



News from the Region: November 1, 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

★ **Gift Sharing Season: a Letter from our Chair....**

[Click here](#) to read a letter from our Executive Chair, Rev. Helen Reed, with reminders of our shared blessings and opportunities as Advent season approaches.

★ **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Liaisons: Policy Update and Call for Volunteers**

- The Northern Spirit Pastoral Charge Supervisor Policy has been updated. Key changes include specifications around appointing Lay Pastoral Charge Supervisors, and Retired Ministers to their former Pastoral Charges. **Please note that as of January 1, 2024, all Pastoral Charge Supervisors should be reimbursed for their time & effort with \$30 per hour of work on the Pastoral Charge's behalf**, in addition to having their travel costs reimbursed by the Pastoral Charge. For any active ministers, this should be paid in the form of an honorarium. [Click here to read the full updated policy.](#)
- **The Region is in need of both Supervisors and Liaisons.** Training is being offered, and no previous experience is necessary. *Pastoral Charge Supervisors* support Charges who do not currently have appointed or called ministry personnel, by acting as a resource and attending governing body meetings (in-person or online) ([Manual I.2.5.2](#)). *Pastoral Relations Liaisons* assist Charges with Pastoral Relations processes by supporting Community of Faith Profile and Search Teams (this does not require being on those teams) ([Manual I.1.5.3](#)). Both roles can often be carried out by phone, email, and Zoom. **Please contact Adam if you are interested in learning more about either or both of these important Regional roles:** Adam.Hall@united-church.ca.

★ **Pastoral Relations Workshop Invite: Community Profile and Living Faith Story**

Training: November 16, 7 p.m., via Zoom

The Pastoral Relations Commission will be offering a workshop on **November 16, 7 p.m.** for any Communities of Faith interested in learning about the development of Community of Faith Profile and Living Faith Story, and related ChurchHub processes. If your church is beginning, considering, or will be in these pastoral relations processes in the near future, you are welcome to join! [Please contact the office to RSVP & to receive the Zoom link.](#)

★ **Volunteer Ask: Good Samaritan Society**

The Good Samaritan Society in South Edmonton is looking for a United Church minister to volunteer to visit their seniors once or twice a month to provide some form of musical and/or reflective worship. If you are interested in this possibility, contact Salomon @ sbequel@gss.org.

♥ **Thank you:** a large and heartfelt thank you to **Erin White**, longtime volunteer; Pastoral Charge Supervisor; and member/Corresponding Secretary for the Property Commission. Thank you for your many years of faithful and invaluable work, care, time, and energy given for our church communities.

Featured News

★ **Please support calls for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas**

Urgent action is required to prevent further mass death of civilians in Gaza. The United Church and many other groups are [calling for an immediate ceasefire in the battle between Israel and Palestinian paramilitary group Hamas](#). 2.3 million civilians are trapped in the middle, including over 200 Israelis and international citizens taken captive by Hamas October 7. [Please click here for a simple urgent action to the federal government](#), and further background to help us hear what global partners living through this terrible violence are saying.

★ **Remit on autonomous Indigenous organization: Letter to pastoral charge boards coming**

If you are involved in the governance of your pastoral charge, look for an important letter over the next week. Currently a Category 3 Remit is before the church, focused on creating space for a National Autonomous Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada. Every Regional Council and every Pastoral Charge governing body has the right and responsibility to vote between now and 31 March 2024. The Regional Council has created a [resource page to help your process of learning, listening, and deciding](#). It will be updated on a continuous basis. Between now and February, the Regional Council will also offer open online learning circles, and we hope we will see you there. Please bear in mind that if your governing body does not vote on this Remit, that will be counted as a No vote. We urge you to ensure that your Council or Board votes!

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **United Church Group Insurance update**

All you folks who are part of the United Church's insurance group, [take a look at this extensive update](#) or pass it on to the wise people who keep your insurance ticking along.

★ **Working towards a Just Peace for Palestine: 2023 Advent Worship Resource**

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) have created worship materials for advent. Resources include songs, stories and prayers with the message of nonviolence, hope, resilience, peace, human rights and a just resolution to the occupation. Advent worship material and more can be found in [UNJPPI's October newsletter, here](#).

★ **No Room In the Inn Campaign for 2023-24**

The No Room In the Inn campaign this year is in support of **A Safe Place**. A Safe Place is a residential facility opened in 1984 for those who are escaping intimate or family violence. It is located in Sherwood Park. A recent review of their facility found major and unexpected issues with the roof. [Click here to view the poster with full details](#).

★ **Refugee Sponsorship News**

The latest national sponsorship newsletter is out; [click here to have a look at some important updates](#). Thank you to all who are sponsoring and supporting; it has been a hard few years in this work, with many continuing complexities, and some understandable fatigue. A number of congregations in the Region are finally seeing some movement and are preparing for or working with long-awaited arrivals. Blessings to you and to those arriving here and taking the hard step of beginning a very different life.

In Case You Missed It...

Celebration of Ministries Service: Blessings & Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate new ministries in Northern Spirit, both those who joined us in-person and through online livestreaming Saturday Oct 21! A warm congratulations to Linda Roberts, who was Recognized as a Designated Lay Minister, & to Sungsoon Park and Myeongnam Park, who were both Ordained. [Read our new ministers' bios here!](#) The service is still available to view [on our YouTube channel](#).

POSTPONED: Celebrating a Covenant: Mill Woods United Church

It is with regret that Mill Woods United Church has had to postpone the Covenanting Service for Rev. Eli Carter-Morgan. When the service is re-scheduled, we will re-advertise through the Newsletter. Thank you for your understanding.

Worship Resources:

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

[Twenty-third after Pentecost – November 5, 2023](#)

[Remembrance Day – November 11, 2023](#)

[Twenty Fourth after Pentecost– November 12, 2023](#)

[Childrens Sunday – November 19, 2023](#)

[Twenty Fifth after Pentecost– November 19, 2023](#)

[Transgender Day of Remembrance – November 20, 2023](#)

[World Aids Day – December 1, 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.](#)



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