



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

July 12, 2022

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

Please note: 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

Condolences

We received word of the death on June 18, 2022, of John Wright, a long-time member of the United Church, and a Past-Chairperson of the former Edmonton Presbyterian. John was active in many aspects of United Church life in Edmonton and beyond. With his focus on ecumenism and interfaith work, John was a founding member of the Edmonton and District Council of Churches, and was a long-time member of the No Room in the Inn Committee. A Memorial Service was held on July 7 to celebrate John's life and to honour his memory. We offer prayers and sympathy to John's family and his many friends and friends.

New Office of Vocation Minister: the Rev Laura Fohse

The Rev. Marlene Britton, Team Lead, Policy and Programs for Ministry Personnel in the Ministry and Employment Unit, writes, "I am delighted to announce that the Rev. Laura Fohse will join the Office of Vocation team as the Vocational Minister for the Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions. She begins her assignment on **August 08, 2022.**" Laura lives out her vocation as a diaconal minister, coming to this new role after serving 16 years in team ministry at McClure United Church in Saskatoon and, prior to that, 3 years in the Rainbow Ministry in Winnipeg. She serves on the Prairie Candidacy Board. [More details are available here.](#) Welcome, Laura!

News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

Grace United Church, Lloydminster: Christian Development Support Worker Position

Grace United is seeking a personable individual to fill the new part-time contract position of Christian Development Support Worker, to support Sunday School, Super Sundays, Messy Church, Babyfold, Summer Activity Mornings, Vacation Bible School, and some youth activities. The position involves collaboration with the Minister, Family Youth Worker and Affirming Support Ministries. Duties include ordering of curriculum supplies, preparing curriculum, coordinating volunteers, and ensuring programs

are running smoothly. This person must have experience, education and training for working with children and youth; demonstrate strong organizational skills, with the ability to plan, set priorities and meet timelines; and have excellent computer and communication skills with a willingness and desire to work as part of a team. A United Church background would be an asset. Salary is \$23.00/hour based on a 13-15 hour work week. Please submit a cover letter and application by email: gucoffice22@gmail.com.

Sherwood Park United Church: Sunday School Teacher Position

Sherwood Park United Church is seeking an enthusiastic person to teach Sunday School. They have a small but vibrant group of young children (ages 3 - 8 years) that they want to have a fun and engaging time on Sunday morning. Curriculum and supplies would be provided. More details, including a job description and salary, can be obtained by clicking on this link: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/gbljg/mrzs/>. The deadline for applications is **August 21, 2022**.

Featured News ...

The Pope's Visit to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Communities

Some very significant yet difficult dates are coming up for residential school survivors in Alberta, Québec, and Nunavut this July, as the Pope visits to hopefully fulfill a Call to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by offering an in-person apology to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit survivors of Roman Catholic residential schools, and their families. [Here's the schedule](#). While many have waited and advocated for this visit for a long time, others are struggling with it. Choosing to attend, or choosing not to attend, may be very hard decisions for some. Please keep survivors, families, and communities in your prayers and actions.

The Northern Spirit Regional Council has been invited by the Archdiocese of Edmonton to send a representative to the public mass in Edmonton, and we are honoured to accept.

Updates on General Council 44: an Invitation to View Work Thus Far

The recent GC44 Discussion Sessions were a time for Commissioners, Youth Forum members, and global, ecumenical, and interfaith partners to talk in small groups about proposals they felt required further discussion. On the notes from these conversations, the Facilitation Team has created *Suggested Ways Forward*. Everyone can access these notes: [please click here for full details](#).

Moderator Nominee: please see [an introduction to Moderator nominee Rev Carmen Lansdowne here](#). The next sessions of General Council focus on decision making, running the evening of **Thursday, July 21, 2022, to Monday, July 25, 2022**. [Click here for details, and scroll down](#). The final General Council 44 session will be the closing Worship and the installation of the Moderator, on August 7 at 2:00 pm (MDT).

Emancipation Day Observance

The observation of Emancipation Day celebrates an important milestone in Canada's journey for human rights. We invite Canadians to join us for two special events to mark the United Church's first official Emancipation Day, as we remember, commemorate, and honour.

Sunday, July 31, 5:30 pm (MDT), for [Emancipated, But Still Working for Freedom](#), an online panel discussion with members of the Black Clergy Network and other leaders on the significance of Emancipation Day and the struggle for equality that continues.

Monday, August 1, 9:00 am (MDT), an [Emancipation Day National Worship Service](#), with the Black Clergy Network and others, will be shared on the United Church of Canada's [YouTubeLiveStream](#).

