



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: October 9, 2024

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**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](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.](#)

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## News From the Pews & Other Ministries

♥ Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies are extended to the family, friends, colleagues, and those touched by the life and ministry of **the Reverend Brenda**

**Fawkes.** A funeral service will be held **Monday, October 14, 2024**, 12 noon MT, at Mount Seymour United Church, North Vancouver, BC. For those wishing to attend the funeral **online**, the service will be [livestreamed at this link](#). **Donations in memory of Brenda** will be [gratefully accepted, using the drop-down menu to choose the "Brenda Fawkes Student Bursary Fund"](#) to support Theological Students in the regions she served.

♥ 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](#).

★ **Covenanting:** Spirit of Peace United Church, in Spirit River AB, will be celebrating their covenanting with their new minister, Rev. Harold Imes, on **October 20th, at 3 p.m.**, with a potluck supper to follow the service.

★ **Register now: Northern Spirit Regional Meeting part 2, Thursday October 24, 6:30-8:30 MDT, on Zoom.**

Northern Spirit delegates and friends, we gather again for an online meeting of the Regional Council October, chaired by Rev Helen Reed, Thursday October 24 from 6:30-8:30PM MDT. This is part two of our 2024 regional meeting. The primary focus will be business, including proposals to the Regional Council or General Council. An agenda will be shared a bit later. Please arrive at least ten minutes before we begin. If you would like to check your connection or learn/ re-learn any Zoom techniques, please arrive 20 minutes in advance. [Please click here for all details](#). **Register at this link!**

★ **New Mission and Service Thanksgiving Worship Service**

This worship service has everything you need to share the impact of Mission and Service as well as your local ministries that focus on food justice. Complete with a sermon, liturgy, hymns, and a children's time, the service can be adapted and led by either ministry personnel or lay leaders. [Find it at the top of the M&S worship page](#).

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## New & Featured Events

★ **Strengthening Invitation | United in Prayer (Growth Department)**

Each Thursday at 12pm Eastern / 11am Central / 10am Mountain the Growth Department prays for and with communities of faith in our shared ministry of

Strengthening Invitation. This event is hosted primarily in English.

Let us know how we can pray for your community of faith.

*Are you planning a special service to invite your neighbours? Are you reaching out to your neighbours through an event? Are you asking hard or exciting questions about your future?*

Join us on Zoom and pray for others. Send your prayer request to [growth@united-church.ca](mailto:growth@united-church.ca) (you can send a request even if you're not attending) Register to join us [here](#).

### **General Council cross-country check-in, Tuesday October 22, 5:00PM CDT, 4:00PM CST/ MDT.**

Spend an hour with members of the General Council Executive, the decision-making body for the United Church between meetings of the General Council, in an informal, thoughtful town hall on Oct. 22. With the annual General Council meeting scheduled for October 19, this is an opportunity for you to engage with the decisions and dialogue from the annual meeting – right after it happens. [Here is a video invitation](#) from the General Secretary. **Everyone is welcome.** [Please click here to register.](#)

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## **Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities**

### **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.](#)

### **\*Today: Connect, Learn, Share: Disability and Accessibility Network Meeting, Wednesday October 9 at 1:00PM MDT/ CST and 2:00PM CDT**

This network meeting will highlight the [Leadership Counts](#) project, which surveyed United Church of Canada ministry personnel, staff, and national committee members about their self-identification, including in terms of disabilities. Join us for a networking session to connect with others and discuss how to build a more inclusive church. Open to persons living with disabilities and interested in advancing disability rights and accessibility within The United Church of Canada and beyond. [Please register here.](#) Don't forget to join our [Disability Ministries in the United Church of Canada Facebook group](#) for ongoing discussions and resources.

★ **Updated: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2024: Live event every Tuesday, October 15–November 19, 7:00 p.m. ET** *(please convert the time for your zone, noting that Daylight Savings Time ends Nov 3).*

[40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) has released its list of events. [Please click here and scroll down for details.](#) There are also accompanying [study groups](#), which offer ways to integrate and reflect on the content with learners from across the

church. [Register for this year's live events](#)—and please [sign up for the newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date with regular content for this year's exciting program.

