



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: September 13, 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

★ **Pastoral Relations Minister: New Email***

Adam Hall, Pastoral Relations Minister, has a new email as of September 12th, 2023. Please update his contact to: Adam.Hall@united-church.ca.

★ **Interconnect Fundraiser + Orange Shirt Day**

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) has created orange t-shirts with the new Centre's logo on them. They are **\$30** each, and are available to purchase and pick-up from the Regional Office. [Please contact Chloe in the office to request your orange shirt!](#)

★ **Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Saturday September 30, and Sunday Sept 24 or Oct 1**

Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important public space for truth telling, and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. As part of our church's [living into the Apologies](#), let's join with others to help ensure the ongoing history and impacts of the residential schools system are never forgotten- and that together, we bring about real change. Please make plans for Sunday worship on September 24; Sunday October 1 is also an important space for naming the ongoing violence facing Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people in preparation for October 4, National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). [Please click here for ideas and resources](#). Thank you for any prayerful space and public commitments you and your ministry can offer.

★ **General Council Call for Nominations Fall 2023: Deadline to Nominate: September 25**

General Council is seeking nominations for multiple vacancies, including the Task Group on Apology to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Communities; the Total Compensation Review Task Group; the Audit Committee; and the General Council Executive. [Click here for more information on the various vacancies.](#) | [Click here to express interest in these vacancies.](#)

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@mcdougallunited.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.

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.

★ World Week of Peace in Palestine Israel from September 16-23, 2023

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) would like to draw churches' attention to the World Week of Peace in Palestine Israel from September 16-23, 2023. Resources for this and much more are included in our [September Network News](#).

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](#).

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.

★ 48th Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History: People & Ideas, Church & Theology, Saturday, September 23, 2023, hybrid

The Canadian Society of Presbyterian History invites you to become a member! Our 48th annual conference is a hybrid one – join online or in-person at Knox College, Toronto. This year's conference takes place on **Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. E.T.** In order to participate in this year's conference, the membership fee (\$55 for in-person registration; \$45 for online registration) must be received by **Monday, September 18**. [Click here for more information about membership](#). Questions or comments? Email secretary@csph.ca.

★ **Walk From St. Paul's United Church to kihcihkaw askî Sacred Earth**

Ceremonial Site: September 24, 12 p.m.

We will be meeting at church at 12:00 PM, Lewis Cardinal will give a brief introduction and then he will lead our walk to the kihcihkaw askî (pronounced key-chee-cow-ask-ee) site. The site is just off the Whitemud Ravine near Fort Edmonton Park; the walk will be along the river valley and takes approximately one hour. We encourage anyone not walking to drive there and meet us (parking available at the site at 14141 Fox Drive NW). BYO Lunch, coffee & tea & some refreshments will be available on site. [Click here for full details.](#)

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

There's brand-new content coming for this year's [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#). In addition to the daily written content that will be posted online, a dynamic set of speakers will be sharing their insights on Tuesdays. The speakers will explore these diverse themes: race shifting; anti-racist and decolonial theologies; raising anti-racist children; environmental racism; countering antisemitism; intergenerational Asian voices; and copyright justice and musical misappropriation. There's no cost for the online events! You can register for all of the [live events on ChurchX](#). Consider [signing up for the 40 Days newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date on all of the developments related to the 40 Days for this year!

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](#).

★ **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!**

★ **Daring justice: Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference: 19-21 October, at Star of the North retreat centre, St Albert AB, Treaty Six.**

Registration is now open! [Please click here](#). All welcome to our first in-person gathering since 2019! 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. [Check here for all information and ongoing updates](#).

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-Ssteinhauer 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 Divinity, awarded at this year's St. Stephen's College Convocation, October 23, 2023. Nancy will also be the convocation speaker that evening. 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*. We celebrate this honour that will be bestowed upon our friend and former ministry team member! To read more about Nancy and the specific contributions for which she is being recognized, please [click here](#).

★ **Canadian Centre for Christian Charities webinar: Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church: October 25th**

Yes, small churches can be strong, healthy, and effective! In this CCCC webinar, Karl Vaters will share the three main principles behind effective small churches. This webinar

is perfect for pastors, deacons, and elders at small churches; denominational officials; family members of small church pastors; or anyone with a desire to deepen their understanding of small churches and how to participate in their flourishing. Registration Details: Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET, on Zoom. Free, when you register with your CRA Charity Number (find yours on the CRA Charities listing!). [Click here to register.](#)

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” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

★ Celebrating a Covenant: Mill Woods United Church, October 29, 10:30 a.m.

Mill Woods United Church is very happy to welcome Eli Carter-Morgan as our new Minister. We will be holding a Covenanting Service on October 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. Please join us for the service and luncheon afterwards. We ask that if you plan to stay for lunch, please contact our church office to confirm (780-463-2202 or mwuc1@telus.net) to help us plan accordingly. Thank you.

‘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.

★ Anti-Racism Work and Action LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, November 2-4, 2023, Vancouver, BC

The focus of this three-day First Third Ministry conference is to further the journey we are all on towards becoming an anti-racist church through examining our own leadership and action with children, youth and young adults, and their families. [Click here for more information & Registration.](#)

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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