Dwelling Together in Unity in Palestine-Israel

Sunday, July 17: join us at St. Paul's United Church, 11526 76 Avenue, Edmonton, for stories from experiences on the ground of peacemaking activists from differing faith traditions, coming together to promote just peace in an oppressed land. Doors open at 12:30 for lunch foods and fellowship, followed by a presentation by Robert Kirchner and Suzanne Gross. The presentation serves to update us on the current reality for Palestinians in the South Hebron Hills of Palestine, West Bank, but, more generally, the recent decisions and actions by the government of Israel that appear to be the test ground for future actions of illegal occupation. The presentation will be followed by discussion to help us imagine how we might respond from Edmonton to promote positive and peaceful change in this region. This event is sponsored by the Edmonton Palestine Solidarity Network.

Mission Support Grants: Applications Now Being Received

The Regional Council Executive and the Grants Committee are gearing up to consider applications for Grants to support the Mission and Ministry of Communities of Faith in 2023. The process for applying for Mission Support Grants is relatively straightforward. Grant information and the Application Form can be downloaded [here, from the Regional Council web site](#) (found under the "Regional Council" bar). Completed applications and required supporting documentation can be mailed (13535 122 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5L 2V7) or emailed (northernspirit@united-church.ca) to the Regional Council Office. The Grants Committee will review applications and make recommendations to the Regional Council Executive for decisions re 2023 Mission and Ministry Grants. The deadline for submission of Mission Support Grant applications is **September 30, 2022**.

Hold the date: Decolonizing Ourselves: Healing Haunted Histories Gathering

August 27, 2022; 1:00 to 5:00 pm; on [Muskeg Lake Cree Nation](#), approximately 5 hours' drive from Edmonton. The gathering will be followed by optional community meal, with overnight camping and community for the evening of August 27, and is sponsored by KAIROS Prairies North (AB/SK) and members. Come for a day on the land, exploring paths to decolonizing through landlines, songlines, and bloodlines. Elders and knowledge keepers, Harry and Germaine Lafond; and authors, teachers and theologians, Elaine Enns, and Ched Myers will guide us. Alberta guests warmly welcome. Registration will be posted soon. The cost is still to be determined, no more than \$50, dinner included, camping extra. We invite you to get the book *Healing Haunted Histories* and read it. [It can be ordered here](#).

KAIROS: Open Call for Youth and Indigenous Candidates

Travel dates: 10 days between **November 5 and 20, 2022**; application deadline: **July 31, 2022** [More information and application form here](#). Youth (18-30) and Indigenous climate activists are being sought to join the in-person COP27 delegation in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt! This delegation is co-sponsored by KAIROS and the *For the Love of Creation*, a faith-based initiative for climate justice. People of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Two delegates from Canada will join KAIROS partner delegates from the Global South. Partners will use English, French and Spanish to communicate, so ability in more than one of these languages will be beneficial.

Healing the Healers: The Art of Living and Dying - Workshop Series

Healing the Healers is 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 series 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**. Workshop costs will be

reduced, based on the levels of participation. Please [click here for workshop information](#). And use this link to register: <https://form.jotform.com/221706852050247>. The registration deadline is **August 8**.

In Other News ...

Your July Mission and Service Stories, and Much More

Have a look at the summer edition of *God's Mission, Our Gifts*, for lots of resources for your Community of Faith, and for stories of connecting around the world - through our givings, yes, and through all our relationships as a church. We give, and we receive. [Click here for the newsletter and links to further stories](#).

Didn't Our Hearts Burn within Us? Biblical Storytelling Retreat

Come away to the Rocky Mountains and spend time learning to tell Scripture this fall! The Network of Biblical Storytellers Canada is hosting a retreat at King's Fold Retreat and Renewal Centre, near Cochrane, Alberta, for those who want to learn about by-heart scripture telling. Linnea Good and Ken Quiring, accredited and master tellers, respectively, will facilitate. The retreat is ecumenical in nature and will focus on by-heart learning the Emmaus Road story. It is open to beginners, and seasoned tellers. There will be a contemplative as well as a teaching element to the retreat being held **October 14-16, 2022**. Linnea and her husband, David, will provide musical moments as only they can. For more information, visit the web site: [King's Fold Telling Retreat | NBSCanada](#). The Early Bird deadline, with a discount, is **July 5, 2022**.

Fill Your Cup: Nourish and Restore Yourself: Church Office Administrators Retreat

All church office administrators are welcome to attend this retreat at Queens House Retreat and Renewal Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The retreat will run from **October 4-7, 2022**. Further information and details will be coming soon to this newsletter. For questions or further information, contact Brandy Emmerich, by E-mail, office@smartinsuc.com, or by phone, 306-343-7101. The deadline for registration is **August 31, 2022**.

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