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*News from the Region: June 11, 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](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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**Family News**

♥ We have been asked to share that Patricia Bourque passed away on July 7, 2023. Before her retirement in 2012, Pat worked for the former Edmonton Presbytery, and then for the former Alberta and Northwest Conference. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Pat's husband Rob, and to all of her family and friends.

★ **Help Northern Spirit Region celebrate the United Church's Centennial**

The 100th anniversary of the Union of The United Church of Canada is approaching on June 10, 2025. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on how expressing our faith has impacted the world, our communities, and our personal lives. We are looking to form a dedicated committee to plan ways we as a Region can honour and celebrate this milestone. Are you interested in exploring the ways we in Northern Spirit can mark this anniversary? Please reach out to the Regional office to volunteer for this Centennial Committee.

**Northern Spirit Celebration of Ministries: October 21, 4 p.m., at Kirk United Church Community Centre, 13535 122 Ave, Edmonton AB**

Northern Spirit will be holding a 2nd Celebration of Ministries service this year. We will be celebrating new ministries, and also celebrating our decision to be an Affirming Region. Come celebrate with us!

**Directory Updates**

Over the summer, we will be updating the Regional Council Directory. **If you registered for the 2023 Regional Meeting**, (and gave permission), your contact information will be included in the directory. **Ministry Personnel** will also have their names and pastoral charge contact information included. **Lay Reps and committee members who did not register for the meeting**, but still wish to be included, please send the office an email ([NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca)) with your name, address, phone number and email and permission to include. Any questions or concerns, contact the office. **Communities of Faith / Pastoral Charges**, if you have updates or corrections to your mailing address, phone number/s or email address, please let the Regional Office know.

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**Featured News**

★ **As the Centennial Approaches: Archives Requests**

As Communities of Faith within our Region start to plan celebrations in recognition of the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary in 2025, many are thinking of ways to explore, acknowledge, and share our history. **Requests for Archives materials** are expected to markedly increase as this milestone approaches. To ensure that our Archivists & Volunteers have enough time to fulfill your request for historical materials, **please start planning now & reach out early!**

★ **National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering**

The Indigenous church gathers on Treaty 6 Territory in Edmonton, AB, on July 28 - 30, for the 2023 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering. The theme is "With Strong Voices." Moderator Carmen Lansdowne will give a keynote address on Friday, July 28. Other program elements include installation of new members of the National Indigenous Elders Council and the new National Indigenous Council; panel and plenary discussions, and workshop opportunities. The National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering will bring together 35 young Indigenous people to build community through hand drum songs, arts and crafts, swimming, and activities. Updates will be posted on social media and The United Church of Canada website. [Click here to read a prayer for this gathering and those travelling to attend, written by & shared with permission from Rev. Kimberly Roy.](#)

★ **Summer Camp For Trans\* Youth: August 25 - 27, 2023, Edmonton, AB**

Camp Dragonfly is a summer camp based in Edmonton, Alberta with a goal to create a safe and welcoming space for trans\* and gender-creative youth age 6-13 where they can be their authentic selves, meet trans\* role models, and have fun. Over the past 6 years, Camp Dragonfly has provided this opportunity to over 160 families from Alberta and beyond. At camp we invite trans\* youth, as well as their siblings and friends, to take part in the impactful experience that is being known and loved exactly as they are through creativity, connection, and celebration. For more information, and to register a camper, volunteer, or contribute to a scholarship fund, please visit us at [www.camp-dragonfly.com](http://www.camp-dragonfly.com).

★ **Save the Date: In-person Boundaries Training and Ministry**

**Retreat, October 26-27, St. Albert, AB**

Ministry Personnel of Northern Spirit: mark your calendars! An opportunity for in-person boundaries training and a time of gathering & fellowship is planned for October 26-27. More details & registration to be shared soon.

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## **Wider Church News & Resources**

### **Flourishing: The Moderator's Project**

The Moderator is on a three-year journey to connect with the nation on big questions. With the goal of enhancing “flourishing” in church, among our leadership, and within the broader community, she is encouraging dialogue on this question of flourishing, and how it could influence our future. Read more about the [Flourishing Project!](#)

### **40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2023: October 10-December 1**

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism will return **October 10—December 1, 2023** with brand-new content! Live events with dynamic speakers will be running on Tuesdays, anti-racism books will be featured by the United Church Bookstore, and there'll be reflections by diverse United Church members every day but Sundays. [Click here for more information](#). And [sign up for the 40 Days newsletter to stay up-to-date!](#)

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## **In Case You Missed It...**

Hold the date! **Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference and AGM 2023, 19-21 October, St Albert AB, Treaty Six**, at Star of the North retreat centre. All welcome to our first in-person gathering since 2019! Theme to be announced, but it will carry our commitment to being intercultural practitioners in ministry together, uniting perspectives and lived experiences that carry racial, gender, abilities, and sexual diversity. Song and worship, speakers, workshops, and lots of time for visiting and telling stories are all in the plans. **October 21** we will join Northern Spirit Regional Council at their Celebration of Ministries service and Affirming celebration. More

information coming later in the summer. ~ Who is WIMN? [Click here for an overview and news.](#)

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### ***Worship Resources:***

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

[Seventh after Pentecost - July 16, 2023](#)

[Eighth after Pentecost - July 23, 2023](#)

[Ninth after Pentecost - July 30, 2023](#)

[Tenth after Pentecost - August 6, 2023](#)

[Eleventh after Pentecost – August 13, 2023](#)

[Twelfth after Pentecost – August 20, 2023](#)

[Thirteenth after Pentecost – August 27, 2023](#)

\* *Votes for the remit process now underway!* We invite you to learn more and explore the [remit process](#). Please also see a new post on the Northern Spirit website with answers to frequently asked questions & further resources, [here](#). The remit vote deadline date is March 31, 2024.

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★ **Newsletter Notice: The Northern Spirit newsletter send-out will be moving to Wednesdays, starting in August\*.** ★

● [Click here to access past Newsletter issues.](#)

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**Available:** 

from a generous donor in Northern Spirit.  
Do you need any of these items, being offered for free?

 The Book of Life (9 Volumes)	 The Bible Story for Children (6 Volumes)	 Bible Quest - Bible Study for Adults
older Hymn Book with music		 Songs of the Gospel (16)

Please contact Annette if you are interested,  
by email: [guerrett@telusplanet.net](mailto:guerrett@telusplanet.net)



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)



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