



News from the Region: March 20, 2024



Notice: We are moving!!!

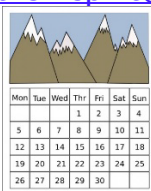
The Regional Council office is moving into a smaller space at the end of March.

Our new mailing address will be:
8510 95 Ave NW,
Edmonton, AB
T6C 1Y7

Our phone number will also be changing - the new office number will be:
1(800) 268-3781, Extension 6029.
Email will not change: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.
If you have any questions or concerns please reach out!

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

♥ Dr. Helen Huston, from Innisfail, Alberta, who began her ministry as overseas personnel with the United Church back in the 1950s, has passed away. [Read her full obituary here.](#)

★ (Re)Generate Leadership Program Update

Three ministers from Northern Spirit, and nine from our tri-Region, attended a January retreat as part of the Moderator Carmen Lansdowne's (Re)Generate Leadership Program. [Read more about their experience on our website.](#)

★ Reminder for Pastoral Charge Supervisors: Have you sent in your Pastoral Charge Supervisor Report?

If you are a Pastoral Charge Supervisor and you have not sent in a supervision report in the last six months, please send a report to the office or to Adam. Contact the office if you have any questions or if you want a guide for your report.

★ Sunrise Easter Service, March 31, 7am, Edmonton

Several United Churches of Edmonton invite all to greet the first light of Easter morning around a welcoming campfire with a simple service of song and hope. Bring your favorite morning beverage. At Emily Murphy Park, 11904 Emily Murphy Park Road NW Edmonton, AB.

Featured News

★ Alberta's proposed transgender legislation and new Regional Council action resource

The Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive believes that taking action against Alberta's proposed legislation targeting transgender children, youth, and families is a

key part of our work as an Affirming Regional Council, and as a community that supports the dignity, rights, safety, and thriving of all children and youth. In this spirit, the Region offers this education and action resource. We hope this resource helps you discern your own calls to action and faithful witness to God's all-embracing love. The resource includes: Legislation summary; our responses as church; moving to advocacy; what are the possible impacts of the proposed legislation, a closer look at the proposed legislation; and some more resources. [Click here to download the PDF.](#)

★ **Advance notice: Proposals to the Regional Council meeting, May 2 and 9th**

Proposals to the Regional Council or to General Council are the main avenue for asking the church to adopt policy positions or take specific and relevant action. They use a template for consistency, and to ensure that all the needed information for representatives or commissioners is included. The Regional Council template will be updated and posted after Easter. Please begin to consider and discuss proposals relevant to the Regional Council, as there will be a deadline for proposals that come to the online floor, to allow delegates enough time to read and reflect in advance.

★ **Last Opportunity To Send In Your Remit Vote**

The last day for pastoral charges to submit votes in the remit process is **March 31**. This date due date will not be extended, and it is important to submit votes by this date. It does not matter how large or small your pastoral charge is. What is vital is that each and every community of faith responds in this process. **As of today, votes have been received from 1286 pastoral charges, which is approximately 65.5% of the total.** Full background information—including voting cards, videos, and answers to frequently asked questions—are available on the website for [General Council 44](#). If you have additional questions, please be in touch with your [regional council](#).

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Moderator's Easter Message**

In her Easter message, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne's hope for the church is that we will know that even in our deepest grief the risen Christ will show up, call us by name, and remind us that this is not the end of our story. [Watch it on YouTube.](#)

★ **Advance notice: call for General Council 45 Commissioners**

In 2025 we'll celebrate the United Church's 100th birthday, and see a return to an in-person General Council in Calgary. It's going to be a big and busy year. Important preparation for the 45th meeting of the General Council will include the election of General Council Commissioners, who serve a three-year term, attend the in-person meeting, and attend multiple online meetings through those three years as part of the overall governance of our church. Your Regional Nominations Committee will soon launch a process for identifying people who wish to stand for election, which takes

place at their Regional Council meeting. For now, [here's the description of a Commissioner's role](#) for your discernment pleasure. Please share it freely.

★ **Earth Week is coming: here are some opportunities**

[Earth Week – 2024 – For the Love of Creation](#), April 21-28, 2024: events, resources, and more at the link! And: Climate Motivators Program. Do you know a young adult who could help the church live into its climate justice commitments? Please tell them about a paid opportunity through the national church's [The GO Project — Engaging faith-based curriculum for children and youth](#). **Deadline April 15, 2024.**

★ **Request a CNIB Ambassador Presentation**

The CNIB Ambassador Program amplifies the voices of people who are blind or partially sighted by raising awareness, challenging misconceptions, and inspiring change across Canada. Ambassadors share their stories and deliver educational presentations covering topics like blind etiquette, accessibility & inclusion, assistive & accessible technologies, white canes & guide dogs, braille literacy, and CNIB programs & services. Presentations are delivered in-person or virtually to classrooms, healthcare spaces, community groups, governments, social gatherings, senior residences & programs, businesses, and workplaces. Contact CNIB's Ambassador Program to request a presentation at 780-430-1099, or ambassador.abnwt@cnib.ca today.

Invitation: Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage in your community

In this season of Lent, and beyond, pilgrims in 125 countries are mapping the 41 km length of the Gaza Strip, by walking in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza, with all hostages and captives, and calling for a durable ceasefire. These pilgrimages are not demonstrations. They are times of deep lament, contemplation, and community solidarity. They can take place in communities of any size, in any configuration, with any partners, well into the spring and summer. Please consider a pilgrimage for your community, and contact Regional Minister Julie Graham at jgraham@united-church.ca if you'd like the simple planning resource being developed. [Please see the global website](#) for principles, resources, and more. A Regional Council [summary is posted here](#).

In Case You Missed It...

ATTENTION: Pastoral Charges with Manses

We have been notified by Erik Mathiesen, Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Canada about a requirement for all Pastoral Charges with manses to submit a CRA form related to "Underused Housing Tax". [Click here to read the full memo](#). Treasurer webinars held monthly on Churchx will include a bit of a "how to" complete the form. It is the responsibility of the United Church General Council and Regional Councils to flag the risk related to not complying with the requirement. There is an apparent duty to file - with a penalty for noncompliance.

A letter from our Growth Animator on compost

Read a letter from Jordan Cantwell, Prairies Growth Animator, reflecting on compost... *"To compost something is an act of faith... an affirmation of our belief in resurrection."* [Access the letter here.](#)

Worship Resources:

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

[International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21, 2024](#)

[Earth Hour - March 23, 2024](#)

[Palm Sunday - March 24, 2024](#)

[Maundy Thursday - March 28, 2024](#)

[Good Friday - March 29, 2024](#)

[Easter Sunday/Ressurrection Sunday - March 31, 2024](#)

[Second Sunday of Easter - April 7, 2024](#)

[Third Sunday of Easter - April 14, 2024](#)

[Earth Sunday - April 21, 2024](#)

[Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 21, 2024](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2024 Prayer Cycle](#)

- [Click here to access past Newsletter issues.](#)
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