



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



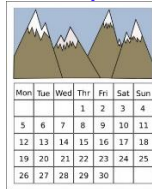
*News from the Region: September 18, 2024*

---



**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**

★ **Northern Spirit online Regional meeting October 24; proposals reminder**  
[Registration is open for our online Regional meeting.](#) All are most welcome- you do not need to be a delegate or member of the Regional Council to attend. Delegates are of course both invited and expected. We need your wisdom and discernment as we learn, pray, and decide together here in our 100th year as the United Church. [Click here for details.](#)

Proposals are part of our business for this meeting. These set policy and direct the Regional Council and General Council (the national church) towards specific actions or priorities. [Learn more, and find a template, here.](#)

★ **Northern Spirit General Council 45 Commissioners nominations**

The Regional Executive encourages you to discern whether you are called to be a Commissioner to the 45th General Council, a three year term that includes the in-person meeting of the General Council this coming August in Calgary. And you're asked to help others discern. [Please click here for an updated invitation and resources](#), and share this widely.

★ **What are your plans for the 100th anniversary?**

We're not far from turning 100! All sorts of resources, a newsletter, and more [are right here](#). And find here [a short planning guide for communities of faith](#) from our Northern and Prairie Regional Council archivists Erin Acland and Leanne Templeton.

★ **Sacramental Elder Training: *October 8 & 16, 6:30 p.m., online***

If your community of faith is without a minister, your board can nominate one person 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, on **Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** If you are interested in learning more about this training, [please contact the office](#).

★ **Invitation from Jasper: Come From Where You Are Online Prayer Services**

We Gather as a Community of Faith: all are invited to join on Sunday mornings at 10:30 for a short prayer service followed by a time of fellowship. We gather as an ecumenical community to be reminded: We are not alone. We live in God's World. [Click this Zoom link to join](#).

♥ A note of thanks: Rev. Marilyn Carroll and her family wish to express their gratitude for all the support and condolences they have received this summer.

---

## Featured News

♥ With great sadness, The United Church of Canada announces the death of **The Very Rev., The Honourable Dr. Lois M. Wilson**, the denomination's 28th Moderator, and the first woman to fill the role. She faithfully served as Moderator from 1980 to 1982. The Rev. Wilson died in hospital in Fredericton, NB, on Sept. 13, 2024. She was 97 years old. A memorial service is planned for October 15, at 11:00 a.m. at Metropolitan UC, 56 Queen St E, Toronto, ON. The service will be [livestreamed on YouTube](#). [Read the full news story on the UC website](#).

★ **Regional network statement on the police killing of an Indigenous child**

The Being Good Relations Network of the United Church in Alberta, Yellowknife, and Northeast BC expresses its heartfelt sorrow to the family and community of 15-year-old Hoss Lightning of Samson Cree Nation. Hoss was shot dead by the RCMP in Wetaskiwin AB after he called 911. We name that Hoss was seeking help, and that yet again, a call from a person in need resulted in a shooting death instead. We name [that police shootings disproportionately target Indigenous people across Canada](#), and that this has been happening for many years, and continues. Between August 29 and September 8 2024, across Canada, [six Indigenous people died at the hands of police](#). Being Good Relations invites you to [read and share the statement](#).

**Honouring Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Monday September 30, 2024**

Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important public space for truth telling and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. It's now an [official day across Canada](#). The [Orange Shirt Day society](#) offers leadership for this important space, as all of Canada joins in efforts to honour, remember, and change. [Click here for more information and resources](#) on how United Church communities in our Regional Council can support this day. *"When you wear an orange shirt it's like a little bit of justice for us Survivors in our lifetime, and recognition of a system we can never allow again."* -Phyllis Webstad

---

## Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Summary of grants to support your work- and offer of hands-on help**

Wow, that was fast! There is just one month left in our Fall 2024 granting round and we want to help you make the most of it. The Foundation team's calendars are OPEN for free one-on-one calls! [Book your session here](#). If you're curious whether your project is eligible for a grant, need support with your application or would like to discuss which program is the best fit, this is the perfect time to explore it together. Click the button below to go right to our team's calendar and schedule a time to chat via a video or phone call. Looking forward to connecting with you! [Click here for a handy summary of available grants](#).

★ **Commemorating death and grief in Palestine and Israel: worship resource available**

Mennonite Church Canada's Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) encourages congregations to mark the October 7 anniversary of the mass murder and kidnappings in Israel, and the start of the genocide in Gaza. The PIN has prepared an online package of resources designed for congregational prayer or small group use. It features scripture, stories, and the song "If the War Goes On" by John Bell, who gives voice to the questions we ask in times such as these. [Click here for a video of the song](#). The free download for worship leaders [is available here](#) and at the PIN web page [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.](#)

---

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

### **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.

### **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.

---

## ***Worship Resources:***

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

[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](#)

[Creation Time 5 - October 6, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 6 - October 13, 2024](#)

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

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17, 2024](#)

[Twenty-second after Pentecost - October 20, 2024](#)

[World Food Sunday - October 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](mailto: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](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)

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



*Image Credits: Photo by [Nunzio Guerrera](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

*Copyright © 2024 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.*

*[Sign-up to receive the Newsletter by email by clicking here.](#)*