



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional News: March 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.



★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★
[Click here to view upcoming events.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#)

Family News

★ **Registration for the 2023 Annual Meeting is now OPEN!**

[Click here to register for the 2023 Northern Spirit Annual Meeting: May 4 - 7, in Camrose Alberta.](#) More information about the Annual Meeting can be found [on this page](#), and info will continue to be updated here as details are finalized! We are greatly looking forward to gathering together in May! *If you have questions about registering for the meeting, please contact the office: 780-435-3995 / NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca*

★ **CALLING ALL HUNGRY CLERGY!**

This past December, forty Ministry Personnel from around the Region met together for lunch with no agenda other than to share each other's company. Let's do it again. Details are still being worked out but **Mark The Date — May 24, 2023.**

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](#).

Featured News

★ 10 More Ways to Work Towards Anti-Racism:

Today, March 21, is [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#). Last year, to honour this special day the United Church posted [10 Ways to Work Towards Anti-Racism](#). This year, we are sharing [10 More Ways to Work Towards Anti-Racism](#). Please feel free to share widely on social media and in your community of faith, and continue to invest in anti-racism work!

★ Votes for the remit process now underway!

Votes for the remit process are now underway. In 2022, at General Council 44, the National Indigenous Council proposed that the church identify and remove any structural barriers that would prevent the development and sustaining of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. When any requested change in church structure will alter the Basis of Union of *The Manual*, as this will, a Category 3 Remit is required. **Approval of this remit will enable the creation of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.** The remit requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. Abstentions are considered a vote against the remit. Voting will take until **March 31, 2024*** (note that you have a full year to register your vote). [Click here for more information about this remit!](#)

★ CCS Fridays: March 31st, "Addiction and Faith"

Ed Treat from the Centre of Addiction and Faith believes churches are poised to make a dent in the opioid crisis. He'll help us explore the scope for developing an addiction ministry team that takes actions such as providing resources on addiction in libraries, getting narcan training, and training people to support those living with or recovering from addiction. We'll have a chance to explore addiction and recovery in a Biblical text. The Centre of Addiction and Faith is committed to helping ministers and leaders learn how faith communities can better understand addiction, and to better address the spiritual needs of those afflicted. [Join the Centre for Christian Studies for this CCS Friday](#) on **March 31 from 12:00 to 1:00 CDT**. There is no charge but [you must register here](#).

★ Leadership Counts Survey

The United Church is blessed to have rich diversity in its leadership. Our diversity makes us more capable of living out God's mission in our world. In sometimes ground-breaking ways, the United Church has affirmed commitments to supporting the full participation of everyone. To help us more fully live out these commitments we have been collecting data, since November 2021, as part of the [Leadership Counts](#) voluntary survey to learn more about the breadth of identities present among The United Church of Canada's ministry personnel, General Council office and regional council office staff, and members of national committees. This includes racial identities, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, languages, and more. **You can still participate:** If you are a ministry

personnel or a member of a national committee and have yet to participate in this project, you can go to [ChurchHub.ca](https://www.churchhub.ca) and complete the survey through the My Identity Data tile. Your unique link to complete the survey can be accessed from the My Identity Data tile on ChurchHub. Lay people on national committees who are not yet registered for ChurchHub can contact leadershipcounts@united-church.ca to be enrolled. **Learn More:** You can read more about this [Leadership Counts project](#), including why it's important for the whole church, and how we keep the data secure and confidential.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Spring Curiosity Cohort: Reimagining Sunday Morning

Are you curious about what church might look like outside the box? Or outside your walls? The Curiosity Cohort is for those faithful folk who are curious about what church might look like if we did things a bit differently. Join with other curious folk to learn how other churches have experimented, discuss what might be possible within your community, and get ready to get curious! We don't have answers but we love questions! Join us for five weeks on Zoom, **Thursdays 12:00-1:00 p.m. EDT (March 23-April 20)**. Find out more, and [register](#).

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. 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.

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?

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*

Worship Resources:

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

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

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

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

[Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday - April 2, 2023](#)

[Maundy Thursday - April 6, 2023](#)

[Good Friday - April 7, 2023](#)

[Holy Saturday - April 8, 2023](#)

[Easter Sunday - April 9, 2023](#)



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Scan the QR Code,
OR click here to register
for the 2023 Northern Spirit
Annual Meeting!



Living Our Faith ✈