



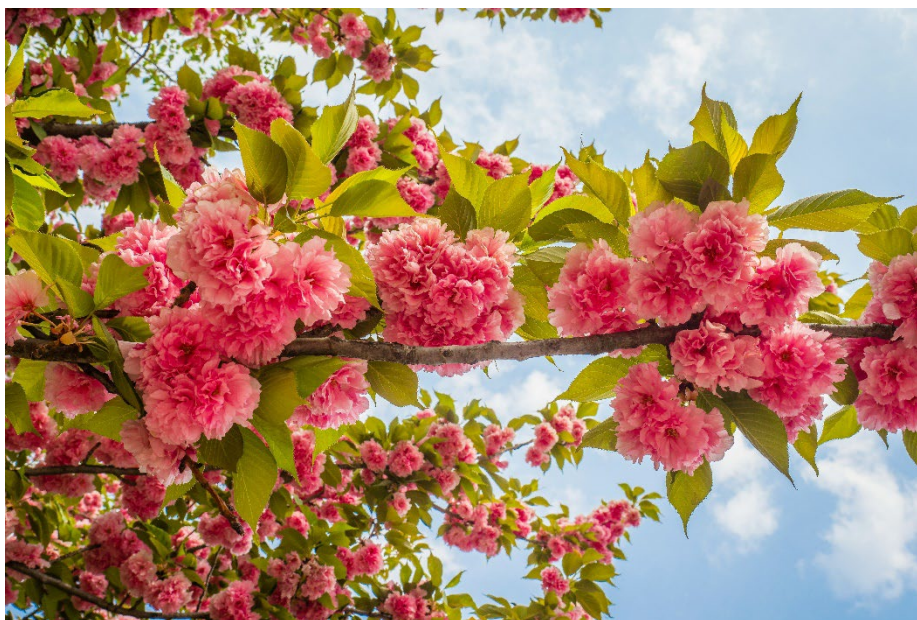
NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



---

*News from the Region: April 3, 2024*

---



***Notice: We have moved!!!***

The Regional Council office has moved into a smaller space, as of the end of March.

Our new mailing address is:

8510 95 Ave NW,  
Edmonton, AB  
T6C 1Y7

Our phone number has also changed. The new office number is: **1(800) 268-3781, Extension 6029.**

Email will not change: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).

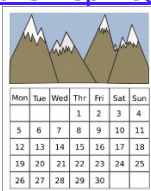
If you have any questions or concerns please reach out!

---

**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](mailto: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**

### ★ **Covenanting at St. Albert United Church, Sunday April 14.**

A covenanting service for Pastor Anne Telford and the Congregation of St. Albert United Church will take place on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 12:30 pm. The covenanting service will take place at St Albert United Church (20 Green Grove Drive, St. Albert, AB T8N 5H6). You are invited to come early for a potluck "Sandwiches, Salads and Sweets" lunch starting at 11:30 am and stay for a reception – the potluck sweets part - following the service. Everyone who can attend will be most welcome. For those unable to attend, greetings can be sent to the Church address, or the Church email address ([office@stalbertunited.ca](mailto:office@stalbertunited.ca)).

### ★ **Adaptive Leadership Workshop Opportunity for Ordained Ministry**

**Personnel: May 29, 9am - 3 pm, Edmonton**

This one-day in-person workshop will help ordained ministry personnel explore the adaptive challenges that are facing the church, and equip them with new leadership skills to address these challenges. **All in-service ordained ministry personnel in Edmonton and area are invited to participate.** There is no cost to attend, and lunch will be provided.

The workshop is offered as part of a doctoral research study taking place across Canada in 2024 and 2025 led by Rev. Clara King (ClaraKing.com), which is testing a new way to teach adaptive leadership to clergy. There are very minimal risks to participating in this study, however all participants must sign a letter of informed consent. **Register for the workshop** by emailing Chloe in the office: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca). **Learn more** about the workshop, the research study, the risks, and the letter of informed consent at a short, optional Zoom meeting with Clara on **Tuesday May 7 at 1:30pm Mountain** ([access Zoom link here](#)).

