



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

September 13, 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, Office Administrator: 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 events that are open to the public. Events can be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>. There will be no Newsletter on September 20, so the following deadlines will apply: Friday, September 23, for a combined Events/News issue on September 27. The regular schedule will resume in October, beginning with a News issue.

News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

Beaverlodge/Wembley/Hythe Pastoral Charge

On **Sunday, September 25, 2022**, the Beaverlodge/Wembley/Hythe Pastoral Charge will be holding a Covenanting Ceremony for their new Minister, the Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha. The celebration will be at 2:00 pm in the Beaverlodge United Church (403 10 Street, Beaverlodge AB). They hope to stream the service and will supply a link as soon as possible.

Mill Woods United Church, Edmonton: Celebrating New Ministry

Mill Woods United Church has extended an invitation to its Covenanting Service with the Rev. Dr. Dale W. Johnson on **Sunday, September 25**, at 10:30 am (MDT). A luncheon will be served following the service. Anyone who is interested in attending the service, and staying for the lunch, is asked contact the church office at 780-463-2202 by **September 21**.

Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley: Covenanting Service

The Covenanting Service for Living Spirit United Church, the Northern Spirit Regional Council and The United Church of Canada will be held on **Sunday, September 18**. This will be a time to pause, reflect, share visions and dreams, and covenant to Mutual Commitment, Accountability, and Support. ALL are welcome! If you plan to join us in-person, please RSVP to: livingspirituniteddv@gmail.com. A light meal will be provided, so knowing numbers of expected guests will be helpful! The Gathering will begin at 4:30 pm. If you prefer to join us from the comfort of your home, please contact us via the above email address so that the necessary information can be forwarded to you. The Worship will begin at 6:00 pm.

St. Pauls United Church, Grande Prairie

From **October 16 to 23, 2022**, you are invited to join the people at St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie, for a week of free learning opportunities. As part of their journey towards becoming an Affirming Congregation, they are hosting speakers and information sessions for anyone interested. [Click here for more information.](#)

Featured News ...

For Church Treasurers and Payroll Administrators: Travel Reimbursement News

The United Church General Secretary, Michael Blair, has extended the temporary travel reimbursement rate of \$0.46/km until December 31, 2022. The General Council Executive is also reviewing the rate for 2023, as well as the 2023 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Stay tuned for more information once it becomes available.

Mission Support Grants: Applications Being Received Until September 30

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**.

Save the Date: Fourth Annual Northern Spirit Regional Council Meeting

The Regional Council will gather via Zoom on **October 14 and 15, 2022**. As plans unfold and further details emerge, information will be shared in this newsletter, and on the Annual Meeting page of the Regional Council web site: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/news/regional-council-meeting/>. Stay tuned ... **Attention Communities of Faith:** please submit the names and contact information for your current Lay Representatives to the Regional Council Office as soon as possible.

Seeds of Hope Grants Application Deadline

October 15, 2022, 11:55 PM (EDT)

The Fall 2022 Seeds of Hope granting cycle is now open! Completed applications must be received by the above deadline to be considered by the Joint Grants Committee. Please e-mail grants@united-church.ca for more information, and sign up for The United Church of Canada Foundation newsletter by e-mailing fdn@united-church.ca to stay up to date with the latest granting and Foundation news.

United Church Letter re Tragic Events in James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon, Saskatchewan

The people of The United Church of Canada express our profound grief at the tragic events in James Smith Cree Nation and the nearby village of Weldon, Saskatchewan. In this most difficult time, we extend deep condolences to those who have lost loved ones, healing prayers to those who were injured, and comfort for all who are afraid. [Please read and share the full letter here.](#)

Honouring Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

"When you wear an orange shirt it's like a little bit of justice for us Survivors in our lifetime, and recognition of a system we can never allow again." -Phyllis Webstad

Orange Shirt Day/the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on **Friday, September 30**, is an important public space for truth telling and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. As part of our church's [living into the Apologies](#), let's join with others to help ensure the ongoing history and impacts of the residential schools system are never forgotten- and that together, we bring about

real change. [Please click here for resources and suggestions.](#) In honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, **the Regional Council Office will be closed on September 30.**

In Other News ...

St. Andrew's College #NoGalaGala

St. Andrew's College's third online #NoGalaGala is finally here! This event, released on **September 9**, features Brenda Baker as she shares her thoughts about the influence the United Church has had on her life and work through music, readings and conversation with three different hosts. Tickets can be purchased by making a minimum \$30 donation to St. Andrew's College through <https://standrews.ca/donate/donate-now/>. Please select the "NoGalaGala" Fund. The link will then be emailed within 2 business days. Registrants will be able to access this content exclusively on YouTube for six months. You can choose to watch on your own, or organize an evening with family, friends and/or congregants. The College is grateful for the support of those who trust them as they prepare disciples called to go out into the world boldly and humbly.

