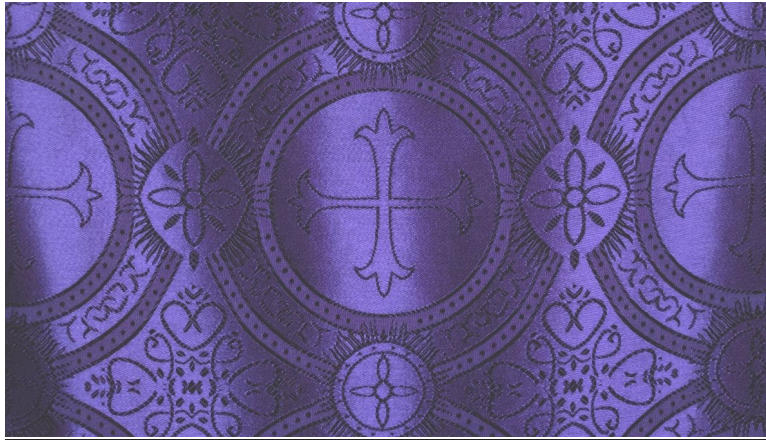




NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional News: February 21, 2023



News of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news to share, please write a short description, with a clear headline and a link to more information, and send it to 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

★ Pastoral Relations Minister Retiring

The Northern Spirit Executive has received & accepted a letter informing them that Rev. Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be retiring as of the end of June, 2023, after 18 years of work within this Region.

Annual Meeting Save the Date & Call for Volunteers

If you missed this send-out, [click here for new 2023 Annual Meeting information and a call for volunteers.](#) Annual Meeting information will be continue to be updated [on the website page](#) as well. Registration will open soon.

Featured News

★ Notice: Historical Journal Distribution

For a number of reasons, including health issues, the ANW Conference Historical Society Journal was delayed in being sent. It has now been distributed, but a number of journals sent out have been returned, perhaps because of address changes. If you have usually received a copy but have moved and would like a copy, **please contact R. MacDonald**, 613 25th Avenue N.W., Calgary, T2M 2B1. As well if those corporate members (congregations, UCWs) would like an extra copy, please contact the above address. People who have been members or would like to become a member, memberships (\$30 for individual, \$60 for corporate) can be obtained from **A. Cooper**, 207 Rhatigan Road W, Edmonton T6R 1A2. — *R. MacDonald, Secretary*

You're invited: Being Good Relations Network survey

If you haven't completed the Being Good Relations Network survey, please do it ASAP, as the BGRN is looking forward to getting your answers soon!

The Being Good Relations Network is a United Church-based network covering all of AB, Northeast BC, and Yellowknife, working alongside Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils. It also includes relationships with four Indigenous communities of faith, emerging faith and spiritual circles, the wider Indigenous church, and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit organizations in our communities and provinces/ territory. All people supportive of right relations between Indigenous peoples and non- Indigenous people are welcome.

If you're committed to right relations, the network wants to hear from you as it works on its future path. [Click here for the survey](#). If you'd like to know the questions in advance, [a non-fillable PDF is available here](#). And the [network's page is here](#).

Wider Church News & Resources

February is Black History Month

The celebration of February as Black History (or African Heritage) Month has been officially recognized in Canada since 1996, and is a time to honour the contributions and struggles of peoples of African descent. Check out all the latest [worship resources](#), [anti-racism webinars](#), [books](#), and [newsletters](#) available. Be sure to also read the [Black History Month worship blogs](#) when you scroll down on the worship page.

★ Fundraising Appeal: Help the people of Northern Syria and Türkiye

The United Church of Canada has launched a [fundraising appeal](#) to support the people of northern Syria and Türkiye in recovering from two powerful and destructive earthquakes. The United Church, as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, has joined the Humanitarian Coalition in asking Canadians to [give to help those impacted by the crisis](#). You can also help by [writing to your Member of Parliament](#) to ask the Canadian government to support lifting sanctions against Syria to facilitate full humanitarian access.

