



Events Newsletter: July 18, 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.



★ 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

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.

Events & Learning Opportunities

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.

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!](#)

★ Save the CORRECTED Date: In-person Boundaries Training and Ministry Retreat, SEPTEMBER 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. ***Note that in last week's Newsletter the save-the-date mistakenly had the date as October - please update your calendars!**

Into the Future...

Rural Ministry Conference 2023: September 29 - October 1, 2023, High River Alberta

A weekend gathering, for today's rural ministry context: come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! [Click here for tickets & more information.](#)

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!](#)

Evolving Faith Conference: October 13-15, 2023, Minneapolis, United States, with online attendance option*

A group experience for ministry personnel to be encouraged, inspired and renewed. Both digital & in-person attendance options. [Click here for more information about the Evolving Faith Conference.](#) And [click here for details about a travel group being organized by Leadershift.](#)

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.](#)

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!

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.**

Leading Through Conflict Workshop: October 27-28, 2023, Calgary Alberta

This is a workshop opportunity with the renowned Susan Nienaber, to explore practices and traits to navigate conflict faithfully & successfully. The goal of this LeaderSHIFT offering is to increase the health of communities of faith, and the effectiveness of ministry personnel. [Click here for more info & for tickets!](#)

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.

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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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Notices:

★ **The Regional Office will be closed this Friday July 21, and Monday July 24,** reopening on Tuesday July 25.

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

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