



**NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
The United Church of Canada  
**Learning and Gathering**

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

---

**Regional Council News**  
**November 29, 2022**

News of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.  
If you have news to share, please write a short description and send it  
to [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).

Our local events calendar for United Church ministries is coming back to life!  
[Click here to view it.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#)

---

### **Family News**

#### **TODAY is Giving Tuesday! (Mission and Service)**

After the headlines fade, the emergency remains. You can help. This year, Giving Tuesday gifts will support the United Church's vital [emergency response work](#). Your gift will help provide critical support like food, water, shelter, personal care, rebuilding efforts, and trauma counselling. Your gifts will be put to work as soon as they are needed in the areas where they are needed most. And your support will be there to help rebuild long after the headlines fade. Every gift counts. [Make a life-saving gift](#) this Giving Tuesday. [Read more here.](#)

#### **\*new Invitation to Northern Spirit Ministry Personnel**

Join your colleagues Catherine, Britt and Blaine for an informal holiday gathering on **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** at 1pm at the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton. Lunch will be served.

\*Must RSVP as space is booked: contact [catherine@stpaulsunited.org](mailto:catherine@stpaulsunited.org).

#### **\*new Letter from the Regional Council chair: Planning for care and caution this Advent and Christmas**

Rev Helen Reed offers some food for thought as we celebrate being together in person, online, or both this Advent and Christmas. She asks, "As you plan your Christmas Eve services, those services that we hope will be filled with Christmas Spirit and Christian Love incarnate, would you please consider how you will be loving your neighbour at this time? Would you encourage mask wearing? Especially during singing, would you encourage spacing?" [Please click here for the full letter](#), as you consider how your community of faith will hold space that is both safer and sacred.

#### **Welcome to Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant**

We welcome Chantal Winslow as the new Executive Assistant! She will work with Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine, as well as areas of work that include all three Regional Councils. Chantal will work closely with Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy, and will bring her skills of administration, communication, and planning to key work such as: the minutes for the three Regional Council Executives and the annual meetings; planning Shannon's schedule; communications and connecting work; and more. [Please click here for Chantal's bio.](#)

#### **Pastoral Relations Minister on medical leave**

Pastoral Relations Minister Earl Reaburn is on medical leave until at least December 14<sup>th</sup>. Your

prayers and support are most welcome; Earl tells us the situation is not life threatening. For now, Wendy Galloway has offered to do some coverage - many thanks, Wendy. Her email: [wgalloway@telusplanet.net](mailto:wgalloway@telusplanet.net). Jes Beckerley will continue to be support staff to pastoral relations. Thank you to the people of the Regional Council for your patience and understanding.

---

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

### **\*new Christmas Craft Market**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10-4pm**

The Christmas Market has been happening for over two decades. We have a variety of vendors selling items from handmade products to commercial vendors such as Norwex and Epicure on both floors of our church. There is usually a hot lunch with soup put together by our Heavenly Hospitality group for purchase at the downstairs concession on the date of the sale. Entry to our sale is by donation. This fundraiser supports the life and work of our church in the community of Mill Woods. For more information, [click here](#).

### **\*new An Interfaith Service of Lament & Light: Covid Sorrows ... Covid Blessings**

McDougall United Church (10025 – 101 Street, Edmonton), in partnership with the Interfaith Centre for Education & Action, and the Muslim Association of Canada, invite you to A SERVICE OF LAMENT & LIGHT: COVID SORROWS ... COVID BLESSINGS, **Sunday, December 18, 2022 - 4:00 pm** at McDougall United Church. This will be an Interfaith Service of Remembrance, Compassion and Community as we seek healing from Covid and all that it has taken from us, and who it has taken from us. This will be an in-person service, but also available via Zoom. A reception will follow, parking is free, and masking is strongly recommended as we respect the care and well-being of all. For information, please [visit our website](#), or contact [pastuckma@gmail.com](mailto:pastuckma@gmail.com) / call 780-428-1818.

### **\*new Introducing the United Church Rural Ministries Network**

The mission of UCRMN is to “share the successes, the opportunities and the culture of the Whole People of God of the Rural Church, throughout rural Canada, specifically in the United Church of Canada,” with an awareness we will be connecting with ecumenical partners who share rural communities with us. It is a goal to reach all rural communities of faith, whether ‘lay-led’ or with resident order of ministry folk.” [Click here for their website, resources and more!](#) Get to know this network that exists to connect, support, nurture, and challenge rural and remote communities of faith.

---

## **Featured News .....**

### **Some key Regional Committees need your help!**

Can you share the load - a shared job makes the work easier! Helen Reed, Chair of the Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive, explains some of the urgent needs for your time and skills. Please [see the invitation from Helen](#), and let us know how you can help.

