



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

June 28, 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://northernspiritrc.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 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

Appreciation and Congratulations

We take this opportunity to express our congratulations to the Rev. Heather Koots, who will retire at the end of July, after 37 years of ministry in The United Church of Canada. We offer her sincere appreciation for her ministry, and wish her many blessings on her years of retirement.

Appreciation for the Influence of the Church: A Valedictorian Address

Johnny Rhoad, Ministry Personnel for the Grimshaw-Peace River Pastoral Charge, has shared this with the Regional Council. His youngest son, Cyrus Rhoad, gave his Valedictorian Address to Grimshaw Public School on Saturday, June 24, and Johnny shared the link, commenting that, "it was short, but appropriate to share as it expresses how much influence the church has played in his life", and expressing gratitude for all the positive role models in the church - with worship, confirmation, church camps and church gatherings. [You can view Cyrus' Address here.](#)

News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

Vegreville United Church Summer Fun

Hot Dog Fundraiser: Anyone travelling through Vegreville may want to stop in for a quick lunch on Friday, July 29, at the Vegreville Co-op, 4914 51 Ave, between 11 am and 2 pm. All proceeds go to Vegreville United Church.

Interfaith Get Together: If you want to join in on June 28 and August 23, at 7 pm, please call the Church Office, 780-632-2338. The Zoom link will be sent to you by email.

Vacation Bible School is being planned for the mornings of July 5-8, for ages 5-11 years. Ages 12 and up are welcome to come as helpers. Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to a wrap-up party and show-and-tell on July 8. Please call the Church Office, 780-632-2338, for more information or to register.

Ottewell United Church: Garage Sale

To check out a great selection or rummage and other items, you are invited to Visit Ottewell United Church, 6611 93A Avenue, Edmonton July 9, 10 am to 5 pm. Open rain or shine.

Featured News ...

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**.

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**.

Unmarked Burials at the Former United Church Edmonton Industrial School

Please take some time to read this CBC feature on the former Edmonton Indian Residential School, run by the United Church. Just over a year ago, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc nation and their confirmation of unmarked burials at Kamloops IRS reminded us of our continuing obligations under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. In this story we witness survivors, elders, and advocates reminding us of responsibilities close to home in the midst of complexities that we also need to hear. [Click here for the full story](#).

Guaranteed Livable Income Pilot Program Petition: July 2 Deadline

The United Church hosts a national Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) network, which includes reps 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](#).

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.](#)

United Church Foundation Grants Report - Including our Region

The Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Spring Granting Cycle. Thirty-one grants, totaling **\$222,208**, were awarded through the Seeds of Hope granting program to United Church congregations, organizations, leaders, ministries, and partners. Additionally, the United Church of Canada Foundation is proud to award 31 grants for research, scholarship, and academic awards. The total of these 31 grants is **\$233,000**. Six grants from the New Ministries Fund, totaling **\$145,000**, were also awarded. All told, more than **\$600,200** was awarded to 68 grant recipients. Your ministry could be part of this. [Please have a look at the Grants summary page](#), and start dreaming or planning. [Click here to download the 2022 Spring Granting Cycle Results \(PDF\).](#)

In Other News ...

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@stmartinsuc.com, or by phone, 306-343-7101. The deadline for registration is **August 31, 2022**.

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