



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

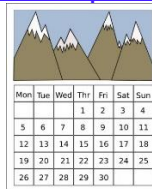


*News from the Region: September 4, 2024*



**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](mailto: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**

★ **2025 Mission Support and Regional Council Grant application**

The 2025 Mission Support and Regional Council Grant application is now open. Please [click here for the pdf application form](#), or visit our [regional website](#). Deadline for applications is September 30, 2024.

**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](#).

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## **Wider Church News & Resources**

### **★ September 20 transphobic marches and our responses**

The “hands off our kids” transphobic and homophobic marches we dealt with last September are making a comeback across our Region and the country Friday September 20, 2024. [Please click here to read more](#), including encouragement for all our members, communities of faith, and community ministries to speak faithfully, proactively, and positively against fear and hate.

### **★ Summary of grants to support your work**

As fall begins, the national church enters a new round of grant application opportunities. [Click here for a handy summary](#).

### **★ New Season of Creation resources**

The 2024 Season of Creation will take place from September 1st to October 4th with the theme “To hope and act with Creation”. There are lots of resources!

The [Season of Creation website](#) includes ecumenical prayer resources, lectionary notes, information on events and suggestions for action. Download the [2024 Celebration Guide here](#). The [Canadian ecumenical site For the Love of Creation](#) offers resources for theological reflections, community conversations, and political advocacy.

[Click here for the toolkit from the World Council of Churches](#): Climate Justice with and for Children and Youth in Churches—Get Informed, Get Inspired, Take Action. And Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the Archbishop of Constantinople, shares an [opening message for Season of Creation here](#).

### **★ Olive harvest focus and resources for Palestine, October 2024**

People in Living Skies Regional Council, with support from some great Manitoba

expertise, invite United Church people into this opportunity to understand the violence facing Palestinian farmers and villagers as they commence their annual olive harvest. In Gaza, part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, harvest will not happen at all this year, amidst the unspeakable devastation and starvation. Together, we will explore why, and what Canadians can do.

This focus is intended for everyone, and we hope people who live in rural or remote areas closer to the rhythms of harvesting, fishing, and hunting will bring their lived experience to this work. **The planners warmly welcome participation from across Turtle Island** to film viewing, learning, worship, personal reflection, and advocacy. Key dates to help us prepare in advance include the Season of Creation, and the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. In October we'll offer resources for World Communion Sunday and World Food Day. [Information will be shared throughout on this web page.](#)

### **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.](#)

### **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!](#)

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## **In Case You Missed It:**

### **Prayers and Support for Jasper**

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

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## ***Worship Resources:***

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

[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](#)

[World Communion Sunday - October 6, 2024](#)

[Thanksgiving Sunday - October 13, 2024](#)

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

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



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### ***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](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office

8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta

**1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029**

[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)

[www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca)



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