



News from the Region: June 25, 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

♥ *It is with sadness that we share the announcement of the death of Fern Klassen on July 10th 2023 after a short battle with dementia. Fern was born October 30th, 1934 in Tawatinaw, north east of Westlock. Fern was a long time member of the United Church and an early CGIT member. When asked by her first son what CGIT referred to she replied "Crazy Girls in Town!" The response said much about Fern's humour. Fern loved to sing and participated in the choir at Westlock United and the local choir group The Versatiles. Fern fully participated in the wider life of the church as a Presbytery Rep. She loved the community of Presbytery. Fern was also one of the first cohorts of LLWLs*

in the Region to complete the course at St. Stephen's. Many congregations in what was once Yellowhead Presbytery experienced Fern's worship leadership for many years. A celebration of life was held for Fern at the Westlock Legion July 22 at 2pm.

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!

Featured News

★ **Emancipation Day: August 1, 2023 (Sunday August 6, 2023)**

Emancipation Day is celebrated August 1, in Canada, in the Caribbean, and other former colonies of the British Empire. The United Church of Canada celebrates Emancipation Sunday on the first Sunday in August, which in 2023 falls on August 6. For more on Emancipation Sunday check out our [Emancipation Sunday worship resources](#), including a new service by the Rev. Dr. Paul Douglas Walfall.

★ **3rd Annual Emancipation Day Panel Discussion: A Case for Reparations - August 6, 2023, 6 p.m. EDT**

Join The Black Clergy Network at the third annual Emancipation Day panel discussion: *A Case for Reparations* webinar, on Sunday, August 6, at 6:00 p.m. EDT. During this live webinar, panelists will seek to explain the concept and discuss the biblical foundations for reparations, examine the relevance of truth-telling and reparations in the Canadian context, and consider the intersections of the Indigenous and African Diaspora claims for reparations. [Register today!](#) Click here to [view past Panels on the Network's YouTube channel](#).

★ **In-person Boundaries Training and Ministry Retreat, September 26-27, St. Albert, AB**

The Ministry Support Committee of Northern Spirit Region invites all active clergy to join them for one or both of the following events: **In-person Boundaries Refresher: Social Media**, on September 26th, at St. Albert United Church, facilitated by Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse, AND **Stronger Together: a gathering for active ministers in Northern Spirit Region**, from September 26-27, at the Star of the North Retreat Centre, facilitated by Pastoral Relations Minister, Adam Hall and Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse. This is a time to meet new colleagues and renew connections. [To register for either event & for more details, click here!](#)

★ **2024 Mission Support and Regional Council Grant application**

The 2024 Mission Support and Regional Council Grant application is now open. Please click [here](#) for more information or visit our [regional website](#). Deadline for applications is **August 31, 2023**.

★ **Research Report on Collaborative Ministry**

Are you a part of, or looking to be a part of, a Collaborative Ministry in Northern Spirit? The Toronto United Church Council has created a short survey to get a comprehensive understanding of the state of Collaborative Ministry across the United Church. The survey findings will be compiled into a report which will be published as a resource for United Church communities. Both clergy & lay leaders are welcome to participate. [Click here to participate in this brief survey before the deadline of August 8, 2023.](#)

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **The United Church Calls on Manitoba to Search the Landfill**

Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran were murdered in 2022 and left in a Winnipeg landfill. Their families and communities are calling for a search of the landfill, but the province of Manitoba refuses. In life, and now in death, Morgan, Mercedes, and thousands of other missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people have been denied the dignity and respect that they deserve. We call on the government to bring Morgan and Mercedes home to their loved ones. We are in solidarity with Camp Morgan and Camp Mercedes in Winnipeg. Join us in our social media solidarity campaign to **#SearchTheLandfill**. [Read the news full story here.](#)

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.](#)

In Case You Missed It...

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.

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!**

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) 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.

Worship Resources:

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

[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.

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

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

Available:

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

1. Adult choir gowns (16) blue with white collars
2. Children's white choir gowns with gold ribbons on front (9)
3. Easter Sunday Cross, covered in wire; daffodils are inserted
4. Portable lectern
5. Lenten Wood Candle Holder(6) with cross
6. Advent Candle Holder – 5 brass holders
7. Wall Banners
8. Hymn Books "Songs for a Gospel" (green)
9. Hymn Books "Songs of the Gospel"



Please contact Annette at South Cooking Lake United if you are interested. Pictures can be forwarded to you.
Email: guerrett@telusplanet.net



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