



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



News from the Region: September 20, 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

★ 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.

★ **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!](#)

★ **Community Fundraiser Request: Kirk Community Centre**

Kirk United Church Community Centre has started a GoFundMe page to assist with the unexpected medical bills their resident cat, Mouse, has incurred since May 2023. [To learn more about Kirk & Mouse, please click here.](#)

★ **Job Opportunity: Southminster-Steinhauer United Church (SSUC) Choir Accompanist**

Southminster Steinhauer United Church, located in south Edmonton, is seeking a pianist to accompany the adult choir from October 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024. SSUC is an open and affirming spiritual community exploring an expansive and progressive Christianity. We have a mixed voice adult choir of approximately 20 singers, as well as a vocal octet and a womens trio, providing choral music each week. The accompanist would work closely with the choir director, support the choir in learning and preparing music on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm, and accompany the choir every 2-3 weeks during Sunday gatherings. If you are interested in this position or have questions, please contact Debra Mooney, choral director, at dcmooney@shaw.ca or 780-434-1824.

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.

Featured News

★ **New Affirming resources and United Church statement on the "Million Person Marches"**

On Wednesday, September 20th, anti-2SLGBTQIA+ activists plan to rally at legislatures, city halls, and school board offices across the country under the "[1 Million March 4 Children](#)" banner. While they claim to be in support of "parental rights," this is explicitly an anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rally. They're supported by a big tent of far-right groups, including Christian Nationalists, white supremacists, and anti-public education activists. By the time you read this, most of these marches will be over. But they'll be back.

As an Affirming Regional Council, we encourage your ministry to be aware of the fear and hate that exist in so many of our communities- and the possibilities for a public, intentional and explicit expression of God's love. Christians need to step up and proclaim that love in word and deed. [Here is a summary of ideas](#), and some graphics for you to use, shaped in part of over 60 congregational Affirming leaders from the Prairies and north who gathered last week to plan. [And here is a statement from the national church](#).

★ **Faithful Footprints energy efficiency opportunity for Northern Spirit**

[Faithful Footprints](#) is a national church program that helps congregations lower their energy use through careful retrofits. They asked the Region to tell you that they have some free energy audits available to congregations within a three -our drive of Edmonton (and they apologise to those outside that radius- but are very happy to work with you on other options). And they have other options on tap for everyone. Please [contact Jessica Ryan](#) if you'd like to look at reducing your carbon footprint as part of the United Church's wider climate commitments.

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!

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **The latest news from the wider church: Orange Shirt Day, Mission and Service Thanksgiving Resources, and more!**

[Click here to read some great summaries](#). And remember: the national church has a number of short, focused newsletters to support your ministry and interests. [Click here to have a look at the options](#).

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](#).

In Case You Missed It...

Deadline Approaching! 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.](#)

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@mcdougallunited.com.

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.
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Worship Resources:

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

[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](#)

[World Food Sunday – October 15, 2023](#)

[Twentieth after Pentecost– October 15, 2023](#)

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – October 17, 2023](#)

[Twenty First after Pentecost – October 22, 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.

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