



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

May 24, 2022

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

If you have information about an upcoming event or learning opportunity, 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. Alternatively, our Community of Faith Events Calendar is open 24/7 for posting about events that are open to the public. Events can also be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, May 13 for the next News issue; and Friday, May 20 for the next Events issue.

Family News

Appreciation and Congratulations

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."

Events and Learning Opportunities ...

Anti-Racism Action Planning for Communities of Faith

Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils invite one lay member and one ministry personnel from up to 24 communities of faith within our bounds to this series of four weekly sessions **June 8, 15, 22, and 29**. We'll focus on the new book [Wait - is this racist?](#), by Kerry Connelly, with Bryana Clover and Josh Riddick. We'll bring this work into the Canadian and United Church context with resource people and a focus on the United Church Anti Racism Action Plan. We hope this will support and encourage your anti-racism commitments and work, and that you will help the Regional Council move its own commitments forward. This is advance notice with more details to come. Please [see the registration form](#) for a few more details.

United in Learning

See and share all the latest information about events from United-in-Learning! [Click here](#) to find out about all of the learning opportunities offered by United in Learning, including, *Creating Space for Mental Health and Well-Being (tonight!)*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Called to Be the Church - the*

Journey, Bridging Poverty and Privilege, and more. There is always something new, so visit the site often. And, in case you missed something, you can view [recordings of past webinars here](#).

Our Story in Our Language

May 21 to June 18, 9:00 AM (MDT), Sandy Saulteaux Centre; [Full information and registration are here](#).

In this series of online multi-lingual conversations hosted by the Sandy Saulteaux Centre, participants explore what community leadership training means for Indigenous Communities of Faith. All sessions start at 9:00 AM (MDT) on the second last Saturday of the month. Tickets are \$25/session.

Webinar for Church Treasurers

May 25, 5:00 PM (MDT); [Click here for details and registration](#).

It's back and nationwide! Join this monthly support and information session for all the church's blessed Treasurers.

Daring Justice: Courageous Conversations Across Divides

June 1 (corrected date), 11 AM (MDT); [Click here for more information or to register](#).

The United Church is hosting an online engagement event with General Council 44 Global, Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners to discuss increasing inequities, injustice and deepening polarizations, all compelling issues for people of faith. Moderated by Aisha Francis, Executive Director, KAIROS Canada, the conversation will include, among other leaders, Bishop Susan Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Rev. Eun-kyung Kim, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, World Methodist Church.

Northern Spirit 2022 Regional Celebration of Ministries Service

Sunday, June 5, 2022, 1:00 PM (MDT), at Spirit of Hope United Church, Edmonton; and live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMOKXwV3sLQ>.

We will be celebrating an 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.

Anti-Racism Action Planning for Communities of Faith

June 8, 15, 22, and 29, 6:30-8:00 PM (MDT); Please [see the registration form](#) for a few more details.

Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils invite one lay member and one ministry personnel from up to 24 communities of faith within our bounds to this series of four weekly sessions. We'll focus on the new book [Wait - is this racist?](#), by Kerry Connelly, with Bryana Clover and Josh Riddick. We'll bring this work into the Canadian and United Church context with resource people and a focus on the United Church Anti Racism Action Plan. We hope this will support and encourage your anti-racism commitments and work, and that you will help the Regional Council move its own commitments forward.

Learning on Purpose

June 13 to 24, at Metropolitan United Church, London Ontario; [more Information and Registration](#).

This 2-week leadership development course and introduction to learning in community is offered by the Centre for Christian Studies. It is a practical, holistic, hands-on, theological, learning community experience. Those who take it come out feeling transformed (in a good way!). The course can be taken

as a stand-alone Continuing Studies course, or as the beginning of the Diaconal Ministries program, or for personal discernment. If you would benefit from this kind of learning and can make it to London in June, check it out, or email info@ccsonline.ca for more information. There is still time to register.

Religious Community in a Digital World

June 13-16, Online; [More Information Here](#) and [Registration Details Here](#)

Online Community? Church Hybridity? The Digital Body of Christ?

If these are realities which continue to excite, disturb, or otherwise engage you, please join this inaugural online Summer Learning Event, co-sponsored by the three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union (which includes the United Church's St. Andrew's College) in partnership with St. Thomas More College. The keynote speakers are Dr. Deanna Thompson, author of *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World*, and Dr. Jeffrey Mahan, author of *Church as Network: Christian Life and Connection in Digital Culture*.

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