



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

October 4, 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 [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 Newsletter deadlines: Friday, October 7 for the next Events issue, and Friday, October 14 for the next News issue.

#### **Important update: trying to manage this newsletter without Kathy Jackson; an invitation for your patience and support**

Admin coordinator Kathy Jackson retired September 30 and after 25 years of ministry, she leaves big shoes to fill. An earlier attempt at hiring fell through, so Kathy's work, and support for Pastoral Relations Minister Earl Reaburn, is being shared across three Regional Councils. A more complete update on how Kathy's work is being covered will be posted to the website and shared with you.

**For now: an update on our newsletter.** Bev Diebert is Living Skies' newsletter coordinator, among many other things. She has offered to coordinate NS' newsletter until we can hire. She will take the lead on receiving newsletter submissions, and will be checking the [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca) email as soon as she has access (which is not quite yet.) She can also be reached at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)

**Newsletter deadlines** will continue to be Friday afternoon, and the newsletter will still be sent out on Tuesdays for now. The same approach applies: articles of no more than 100 words, with a link to more information. A nice, clear headline is appreciated, and events need to include "who, what, when, where". Local events should be shared via the events calendar as your first choice. [Here's the submission form](#), and here's [the calendar itself](#).

Your patience is very much appreciated, especially as we prepare for Northern Spirit's regional meeting online next week. Welcome, Bev, to Northern Spirit newsletter-wrangling, and thank you very much!

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

#### **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!

#### **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.](#)

### **Vegreville United Church: Busy Fall**

Vegreville United Church invites you to participate in any of their fall events. On **Wednesday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00 pm**, they will hold a Ham Supper (Take Out or Dine In) with payment by donation. Next, everyone is welcome to their Messy Church event on **Friday, October 21st from 5:00-7:00 pm**. Come for Games, Crafts, Bible Stories, Music, and Supper. Please call the office at 780-632-2338 or email [vegucc@telusplanet.net](mailto:vegucc@telusplanet.net) if you are interested in joining in on the fun.

High Level Bridge Band ([www.highlevelbridgeband.com](http://www.highlevelbridgeband.com)) is coming to Vegreville United Church on **October 29th at 2:00 pm** - tickets will soon be available on EventBrite.

Advent Festival - **November 25th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm; November 26th from 10:30 am - 4:30 pm**. More details to follow.

Any questions about the above events, call 780-632-2338 or email [vegucc@telusplanet.net](mailto:vegucc@telusplanet.net)

### **Historical Society Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the United Church Historical Society will be held **Saturday, 22 October 2022 at 10:00am** at Spirit of Hope United Church, 7909 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW, Edmonton. Business will be followed by a speaker, yet to be determined. For further information, contact Dr. Robert MacDonald, Secretary, at 403-282-2014 or [rjmacdon@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rjmacdon@ucalgary.ca).

## **Featured News ...**

### **October 4: vigils to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people**

Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigils take place across the country on October 4 every year to honour the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse, two-spirit, and transgender people who have been murdered or gone missing as part of what a National Inquiry has determined to be a genocide. The vigils are also times for comforting family members and friends mourning those lost to violence. Today day is an important continuation of and companion to September 30, Orange Shirt Day; the two days are deeply related. Many communities host vigils; it has become difficult to find listings of every gathering, so please check your local media, community announcements, and social media and please: attend if you can.

### **Regional meeting coming up: registration deadline October 7**

A final reminder to register for our **October 14-15** regional online meeting! [Sign up here](#). (It's not necessary to send regrets, though you will be missed.) A message with the Zoom link will be sent all registrants next week. Documents for the meeting [will also be posted here](#); whether you can attend or not, you're invited to read the many updates on the life and work of the Regional Council. More documents will be added next week.

### **End the Korean War Appeal; 7,000 more signatures needed**

At this eight-month mark of The United Church of Canada's 10,000 Signature Korea Peace Appeal, the campaign has moved [2,812 people to sign the appeal](#). Korea Peace Appeal champions continue to invite you to sign and to encourage others to participate. This is a special support and solidarity action requested by our long-time church partners in South Korea, where the continued state of war has a real impact, especially on family reunification. [Please find the petition and background here](#).

## **Affirming Connections Leaders' Day, October 29**

This is actually an Event notice, but we're sneaking it in because it's of special relevance to Northern Spirit. From conversations hosted by Northern Spirit's Affirming Task Group over the past two years, we know that rural, remote, and smaller communities face some specific and unique challenges in any Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ affirming journeys. And they have specific gifts they bring to that journey, along with real impacts. On **October 29**, Alberta's and the United Church's own Affirming Connections will host a gathering looking at "Small town- big impact", honouring the role of smaller communities in creating Affirming cultures and spaces, and discussing needs, supports, and ideas. Your presence is important! Please try to send a rep or two from your ministry. [Click here for full details](#). [Tickets are available here](#).

## **In Other News ...**

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

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