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## *Events Newsletter: June 20, 2023*

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### **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.](#)

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

#### **★ Office Closure Reminder: Tomorrow, Wednesday June 21**

The Regional Office will be closed tomorrow in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day. The office will reopen on Thursday, the 22nd!

### ★ **Generous Donors in Northern Spirit: Are you in need of music?**

Multiple people have reached out to the office with donation offers recently: please contact the office if you are interested in adopting **an Upright piano** in good condition; **Voices United hymnbooks**, or **Good News bibles**. ♪

### **Regional letter and resource on Pride vigilance and courage**

A [Pride season letter has been sent to all ministries](#) in Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils. In light of vandalism involving United Churches across Canada, and angry words sent to 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming ministries, the letter thanks the many ministries of all kinds who offer a public, intentional and explicit support to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people in the face of a sharp increase of hate speech and attacks. It invites faithful vigilance and courage through the summer Pride season, and offers resources on dealing with harassment. [Download it here](#) (PDF) and share widely.

An [accompanying article on our website](#) outlines a little of the history and context of the extremist movements that have gained strength in Canada in recent years. Many thanks to Chloe Burns for transforming a lot of text into clear and colourful layout and to Affirming ministry and task group members for their wisdom. If you have any concerns, or further ideas for addressing the situation outlined in the letter and article, please call your Regional Council office or Regional Minister Julie Graham, [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

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## **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**), 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. We encourage you to make connections with Indigenous neighbours, dive deeper into Indigenous history, and experience the beauty of Indigenous cultures and traditions. Show up whenever and however you can; use your community of faith signage, space, and budget to lend your public support.

★ **Diane Strickland Presentation: *Releasing More Gospel Ministry in a Complex Context*: TODAY, June 20, 7 p.m.**

Diane Strickland will be giving a presentation on **June 20, at 7 p.m.**, open to Communities of Faith, Lay Representatives & Leaders, and anyone interested. Diane, a Community and Workplace Traumatologist, will discuss topics such as complex ministry context, identifying a biblical model for ministry in these days, and revisiting connections and relationships in and outside communities of faith. [Click here to join the Zoom meeting.](#)

**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. **Tomorrow, June 21, is the last day to register to attend this conference, virtually or in-person!**

**Radically Welcoming and Rural: The Opportunities of Diversity in the Rural Church: Thursday June 22, 2023 at 11 am Mountain Time**

This workshop is about diversity in the Rural Church, LGBTQQ2SIA+, immigrants as parishioners, ministers from other countries, – anyone who identifies differently... How do rural communities embrace diversity? This workshop is sponsored by the United church Rural Ministry Network and is offered at no charge to the participants. You can [register here](#).

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***Into the Future...***

★ **Archive Training for Office Administrators: Monday July 10, 2023, 12:00 noon**

NSRC Administrator's Association invites all administrators to a special training session led by Leanne Templeton, the Archivist for Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds Regions. In this hour long session Leanne will address how to properly maintain historic rolls, transfer memberships, archive and or destroy records and more. Join us in person at Garneau United Church in Edmonton (11148 84 Avenue) or on Zoom [using the link here](#). To register or for more information, please email Nichole at [nsrcaa@gmail.com](mailto:nsrcaa@gmail.com). Please indicate whether you will attend in person or via Zoom.

★ **Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble 2023 Annual General Meeting and conference: July 14 - 16, 2023, \*hybrid options**

The in-person part will be held at Beaconsfield United Church in Beaconsfield, QC (just outside of Montreal). We encourage you to send a representative (or two!) to join us in person for fellowship, worship, and getting to know one another! We are so excited to see everyone in person. [Click here to view the Registration Form, with further details](#). There will be another form for joining virtually coming soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email [communications@ause.ca](mailto:communications@ause.ca).

**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.**

★ **Save the dates: 'Healing and Hope' Retreat for clergy women, October 30-November 2, at Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Road, Paris, Ontario**

Rev. Tina Conlon from Davenport-Perth Community Ministry, and Shining Waters Regional Council President, will join us for part of the time. United Church Moderator Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will speak on the afternoon of Nov. 1. We are hoping to ensure there is lots of time for small groups, and relaxation on the lovely grounds of Five Oaks. There are a few single rooms at \$475 for room and meals for the entire time, and \$405 for shared rooms and meals. This is a first-come basis, maximum of 50

people but we will also keep a waiting list just in case. Contact us at [sistersandministers@gmail.com](mailto:sistersandministers@gmail.com).

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