



# NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## The United Church of Canada

### Regional Council News

November 15, 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 18 for the next Events issue, and Friday, November 25 for the next News issue.

### Family News

#### **NEW: 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.](#)

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

Pastoral Relations Minister Earl Reaburn is on medical leave until at least the end of November. 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: [walloway@telusplanet.net](mailto:walloway@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: Vegreville United Church: Senior's Luncheon**

Vegreville United Church invites you to their Senior's Luncheon on **Wednesday, November 16** from **11:00am to 1:00pm**. Join them for soup, sandwiches, fellowship and fun. Any questions, call 780-632-2338; email [veguuc@telusplanet.net](mailto:veguuc@telusplanet.net); see their website for Facebook for more information: [www.vegrevilleunitedchurch.com](http://www.vegrevilleunitedchurch.com) or [Vegreville United Church | Facebook](#)

#### **Spirit West United Church: Fall Supper and Silent Auction**

Spirit West United Church invites you to a fun-filled night on **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** to enjoy a Ham Supper with all the trimmings and a fun and exciting silent auction. Doors open at 5:00 pm for a social hour and to start the silent auction. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm. Further details, including pricing, are available on our website [spiritwest.org](http://spiritwest.org) or by calling the church office at 780-481-1406 or by email at [spiritw@telus.net](mailto:spiritw@telus.net).

#### **NEW: "Advent: Roadmaps of Grace"**

... a [Contemplative Gathering](#) co-sponsored by St. Andrew's College and the Living Skies Regional Council. Join us at either **10am or 2pm on Friday November 25** for this hour-long contemplative pause in the midst of the inevitable busyness. Registration is here: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/contemplative-gathering-advent-roadmaps-of-grace-fri-nov-25/2022-11-25/>

For more information, please be in touch with Dr. Bernon Lee at [bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

## **NEW: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas**

A BENEFIT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENT SUPPORT

**November 28 at 7:30 pm** at Winspear Centre. Join in this festive tradition heralding Advent and Christmas through scripture readings and song. Thrill to the music of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus and Handbell Ringers. Sing carols along with the Davis Concert Organ!

All seats: \$25 (+service charge); Winspear Box Office: 780-428-1414.

<https://my.winspearcentre.com/8889/8890>

## **Featured News ...**

### **NEW: 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: 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: 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! - <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

### **NEW: 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)

### **NEW: Transgender Day of Remembrance this Sunday, November 20**

[Transgender and gender non-conforming people](#) face exceptional violence and exclusion all over the world. Every November 20, Trans Day of Remembrance creates a space to mourn those murdered over the past year, and to work for change. [Please see the United Church's worship resources here](#).

Work on full celebration of gender diversity continues all year long. Have a look at [Affirming Connections' expansive list of resources](#), including those under "Gender". [PIE Day](#) is coming up on Tuesday March 14 2023, and is another great (and fun) way to honour diversity in gender identities and expressions.

### **NEW: 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](#).

### **NEW: 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](#).

### **Updated: 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 ...**

#### **Northern Spirit regional annual meeting notes posted; 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**

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.

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