



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



News from the Region: May 15, 2024



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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		


★ 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

♥ Call to prayer and updates: wildfires in our Regional Council

Fort Nelson, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray are all facing major wildfires, and the situation is dangerous and changing quickly. The people of Fort Nelson and Fort Nelson First Nation, and the members of Hillcrest United, have already evacuated; Fort McMurray and the people of First United move between evacuation alerts and

evacuation. We offer thanks to courageous first responders, fire fighters and community leaders; and to family and friends and the communities of Fort St John, Dawson Creek and far beyond who are hosting those evacuated. We are reaching out to all of these communities. [Please click here for more details](#), and a note about Pentecost imagery.

 **You are invited!!! Northern Spirit Regional Council Affirming celebration and celebration of ministries service, *Saturday June 1 at 2:00PM*** 

Having finished the formal requirements of the Affirming process, Northern Spirit is ready to launch into the next part of its Affirming journey. All are welcome to the Affirming celebration and the ordination of Carrie Symondson, online via YouTube, and in person, Saturday June 1 at Mill Woods United Church, 15 Grand Meadow Cres, Edmonton, AB. Pride picnic to follow! If you would like to send a note of congratulations, please email northernspirit@united-church.ca, or send a card to 8510 95 Avenue NW, Edmonton AB, T6C 1Y7. [Please click here to share the invitation widely!](#)

★ Job Opportunity: Office Administrator, part-time, Grace United, Edmonton.

Grace United Church is seeking prospective candidates for the position of Church Office Administrator. This is a part-time position – approximately 20 hours/week; 4 hours/day. [Click here for full position details](#). Applications (electronic) will be accepted until May 31, 2024. Please forward inquiries or resumes to: Maggie Nichol; Coordinator, Ministry and Personnel Committee; Tel: (780) 465 2368; Email: gracemandp@shaw.ca.

Featured News

★ Part 1 of Northern Spirit Regional Meeting done!

Reports Booklets:

[Initial 2024 reports are posted on the website on the annual meeting page.](#)

Read the reports for a vibrant, exciting look into the work happening in & beyond our Region! We have posted: [Reports from the Region](#) | [Reports from Networks + Clusters](#) | & [Reports from Community, Education, and Outreach Partners](#).

Session 2:

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 was provided at the May 9 meeting, and will be sent through the newsletter and website. The deadline for GC45 Commissioner nominations is October 11, 2024.

★ **From the Growth Animator: Ideas for summer ministry**

Not every church has the ability to run a Vacation Bible School during Summer Break, but that doesn't mean there aren't other fantastic opportunities for ministry with families in your community. Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator, shares the first in a series of 3 articles providing ideas for ways that communities of faith can connect with families over the summer. [Read the first summer ministry idea here.](#) Share your favourite ideas from your community of faith with your Growth Animator (jcantwell@united-church.ca). Your gifts of growing might be seeds of inspiration for others!

★ **Climate justice/energy transition opportunity for young adults! May 20 deadline**

KAIROS is seeking young adults in the Edmonton area to participate in its Strengthening Voices for a Just Transition project. This project aims to nurture a cohort of up to 12 changemakers to help guide us through the next stages of the energy transition and strengthen just transition policies and programs with principles from Indigenous peoples, young people, and those most affected by the climate crisis. [Click here for full information.](#) | [Apply at this link.](#) Deadline to apply has been extended to 11:59 p.m. PDT on Monday, May 20. You can also share these posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#). If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lorimer, Ecological Justice Program Coordinator at blorimer@kairoscanada.org.

As the Centennial Approaches: Archives Requests

As Communities of Faith within our Region start to plan celebrations in recognition of the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary in 2025, many are thinking of ways to explore, acknowledge, and share our history. Requests for Archives materials are expected to markedly increase as this milestone approaches. To ensure that our [Archivists & Volunteers](#) have enough time to fulfill your request for historical materials, please start planning now & reach out early!

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Note: **ChurchHub will be offline May 18-20.**

*The way that we all log onto ChurchHub will look a bit different in the coming weeks. To implement these changes, **ChurchHub will be offline May 18-20.** You will receive an email the morning of May 21 with your new login instructions. The new login process will simplify access and eliminate the need to remember passwords. We thank you in advance for your understanding! ~ The ChurchHub Team*

★ **Celebrating multiculturalism in Alberta: Online Multicultural Calendar**

Alberta's government has launched an online calendar to help promote cultural holidays and celebrations. The calendar includes religious, civic and cultural special days in a comprehensive multicultural event calendar. [View the calendar here.](#)

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

The worldwide Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage which began in Lent continues. This renewed invitation is for everyone! Walk or roll together in your own community, preferably before May 22. Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire- for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. KAIROS member church leaders, including **Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, will gather in Ottawa on May 22-23** to urge government 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. ★ Here's a [new, introductory little guide for planning your pilgrimage](#), **especially in smaller communities**. 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.

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.

In Case You Missed It:

- May is Asian Heritage Month!

The United Church of Canada celebrates the [long, rich, and continuing contribution of Asian heritage](#), which has been a significant part of United Church life since Church Union in 1925 and even longer. You can find prayers, liturgies, and additional [worship and study resources for Asian Heritage Month](#) in the Worship section of the UC website.

- Attention ministry personnel! The Annual Declaration deadline is June 30, 2024.

Complete yours on [ChurchHub.ca](https://www.churchhub.ca) ("My Ministry Page") to avoid impacting ministry roles. Incomplete declarations mean removal from active status. Questions? [Contact your Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse.](#)

♥ The memorial service for Pat Bourque, former program staff serving the Northern Region of Alberta and Northwest Conference, will be held at Sherwood Park United Church at **1:30 PM on Thursday, May 16, 2024.** Plans are in place to make the service available live on line, using [Sherwood Park United's YouTube account.](#)

Worship Resources:

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

[International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17, 2024](#)

[Pentecost - May 19, 2024](#)

[Trinity Sunday - May 26, 2024](#)

[100th Anniversary Kick-off Service - June 9, 2024](#)

[Union Sunday - June 9, 2024](#)

[Third after Pentecost - June 9, 2024](#)

[Indigenous Day of Prayer - June 16, 2024](#)

[Fourth after Pentecost - June 16, 2024](#)

[World Refugee Day - June 20, 2024](#)

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

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



Notice: We have moved!

The Regional Council office has moved into a smaller space as of April 2024.

Our new mailing address is:

8510 95 Ave NW,

Edmonton, AB

T6C 1Y7

Northern Spirit Regional Council Weekly Newsletter: NEWS Edition, May 15, 2024

Our phone number has also changed. The new office number is:

1(800) 268-3781, extension 6029.

Email remains the same: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritrcc.ca



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