



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

June 7, 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, June 10 for the next News issue; and Friday, June 17 for the next Events issue.

Family News

Memorial Service for the Rev. Ted Blezard

Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m.

In March, 2021, we reported on the death of the Rev. Ted Blezard, on March 8, 2021. A Celebration of his Life was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be held at Robertson-Wesley United Church, 10209 123 Street, Edmonton. The service will also be [livestreamed online here](#). We continue to extend our prayers and deepest condolences to Ted's family and friends.

Appreciation and Congratulations

We take this opportunity to express our congratulations to our Ministry Personnel who are retiring in June. **Denise Davis Taylor, DM, Wendy Molnar, DLM, and Anne Telford, DM** will retire at the end of June, after 40, 12, and 24 years (respectively) of 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.

Video of the June 5 Celebration of Ministry Service

Much gratitude is extended to all involved in this Pentecost Sunday service! Congratulations to the Rev. Marlene Salmonson, all of the retirees and celebrants of anniversaries, and to Spirit of Hope United Church on their upcoming re-opening! [Click here to view the service](#).

The United Church of Canada is 97!

June 10 is the 97th Anniversary of the founding of The United Church of Canada. You can find prayers, worship resources, and music for this celebration in the [Worship Section](#) of the United Church web site. A question: What is your prayer for The United Church of Canada today, as the church approaches the century mark? Let us know on [Facebook](#).

Events and Learning Opportunities ...

Journey into Indigenous Allyship Workshop

June 6 to June 27, 7:00 PM (MDT), [Click here for details and registration](#)

Hosted by Chinook Winds Regional Council, this four-part series with Indigenous knowledge keepers explores what it means to be a Treaty person and how to build your Indigenous ally toolkit.

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](#) for a few more details.

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.

Celebrate Pride Month!

Sunday, June 12, [Link to more information](#), or contact Nichole: garneauuc@shaw.ca

Garneau United Church, Edmonton, invites everyone to don their rainbow colours and celebrate Pride Month. A special Sunday service will be followed by fun, games, lunch and fellowship! The church school kids are busy planning décor and activities so they hope you will join them.

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

June 12, deadline; [Click here for the full invitation and instructions](#).

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."

Religious Community in a Digital World

June 13 to 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*.

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, or 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 it out, or email info@ccsonline.ca for more information. There is still time to register.

Healing the Healers: The Art of Living and Dying

Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 to 8:30 pm (MDT) [Click here for workshop information](#).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87662165478> Meeting ID: 876 6216 5478

An information evening 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 event is hosted by the Northern Spirit Regional Council and 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.

Alvin Dixon Memorial Fun Run/Walk 2022

June 17 to July 25; [Click here for details](#)

In association with General Council 44, this is an event to raise money for the Alvin Dixon Memorial Fund for Indigenous post secondary students, especially those attending places like the Vancouver School of Theology and Sandy Sauteaux Spiritual Centre. Alvin was a respected elder, teacher, bridge builder, and advocate from the Heiltsuk First Nation, who contributed deeply to the Indigenous church and to the wider United Church of Canada. When? Anytime between June 17 (the official opening) and July 25. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Spirit of Hope United Church Grand Re-Opening

Saturday, June 18; 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Do you like to celebrate? Do you enjoy walking tours? Do you attend events simply for the food? Do you enjoy listening to live music? Then here is an event you won't want to miss! After extensive renovation and beautification, Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton, will celebrate with a Grand Re-Opening. The afternoon will begin with a Dedication Service in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception with activities for children, and tours of the building. The celebration will conclude with an Organ Recital by maestro Warren Mack. There will be something for everyone, so accept this invitation to attend, and bring your friends.

Indigenous Day of Prayer

Sunday, June 19. [Click here for a new service of worship](#), and [here for a comprehensive list of great resources](#). The Service and resources have been prepared by the National Indigenous Council. Please use them freely and with gratitude!

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Tuesday June 21

Please look carefully at local gatherings; show up whenever and however you can; use your community of faith signage, space, and budget to lend your public support.

National Gathering: Anti-Racism in the United Church

Wednesday, June 22, 12 noon to 1:30pm (MDT) [Register via Zoom now](#).

Picking up from our last gathering, we will continue reflecting on what it means to decentre whiteness and to centre the needs of people of colour in our work, before discerning together what this network's role might be in the journey toward becoming an anti-racist denomination. In preparation for these conversations, we invite you to watch this video on [Becoming an Anti-Racist Church](#) as an example of what centring the needs and voices of people of colour could look like. This network and gathering are open to anyone in the Church who is actively engaged in anti-racism work in their ministry contexts. If you know others who might be interested, please have them [complete this brief form](#) to be added to our network.

Residential Schools: Introduction to Trauma Awareness and Strategies to Support Communities

Thursday, June 23, 12:30 to 2:00 PM (MDT);

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021906932> Meeting ID: 810 2190 6932

In honour of Indigenous Month, please join discussion leaders, John Snow and Tony Snow, hosted by the Western Intercultural Ministries Network.

Building God's Beloved Community

Thursday, June 23, Online, 5:00 pm (MDT) [Further information and Registration](#)

Drawing on the expertise of theologians and ministers from across the United Church, *Building God's Beloved Community* is a new confirmation/new membership/discipleship resource that has been in development for the past four years, and was created to be comprehensive, yet accessible; suitable for use with both youth and adult audiences. Sixteen short chapters cover a range of topics, including theology, Bible, church history, worship, and spiritual practice, along with insight into United Church worship, tradition, doctrine and governance, and an introduction to our legacy of social justice as a lived expression of faith. It is hoped that this exciting resource will serve to support discipleship within The United Church of Canada for years to come.

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, Edmonton

Saturday, June 25, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

SSUC is excited to be holding it's first garage sale since 2019! Please join us at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, 10740-19 Avenue NW, Edmonton. Items will be accepted for the sale Monday, June 20th to Friday, June 24th. See information about accepted items [here](#), and see the [poster advertising the sale here](#). Masks are not required but encouraged.

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, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Called to Be the Church - the Journey*, 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](#).

Save the Date for Future Planning ...

Fall Planning- Hold the Date! Intercultural Adventure Seminar 5:

The Holy Spirit for Koreans in The United Church of Canada

October 17, 18 and 19, 2022. [Details in English and Korean are here.](#)

This seminar will be held at the Edmonton Korean United Church. Financial support for attendance is available. The event will be bilingual, Korean and English. All are welcome!

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