



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Learning and Gathering

September 27, 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 the Regional Council Office: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@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://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>.

**Upcoming Deadlines:** Friday, September 30, for the next News issue; and Friday, October 7, for the next Events issue.

### Family News

#### **Retirement: Kathy Jackson, Regional Office Administrator**

It is becoming known throughout the Regional Council that Kathy Jackson, Office Administrator, will retire on September 30. To view Kathy's words of "farewell", along with parting words and biographies from the 2022 Retirees, please visit the [Celebrants' page on the Regional Council web site](#).

As of **Monday, October 3rd**, the Pastoral Relations Minister, Earl Reaburn, will be the only staff person in the Northern Spirit Regional Council Office. Staff from other Regional Council Offices will be providing support as they are able.

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

#### **Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley: Homeless Choir Gowns**

A note: "My 19 friends and I are choir gowns looking for a new home. We're royal blue, with separate ivory collars. We've been abandoned by our former community of faith, remain inactive, and are left high and hanging by the few people who chose to stay with us. We can be multi-purposed. If you, or someone you know, has a need for costuming in your school, congregation or community group, please call Brenda at 780-542-5806 with your offer. There's still life in us! We await your call for a promise of a new home."

#### **Robertson-Wesley United Church, Edmonton: Kammerchor Capella Quirina Neuss Concert**

Do you love music? Then plan to attend, with your family and friends, this upcoming concert presented by the Robertson-Wesley Music Society! On **Tuesday, October 11, 2022**, at 7:30 pm, an exceptional chamber choir from Neuss, Germany, will be performing. The RW-Music Society is thrilled to be hosting this wonderful choir of 25 members and their Music Director, Joachim Neugart, as they perform pieces by Bach, Bevan, Dubra, Esenwalds, Hammerschmidt, Poulenc and others. Tickets are available from the church office in groups of 10 tickets for a discount (which allows you to bring your family and friends). To purchase less than 10 tickets, please purchase your tickets from TIX on the Square, using the discount code, RWMS2022. Tickets are \$23.50 each or 10 for \$200.00. See you there!

### **Salisbury United Church, Sherwood Park: Celebration!**

Please join the people of Salisbury United Church in a 25th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration, honouring the Rev. Britt Aerhart, and their 12 years of ministry together. On **Sunday, October 2, 2022**, the special worship service will be held at 10:30 am (MDT), followed by a "Soup's On" luncheon. Salisbury United Church is located at 2 Mission Street, Sherwood Park, Alberta.

### **St. Andrew's United Church, Edmonton: Annual Quilt Sale**

Please join the St. Andrew's Quilting Group at the church, 9915 148 Street, Edmonton, on **Saturday, October 15** from 10:00am to 2:00pm, for another fantastic opportunity to purchase Quilts of all sizes, Afghans, Table Runners, Pillows, Socks, Mitts, Scarves, and much more! Cash, Cheque or E-Transfers are accepted for Payment. The proceeds are donated to local charities.

### **St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie: Affirming Week**

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](mailto: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://northernspiritle.ca/news/regional-council-meeting/>. This link also leads to the Work Book for the Annual Meeting.

**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: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).

## 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**.

## 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](#).

## In Other News ...

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:fdn@united-church.ca) to stay up to date with the latest granting and Foundation news.

## Events and Learning Opportunities ...

### 94 Calls in 94 Days

**September 12 to 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!

### **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.

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