



---

## Events Newsletter: June 6, 2023

---



### **Upcoming events 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](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.](#)

---

## **News From the Pews & Other Ministries**

### **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. Refreshments will be provided. If you cannot join in person, a Zoom link will also be sent out, for anyone who wishes to join virtually around 4:30 p.m..

### **LAST CHANCE: 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.

---

## **Events & Learning Opportunities**

### ★ **June is Pride Month: Celebrating Our 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities**

As June begins, Pride celebrations take place in communities across the country. We wish the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community a happy Pride Month and encourage allies to renew their commitment to fighting alongside the 2SLGBTQIA+ community for a future where all can live in freedom and security. [Read the full statement from the United Church of Canada.](#)

### ★ **National Indigenous History Month**

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.

### ★ **Celebrate Two Hills United: June 11, 11 a.m.**

Come help us celebrate! On June 11 @ 11a.m Two Hills United Church will be having a special anniversary service - 65 years: 1958- 2023.

### **Indigenous Day of Prayer, Sunday June 18**

[Click here to see new prayers and liturgy for 2023](#), as we gather in worship to give thanks for the ministry of Indigenous members and communities in the United Church, and to honour the many gifts carried by Indigenous nations all over Turtle Island/ North America.

### **Decolonizing our churches, reweaving our lives conference, June 20 - 22, 2023, Saskatoon**

The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Andrew's College, and St. Thomas More College are excited to host this conference exploring the theme of decolonization with a particular focus on the role and responsibility of our

various churches in working toward truth, reconciliation, right relationship, justice, and healing. [Click here for registration](#). And [click here for all conference details](#). If you have further questions, please connect with our event coordinator at [colleen.walker@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:colleen.walker@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

### **Wednesday June 21: National Indigenous Peoples' Day**

A significant day of spirit and action as we welcome summer with space honouring First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Please look carefully at your local gatherings, which are a rich opportunity to learn.

### **Community & Connection 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference, June 22-24, Edmonton**

The [Community & Connection Conference](#) will be taking place **June 22 - 24**, at Robertson-Wesley United Church in Edmonton. An opportunity to gather, share, and learn from each other during Pride month. This Conference will bring together individuals and agencies in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to share their experiences, challenges and hopes. [Join us for 3 days of Community, Connection, and Hope](#).

---

## *Into the Future...*

### **Alberta Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry: July 10-14, 2023: St. Stephen's College University of Alberta, Edmonton AB**

Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry (DUIM) is a 5-day interactive and engaging program with practical ideas for implementation in your own context. DUIM is for ministry leaders and community members nurturing cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness in their communities. 5 Days focused on faith, heart, mind, and skills for the art of intercultural ministry. \*\*\***Register by June 12**\*\*\* [More information and registration here](#).

### **The School of Earth & Soul – Celtic Wisdom 3: July 25–27, In-person, Alumni Hall, Victoria College**

Please join us for a three-day retreat on Celtic Wisdom with **John Philip Newell** and **Cami Twilling**. In 2016, John Philip Newell began a teaching initiative that is called The School of Earth & Soul. Its purpose is to reawaken awareness of the sacred in all things through the recovery of Celtic wisdom for today and to help translate this awareness into compassionate action. In July, Emmanuel College's Centre for Religion and Its Contexts is hosting the **Celtic Wisdom 3: Sacred Imagination** retreat, where participants will be invited to reawaken to the sacredness of the human imagination and compassionate action. [Please visit the Centre's website for bios, fees, registration and schedule](#).

**St. Stephen's College Gala: Friday September 15, 5 - 10 p.m., In-person, Edmonton, AB.**

Reception, 3-Course plated Dinner, 2 drink tickets per guest, Guest Speakers, Live Jazz Music, Silent Auction which includes Live Painting with Fine Artist, Giselle Denis, as well as a chance at a week-long vacation in Port Rush, Ireland! Gala location: JW Marriott Edmonton Ice District - 10344 102 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 0K9. All attendees wishing to stay at the JW Marriott will receive 20% off their room on the night of the gala. Tickets are \$250 per person (tax receipts for a portion of the ticket price, will be sent out after the event). [For more details, please click here!](#)

**Registration is Now Open** for the [2023 Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship](#), which will take place at Yorkminster Park Church **in Toronto from October 22-24.**

- 
- [Click here to view our regional events calendar.](#)
  - [Click here to view the United Church's main online events service, United in Learning.](#)
- 



---

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



*Image Credits: Photo by Paul Moody on Unsplash*  
*Copyright © 2023 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.*  
*[Sign-up to receive the Newsletter by email by clicking here.](#)*