



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



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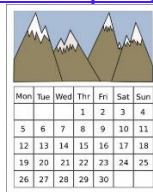
## News from the Region: October 30, 2024

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### **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.](#)

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## **Family News**

### ★ **Update on allegations email sent to many Northern Spirit churches**

A number of pastoral charges, the Regional staff, and General Council have received an email from a Chris Willson, making allegations against someone associated with Northern Spirit's Camp Whitney. Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy is currently working on this with General Council in accordance with our policies. Please delete the email if you received one, and do not reply to it.

**Community of Faith Present & Futures:** how is your community of faith doing? If you would like to arrange a visit with the Pastoral Relations Minister and/or Pastoral Relations Commission to discuss your church's present situation or future visions, please [contact the office](#) to discuss possibilities and to schedule a meeting, either online or in person.

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## Featured News

### ★ Update on United Church policy on Palestine and Israel

On October 19, the online meeting of General Council 44 adopted new policies related to Palestine and Israel. In summary, the United Church is: (1) adopting the strategies of Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement; and (2) responding positively to the request of NEW04 - Join the Apartheid Free Communities Movement; and (3) joining the consensus of the international human rights community in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures towards the Palestinian people. [Please click here for more details](#), including a letter from the Moderator. These policies are an invitation to the entire church, not just the General Council, so we are all encouraged to be informed of the details.

### ★ Affirming Media Conference, **November 1-2, 2024**, Calgary & online

*Friday - 7pm-9pm MT (in person), Saturday - 9am-4pm MT (livestreamed and in person).*

Join us for the inaugural Affirming Media Conference, a 2-day hybrid event. Focused on providing accessible training in marketing, social media, communications, and media literacy for 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied leaders, 2SLGBTQIA+ serving organizations, Affirming leaders and faith communities, non-profits, equity seeking organizations, and people of all kinds who want to develop these skills to create positive change, tell compelling stories, and break through misinformation. [Click here for full details & to register](#). \*Get \$10 off any ticket type with the code **AFFIRMINGREGIONS**.

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## Wider Church News & Resources

### ★ Survey on the Roles of the Moderator and General Secretary

The task group reviewing the roles of the Moderator and General Secretary would love to hear your input regarding these important Offices of our denomination. We would be grateful if you would participate in this 7-minute [survey](#) by no later than November 15, 2024. These recommendations will be presented to the General Council Executive at their first meeting in 2025. If you have questions about this survey, please reach out to [HumanResources@united-church.ca](mailto:HumanResources@united-church.ca).

### Video License Applications Now Open

Video license applications are now open for annual licenses from January 2025 to

December 2025. Many churches benefit from the opportunity to show films and clips during worship and at events, and require a public performance license (or video license) to do it legally. The United Church of Canada offers discounted access to annual licenses from both Audio Ciné Films and Criterion Pictures. Access more information about the licenses, including pricing [at this link](#). If you have not had a chance to register for Buying United, please do so using the code **united** (all lowercase). [Apply on this form](#). Applications Due by **November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

## **2025 UCC Calendars**

The [2025 Canadian Church Bilingual Calendar](#) is here! Featuring stunning visuals of United Churches from coast to coast, this calendar showcases the beauty and diversity of our faith community. Stay organized with essential information like church seasons, liturgical colours, significant United Church Days, and lectionary dates. Looking for a unique fundraising opportunity for your community of faith? Receive 20% off on bulk orders of 50 or more calendars by using the code **MYCHURCHCAL** at checkout. This code is valid until **November 15, 2024**.

## **General Council Executive meeting summary**

The GCE met September 27-28, as the church begins to prepare for an upcoming online meeting of General Council Commissioners, and the 45th General Council in Calgary this August. [Please click here for a summary](#).

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

### **What are your plans for the 100th anniversary? New resources available!**

We're not far from turning 100! We have [a Centenary resource and supports summary page](#) up on the regional website, and that includes an invitation to share your events with everyone. And find here [a short planning guide for communities of faith](#) from our Northern and Prairie Regional Council archivists Erin Acland and Leanne Templeton.

### **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](#).

### **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).

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### ***Worship Resources:***

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

[Twenty-fourth after Pentecost - November 3, 2024](#)

[Twenty-fifth after Pentecost - November 10, 2024](#)

[Remembrance Day - November 11, 2024](#)

[Twenty-sixth after Pentecost - November 17, 2024](#)

[Children's Sunday - November 17, 2024](#)

[Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2024](#)

[Reign of Christ - November 24, 2024](#)

[World AIDS Day - December 1, 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).

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta  
**1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029**  
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[www.northernspiritr.ca](http://www.northernspiritr.ca)



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