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*Events Newsletter: October 11, 2023*

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**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](mailto: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.](#)

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**News From the Pews & Other Ministries**

♥ Our hearts and prayers are with all those involved and affected by conflict, violence, and suffering in **Israel and Palestine**. The United Church mourns the deaths and injuries already suffered and calls for an immediate ceasefire to the recent escalation in violence. We pray for a just peace in the Holy Land and urge global leaders to work urgently for an end to the current violence, an end to the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories, and a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis. [Read the full statement.](#)

### ★ **Webinar for Church Treasurers Summary Highlights**

Some highlights for those who were not able to attend the September 27 webinar:  
**CEBA and UCC Covid loans** – Repayments are due by **December 31**. If you don't pay in full by that date, you will not receive the benefit of the forgivable portion. If your Community of Faith is in danger of not being able to pay off the CEBA loan, General Council will consider loans for the purpose of paying the CEBA loan in time so you receive the benefit of the forgivable portion. Please send your request to the [hdootoff@united-church.ca](mailto:hdootoff@united-church.ca) by October 31. General Council is recommending paying your CEBA loan by end of November. Interest on loans start Jan 1, 2024.  
**Other items covered** – Information now available for 2024 budgeting. UCC Protect insurance December renewals coming soon. Changes coming for T4 reporting effective Jan 1, 2024. Best option to run all payroll through ADP. Possible increased CRA reporting requirements related to trust and restricted funds. CRA putting pressure on charities who are behind in T3010 and other reports. Fines and/or revocation penalties may apply.

**This is a summary and does not cover all the information provided.** [Click here to watch the full seminar, which is highly recommended!](#)

### **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](mailto:sharad2224@yahoo.ca), or text or call 587-297-1570 if you want any of these set aside for you.

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## **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](#).

### **St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention": \*Tonight\* 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.](#)

★ **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 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> 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.](#)

**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](mailto:rjmacdon@ucalgary.ca).

**Fall Youth Events!**

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

- **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

**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**. Registration closes **October 18**.

**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.](#)

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## *Into the Future...*

### ★ **CCS Friday on Diakonia During Climate Change, Friday October 27**

Join in on Friday, October 27, 2023 at noon Central Time for an online discussion of climate change and how to respond as faith-filled individuals and as ministers. This past summer has delivered unprecedented and extreme weather phenomena to many parts of Canada and around the world. Our special guests will be Eric Tusz-King and Katrina March. CCS Fridays events are free. Please [register](#) to receive a link.

### **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](mailto:mwuc1@telus.net)) to help us plan accordingly. Thank you.

### ★ **Online Book Launch for Hope Peace Unrest: The Holy Spirit in the Korean Community in The United Church of Canada, Monday Oct. 30 - 5:00 pm MT**

This is the latest book from An Intercultural Adventure, a series of seminars looking at the Korean experience in The United Church of Canada. It seeks to describe the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Korean community in the United Church. The focus here is on how the Spirit is present as a source of hope and peace for Koreans, and also as unrest. All people of all backgrounds are invited. [Register here](#). The book is available in Korean or English. It can be ordered as an e-book or in a print version in either language. To order the book, please contact [St. Andrew’s College](#).

### **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](mailto: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.](#)

**★ Pastoral Care Visiting Workshop: Called to be a healing**

**presence - Saturday November 4 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Robertson-Wesley United (10209 123 st, Edmonton AB)**

Lay leaders who are involved in visiting with parishioners or who are interested in joining the visiting team are invited to an afternoon of reflection and learning about best practices and the joy and purpose of this important ministry. Guest speakers will share stories and learnings from their perspectives in hopes of inspiring us to live out our faith caring for people who are unable to attend church regularly or who are in hospital, long term care, or palliative care. This workshop is free and open to all people of faith. Coffee/Tea/Juice and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or would like to register for this event please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at [Karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:Karen.bridges@rwuc.org)

**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.](#)

★ **Yes, No Maybe Discernment Retreat through LeaderShift - November 17-19, 2023, Calgary AB**

A retreat for all those who are feeling the tug to explore a vocation in professional ministry. Intentionally explore a Call to Ministry, in community. Come together with a cohort of retreatants to deep dive into the urgings of the soul. Explore through worship, prayer, poetry, silence and community. Ask questions, listen intentionally, and tend to your own vocation - with LeaderShift and colleagues from the Office of Vocation. For more information [click here](#), or contact [Michelle Slater](#).

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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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