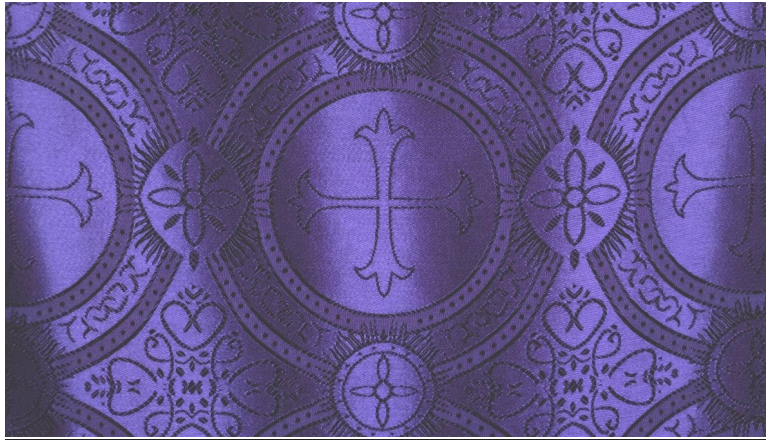




NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional News: March 8, 2023



If you have news or events 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

★In Our Thoughts...

Rev. Ray Leppard, who worked and served in our Region for over 35 years, [passed away in February](#). Please keep his family in your thoughts. Rev. Leppard's life and work will be forever remembered & appreciated.

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.

★ Pastoral Relations Minister Job Posting

The Northern Spirit Regional Council is seeking an individual to fill the role of Pastoral Relations Minister. For more information and for the full job description, [please click here](#).

★ Annual Meeting Preparation Continues...

[Click here](#) to read a letter from Helen Reed, Convenor, with updates about ongoing Annual Meeting planning! Registration is expected to open soon.

Featured News

★ Moderator's PIE Day Message

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne invites you and your faith communities to [participate in PIE Day](#), a time to be PUBLIC, INTENTIONAL, and EXPLICIT in welcoming and affirming Two-Spirit or LGBTQIA+ people in our churches, families, and society. PIE Day is **March 14**, a day to celebrate with people across Canada, and maybe with some pie too! Please [share this video](#) in your worship services and on social media, and check out all the [PIE Day resources](#) available.

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*

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Webinar Resource: Managing Your Church's Charitable Status

This recorded webinar covers rules and best practices for managing the CRA charitable status of your congregation, including when you're in the midst of an organizational change, when you're in the midst of a church amalgamation or closure, or when you've inadvertently lost your charitable status. To access the webinar, [login to CHURCHx](#), and click on the "Webinars for Church Treasurers". Scroll to the bottom to find the "Library of Timeless Content", [where this useful webinar can be found](#). [Click here for more information about ongoing Webinar sessions for church treasurers](#).

★ Stewardship Best Practices – 4 Part Course Starts this month!

Get a team together and participate in this transformational course! There are several different date and time options, all starting the week of **March 20, 2023**. As part of a small group experience with 4 other communities of faith, you will learn how to inspire and invite deeper generosity, and build a culture of gratitude. With one-on-one coaching support you will plan your next steps to help your community of faith increase revenue in order to better fulfil your church's purpose. Check out [this link](#) to get more information and to register. Or contact Vicki Nelson to get more info - vnelson@united-church.ca

★ United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel Newsletter

[UNJPPI's March 2023 newsletter](#) includes: a recording of the Toronto worship service with Jonathan Kuttab, advocacy opportunities to address the escalating violence in Israel and Palestine, a link to order fair trade dates, upcoming opportunities for educational tours to Israel Palestine, information to join the upcoming *Voices from the Holy Land Film Salon* and much more. [The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel \(UNJPPI\)](#) UNJPPI brings together United Church members, adherents and friends in partnership with Palestinians and Israelis working for peace. We believe it is important to understand the complex dimensions of the path to peace in Palestine and Israel. In our monthly newsletter, we curate relevant resources such as news articles, advocacy campaigns, webinars, book studies, films screenings and travel opportunities. We hope you will use these resources to learn more and help in the way of peace.

★ United Church Manual 2023 Copies Available for Pre-Order

You can now pre-order a printed copy of your new United Church Manual 2023 and have it shipped directly to you. The cost is \$24.95 tax included, shipping will be extra. Contact Leona at l laundry@united-church.ca or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6141. Orders are due by March 17, 2023.

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!

In Case You Missed It:

Did you remember...

... to do your Annual Statistics Forms?

... to file your Charitable Status form with CRA?

... to send your Annual Report to the Regional Office?

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](#).

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"](#).

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**

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.

Worship Resources:

See United Church [Worship Resources](#) for upcoming Sundays and special celebrations.

[International Women's Day - March 8, 2023](#)

[Third Sunday in Lent - March 12, 2023](#)

[National Affirming/PIE Day - March 14, 2023](#)

[Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19, 2023](#)

[International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21, 2023](#)

[Earth Hour - March 25, 2023](#)

[Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26, 2023](#)



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



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
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