

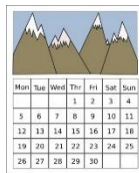


Events Newsletter: May 22, 2024



Upcoming events 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.](#)

News From the Pews & Other Ministries

♥ We keep in our prayers all those affected by wildfires in Fort Nelson, Fort McMurray, and near Grande Prairie, and all those who have evacuated, and who have welcomed evacuees.

★ **General Commissioners for GC45:** new information page, helpful videos from our colleagues in Shining Waters Regional Council, and Nominations form now available on our website.

[Learn more about becoming a Commissioner for GC45 here.](#)
[Nominate yourself or someone else using the Commissioners Nomination form, here.](#)

★ Recently approved framework for continuing education for ministry personnel

The new framework document is found in the download section at the bottom of [the Office of Vocation page](#). There is also a [video](#) discussing some of the changes, which can be found in the Helpful videos section on the Office of Vocation page. The framework is flexible and considers the many types of continuing education in which ministry personnel now engage. Within the document, the Frequently Asked Questions section further explains the framework. There are examples to illustrate how it can be applied to various continuing education opportunities or plans. If you have questions about the Continuing Education Standard that have not been answered within the document, please reach out to your vocational minister or the Office of Vocation (officeofvocation@united-church.ca).

New & Featured Events

★ Northern Spirit Regional Council Affirming celebration and celebration of ministries service, *Saturday June 1 at 2:00PM, Mill Woods United Church and on YouTube.*

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. Join us [online via YouTube](#), and in person, Saturday June 1 at Mill Woods United Church, 15 Grand Meadow Cres, Edmonton, AB. Pride picnic to follow! [Please click here to share this invitation.](#) 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.

Last chance! Adaptive Leadership Workshop Opportunity for Ordered Ministry Personnel: May 29, 9am - 3 pm, Edmonton

This one-day in-person workshop will help 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/ordered 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.

★ ***A clarification to the above invitation. The ministry support team understands that the above invitation from our friend, Rev. Clara King, has***

been unsettling for some ministry personnel. We lift up to each of you that it was not meant as an "exclusive" invitation. We work hard as an inclusive community to celebrate our one order of ministry. The above invitation is an invitation to all ordered ministers within our region. We apologize for any confusion this has caused and it is our sincere hope that many of you will consider signing up for this workshop and support this student in her doctoral research.

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

May 22 Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage with national church leaders; & Edmonton pilgrimage May 25

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](#). Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire- for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. 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.

★ There is a pilgrimage planned in Edmonton for **Saturday, May 25**. [Click here for full details](#).

The United Church at 100: Centennial planning workshop for the Prairies and North, Wednesday 29 May 2024, 6:30 MDT/ CST, 7:30PM CDT

The United Church turns 100 in June 2025! Join our Regional archivists, Leanne Templeton and Erin Acland, and other resource people, and we'll look at resources for creatively commemorating this anniversary in your context. We'll talk about local, Regional, and national ideas together- both the celebrations, and the anniversary opportunity to look at where we've been as a church, and where the future might take us. Come with your ideas and questions, and be ready to bring some ideas back to your community and ministry! [Click here for details and a shareable invitation](#).

~ Into the Future:

Leaders in Context: Forming leaders and creating communities of hope in challenging times, June 10-13, in-person, AST campus in Halifax

Cost: \$100.00 (A great deal! The normal price is \$500+). You will join co-learners and experienced pastor-teachers to focus on Missional Leadership in church and society in this post-pandemic season. Topics will include: *Where are we? How does God turn up when we find ourselves in a place we've never been before? What are the critical practices for Christian life in dark time? What kind of leaders form communities of hope*

in dark times? Instructors: Alan Roxburgh, Kimber McNabb, Chris Pullenayegem. [Register at this link](#). Questions? [Contact James Cheatley](#), Continuing Education Convenor.

Learning on Purpose: Changing Leadership for a Changing World: June 17-28, Quebec

Join this 2-week intensive leadership development module hosted by the Centre for Christian Studies. It is a practical, holistic, hands-on, learning community experience, and those who take it come out feeling transformed (in a good way!). [Register for Learning on Purpose](#). This year Learning on Purpose will be held in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue (Montréal), QC from June 17-28. It is open to Continuing Studies students as well as CCS diaconal ministry and certificate students beginning their programs. Bursaries are available. For more information: <https://ccsonline.ca/program/leadership-development/>.

Rural ministries conference: experience the rural culture of the Alberta Foothills, June 18-21 2024, Cochrane, AB.

Hosted by the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry and by the Rural Church Network of the United States and Canada. Accommodation, meals, and some programming at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre; transportation offered from Calgary airport to people from out-of-province. Program includes visits with the Wray Farm (involved in regenerative agriculture); Land of Dreams (Immigrant and Indigenous urban gardening); Mîni Thnî (a Stoney Nakoda community in the foothills, with roots in the history of the Indigenous Day of Prayer), and Banff (rural church life in a tourist region). Total cost for residential conference and all tours will be \$500. Options available for people not staying at Mount St. Francis. Information at www.circle-m.ca and [registration is now open at this link](#).

Save your spot: Audacious Hope National Gathering, July 3-6, 2024

You are invited to join us for the [Audacious Hope National Gathering](#), a transformative event designed for youth, young adults, and their leaders. Early bird pricing has been extended to **May 31!**

Location: Brock University, 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines, ON

Presented by the Rendez-vous 2024 team of The United Church of Canada and the uplift team of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, this event marks an exciting collaboration to inspire, empower, and uplift our communities. [Find out more!](#)

Treaty Land Sharing Network Alberta launch and networking day, 6 July, near Camrose.

Join us as we celebrate the official launch of Land Sharing efforts to the west side of Treaty Six in Alberta. [The Treaty Land Sharing Network](#) is a group of Farmers, Ranchers, Land Trusts, Acreage owners and other rural landholders who are dedicated to acknowledging and living out the spirit of the Treaties through voluntarily sharing land with Indigenous peoples. This event is an opportunity for landowners and Indigenous peoples to learn more about the network and how to get involved. [Click](#)

[here for more information and tickets](#). Those too far to travel to this: the TLSN would like to make contact with Indigenous people and nations, and non-Indigenous people, in others parts of AB. Please have a look at their website.

Care of Creation Town and Country Garden Tour: July 13, 10 am - 4 pm, Drayton Valley

Enjoy a day in the sunshine, tour beautiful gardens and celebrate God's creation! Tickets are \$15, all proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. [Click here for full details!](#)

Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land, Lutheran and Anglican National Worship Conference: July 18-21, 2024, Regina.

Registration is now open! [Visit our website here](#), and follow us on Facebook @nationalworshipconference for updates regarding the keynote speakers, workshops, and Friday evening hospitality options! The focus of the conference is to help us to think about, talk about, and pray about the ways in which we can transform our worship, in authentic ways - from language and image of empire and colonialism, to one which recognizes our rich multi-cultural and Indigenous heritage. Early bird registration ends on **May 31** so now is the time to [register, at this link](#).

★ Save the Date - How Is It Going 3.0: Connecting Dots, Saturday September 28, 2024, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm, Sherwood Park AB

Facilitator: MaryAnn Pastuck. A cluster gathering for Edmonton area United Churches at Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir St, Sherwood Park, AB. Co-hosted by Salisbury United. This is a follow-up to the gatherings at McDougall and St Albert, open to anyone interested in knowing ways we can help each other. Attendance at previous gatherings not required.

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- [Click here to view our regional events calendar.](#)
 - [Click here for the latest United in Learning](#) online conversation and learning offerings.

• [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

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.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out!



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



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