



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

## Regional Council News

September 6, 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](mailto: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://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>. There will be no Newsletter on September 20, so the following deadlines will apply: Friday, September 9, for a combined Events/News issue on September 13; and 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.

#### Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley

**Care of Creation Garden Tour:** Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley, hosted a self-directed “*Care of Creation*” Town and Country garden tour. Hosts were welcoming, sharing ideas, information, knowledge and admiring gardening creativity. With between 60-70 people of all ages. The local Handibus provided a vehicle and courtesy driver for seniors who wished to tour without the need to drive from site-to-site. We were delighted to send the proceeds of \$847.77 to support the work of the [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#).

**Blanket Exercise:** *The Blanket Exercise* returned for a second time to Drayton Valley on August 25. Once again, Elder Wilson Bearhead and daughter Seneca Dueck, led us through a meaningful, interactive, and educational session that tells the story of Canadian history from an Indigenous perspective and the legacy that colonialism created for us all.

**Covenanting with Northern Spirit Regional Council:** 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! The Gathering will begin at 4:30 pm (MDT), followed by a light meal at 5:00, and the Covenanting Service and Communion at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to join us in-person, please RSVP to: [livingspirituniteddv@gmail.com](mailto:livingspirituniteddv@gmail.com). Knowing numbers of expected guests will be helpful! If you prefer to join from the comfort of your home, please contact the above email address so that the necessary information can be forwarded to you.

#### St. Andrew's United Church, Spruce Grove: 100+ Years - our Continuing Journey

You are invited to join in as St. Andrew's celebrates its Centennial Milestone and looks towards its future! A special worship service will be held on **Sunday, September 25**, at 10:00 am, (MDT), followed by fellowship and cake! St. Andrew's United Church is located at 1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove, Alberta.

## Featured 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.**

### **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.](#)

### **Invitation to Action 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.

## In Other News ...

### **United Church Representation at the World Council of Churches**

The United Church of Canada is well-represented at the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly, August 31 to September 8, in Frankfurt, Germany. The United Church delegation includes two members of the Northern Spirit Regional Council: the Rev. Dr. Catherine MacLean, Ministry Personnel at St. Paul's United Church, Edmonton; and Gail Allen, Lay Representative from Garneau United Church, Edmonton. Click [here for more information about the Assembly](#), and links to information about the WCC.

### **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.

### **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**.

### **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.

---

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995  
[www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca)

Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister  
[ereaburn@united-church.ca](mailto:ereaburn@united-church.ca)

Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support  
[kjackson@united-church.ca](mailto:kjackson@united-church.ca)