaranteed Livable Income Petition: July 2 Deadline**

The United Church hosts a national Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) network, which includes representatives from our Regional Council. Many people ask what GLI could look like in practice: it stands in such contrast to current social assistance programs that it can be hard to imagine. Prince Edward Island has signalled its willingness to enter into a partnership with the federal government to begin such a program. We are invited by the GLI Network of the United Church to consider signing the petition. [Please click here for information.](#)

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

### **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 was resulting 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.

### **United Church of Canada Foundation Seeks a Director for its Board**

The Foundation Board is in need of a Director that identifies as a woman. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming involved with the United Church Foundation, please click here for [more information about this role.](#)

## **For Future Planning ...**

### **Church Office Administrators Retreat**

A retreat is being planned for Fall, 2022, and it will take place in Saskatoon, SK. All church office administrators are welcome to attend! Further information and details will be coming soon to this newsletter.

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