



Events Newsletter: August 30, 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

★ **An invitation to active Ministry Personnel from The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Landsdowne....**

If you've been following me on social media or read E-ssentials digital newsletter, you'll know that part of my Flourishing project was a **pilot leadership school:**

(Re)Generate: Invigorating Leadership. I'm happy to say that the nomination/application form is now available on the UCC website. The program is for ministry personnel, is 3 weeks per year in 2024 & 2025, with a cost of up to \$1,500/year, for a total of \$3,000 over two years (all-inclusive, covering travel, accommodation, and meals for in-person gatherings). To enhance the diversity of participants (including part-time ministers), and to fulfill our commitments to equity, some participants could contribute less, or apply for funds towards child care, or other expenses that would help facilitate their participation. **Deadline for all applications is September 30th.** [Click here for more information and to access the application form.](#) If you would like to nominate someone, please do so **before September 6th** by clicking the link above, or share the link with a nominee so they can fill out the application directly.

★ **An opportunity to take another step on the path of reconciliation:** A request has come from Charlene Burns, General Council Community Capacity Development Co-ordinator for the West, related to the Central Alberta Spiritual Circle/Center and Interconnect Foundation (the new Indigenous community of faith being established in the former Beverly United Church in Edmonton). Charlene wrote: *I am asking for contributions from friends far and wide to purchase 100 orange shirts to use as a fundraiser for Interconnect and the Central Alberta Spiritual Circle. They will have the logo for the Center on them and be sold for \$30 each. The cost will roughly be \$2700-2800 for 100 T-shirts with all the set up and GST. We would like to order the t-shirts to have on hand by the next Central Alberta Spiritual teaching Circle on Sept. 16th and for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30th. *Financial contributions can be made by cash or cheque to Interconnect, Red Deer Office, 4825-47 street #300, Red Deer T4N 1R3 or to Interconnect at 11910- 40 street NW Edmonton T5W 2K9 with a note re Orange shirts.* This is also an official invitation to Interconnect 'Orange Shirt Day', **Sept. 30th** at 5439-47 Street Red Deer. Further details to come.*

Events & Learning Opportunities

★ **Introduction to Godly Play: One Day Learning Experience:** ongoing opportunity, *online or onsite*

This experience is designed for leaders in congregational ministry, parents, caregivers or volunteers who would like to know more about Godly Play. Originally developed with children, Godly Play is both spiritual practice and a process applicable to all ages and many settings. [Click here for more information](#), or email firstunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com.

Service of Celebration: Hughenden United Church: September 3, 10 a.m.

Hughenden United Church is making some changes. Just over a year ago we opened a Thrift Shop in the trailer beside the church that had previously been used as Sunday School space. It has been very successful and is running out of space, and since our Sunday worship numbers have dwindled to between 3 and a dozen people, we have made the decision to move the thrift store to the church sanctuary, and the worship space to the living room of the trailer. We are planning a service of celebration of the Sanctuary on Sept 3 at 10:00 a.m., with coffee and snacks after. We invite anyone from the Region who would care to join us to attend. We anticipate making the move very shortly after the Sept. 3 service.

★ Information Session: The New Horizons for Seniors Program Grant 2023-2024, Thursday, September 7, 6:30 p.m. EST, online

The [New Horizons for Seniors Program](#) Grant for 2023 – 2024 application process is now open. Grant applications are due on **Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 3 pm (EST)**. This federal grant provides up to \$25,000 to support communities of faith to provide programming that offers meaningful engagement for seniors. Eligible projects must be led by seniors and be volunteer based. We will be holding an **information session** for communities of faith interested in applying for this grant on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. EST (4:30 p.m. MT). [Click here to sign up for the session](#). If you plan to apply for the grant this year, you will need to have a well-developed project idea and at a minimum have familiarized yourself with the grant application process before attending the session since the timeline to apply is so short. Alternatively, if you intend to apply in a future year, you are welcome to attend to hear ideas from other communities of faith and to learn about the process. If you would like to discuss a project idea in advance of the information session, please email jill@tucc.ca.

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!](#)

★ Confronted by Grace: Finding Balance in God - Friday September 22, 10 am and 2 pm CST, online

An online contemplative gathering, with lectio divina and space for quiet shared reflection around a theme gifted by the fall equinox. **Friday September 22, at 10am and 2pm (Sask time)** ... please pre-register by emailing bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca and indicating whether you would like to attend the 10am or 2pm session time.

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!](#) ***Registration Deadline: September 7th!**

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!](#)

★ St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" – save the dates! October 11 & more

Over the course of the upcoming academic year, St. Andrew's (along with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners) will be hosting a series of evening online sessions, from 7:30-9pm Sask time, on **Wed Oct 11, Mon Nov 27, Thurs Feb 8, and Tues Mar 9** ... culminating in an Affirming Re-Commitment Service (date tba) to mark 15 years as an Affirming Ministry ... Huzzah!!! Our first session (Wed Oct 11) will be focussed on the history of Affirm (and the Lutheran "Reconciling in Christ" program), and what it has meant for our College. For more details, contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

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.](#)

★ **Save the Date! An Invitation from the Chinook Winds Administrators'**

Association: October 15 & 16, 2023, Sylvan Lake, AB

The Chinook Winds Region Administrators Association is inviting Northern Spirit church administrators to join them for an overnight retreat, **October 15 - 16**, at Camp Kasota West, Sylvan Lake. The retreat will include team building, round table discussions, a boundaries workshop, and more. More details & registration info will be shared soon!

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**.

Celebrate with Southminster-Steinhauer: St. Stephen's College Convocation, October 23, 2023

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church is thrilled to join St. Stephen's College in announcing **Nancy Steeves as the 2023 recipient of St. Stephen's College Honorary Doctor of Ministry**, awarded at this year's St. Stephen's College Convocation: **October 23, 2023**. All are invited. The Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) is awarded to individuals whose contributions reflect meritorious service, outstanding leadership in denominational or ecumenical contexts, and/or outstanding commitment and contribution to ministry, whether ordered or lay. This degree is awarded for excellence and/or outstanding contributions in one or more of the following areas: Pastoral or missionary experience, Theological scholarship, Faith and public life, Community responsibility.

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!](#)

★ **KAIROS Prairies North annual gathering Saturday Oct 28 from 11am – 4pm, in Lloydminster (and online)**

Come and explore the timely theme of “Energy for Change”, and find out ways you can get involved! More details and registration links here: [You're invited! Oct 28 KAIROS Annual Gathering “Energy for Change” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

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.

★ **Save the date: Worship Planning Together Retreats: January 18 & May 16, 2024***

Come and do your worship planning in good company. United Church worship leaders, including DLMs and ordered ministry, lay worship leaders, and worship committees, are invited to St. David's United Church in Leduc, Alberta, for facilitated experiences, individual reflection, and planning time. Also accessible by Zoom. More details & registration available soon!

United Church Office Administrators Conference: October 1 - 4, 2024*

"Save The Date" ~ The retreat is planned for October 1 - 4, 2024, and it will take place at Queen's House in Saskatoon, SK. All church office administrators are welcome to attend! Further information and details will be coming soon.

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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.](#)
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