



Events Newsletter: August 1, 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

Notices:

★ The Regional office will be closed next week beginning with the holiday Monday, August 7, reopening Monday August 14.

★ There will be no newsletter send-out next week. The newsletter will resume Wednesday, August 16 (and continue every Wednesday after that!)

♥ **A memorial service for Rev. Greg Parker** will be held on **August 3 at 2 p.m.**, at Provost United Church (5212 50 street, Provost, AB, T0B 3S0).

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

Emancipation Day: Today! 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](#).

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!](#)

★ **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!](#)

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.](#)

★ **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! Our theme: *Daring Justice: intercultural and decolonizing lenses on truth and reconciliation*. 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. Watch for registration; [join our mailing list here](#). ~ 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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- [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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