### **New stories from the Being Good Relations Network**

The Being Good Relations Network covers Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds Regional Councils, and focuses on living out the TRC Calls to Action, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Caretakers' Calls to the United Church, and other commitments. Anyone can join the network, which focuses on accompanying each other, and faith communities and wider communities,

on that wider journey to right relations. Have a look at the [Network page's newsfeed](#) to see updates from communities of faith involved in Being Good Relations, shared in the spirit of sparking your creative commitments and lifting your spirits. New members are welcome! Want to join the email list for occasional updates? Have a story to share Email Julie at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

### **Book a time to talk about stewardship**

Are you thinking about year-end or wanting to make a stewardship plan for 2023? Would you like to talk about legacy giving to your congregation, but don't know where to start? Do you have questions about growing giving to Mission & Service? Vicki Nelson is your stewardship support person and is available to share resources, answer questions, or brainstorm with. Don't know where to start? Book a phone or zoom conversation with Vicki today using [this link](#).

### **Get Support to Create your Stewardship Campaign!**

If your congregation hasn't undertaken a stewardship campaign in a while, consider registering for a 2-week learning module on creating a congregational giving program with Called to be the Church: The Journey. There are 2 opportunities to participate in the program coming up in January 2023. [Learn more here](#).

### **Lawsuit against the UCC on maternity homes; and apology resources**

The United Church has been [named in a lawsuit](#) related to its role in running maternity homes, often known as "homes for unwed mothers". [Read the General Council statement here](#). The United Church ran a number of such homes, often with other denominations. In 2020, the Church apologized for "...our participation in the separation of mothers from their children. Our role in pressured, coerced, or forced adoptions created a legacy of pain and suffering. We helped create a culture of shame." Please see, and refer people to, this [link for all resources related to the 2020 apology](#). Living into this apology is the work of the whole church, and all members of our United Church community are urged to read and reflect on these resources. Thank you for making your community of faith aware.

---

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

### **\*new Video license purchase for 2023 open: deadline December 9**

Are you interested in having a movie night or series as part of your church's ministry? If so, consider getting a Video License for your community of faith to show films and tv shows in and outside of worship on site at your church. Please visit <https://buyingunited.net/video-licensing> to explore what video licenses could do for you, and to apply! Deadline for this round is December 9th, 2022.

### **Deadline for Mission & Service Transfers Changed!**

Beginning in January 2023, the deadline for Mission & Service transfers will be January 15. That means that pastoral charges need to make their final 2022 Mission & Service transfer by **January 15, 2023**. We are making this change because it will improve our accountability, accuracy, and transparency when reporting back to you on annual results. We also expect that January 15 is closer to when the majority of communities of faith have finalized—or nearly finalized—their year-end financial statements. If you have questions or need support to set up electronic transfers, please contact Nicole Chicote at 1-800-268-3781 x3072 or [nchicote@united-church.ca](mailto:nchicote@united-church.ca).

### **\*new Summary of the first meeting of General Council Executive**

Following the end of the initial meeting of General Council 44, a new Executive has also begun its work. It's Advent, we're all a bit or a lot tired, and there's so much to absorb. As you're able, though, [have a look at this concise summary](#) of the important business that was before the

Executive.

### **Gifts with Vision**

The United Church of Canada provides Mission & Service support to partners for their ongoing work in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and right here in Canada. Gifts with Vision turns gift giving into an opportunity to do something extra for our church partners. Through Gifts with Vision, you give gifts to friends or family to support specific partner activities. With your gifts, we help create healthy places to live, promote justice, provide social services, and enliven worship. Check out the [online gift catalogue](#) today!

### **Northern Spirit regional annual meeting wraps up; hold May 4-7 2023!**

Notes on the proceedings and from the small groups are now available on the [Regional Council meeting page](#), along with summary notes thanks to Susan Waldie and Bev Diebert (Living Skies). Please hold **Thursday May 4 - Sunday May 7** for a hoped-for in person meeting of the Regional Council, location to be announced. People are needed for the planning committee! Please email [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca) if you are interested in helping create this long-delayed meeting space.

### **New United Church national insurance plan for your ministry starting December 1**

Effective **December 1, 2022**, The United Church of Canada is launching an insurance program aimed at providing United Church ministries with more affordable and accessible property and liability insurance coverage. UCC Protect/United Assurance insurance offers coverage to address the unique needs of congregations and incorporated ministries such as camps, seniors' homes, and education centres. This plan is the only insurance program endorsed and funded by the General Council Office. [See these Frequently Asked Questions](#) for details on the transition from UCC Protect to United Assurance. [Here's a website summary](#) to share with your Trustees, Board or Council.

---

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