



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



News from the Region: April 17, 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.**

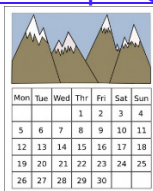
Email will not change: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.

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

Directory Update

The 2024 Regional Council Directory Update is now posted! The directory is a password-protected PDF designed to connect Regional Council members. As of April 2024, the directory will be updated on an ongoing basis. If you are saving the PDF on your devices, be sure to [check back](#) once in a while to make sure you are accessing the most up-to-date information! If you did not receive the link to the directory, [contact the office](#) for the full access details.

Featured News

Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization has passed!

All 16 Regional Councils, the National Indigenous Council, and just over 80% of pastoral charges in The United Church of Canada voted in the recent remit process. Huge thanks to all who participated in learning spaces, especially Indigenous knowledge keepers; to all who were on the phoning teams that helped push us into a large majority voting on the remit; and to all who voted, participated, and learned together. The conversation is not over! More detail on numbers and next steps [is available here](#), and a [letter from Regional Council chairperson Rev Helen Reed is posted here](#). **Please share both in your pastoral charge.**

★ Important Northern Spirit Regional Meeting update

The planning committee has decided to restructure our AGM meeting originally planned for May 2 and 9. We will now meet **May 9 and October 24**.

We invite you to join us on **Thursday May 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Zoom**. We will be focusing on connection, growth, and health in our Regional Council, along with possible follow up on the recent Remit. Registration and full agenda will be available soon.

We will reconvene on **Thursday October 24 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm** on Zoom. At this time we will elect 11 General Council 45 Commissioners, and focus on other business such as proposals. 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.)

Information on nominating Commissioners will be provided at the May 9 meeting, through the newsletter and website, and sent out again throughout the fall as a reminder. The deadline for GC45 Commissioner nominations is October 11, 2024.

★ **Affirming celebration and celebration of ministries service, Saturday June 1, 2:00PM**

Another opportunity to gather as a Regional Council and communities of faith will take place Saturday June 1 at 2:00PM at Mill Woods United Church in Edmonton. Through a worship service and Pride picnic to follow, we will celebrate our Regional Council becoming officially Affirming, and welcome Carrie Symondson into ordained ministry! Please plan to join the celebrations, in person and on the livestream. More information will come shortly.

★ **Invitation: conversation with the family of Morgan Harris, Search the Landfill, Sunday April 21**

Please join the national church's Indigenous Ministries and Justice from **4:00 to 5:30 PM MDT on Sunday April 21** for a conversation with the family of Morgan Harris. Morgan is one of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women whose remains are believed to be in the landfill near Winnipeg. Her daughter Cambria Harris will join us in this United in Learning webinar to raise awareness of the landfill search and the challenges that the families and loved ones of MMIWG2S face. We hope that this webinar will also help us all become stronger advocates and better allies in the Search the Landfill movement, and in efforts to stop the continued very high rates of violence that target Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirit people. Please register here, [through United in Learning](#), to take part.

Being Good 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

★ April/ May Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: in your own community and with national church leaders

Throughout Lent, many communities of faith across Canada, and around the world, with their bodies prayerfully mapped Gaza onto their own communities through the worldwide Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage.

This renewed invitation is for everyone! Walk or roll together in your own community. Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire- for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Then, if you can, join national church leaders for the final leg of their pilgrimage. KAIROS member church leaders, including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, will gather in Ottawa on May 22-23 to bring these calls in person to the Government of Canada and Parliamentarians. They'll urge them to take immediate and sustained steps to advance and promote the calls made in the [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage](#). Please see the [United Church site](#) and the [KAIROS site](#) for more details. If you would like to plan a pilgrimage in your community, please let the Regional Council know so that we can support you. Email Regional Justice Minister Julie Graham at jgraham@united-church.ca

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.

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.

Worship Resources:

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

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

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

[Camping Sunday - April 28, 2024](#)

[Fifth Sunday of Easter - April 28, 2024](#)

[Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 5, 2024](#)

[Rural Life Sunday - May 5, 2024](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 1 - May 5, 2024](#)

[Mental Health Sunday - May 5, 2024](#)

[Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 12, 2024](#)

[Asian History Month 2 - May 12, 2024](#)

[Christian Family Sunday - May 12, 2024](#)

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

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



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