Healing the Healers Art of Living and Dying Module 2

The Sacred Art of Living Community is offering the second module of their four-part, world renowned *Art of Living & Dying* series, also known as *Healing the Healers*. All are welcome to join for this two-day online workshop on **September 30 and October 1**. Learn how to recognize the four dimensions of spiritual suffering with an emphasis forgiveness pain in this in-depth workshop that draws from the world's great wisdom traditions with a special emphasis on Native American and Hispanic traditions. [Click here](#) for more information and to register online. Register early to receive a special ritual item in the post in time for the program.

Letter from Western Affirming Coordinator at Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble

Whether your ministry is already 2SLGBTQIA-affirming, in the process, or wanting to start, the volunteer Affirming Ministry Coordinators are your touchstone. [Please click here to read an important personal note](#) from our Western Coordinator, the Rev. Eli Carter-Morgan. We take this chance to thank Eli for this teaching moment, and for all the support they offer the many communities in the Affirming process, on top of full-time paid ministry. Affirming work carried out by Regional Council seeks to support and encourage the work AUSE carries out. Please contact the Regional Council Office at any time if you have ideas, needs, or questions, and we can put you in touch with committee members. [Our Regional Affirming page and newsfeed is here.](#)

Action Invitation Following Israeli Army Raid of Human Rights Offices

Canada needs to hold Israel accountable for its mistreatment of children in Palestine and for silencing organizations that advocate on their behalf. As the war against Ukraine has shown, Canada can and does speak out against other human rights violations when it chooses to. The government of Israel has recently criminalized seven organizations that work tirelessly to relieve beleaguered Palestinians, including thousands of children. In the dawn hours of August 18, 2022, the government sent its army to raid the offices and confiscate the property of seven Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations: [Defense for Children International – Palestine \(DCI-P\)](#); [Al-Haq](#); [Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#); [Bisan Centre for Research and Development](#); [The Union of Agricultural Work Committees \(UAWC\)](#); and [The Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, Health Work Committees](#). The United Church is a partner of Defense for Children International-Palestine.

[Please use the action available here if you wish](#). As always, personal emails or phone calls are more effective.

Events and Learning Opportunities ...

94 Calls in 94 Days

September 12 - December 15; online for everyone; [Click here for more details](#)

#94in94 is a social media campaign intended to increase awareness of, and responses to, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action. The National Center for Truth and Reconciliation, Circles for Reconciliation, and Reconciliation Thunder will be emailing and posting one Call to Action for each day between September 12 and December 15 2022. [Fill out their form](#) to get updates and share how you or your community of faith plan to support this initiative this year!

Capital Region Interfaith Housing Plenary

Thursday, September 15, 9:30 am to 12 noon, St. Matthias Anglican Parish, Edmonton; [Information and Registration here](#).

Every year, the Capital Region Interfaith Housing community gets together to discuss the work they've been doing together as people of many faiths. Housing and homelessness challenges are on the rise for so many of our neighbours. Come join in to reflect on the work that has been done in the last while, and consider where to focus energies in the next while. All interested people are welcome to attend.

International Day of Peace Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, September 21, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm (Drop-in hours).

Mark *United Nations International Day of Peace* by walking the outdoor labyrinth at Providence Renewal Centre (3005 119 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta) and pray for peace in our world, one step at a time. A pamphlet on how to walk a labyrinth will be available at the arbor. This is a free event open to everyone. No registration is required. For information about the centre and its programming, please visit the [Providence Renewal Centre web site](#).

40 Days of Anti-Racism: Weekly Online Study Group

Tuesday, October 11 to Friday, November 25, 2022; [Please click here for full details](#)

These weekly study sessions offer an additional opportunity to participate in the United Church's upcoming [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#), as part of a group. The *40 Days* will be a time of rich learning, reflection and action. The groups will meet once a week for 1.5 hours each time. The exact date and time for the weekly sessions will be determined by consensus, based on the participants who register.

National Workshop on Trauma, Grief and Recovery

October 13; [Click here to register](#); Cost is \$15. sponsored by the United Church Rural Ministries Network. As churches move into the next seasons, learning to safely have conversations about the experiences of the past two years are needed. How might we rebuild or build anew relationships that may have been ruptured during COVID? Trauma-informed ministry explores some of the ways we might have reacted during the pandemic and how churches can meet the need for safety and reconnection. The workshops will be led by the Rev. Michele Rowe, who has completed training in traumatology and Grief Recovery, working in the area of Trauma-informed Ministry practice.

Bold Witness, Relentless Grace Conference

November 4-6. In-person in Calgary, with online options available; [Click here for full details](#)

This conference is offered by the Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils for everyone.

Can't attend in person? [Have a look here](#) for information about setting up satellite communities.

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995
www.northernspirirc.ca

Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister
ereaburn@united-church.ca

Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support
kjackson@united-church.ca