★ 40 Days of Anti-Racism Feedback

Did you participate in [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) last fall? What did you like about the program? And what suggestions do you have as the 2023 program is planned? Please complete this [short feedback survey](#) and let us know your thoughts!

General Council Call for Nominations

The United Church of Canada's General Council has launched a call for Nominations. There are exciting and different opportunities available during this current recruitment, including the **National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee** and the **Task Group to Review the Roles of the Moderator and General Secretary**. We encourage those with relevant gifts, skills and experience to apply. The deadline for receiving nominations is **Thursday March 23**. [Click here to see the current opportunities, under "Committee Vacancies"](#).

Doctor of Ministry Program Now Open ... Applications Welcome!

St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) is now accepting applications for its fully ecumenical Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program in Contextual and Practical Theology, to begin in September 2023. STU's DMin program is a cohort-based program for those who wish to complete a graduate degree without having to relocate. The program will be offered using a hybrid format of in-person and online learning. Personal mentoring and guidance are at the heart of this program. For more information, please be in touch with [the Director of the program, Dr. David Harrison](#), or [the College Recruitment Officer](#).

In Case You Missed It:

Letter from our Chair: Doing Your End of Year Bits

When a year ends we all seem to hope that the next year will be more serene and calm and all will go well. We forget that when one year ends there is a bunch of work to be done to be really sure that we've tucked it away where it belongs. I think that this is the time of year when our administrators, bookkeepers and accountants need our prayers and support the most... To read Helen Reed's full letter, with helpful reminders of what needs to be done at this time of year, [click here](#).

Is it time for your professional boundary refresher?

All ministry personnel, candidates, and licensed lay worship leaders are required to refresh every 5 years. If you have not taken a boundaries training since 2018, now is your time! Here is the schedule for upcoming online trainings:

Intro to Boundaries: **March 18th** from **11am-3:30pm**

Social Media Boundaries Refresher: **February 25** from **11am-2:30pm**

Finances & Gifts Boundaries Refresher: **March 1** from **11am-2:30pm**

Retiring with Grace Boundaries Refresher: **March 24** from **11am-2:30pm**

To register for the online workshops

visit: <https://catalog.churchx.ca/catalog?pagename=Boundaries>. Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse, will also be offering **an in person opportunity** in Edmonton sometime in September. More information will be provided at a later date.

New Year.... New Annual Report!

It is once again time to start compiling Annual Reports! A reminder to please submit a copy of your annual report to the Northern Spirit Office, at northernspirit@united-church.ca.

2023 Annual Declarations

It's a new year AND... it's time for alllll ministry personnel (including candidates and honorary associate ministers) to locate your most recent criminal record check, visit ChurchHub, and complete your annual declaration! First time doing this? Forget what you did last year? NO PROBLEM! Vocational Minister, Laura Fouhse, is here to help (contact info is on the website) or you can follow the handy dandy how-to guide [by clicking here](#). Why leave for tomorrow what you could do today?!

Financial and Ministry Assessments

Have you completed your Financial and Ministry Assessment yet? These provide valuable information to the Region, and help connect Communities of Faith with the resources they need. [To access the forms, click here](#). If you are unsure whether your Community's Assessment has been completed already, or if you have any further questions, please contact the Northern Spirit Regional Office.

Embracing the Spirit grants on pause; lots of other options available to your ministry

A number of ministries in our Regional Council have benefitted from Embracing the Spirit grants over the years. As The United Church of Canada embraces the exciting transition into the new strategic plan it will pause some current granting opportunities, including Embracing the Spirit (Innovation, Growth, and New Ministry Grants). However: please read on, because there are still many, many national grants available to your ministry. [Please click here for an overview](#).

United in Learning

United in Learning, the church's main online events service, has moved to an exciting new platform! [Have a look here](#). The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).



Let's stay connected!
Click here to learn more about
the new Northern Spirit Regional
Council Directory!



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