



News from the Region: May 29, 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

While the fire situation has improved over the past week, the people of Fort Nelson and Fort Nelson First Nation remain away from their homes. 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. [Please click here for more details.](#)

 **This Saturday! Northern Spirit Regional Council Affirming celebration and celebration of ministries service, *Saturday June 1 at 2:00PM: join online or in-person!***

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 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 this invitation widely!](#)

★ Job Opportunities!

- Youth Ministry Coordinator position available

Riverbend United Church is searching for a new Youth Ministry Coordinator to begin in September 2024. Please [email Riverbend](#) for a full job description. If you are interested, email your cover letter and resume to searchruc@gmail.com. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

- 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

★ United Church 100th anniversary reminder and resources

Lots of preparations for the June 2025 centenary of the United Church are getting underway. Read on.

★ Tonight! Planning for the United Church's 100th anniversary with our regional and national archivists: Join us at 6:30 CST for an intro to resources, a look at archival work related to the anniversary, and a conversation about your own plans. [Click here for details](#).

Our Archivists, Leanne Templeton and Erin Acland, have prepared a resource to help you get started on your community of faith's anniversary plans. [Click here to download the PDF](#).

And on June 9, the national church will hold a livestreamed national anniversary service at 2:00PM CST. [Click here for details](#).

★ From the Growth Animator: Ideas for summer ministry ~ *Intergenerational Worship*

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 second in a series of three articles providing ideas for ways that communities of faith can connect with families over the summer. [Read the second 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! *(If you missed previous ideas from Jordan, all Growth Animator letters are now linked at the bottom of our [Newsletter archive, here](#)).*

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **June is Indigenous History Month and June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples' Day.** How will you be marking this time that has come to be recognized because of the advocacy and leadership of First Nations people? New worship materials are available on the [United Church website](#). This site also contains all previous National Indigenous Day orders of service as well as many other Indigenous-themed worship resources.

★ **Church leaders Ceasefire Pilgrimage on Parliament Hill**

On May 22, church leaders and members from a very wide range of denominations marched to Parliament Hill to call on Canada to do more towards a ceasefire between Israel and Gaza, Occupied Palestinian Territories, the release of all captives, and immediate humanitarian aid. They also called on Canada to end all military sales to Israel. "Canada can do better. We can avoid being complicit in genocide by imposing a comprehensive and binding embargo on military trade with Israel," said Moderator Lansdowne. "I join here with my siblings in faith and our membership gathered here in Ottawa today, to not just wish for a better world, but to actively advocate for a just peace in Palestine and Israel." [Please click here for the full story](#).

★ **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. [Click here for full information](#), including some videos prepared by former Commissioners in Shining Waters Regional Council, which may help in your discernment. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, [please fill out the Nominations form here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

- 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. The deadline for GC45 Commissioner nominations is October 11, 2024.

- 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!

- 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.](#)

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

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

Worship Resources:

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

[Pride Sunday - June 2, 2024](#)

[Environment Sunday - June 2, 2024](#)

[Second after Pentecost - June 2, 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

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.northernspiritrc.ca



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