



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

February 22, 2022

Announcements and information of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news to share, or a special announcement, please write a short article, and send it to Kathy Jackson, Office Administrator: kjackson@united-church.ca. We are unable to include posters or other attachments, but links to further information may be included. Our Community of Faith Events Calendar is open 24/7 for posting about events that are open to the public. News and Events can be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>.

Welcome to the First News-Only Edition of the Regional Council Newsletter

We are now publishing "Regional Council News" and "Learning and Gathering" issues separately, on alternating weeks. This issue, "Regional Council News", shares all the news that has been submitted to the Regional Council Office. If you have news to share, or special announcements, please let us know. Next week's newsletter will be an Events issue. Because of the two-week rotation, submission deadlines will be publicised in each edition: **Friday, February 25** is the deadline for the next Events issue; and **Friday, March 4** for the next News issue.

News from the Regional Council Executive

The February Newsletter from the Executive is now posted to the Regional Council web site. Please click on [Executive Newsletter](#) to see what the Executive has been doing on our behalf.

Featured News ...

PIE Day Video (and Homemade Pie) from the Moderator

Why PIE? PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. Those are the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to live into being Affirming people and communities by, for, and with Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people. This year's PIE Day theme for March 14 is "Everyone Gets A Slice!" The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, gets into some [pie making and PIE reflection in this video](#). An [update on PIE and other Affirming goodness](#) was sent last week to the Regional Council Affirming list. This list includes not only Affirming ministries, but those who are in process, curious about the process, or supportive. Individual subscribers also welcome! If you would like to be added to the Affirming contact list, please email Julie Graham: jgraham@united-church.ca

Spirit of Hope Celebrates!

On February 13, Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton, celebrated being recognized as an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. [Click here for the full story](#), with photos. The service was held in the gym as their newly-renovated sanctuary is not ready for occupancy yet. You can [view the renovations-in-progress](#) in the January 16 issue of "The Spark".

Anti Racism Common Table letter on Hate Symbols at Recent Protests

The recent protests and border blockades have made for a very tense few weeks. This [open letter from the General Council's Anti Racism Common Table](#) asks us to accept the reality, and the impact, of the documented presence of white supremacist, racist symbols at a number of the protests. You're invited to read it with an open heart for the experiences of Black and Indigenous people, and people of colour, targeted by the beliefs behind these symbols.

Tony Snow, a member of the Indigenous church and Regional Minister in Chinook Winds, also [offers us this reflection from his perspective](#). May God give us the heart to absorb these words.

Black History Month Continues: *Around the Table* Personal Reflections

This blog is full of food for thought that can be used in worship and everywhere else. Have a look! For Black History Month, this week, [Albertine Chokoté Naoué](#) asks what each of us can do to deconstruct thoughts and behaviours that are harmful. This may feel especially timely as we think about the enormous tensions surrounding the recent protests. "As a disciple of Christ striving to follow in his steps, what should my contribution be to help deconstruct erroneous thoughts, misperceptions, prejudice, and other realities that produce and maintain behaviours that are harmful to one's own self or others?"

Nominations for General Council Openings: Please Bring your Discernment

'Tis the season when the wider church looks for people to fill many and diverse openings across our governance and task groups. The General Council (the national church body) has now sent out its list of openings, with March 22 or 28 deadlines. [Please have a look at the opportunities here](#) (scroll down past "Job Opportunities" to "Committee Vacancies" for elected/volunteer positions. You can nominate yourself, and we are also invited to nominate others, after checking with them first.

In Other News ...

Ministry Personnel Online Lenten Event (Updated)

On March 17-18, the Living Skies Committee on Ministry Personnel Support and St. Andrew's College are partnering again to host an online Lenten Event on March 17-18. A prepared worship service will be provided for March 20 to enable Ministry Personnel to fully engage in this continuing education event. Details on the event may be found [here](#); registration information [here](#).

Naramata Centre Seeks New Executive Director

Naramata Centre is looking for an experienced and dynamic leader, personally aligned with its vision, mission and values. The successful candidate will embody the spiritual connection Naramata Centre provides, and be energized by the experience of living in the Okanagan region. As the leader of the Centre, the Executive Director is responsible for oversight of all operations, business and financial management. This role reports to the Board of Directors of the Naramata Centre Society. Here is where you can find [more information about Naramata Centre and the Search Profile](#).

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