



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

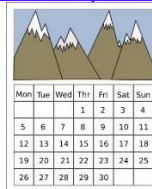


News from the Region: August 21, 2024



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.



★ 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

★ **Calling all Northern Spirit LLWLs: Save the date! - LLWL retreat *September 28, 2024***, Leduc

All Licensed Lay Worship Leaders are invited to join in a time of gathering and learning on September 28, 2024, at St. David's United in Leduc, AB. There will be lunch, time for reflection and catching up, and a training session on leading funerals. Full details and registration will open next week. We look forward to seeing you at this event organized by our Lay Leadership Support Committee.

♡ Prayers and Support for Jasper

The congregation of Jasper United, as well as all those evacuated from Jasper and all first responders, are held in our hearts and in our prayers. [Please click here](#) for full details on offering both prayerful and financial support to Jasper United.

Sacramental Elder Training

If your community of faith is without a minister, your board can nominate someone from your congregation to become a Sacramental Elder. We are planning a round of training for new Sacramental Elders for this Fall. This training is held in two sessions, online over Zoom, one evening per week, in the weeks of October 7 and October 14. If you are interested in learning more about this training and would like to provide input on what day of the work would work best for this training, please [contact the office](#).

General Commissioners for GC45

Northern Spirit Regional Council needs to elect **11** commissioners to attend the meeting and serve as members of the General Council for three years, beginning in June 2025. Commissioners will also participate in educational sessions beginning in April 2025. ***The deadline for application submissions to be a GC45 Commissioner is October 11, 2024.*** The regional council will vote on the slate of commissioners at our regional meeting being held online on October 24, 2024. 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.](#)

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Letter to the Prime Minister regarding Israel's disregard of ICJ ruling

The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, has sent a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, urging the country to suspend relations with Israel until it complies with the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion. The letter calls for an arms embargo on Israel, an immediate ceasefire, and accountability, and requests an in-person meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss how the church can work with the government for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. [Read the full news story on the UC website.](#)

★ Lifelong Learning at St. Andrew's College

Are you looking for new opportunities to learn at your own pace, in your own space, following the questions and passions which really matter to you? St. Andrew's College Lifelong Learning Pathway offers all the tools you need to go deep in your quest for wisdom and insight. Certificate streams include "Leadership in the Faith Community", "Leadership in the World", and "Spiritual Exploration". Reasonable tuition subscription,

with bursary support available! [Full information on the St. Andrew's website.](#)

The United Church of Canada Foundation's Fall 2024 grant round is now open!

Seeds of Hope grants support unique and innovative ventures that are ready to make an impact in our United Church and beyond. We are excited to learn what you're up to! The Joint Grants Committee is now welcoming applications for new, unique projects which are: providing innovative seniors' ministry; celebrating and encouraging children and youth; addressing environmental and social justice issues; looking at new ways to provide ministry and support during transition periods; and facilitating experiencing faith and spirituality. Also granting this round are the **Rowntree Scholarship, Alvin Dixon Memorial Bursary, Promotion Project Fund**, and more. Seeds of Hope applications are due **October 15, 2024**; other deadlines vary, so please check the terms before you apply. [Learn more at this link.](#)

3 New United Church of Canada Foundation Grant Opportunities

The United Church of Canada Foundation is thrilled to announce 3 exciting new grant programs that will commence this Fall!

United, we: Introducing a huge boost to our trust-based granting program: "United, we", our new dedicated trust-based granting stream! In each of the next two years (2024 and 2025), up to \$100,000 will be available through 'United, we' to support impactful existing work at United Church organizations and partners who otherwise would not qualify for funding through current granting programs.

Centennial Granting Fund: As we approach the United Church of Canada Centennial, many communities of faith will be eager to hold services and activities in celebration. This program will provide funding for events marking the milestone, emphasizing the importance of uniting to commemorate this historic achievement. Communities of faith and other organizations planning special events to commemorate the Centennial can apply for grants of up to \$5,000.

Promotion Project Fund: Owing to the generosity and creativity of a Foundation donor, this program will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to support congregations in their marketing efforts as they seek to attract members, promote their vital ministries, and retain a strong community presence.

[Learn more about these new grants and apply now!](#)

United Church 100th anniversary new event map!

June 10, 2025, will mark the [United Church's 100th anniversary](#)—an opportunity to honour our past and look to the future! **Is your church community planning something special to commemorate this milestone?** We'd love to hear about it! [Submit your event details](#) on our brand new [Centennial event map!](#)

In Case You Missed It:

New bulletin stock in UC bookstore

Planning in-person worship for the upcoming year? The United Church Bookstore has you covered (literally!) with [beautiful and inspiring bulletin covers for 2024 and 2025!](#)

Season of Creation resources available now

The 2024 Season of Creation will take place from September 1st to October 4th with the theme "To hope and act with Creation". This year, the September 1st celebration falls on a Sunday, providing a special opportunity to prepare prayer services in tune with this year's theme and symbol. We invite everyone to start planning your events and celebrations! [Download the 2024 Celebration Guide here](#). Further information about the [Season of Creation is available here](#).

Centennial Planning Resource

A Northern Spirit Charge, Leduc-Beaumont, has provided [this planning template](#) to help other churches organize their Centennial planning and celebrations. Feel free to use [their outline](#) as inspiration! Thank you to Leduc-Beaumont Pastoral Charge!

Worship Resources:

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

[Fourteenth after Pentecost - August 25, 2024](#)

[Fifteenth after Pentecost - September 1, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 1 - September 8, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 2 - September 15, 2024](#)

[World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel - September 16-22, 2024](#)

[UN International Day of Peace - September 21, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 3 - September 22, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 4 - September 29, 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.northernspiritr.ca



Image Credits: Photo by [Krisztian Tabori](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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