



News from the Region: May 30, 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

★ **From the Affirming Task Group: A Note of Thanks to the Region**

Northern Spirit voted to become an Affirming Region at the 2023 Annual Meeting, on May 6th. [Click here to read a note of thanks from the Affirming Task Group, whose work over the last three years guided our Region in discerning & exploring this decision.](#)

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!

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.

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.

Featured News

★ **National Indigenous History Month & National Indigenous Peoples Day**

June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to commemorate and honour the history, contributions, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples in Canada. The summer solstice, celebrated by many Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island for millennia, is recognized as National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada (**June 21, 2023**). For those looking to prepare for Indigenous Day of Prayer (**June 18, 2023**), we have [two new worship resources available](#). We encourage you to make connections with Indigenous neighbours, dive deeper into Indigenous history, and experience the beauty of Indigenous cultures and traditions. Please look carefully at your local gatherings, which are a rich opportunity to learn. Show up whenever and however you can; use your community of faith signage, space, and budget to lend your public support.

Connecting Lay Leaders in our Region

The Lay Leadership Support Committee is working on developing ways to connect Lay Leaders across Northern Spirit. **Note that this is not exclusively for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, but all Lay people**, whether you lead by sitting on a committee, volunteering with church fundraisers, or connecting people in your community. 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.

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. *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.](#)

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.

Job Posting: Office Administrator, St. Paul's United Church, Edmonton: Apply by June 8th

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.

Want a video license through the United Church? Applications due TOMORROW, 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, 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.

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.

Worship Resources:

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

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

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

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

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

[Second after Pentecost - June 11, 2023](#)

[Third after Pentecost - June 18, 2023](#)

[Indigenous Day of Prayer - June 18, 2023](#)

[Fourth after Pentecost - June 25, 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.



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