**★ Stewardship! Bequests and Estate Giving – October 16th and 30th, 1:30 pm (CST).**

Did you know? *One-third of United Church people would consider including the church in their Estate plans if they were asked.* This course will help you get your Planned Giving program set up and running, so that your community of faith can benefit from these financial gifts. Attend both of these 1-hour on-line sessions with Jess Smith and Roger Janes to learn why you should offer a Planned Giving program and how to set it up and maintain it; what exactly are the different kinds of Planned Gifts; how to inspire and invite people to make a Planned Gift; and how to recognize those who make a Planned Gift. *For more information, and to register, click here:* [Bequests and Estate Giving](#)

**LeaderShift Rural Ministry Conference, Friday October 25 - Sunday October 27, Trinity United Church, Fort Macleod AB. In person, online TBC.**

This conference is for lay leaders and ministry personnel whose church life and work is rooted in a rural setting. Come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! Workshops include a focus on intercultural ministry and anti-racism; Affirming ministry; youth; and much more. [Click here for full details.](#)

**Grounding the Future: Spiritual resources for responding to climate change, KAIROS Prairies North fall regional gathering, Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. CST, St. Luke's Anglican Church, 8424 – 95 Ave, Edmonton, AB with some online options.**

KAIROS Prairies North covers Northern Spirit and Living Skies Regional Council. Climate change is a spiritual crisis rooted in fear and greed. Individual actions like recycling and biking are important responses, but they aren't enough. Political and collective decisions are required, but they will always be thwarted unless people's hearts and values are also involved. What spiritual postures can we adopt that can ground both our personal actions and our collective decisions? [Click here for the event link.](#)

**St. Stephen's College 100th Convocation, Monday, October 28, 2024, Edmonton.**

The Principal and Dean, Dr. Fred Tappenden, together with Chancellor Michael Phair, warmly invite you to attend the 100th Convocation of St. Stephen's College, which will be held on Monday, October 28, 2024. Please join us as we celebrate our graduating students and honorary degree recipient. The ceremony will be held on October 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm at Convocation Hall at the University of Alberta. Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean, this year's recipient of the Honorary Doctor of Divinity, will deliver the convocation address. Further details regarding the Convocation and related festivities can be found [on our Convocation webpage.](#)

★ **Drag & Spirituality Summit, November 1–3, Emmanuel College and Online**

The Drag & Spirituality Summit is in its third year and is the first-of-its-kind gathering at the intersections of drag and spirituality. Join drag performers and faith leaders from around the globe for a stunning and sacred three-day summit. All spiritual experiences and drag expressions are invited and celebrated in person and virtually. Drag artists, spiritual care practitioners, lovers of drag, and folks wanting to learn more will congregate from around the globe with keynotes, panel discussions, workshops, spiritual drag shows, and a spiritual drag event for children of all ages and their families. [Click here for details and registration.](#)

**Faith in a Time of Genocide Conference, November 1-2, 2024 Toronto.**

You are invited to the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) national gathering in Toronto. This is an important time to reflect on our faith and a call to faithfulness in solidarity with people in Palestine and Israel. The gathering is a time to learn, gather strength in community and come together for advocacy.

**There is a hotel room discount available until October 4th.** Scholarships are available for students. People can also register for an additional event: training on the Palestine Land Exercise on October 31. [Please register here.](#) [More program details are here.](#)

★ **Stewardship! Set Up Your Giving Program – Begins Week of November 19**

This two-session course is for teams that have completed Getting Started in Stewardship and are wanting to focus on creating a stewardship campaign for winter or spring of 2025. [You can read more here.](#)

**Stewardship Resource Kits**

If you want to get started right away, consider downloading stewardship resource kits online. You can find links to 4 different themed [kits online here.](#) If you have any questions, or want to discuss your community of faith's context, reach out to stewardship support staff, Vicki Nelson – [vnelson@united-church.ca](mailto:vnelson@united-church.ca).

★ **Next Getting Started in Stewardship Course is November 20 at either 3 or 5:30pm (CST)**

Curious about how to revitalize stewardship in your community of faith? Register now for our next session of Getting Started in Stewardship. This 90-minute session is the foundational course to help your community of faith move away from the annual cycle of panicking about the budget, to an on-going, sustainable ministry of gratitude and generosity, which supports people in their lives of faith. You can participate as an individual or in a team. After the course, we'll support you in taking the next steps.

[Register here on CHURCHx.](#)

***What will we sing when we need to sing a new song?* with the Then Let Us Sing! committee: November 26, 7pm ET**

Join the *Then Let Us Sing!* committee on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. ET for a thought-provoking discussion on the future of music in The United Church of

Canada. As we celebrate our 100th year, we'll explore how music can reflect our commitment to anti-oppression, hymns that inspire deeper spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice, and the evolution of our songbook: new hymns to embrace and those we might consider retiring. [Register now](#) and explore more 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism Live Events.

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**United Church 100th anniversary event map:** Is your church community planning something special to commemorate this milestone? We'd love to hear about it! [Submit your event details](#) on the UC [Centennial event map!](#)

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[Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.](#)

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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.northernspiritrcc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrcc.ca)



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