



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



News from the Region: April 18, 2023



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

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.



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

★ **Annual Meeting Updates:**

★ [Click here to register for the 2023 Northern Spirit Annual Meeting:](#) May 4 - 7, in Camrose Alberta. Please note that the registration deadline of April 15 has passed, so a late registration fee will now apply.

★ **Notice for Worship Sunday May 7:**

As your Minister and Regional representatives come to meet for the Annual General Meeting of Northern Spirit Regional Council on May 4-7, we are encouraging folk to join us for Sunday Worship through livestream. If you already have something amazing planned for that date, you can use the recording at a later date. OR we would invite you to use [the GC service on the Call and Vision](#) to create your own service and to adapt it to think about how you can live your faith as an active member of the region.

- The most recent draft of the meeting schedule has now been posted to the website: [please click here to view this updated draft.](#)
- Update on Youth Programming: The Northern Spirit Regional Council Annual Meeting will include a program for youth ages 12-17. **Youth will all be staying together at St. Andrew's Anglican Church** (4713 50 St, Camrose) under the supervision of three youth leaders. The church will be open for youth to arrive and set up their things on Thursday, May 4th starting at 9:30 a.m. and the program itself will begin at 11:00 a.m. The youth program will include a mixture of time with the adult delegates in the main session, time having spiritual conversations together as youth, as well as meals, swimming, games, and free time. It's going to be a great time! The cost to register is \$125 for the weekend and you can register youth through the main registration page on the Northern Spirit Regional Council website. If you would like more information or have any questions about the program please contact Rev. Scott Reynolds at 780-546-9555 or scottrobertreynolds@gmail.com.
- Wood Lake Books Display: [Wood Lake Publishing](#) has agreed to send some books to the gathering in Camrose from May 4th to 7th. If you would like to pre-order specific books for delivery to Camrose – please contact Sharon Adams at sharad2224@yahoo.ca or sharona@woodlake.com by Monday **April 24th** to place your order. They will also send some titles for folks to peruse and purchase at the Regional Meeting. The Bookstore at the meeting will accept e-transfers to Wood Lake; cash; or cheque. *Please note that all sales will be final* as Wood Lake Publishing is closing its doors and will have only online e-books or online resources after the end of May. So if you need Family Story Bibles for your baptisms etc. you will want to stock up now. [You may also want to check the site](#) and take advantage of some of the clearance items.

Family News

★ **We sadly share** that Diaconal Minister Brian Pilmore Jackson died on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at the age of 93. Brian began his church work in the 1950s as a printer, serving as a lay missionary to India from South Calgary United Church. On returning to Calgary, he served as a Christian Education Director. He also served as the Christian

Development Officer for Hamilton Conference, Director of Five Oaks Centre, and Diaconal Minister in Vernon, BC. [Click here to read his full obituary.](#) Please keep his family in your thoughts & prayers.

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.

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. [For full job posting, click here.](#) To apply, please contact gracemandp@shaw.ca.

Featured News

★ **Earth Week: Moderator Urges Action for Climate Justice**

For Earth Week, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne writes about actions and choices for climate justice that may preserve our future: *"The climate emergency is not just a big problem; it's the end of the world as we know it... We need to talk about what we want to see from each other. Not confrontationally, where we beat each other over the head about our shortcomings—we need to inspire each other."* Read the [full opinion article](#). Plus: [click here to see a map](#) of Earth Week events taking place across the country this week!

★ **Earth Week: "Reawakening to Our Relationship within Gaia"**

... an Earth Day Contemplative Gathering co-sponsored by St. Andrew's College and the Living Skies Regional Council. These one-hour gatherings are an opportunity, in Presence, to discern and listen, to rest and receive. This coming together gives us a chance to find our grounding and to renew our sense of common belonging. Join us at either **10am or 2pm on Friday April 21 (Sask Time)** for this hour-long contemplative pause as we meditate together on our relationship in the Spirit to Mother Earth. Please use the zoom links below: Looking forward to seeing you on Friday!

10am (Sask

time): <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84295652092pwd=UWM3UVkybmlRNhVhHbG9tMnhzcGc0Zz09>

2pm (Sask time):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83773927403?pwd=NmJUQnV6aXVFVFNRis1RGtHcmpUZz09>

Resources for Reconciliation Webinar, April 22, 2 - 4 p.m.

Indigenous History Month is approaching! How will you and your community of faith "Learn, Understand, Act" and observe Indigenous Day of Prayer on June 21? Join us for this webinar for tips and support on enhancing your community's response to the TRC Calls to Action. You will hear what some communities have done, and have a chance to talk with others on the journey of reconciliation as to what has worked, what obstacles have been experienced, and what resources have been helpful. [Click here for more information](#), and [click here to register for this event](#).

★ Registration now open for Community & Connection 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference

The Community & Connection Conference will be taking place **June 22 - 24**, at Robertson-Wesley United Church in Edmonton. This Conference will bring together individuals and agencies in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to share their experiences, challenges and hopes. [Click here for more information](#), and [click here to register](#)! Join us for 3 days of Community, Connection, and Hope.

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!](#)

Wider Church News & Resources

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

[UNJPPI's April Network News includes:](#) Kairos Palestine's Easter Alert; April 27 event "New Developments in Israel-Palestine and the Role of the Churches" that takes place in Ottawa and online; CPT's Prayers for Peacemakers; Video recording of Rabbi Rous' sermon "Tears of Zion"; "The Trip that Changed My Life" video series by Palestinian film maker on his experiences of travelling to South Africa; plus resources, relevant articles, campaigns and more. For more information about the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine Israel or to subscribe to our newsletters visit: www.unjppi.org.

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](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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](#).

Worship Resources:

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

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

[Third Sunday of Easter - April 23, 2023](#)

[A Prayer of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide – April 24, 1915](#)

[Fourth Sunday of Easter- April 30, 2023](#)

[Mental Health Sunday - May 7, 2023](#)



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