



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Regional Council News

May 17, 2022

Articles and Information of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news to share, please write a short article, and send it to Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support: 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. Events can be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, May 6 for the next Events issue, and Friday, May 13 for the next News issue.

Family News

Condolences

We have received news of the death of Dorothy Kelker, daughter of the Rev. Henriette Kelker. Dorothy passed away on May 4, at the age of 44. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Henriette, and all of Dorothy's family and friends.

News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

Coronado Gibbons United Church

Wendy Molnar's last day preaching will be in mid-June, and she will be officially retired as of the end of June. Wendy has taught us so much! We are very appreciative of her service to our congregation and wish her well.

Hardisty Lake United Church Camp: Staff Positions Available

Hardisty Lake United Church Camp is happy to announce that they will be OPEN this summer! And they need you to make camp happen. Check out the available positions: Director, Life Guard/Waterfront, Cabin Counsellors, Camp Cook, Cook Assistant. You can see [full details and application forms](#) on the camp website. LET'S BRING THE FUN BACK INTO SUMMER!

Mill Woods United Church, Edmonton, Position Available

A spiritual mentor is being sought to restart our children's program in September 2022. We are looking for an energetic individual to prepare each lesson with stories, songs, crafts and FUN!! A program guide, "A Joyful Path", is provided for the curriculum. The position is for 3 hours a week, \$50 per week from September to June, and is for every Sunday except on long weekends. Please email your resume and/or any questions to amber2@ualberta.ca. Thank you!

Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton

Thanks to the amalgamation of four churches to form Spirit of Hope United Church, we have some choir music to offer to churches in the Region. It has taken a few years to sort and catalogue our combined

music, and determine what music we would keep. As a result we now have a listing of about 115 pieces that we would like to offer to any church that is interested. [Click here to view a PDF list of what is available](#). These pieces are available on a first-come basis until **Friday, June 24**. Interested churches can contact cmeintzer@shaw.ca.

Featured News ...

Northern Spirit 2022 Regional Celebration of Ministries Service

We will be celebrating one ordination and a number of retirements this year, as well as installing the next Chairperson for the Regional Council Executive, and remembering those who have died since the 2021 Annual Meeting. If you know of someone who should be included in the Memorials, please let Kathy Jackson know: kjackson@united-church.ca. On **Sunday, June 5, 2022**, at 1:00 PM (MDT), you are invited to celebrate with us at Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton, or live-streamed via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMOKXwV3sLQ>.

Temporary Travel Rate Change for Ministry Personnel

At its April 30 meeting, the General Council Executive approved the following proposal. Community of Faith Treasurers will be informed directly of this change. The motion covers the mileage rate in the Minimum Salaries for Ministry Personnel 2022: "Considering the recent spike in gasoline prices and the prediction that they may remain at these levels for some time, it is proposed that the Executive of the General Council temporarily, to September 30, 2022, increase the current minimum reimbursement rate to 75% of the CRA 2022 "reasonable allowance rate ... for the first 5,000 kilometers driven", or \$0.46 per kilometer; and authorize the General Secretary to extend this temporary increase to December 31, 2022 if fuel prices remain high."

Your Story Matters: Toward Thriving and Equitable Pastoral Relationships

If you are Ministry Personnel who identifies as *Indigenous, racialized, Deaf, speak English as an additional language, disabled, Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+, non-binary, or female* (aka Equity-seeking), or, if are a lay leader in a Community of Faith in a Pastoral Relationship with someone who identifies as Equity-seeking (see above), the *Pastoral Relationships Thriving with Equity Research Project* wants to hear from you. With a goal to proactive actions, the United Church of Canada seeks to learn what helps or hinders your Pastoral Relationship in thriving. You can participate in an online survey, on your own time, at your own pace, private and confidential; or as part of an online focus group, at a set time with others with whom you might identify or arranged with your group of congregational leaders; or in one-on-one interviews (for Equity-seeking Ministry Personnel). [Click here for background and details](#).

Summer is Coming and Camping Ministry is Here!

We have five United Church camps here in the Northern Spirit region: [links to them are here](#). They are all very busy gearing up for summer programs, including that long-delayed return to in person camping. Keep them in mind for your support and volunteer hours, and for the youth and kids in your life.

Camp Fyrefly

In addition, there are camping programs for Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ children and youth throughout Canada. [Camp Fyrefly in Alberta](#) is a ground-breaking program, based out of the University of Alberta, and beyond. [Rainbow Camp in Ontario](#) has a strong United Church connection, is 2SLGBTQIA+ focused,

and is open to campers near and far. There are currently no camps in the United Church that are Affirming, under the Affirm United/ S' affirmer Ensemble process, which has been endorsed by the General Council. Many are already working on an affirming pathway and transforming their programs, making such a positive difference for youth and adults alike. Consider how your outdoor ministry or Community of Faith can become a space that offers public, intentional, and explicit inclusion of gender- and sexually-diverse people of all ages, year-round!

May is Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Have a look at the [many worship resources and personal reflections](#) available through the United Church as we celebrate the diverse cultures, languages, faith traditions, and struggles of the majority of the world's population. The United Church is blessed with many sibling churches throughout the Asian continent, which have shaped our history, theologies, liturgy, and understandings of justice and dignity. With United Church members of Asian and Pacific Island roots, we give thanks for these relationships in God's family. Two recent hymn videos for our worship use include [Cast Your Boat Out](#) (Korean version), and [The Bird Song](#) (in honour of a young queer Korean.)

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