



## NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional News: April 4, 2023

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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](mailto: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.](#)

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### Family News

★ **We join in celebration** with Rev. Igbekele Oluwayemi, his wife Lola, and their family & community, as they welcome & celebrate the naming of their daughter, Peniel Michelle Oluwayemi, born March 26, 2023. ♥

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

**Register before April 15** to avoid paying the late registration fee. [Click here to register](#), or [click here for more information](#) about the Annual Meeting. If you have already registered, please note that you will not receive registration confirmation until the office receives your payment. 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](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).*

### ★ Annual Reports: Reminders from the Community of Faith Support Committee

*Hello Pastoral Charges: The Community of Faith Support Committee of the Northern Spirit Regional Council would like to remind you of some work that you need to add to your "to-do" list at the beginning of the year.... [Click here to read the letter on the website.](#)*

### ★ Job Posting: Office Administrator, St. Paul's United Church, Edmonton

St. Paul's United Church is an Affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada, and is currently seeking an Office Administrator on a full-time (35 hours/week) permanent basis. [For the full job posting, please click here.](#) To apply, please contact the St. Paul's office: [office@stpaulsunited.org](mailto:office@stpaulsunited.org).

### ★ Job Posting: Office Administrator, Grace United Church, Edmonton

Grace United Church is looking to fill the Church Office Administrator staff position. This is a part-time position requiring approximately 20 hours per week at the Church with a tentative start date of May 15, 2023. Applications will be accepted until **April 19, 2023**. For full job posting, please contact [gracemandp@shaw.ca](mailto:gracemandp@shaw.ca).

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## Featured News

### ★ Mission & Service Easter Resources: Confronting Climate Change with our Mission Partners.

Did you know that your contributions to Mission & Service confront the impacts of climate change around the world? In the Easter season, you can learn more about and promote how Mission & Service is making a difference through special resources like videos and prayers, as well as a worship service to use on April 16 in conjunction with Earth Week. This service can easily be lay led and invites communities of faith to think about how they will Act, Learn, and Pray to confront climate change in their context. This service is offered in conjunction with For the Love of Creation, an ecumenical organization that brings together faith-based groups to mobilize education, reflection, action and advocacy for climate justice. [Find the Easter Mission and Service resources here](#), and keep checking back as more will be added in the coming weeks. Thank you for uplifting and supporting the important work we do together through Mission & Service.

### ★ STU Re-Naming Survey

The schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) are discussing the possibility of a new name to reflect our newly developing projects and relationships. We are moving beyond the loose kind of sharing that is usually named a "theological union." In addition, while we continue to sustain a Saskatoon footprint, all three schools are moving out to reach beyond Saskatoon with onsite and online programs and with support for various arrangements across and beyond Western Canada. As part of this process, we invite your comments. This survey is an advisory poll: results won't decide the outcome, but will provide significant advice for the STU as we move forward. Please note: the poll closes **April 16, 2023**. Thanks for your time and prayerful consideration! [Click here to participate in the survey!](#)

### Votes for the remit process now underway!

Votes for the remit process are now underway. **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. Some people have been asking questions about this remit process. One, the deadline date is **March 31, 2024**. That deadline is next year,

and it gives more than one full year to vote. Two, the vote is for the governing board of a community of faith (such as a church council). It does not need to be a vote for the full congregation. The process for Remits is outlined in [The Manual](#) of The United Church of Canada in section F.2. We invite you to learn more and explore the [remit process](#). / [Click here for more information about this remit!](#)

### **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](#) 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](mailto: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.

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## **Wider Church News & Resources**

### **★ Placing Ourselves in Colonization: Study Session with Elaine Enns and Ched Myers**

Starting **April 24**, join us for a four-session workshop for settlers and newcomers as we explore our histories and stories, and share about our individual family history too. Where do we connect with the forces of colonization? What are our responsibilities in the places where we have "settled" and the people whose lives have been impacted? Where does this lead us in our discipleship? Leadership for this workshop includes Elaine Enns, Ched Myers, Tony Snow, Adele Halliday, and Sara Stratton. Find out more, and [register](#).

### **10 More Ways to Work Towards Anti-Racism:**

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 shared [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!

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## **In Case You Missed It:**

### **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.](#)

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### ***Worship Resources:***

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

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

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

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

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

[Earth Sunday - April 16, 2023](#)

[Camping Sunday - April 23, 2023](#)

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995  
[www.northernspiritr.ca](http://www.northernspiritr.ca)  
[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)