



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: September 27, 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

★ **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. [Click here to view the Moderator's Orange Shirt Day Message](#).

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. *Only 5 shirts remaining @ the Office!* [Please contact Chloe in the office to request your orange shirt!](#)

★ Book Sale! Pre-order for Celebration of Ministries Gathering

Sharon Adams is selling the Wood Lake books left over from the Regional Meeting plus a few more that she tried to save from the landfill when Wood Lake closed. [Here is a list of the books available](#) and she would be happy to bring some / all to the October 21st Celebration Gathering at Kirk United for pick up or purchase. Please contact Sharon at sharad2224@yahoo.ca, or text or call 587-297-1570 if you want any of these set aside for you.

Events & Learning Opportunities

★ Fall workshops at United in Learning:

A summary of the latest offerings from United in Learning is here. From treasurers to stewardship, anti racism to the Mod's Book Squad, [click here to learn more](#).

★ Fall Youth Events!

All Youth are invited to an exciting roster of Fall gatherings! For more information, email Anna at anna.grace@shaw.ca.

- **Friday, September 29** – Regional Youth Gathering at Grace United Church for Orienteering, 7-9pm - 6215 104 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6A 0X9 - (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, October 27** – Regional Youth Gathering at McDougall United for Sardines and Snacks, 7-9pm 10086 MacDonald Dr NW, Edmonton, AB (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)

- **Friday, November 24** – Regional Youth Gathering at Spirit of Hope United – 7-9pm, Details to follow (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, December 15** - Regional Youth Gathering at Riverbend United Church – Christmas Party, 7-9pm (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, December 29** – Regional Youth Gathering at St Paul’s United Church for overnight event, Details TBA

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”: Wednesday Oct 11 from 7:30 – 9pm ... *Histories and Trajectories of our Schools’ Journeys***

Throughout this coming academic year, we will be hosting a series of four online events celebrating St. Andrew’s commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and [Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon](#)’s commitment to being “Reconciling in Christ”. We’ll be educating ourselves about sexual orientation and gender identity, and exploring new ways to be in solidarity and celebration with LGBTQIA2S communities in the church and beyond. Please mark your calendars now! More specific information to follow, closer to the dates... all events will happen online at 7:30-9pm Sask time. For more information on any of these events, please [contact Shawn](#).

- **Wed Oct 11 Histories and Trajectories of our Schools' Journeys** (panel discussion) - [Click here for the Zoom link](#)
- **Mon Nov 27** Queer Christology (a public lecture by Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein)
- **Thurs Feb 8** Liturgical Resources for LGBTQIA2S Christians (panel discussion)
- **Tues Mar 19** Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion)

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](#).

★ **Historical Society AGM: October 14, Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton AB**

The thirty-fifth AGM of the ANWC Historical Society will take place on Saturday 14 October at 10:00 a.m., at Spirit of Hope United Church, 7909 82 Ave Edmonton. In addition to business, after lunch there will be a speaker, L. Derkach. For further information contact Dr. R. MacDonald, Secretary, at 403-282-1014 or rjmacdon@ucalgary.ca.

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!**

Into the Future...

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

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. [Click here for registration 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!

Register Now 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 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.

★ **Rural Ministry Town Hall, Monday October 30 (and the last Monday of every month), afternoon.**

All welcome to this ongoing series of open space and focused conversation on topics near and dear to rural and remote ministries. Please note that you need a free account to sign for the whole series, and then you'll get reminders sent to your own email. [Register here.](#)

'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.](#)

★ **Creating a Culture of Respect for Gender and Sexual Diversity**

Wetaskiwin First United will be hosting a workshop on Creating a Culture of Respect for Gender and Sexual Diversity, on November 7, 2023. *You too could host this workshop:* this particular work is partially funded by a grant through RBC, which makes it accessible for not for profits or churches. [Click here for more information on this program.](#)

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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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