



News from the Region: October 4, 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

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.

Interconnect Fundraiser

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 a few remaining!. [Please contact Chloe in the office to request your orange shirt!](#)

Featured News

★ New: Minimum Salary Schedule for 2024

The updated Minimum Salary Schedule for 2024 has been published on The United Church of Canada website. [You can view it at this link.](#) This contains important information for the cost of living adjustment for ministry personnel (effective January 1, 2024), as well as the visiting minister rate. You will note that the schedule includes an increase in terms of the cost of living (6.3%). This amount was communicated to the communities of faith and Ministry personnel earlier in the year (2023), yet it may still come as a surprise to you and may have implication for your 2024 budgets. This amount will only be in place for 2024. The General Council executive has determined that a new process of determining these cost of living increases is needed and that process will be put into place for 2025. If you have any questions at all about these guidelines please reach out to our Pastoral Relations Minister, Adam Hall, by email or phone: adam.hall@united-church.ca | 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6443.

★ Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Women

October 4th is the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit people. There are many local events and vigils, and your church signage and property are good places for words and symbols to honour the day, along with picking one thing from the report of the national inquiry, which offers 200 calls to action.

★ Updated Resources on Indigenous Church Remit

Our church is in the midst of an important journey that requires a vote from your pastoral charge governing body between now and the end of March 2024. Remit 1 asks the church to give pre-emptive approval for whatever the Indigenous Church determines in the future as the place it will have in the United Church, guided by the Calls to the Church—and without the need for further remit approvals. Now there are more resources to help your Board or Council's discernment, discussion, and decision-making. [Have a look at this updated list](#), which includes Regional meeting 2023 presentations and discussion, with time stamps for different focus area identified in each video.

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.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ General Council Executive Meeting Summary

Last week's meeting of the General Council Executive addressed (among many other things): Principles-based Justice; renouncing claims to former mission properties in the Democratic Republic of Korea; and COLA and grant decisions as a first step in the 2024 budget process. In further work from GC43, five proposals presented to the GCE about eliminating functional distinctions between Designated Lay Ministers and Ordered Ministry were all carried, and will be presented to the General Council for discussion and decision on Oct. 21, 2023. [Please find the summary here.](#)

★ Social Entrepreneurship & Faith-Based Values to Build Sustainable Ministries: October 14, 21, & 28, online

Social Enterprise for Faith Communities with Shaun Loney is a course designed to help communities of faith use social entrepreneurship and faith-based values to build sustainable ministries. Featuring three live sessions with Shaun and four hours of content you can complete at your own pace, the course will offer an opportunity to explore the profound potential for creating impactful ventures that address pressing community needs. During the live sessions on **October 14th, 21st, and 28th at noon ET**, you'll have the opportunity to bring your projects and brainstorm about the future of social enterprise in YOUR faith community! [Read more and register.](#)

In Case You Missed It...

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.

Worship Resources:

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

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

[Creation Time Five – 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](#)

[Reformation Sunday– October 29, 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 [Timothy Eberly](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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

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