



News from the Region: May 17, 2023



[Photos from our 4th Annual Meeting, in Camrose AB, May 4-7, 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.](#)

Family News

★ **Letter from our Chair & Lament prayer for the fires**

As you know too well, almost the entirety of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are under a blanket of smoke, or dealing with out of control fires, or both, and anticipating more of the same this summer. [Click to read a letter from our Chair](#), with various funding links for those evacuated or facing destruction of homes and businesses. Rev Catherine Faith MacLean in Northern Spirit [wrote this prayer in response](#) to the fire crisis, and we are free to share it.

★ **Annual Meeting Feedback Survey**

If you attended Northern Spirit's 2023 Annual Meeting in Camrose, [please click here to provide feedback on your experience!](#) What went well? What could be improved? Your feedback is appreciated, and your suggestions will be helpful in planning future meetings.

★ **Save the Date: Farewell to Earl - June 14, 2023, 3 - 6 p.m.**

As Pastoral Relations Minister Rev. Earl Reaburn prepares to retire June 30, we're making plans for a celebration for Earl. On June 14th, please join us at Kirk United Church Community Centre between 3 and 6 p.m., for an open house gathering celebrating Earl's retirement. Stay tuned for more details!

★ **New Pastoral Relations Minister for Northern Spirit, August 1**



Welcome to our **new Pastoral Relations Minister, Rev Adam**

Hall! Adam was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and is a life long member of The United Church of Canada. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters of Divinity from St. Andrew's College. Upon ordination in 2010 he was settled to the communities of Holden and Tofield, Alberta, and has served at Tofield United Church (formerly Beaver Pastoral charge) for the last 13 years. Adam enjoys spending time with his wife Stephanie and their three sons. He makes time for camping and fishing and being in the outdoors.

He loves watching NFL football - go Denver Broncos go!!! - and is an avid collector of sports cards and anything related to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. He will take on this new role August 1, 2023. **Welcome, Adam!**

Chinook Winds' The Politics of Jesus: An Election Series

With a provincial election rapidly approaching, the Chinook Winds Regional Council's Executive has seriously pondered the implications of how our Christian faith calls us to respond to the social and economic issues of our times. As the Alberta election nears, [click here](#) to read the introduction to this thoughtful series, as well as the meditations posted so far, [on dissent and risk](#), [on homelessness](#), and [on healthcare](#).

Job Posting: Office Administrator, Trinity United, Edmonton

Church Office Administrator - Permanent Part-time (20 hours per week) sought for Trinity United Church, Edmonton, with probable additional hours during busy periods and special events, at \$20 per hour. Benefits and pension are available after a probationary period. The anticipated start date is June 2023. [Click here for the full job posting.](#)

Featured News

★ Connecting Lay Leaders in our Region

The Lay Leadership Support Committee is working on developing ways to connect Lay Leaders across Northern Spirit. Are you feeling isolated? Are you seeking time and safe space for sharing challenges and concerns, ideas and solutions? If you are looking for reconnection and/or learning about the Regional Council and how to access the various resources that are available, [please click here to fill out a brief survey with your thoughts.](#) Responses received will help the Support Committee discern what form these gatherings or connections might best take.

★ Want a video license through the United Church? Applications due May 31, 2023

Public performance licenses are required for many types of video showings. To avoid breaking copyright law in Canada, cover yourself by taking advantage of the opportunity to buy performance licenses at a reduced rate through Buying United. Buying United offers both standard licenses, which require you to own/rent the content you are showing, and streaming licenses, which allow you to use the licensing agency's online content library to stream to your church. [Spring applications](#) are due **Wednesday, May 31, 2023**, for licenses that operate from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Visit [RTPS.ca/UCC/home](https://rtps.ca/UCC/home), click "Register", then fill out the form, using the access code: **united**. You'll receive a confirmation email prompting you to sign in within 24 to 48 hours. After you sign in, click "Preferred Suppliers" to explore all the discounts the United Church offers. Please reach out to edge@united-church.ca if you have any questions about this process or about Video Licensing in general.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Summary of May 2023 General Council Executive ready

The General Council Executive (GCE) met May 12–13, 2023. [Click here for highlights from the meeting.](#)

★ **Curiosity Cohort: Rural Focus, June 1 - June 29, Thursdays, from noon - 1:00PM CDT // 11:00 - Noon CST/ MDT.**

Curiosity Cohort: Rural Focus helps you to get curious about your own community of faith and connect with other leaders in rural settings. We will engage with stories and ideas from across the country about different ways that rural congregations are bringing new energy into their communities. [Click here for details and registration.](#)

★ **Union Sunday Hymn Sing Resource: June 4, 2023**

God has given us the gift of song! Since long before Church Union, our communities of faith have expressed their voices of joy, gratitude, love, lament, and hope through singing together. Song has and continues to shape us as a people of faith. A new worship resource is [available online](#) that explores this. *Then Let Us Sing! Hymn Sing* invite us to be a people of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice. [The worship resource is available now for you to download and use with your community of faith.](#)

★ **United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) May Newsletter**

[In this special issue of UNJPPI Network News](#), we reflect on the Nakba and the effect that seventy-five years of genocide has had on a land and a people.

In Case You Missed It...

★ A reminder that we have a **Regional Directory!** [Click here for more information](#), and email the office for access, or to report any updated or incorrect information.

Earth Week: 2021-2022 Sustainability Report

For Earth Week 2023, The United Church of Canada released the 2021–2022 Sustainability Report, "Deepening Climate Integrity." With photos, stories, and numbers, the report features communities of faith from across the country putting our house in order, raising our spirited voices, connecting with the Earth, and responding to climate impacts in 2021-2022. [Read the full report.](#)

New employment opportunity! with St. Andrew's College

St. Andrew's College is seeking an Educational Guide for our emerging Lifelong Learning Pathway. If this might be you, [click here](#). Applications close **May 19**.

Talking & Walking Together: A Letter From Our Chair

It takes a lot of people and places to make up a Region, a church family. Each one brings gifts and skills to add to the richness of our gathering together. There are times when we need to lean on each other, times when we may be struggling because our human and financial resources are stretched beyond their capacity... [Read the full letter from Rev. Helen Reed here.](#)

CAVEAT: An ad for a Yamaha Grand Piano for adoption was posted in the last Weekly News. The Regional Office was under the impression that it was a donation like other requests we received. However, several people noted that the request is a possible scam. We strongly advise you not to make any arrangements, pay or provide your personal or financial information. We apologize for any ensuing problems this may have caused our readers.

Worship Resources:

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

★ Throughout May, **Asian Heritage Month** continues. [Click here](#) for many excellent worship and personal devotions resources.

[International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17, 2023](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 3 - May 21, 2023](#)

[Seventh Sunday after Easter - May 21, 2023](#)

[Pentecost Sunday - May 28, 2023](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 4 - May 28, 2023](#)

[Union Sunday - June 4, 2023](#)

[Environment Sunday - June 4, 2023](#)

[Pride Sunday - June 4, 2023](#)

[Trinity Sunday - June 4, 2023](#)

* *Votes for the remit process now underway!* We invite you to learn more and explore the [remit process](#). / [Click here for more information about this remit!](#) The deadline date is March 31, 2024.



Photos from our 4th Annual Meeting, in Camrose AB, May 4-7, 2023: Celebration of Ministries Service

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995
www.northernspiritrc.ca
northernspirit@united-church.ca

Image Credits: Photo collages by Julie Graham.