



Greetings,

After eighteen months in the role of Community of Faith Stewardship Support I have had the pleasure to virtually meet and work with a number of generosity-keepers from the Northern Spirit Region. Through phone calls, stewardship training programs, and at the virtual annual meeting last year, I have started to get to know the amazing, faith-filled people of this Region. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in [contact with me](#).

One way we may have connected over the past year, or could in 2023, is through the learning program, **Called to be the Church: The Journey**. These trainings are designed for community of faith leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase generosity and deepen connections within your community of faith. There are currently two different modules to help with this work. One Northern Spirit participant provided this program feedback, *"Could you tell someone in the space between two floors on an elevator how their life would be transformed by giving to your congregation's mission? This program will help you frame the answer, and give you courage to speak it out loud."* You can register or [learn more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission & Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you, across the whole United Church, in 2021, \$240,000 in Mission & Service funding supported a number of ministries in Northern Spirit. Your generosity through Mission & Service strengthened camps, chaplaincies, economic justice, theological training, and more.

Beyond our borders, Mission & Service also provided \$500,000 in Covid-19 emergency funding, plus \$250,000 towards Covid-19 vaccines. This is on top of support provided to our partners around the globe. And this continues to be a priority as Mission & Service is receiving [donations](#) for the crisis in Ukraine. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Northern Spirit, and around the world. Thank you for your gifts.

Sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service is an effective way to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage generosity in your community of faith. The pandemic has changed many things, including the way Minutes for Mission are distributed and told, however they certainly have not gone away. New stories are frequently [posted](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos](#) that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you, the people of Northern Spirit Region. I have been impressed by the dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness and joy of the people here. You have found meaningful ways to faithfully create community during a challenging time. It is amazing and so are you.

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support for Northern Spirit Region

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