---

## **Featured News**

### ★ **Remit voting is finished; next steps**

Voting on the autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church closed March 31, and General Council has a ten-day window after that to allow receipt of any mailed-in ballots, which will be counted as long as they were post-marked by March 31. We anticipate results will be announced after April 10, via the national newsletter

E-ssentials. The Region will also use its own channels to make sure everyone receives the communication. Thank you to all who voted, and to all who facilitated and participated in courageous and honest conversations and decisions on this significant question. Our work together continues. No matter what, we in the majority non-Indigenous church remain in relationship with Indigenous United Church members and their communities, as the body of Jesus. We carry the Apologies and commitments of our ancestors in faith, and commitments made by the whole country, to change that shared relationship from one shaped by domination and colonization to one of justice, sharing, mutual respect, and love. We will plan more conversations together.

### ★ **Proposals to the Regional Council meeting, May 2 and 9<sup>th</sup>**

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 proposals template is now updated and ready for use.** Please click here for the [Proposals PDF overview](#) (best for sharing and reviewing) and [click here for the Word version](#) (best for copying and pasting into a new document so you can build your proposal with the correct information and format.) There will be a deadline for proposals that come to the online floor, to allow delegates enough time to read and reflect in advance. **Your timeline for this will be quite short, likely no later than April 22.** Completed proposals should be sent to the office, to Chloe Burns: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca). Please do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions, so that staff can help you find the right person to speak with.

### ★ **Upcoming Stewardship Online Courses**

If you have any questions about resources or ways to receive support with stewardship work in your community of faith, please reach out to Vicki Nelson at [vnelson@united-church.ca](mailto:vnelson@united-church.ca). A great place to kick-start your stewardship work is through one of our programs. Here is what is upcoming:

**Getting Started in Stewardship** – April 10 at 3pm or 5:30pm Central Time (2pm or 4:30 Mountain). Come on your own, or come with a team and join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles. This 90 minute course is the place to start if you are new to stewardship or need a refresher. [Register or learn more right here.](#)

**From Fear to Faith: How to talk about money in church** - Thursday, April 25 at noon Mountain & 1pm Central. This 60 minute session is for church leaders—both clergy and lay—to unpack some of the fears we have around talking about money and giving in church. Let's chat how we can move from scarcity, secrecy, obligation, and transaction towards abundance, transparency, joy and transformation. We will cover the practical and theological rationale for straightforward conversations about individual giving and how the church receives and uses money. [To register click here.](#)

**Setting Up Your Giving Program** – Starts the week of April 30 and requires a team (3-5 people) to participate. This course is designed for you to develop the resources you need to get your Congregational Giving Program off the ground! [To register or learn more click here.](#)

★ **Being Right Relations Network News: plan ahead for these important upcoming dates**

The Being Right Relations Network encompasses both Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regions. Two important Indigenous Special Days occur in May. We urge all United Churches to honour these two days and try to educate people in your community.

**May 5 - Red Dress Day:** Red Dress Day honours the memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada. In 2010 Métis artist Jaime Black helped inspire the red dress movement, where red dresses are hung from windows and trees to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors. [Learn more at the Red Dress Day website.](#)

**May 16 Moose Hide Day:** Moose hide Campaign is a grass roots movement for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and girls. It's a day of ceremony where all Canadians are called together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation. Moose Hide pins can be ordered on the [Moose Hide Day website, here.](#)

**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.](#)

---

**Wider Church News & Resources**

★ **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 Day Monday April 22: resources and plans!

Communities of faith, networks, and regions are invited to initiate and participate in climate justice events during the week of **April 21–28** to pray, learn, and act for the love of Creation. This is a tremendous opportunity for the church to lift up and strengthen the ways that we are putting our house in order by reducing our carbon footprint; raising our spirited voices through advocacy efforts; connecting with the earth; and challenging ourselves to respond to climate impacts. [Here are a range of resources](#) from the national church to support your work. [Please click here for the Moderator's 2024 video message](#). [Please click here for ecumenical resources](#) to help you plan Together for the Love of Creation: Earth Week April 21-28, 2024.

Finally, please keep in mind the **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.**

---

## In Case You Missed It...

### **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.

### **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](mailto:ambassador.abnwt@cnib.ca) today.

---

## *Worship Resources:*

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

[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.](#)



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta  
**1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029**  
[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)  
[www.northernspiritr.ca](http://www.northernspiritr.ca)



*Image Credits: Photo by [Alexander Schimmeck](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

*Copyright © 2023 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.  
[Sign-up to receive the Newsletter by email by clicking here.](#)*