



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

November 1, 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 [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, November 4 for the next Events issue, and Friday, November 11 for the next News issue.

### Family News

#### Welcome to Chloe Burns, new admin staff!

Northern Spirit is delighted to announce the hiring of our new administrative staff, Chloe Burn. Chloe lives and works in Treaty 6 territory, Edmonton, Alberta. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alberta, where she majored in both English and Women's & Gender Studies. She has experience working in administration, events, education, and the arts. She has been singing, celebrating, and gathering with the United Church for her whole life, and is looking forward to this new experience and opportunity! [Please read more here.](#)

#### 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.

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

#### NEW: Thank you letter from the Bissell Centre to Mission and Service

[Click here to read a short letter and story from Edmonton's Bissell Centre](#), with whom the United Church in Northern Spirit has a long and rich relationship. And thank you to Bissell for taking the time to show us how our givings make a difference.

### Featured News ...

#### NEW: 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". Further information on this case will come from General Council, and will be shared with the Regional Council. 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.

## 40 Days of Anti-Racism continues

This coming week marks the mid-way point for the [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#). Thank you for your continued engagement! [Please click here for the latest newsletter](#), which details whose stories are coming up this week.

## NEW: Canadians at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 November 8–18 and participating at home

Against a backdrop of multiple climate crises and a growing sense of urgency to address the climate emergency, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP27 will be held from **November 8–18**, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. A [KAİROS](#) and [For The Love of Creation](#) COP27 delegation will be attending this critical gathering with the accreditation of The United Church of Canada. This delegation forefronts communities most impacted by climate change and most marginalized from the decision-making tables. The [12 person delegation](#) includes women peacebuilders, land defenders, Indigenous and youth leaders from the Global South and Turtle Island. [Please click here for the full newsletter](#) and its many resources.

## Climate justice vigils invitation coming up Nov 11-13

The ecumenical group For the Love of Creation invites groups across Canada to [host candlelight vigils in their own communities on the weekend of November 11-13, 2022](#). This will be a time to reflect and share our love for our planet, our concern for our fellow human beings at risk from climate change, and our hopes for truly transformative action to happen through the governments gathering for the United Nations “Conference of the Parties” (COP). This is a meeting of governments who have signed on to the global climate action agreement. This includes Canada- and US.

## In Other News ...

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

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.

### 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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