



News from the Region: September 6, 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

★ **A Letter from Our Chair: Return to Hope...**

Here we are in Fall already. As each Season and Month ends and a new one rushes in we find ourselves wondering where the time runs away to. [Click here to read a letter from our Chair, Rev. Helen Reed](#), on Fall's new beginnings, and opportunities for Hope.

★ **Job Opportunity: Bookkeeper & Admin Positions - McDougall United, Edmonton, Alberta**

McDougall United Church in Edmonton is looking for immediate help with finance and administrative work. This can be two separate positions or could be combined into one position for the right candidate. Both positions part-time, and currently temporary but with the possibility of becoming permanent. For more information about the position and requirements, email admin@mcdougallunitedchurch.com.

★ **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.

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!

★ **Licensed Lay Worship Leader Training & Connection Opportunity: Learning on the Way: "Creation, Remembrance and Power: Resources for leading worship", September - November 2023, *Online**

An opportunity from the Canadian Shield Regional Council: "A couple of years ago, we had a number of requests from some of the 'graduating students' for opportunities for them to continue to learn and connect with other lay worship leaders. "**Learning on the Way**" is intended to provide such an opportunity." The sessions begin during the week of September 18th. [Click here for more information about the course and registration.](#)

★ **Notes for Lay Worship Leaders & Treasurers, from the Lay Support Committee:**

- Licenses are now being renewed for **2 year terms**, good until June 30, 2025.
- Fees remain at \$150 minimum per service, with additional \$75 if doing a 2-part charge on the same Sunday.

- Mileage rates are 55 cents per Km. (same as Regional Council rates).
- If you are paid more than \$500 at a church they are to make a T4A for you at end of year.
- If you make under \$500 from a church, you will not receive a T4A but you still must claim all income made to the government.

★ **Chinook Winds Administrators' Association Retreat: 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. [Click here for more information and for registration](#). **Registration deadline is October 1!**

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.](#)

In-person Boundaries Training and Ministry Retreat, September 26-27, St. Albert, AB: Registration Deadline Tomorrow!!

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!](#)

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Youth Connection Survey

The United Church of Canada is trying to learn from young people (ages 13-35 years) about what encourages a sense of connection to the church and what blocks their involvement. Please share this survey with Canadian young people that you know—they don't need to be currently connected with a church in any way! [Click here to access the survey.](#)

COP28: UN Climate Change Young Adult Delegation

The United Church of Canada is sending a small delegation of [young adults to COP28](#), the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Delegates will participate, learn, and advocate at COP and share to the wider church and beyond to bring attention to and grow support for climate justice. Please circulate this opportunity to interested young adults (ages 19-35). **Deadline: September 13, 2023.**

In Case You Missed It...

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.

New Pathways now launching at St. Andrew's College!

Applications are open and flowing into our new [Lifelong Learning certificate programs](#), as well as our [renewed degree programs](#). Whether you are in training for ministry, looking for ongoing educational engagement and support, or just plain curious about theology, we have something for you! For more information, please be in touch with the College Recruitment Officer at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca (306-441-6367).

Worship Resources:

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

[Creation Time 1 – September 10, 2023](#)

[Creation Time 2 – September 17, 2023](#)

[World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel – September 17, 2023](#)

[UN International Day of Peace – September 21, 2023](#)

[Creation Time 3 – September 24, 2023](#)

[Creation Time 4 – October 1, 2023](#)

[World Communion Sunday – October 1, 2023](#)

[Thanksgiving Sunday – October 8, 2023](#)

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

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



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton Alberta
780.435.3995
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritr.ca



Image Credits: Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Copyright © 2023 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.

[Sign-up to receive the Newsletter by email by clicking here.](#)