

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
April 10, 2024 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Helen Reed (Chair), Donna Kline, Mary Annan, Margaret-Anne Hall, Leslie Penny, Peter Chynoweth A quorum was present.
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Gaie Goin, Jim Belliveau
REGRETS	None
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister);
CALL TO ORDER	Helen called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. We checked in and Helen led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 040-2023/2024	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of February 14, 2024 and March 15, 2024 as amended.
BUSINESS ARISING Chinese United	Leanne Templeton met last week with an individual who has translated many of the framed pieces of art and calligraphy that is in the building. It has all been moved and she is willing to go back again if needed. We have somebody going into the building three times a week for caretaking and collecting mail. All accounts are transferred. Insurance is taken care of.
CORRESPONDENCE Open letter re Israel/Palestine	We received a letter from a group of individuals addressed to General Council asking us to do more regarding the situation in Israel/Palestine. Julie has responded with an email sharing what it is that we are doing as the region and as the United Church. Received for information.
AGM 2025	Jim suggested that while planning we stay away from communities that might experience fires at that time of the year.

Send an open invitation with our criteria to local churches.

ACTION: Helen, Shannon and Chloe will put together a list of criteria/priorities for our space.

AGM 2024

We are 3 weeks away. May 2 and May 9.
Chloe has the registration form ready to go.
Introduce Jordan and her position as growth animator. Who is she? What does she do?
The only piece of business is to nominate GCE commissioners.
Vicki Nelson has also asked for some time to discuss Stewardship.
We have an ongoing annual meeting planning committee.

ACTION:

- Chloe will get the registration form ready this week. Note “more details to come”
- Helen is going to reach out to last year’s committee to see if they are willing to gather and put together some of these ideas.

Affirming Celebration & Ordination Celebration

Julie is working on getting this planned. They are looking at Mill Woods for Saturday June 1.

We discussed combining the affirming celebration and the celebration of ministry. It was agreed that the June 1 service will include the affirming celebration, ordination and communion.

We discussed cost of paying for mileage etc. for people attending. It was agreed that the costs should be covered (within reason) for those on the planning committee. For attendees we will need to set a policy for this and ongoing events.

ACTION:

- Chantal will let Julie know.
- Adam will check with Laura Fohse to make sure this date works.
- The finance committee will look at creating a policy for various events regarding what mileage we will cover.

STAFF REPORTS Executive Minister

Shannon has been asked to be a part of the business planning committee for GC45.

We received two requests from Paul Walfall

1. He is asking that there be two representatives from the regional council to join him on the centennial project he is working on.

Jim Belliveau is willing to help. Neville Smith is a retired minister in Edmonton who is really into history and could be somebody to reach out to.

2. There will be a black clergy gathering in Toronto. He has asked for regional funding to help support those who may want to attend.

041-2023/2024

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive would set aside \$300/person for up to 10 attendees to attend the black clergy event in Toronto.

Working with General Council around how regional councils are funded.

Action:

- Shannon will let Paul know about our decision and how to apply for the money.
- Jim will reach out to Paul and let him know he is willing to join the committee. He will also suggest contacting Neville Smith.

**Pastoral Relations
Minister
042-2023/2024**

Adam explained the updates being made to the Supervisor Honorarium Policy.

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the update to the Supervisor Honorarium Policy to include intentional interim ministry supervisors.

Adam Reported

A big thank you to Chloe for her help moving the regional office into Strathearn United Church.

Community/Commission work:

Ministry Personal Support Committee:

- The changed Schedule for clergy gathering online is working well and has been appreciated by those who are attending.
- Clara King is offering a leadership workshop in our Region May 29th

Lay Leadership Support Committee:

- Sacramental Elder Training is set for May 27 and June 3
- WE have three registrations for this and another two considering
- Planning a Fall Gathering for LLWL- with an intent for gathering and fellowship as well as funeral leadership training.

Community of faith Support

- Entered the busy season of reading annual reports (Reminder to send them in please)
- Sent notification of a visioning gathering on Zoom of the communities of faith along Highway 13 and 14 including Leduc and Wetaskiwin
- Follow up visioning conversation with the northern communities and Jordan Cantwell (Growth Animator)

- Continuing vision and sharing conversation between Garneau and McDougall United, Edmonton (Last meeting was April 6
- Ecumenical Shared Ministry leadership workshop on April 25th in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Pastoral Relations Commission

- Currently reviewing the Provisional Call/Appointment policies of our Tri Region and beyond and are hoping to present a policy to this executive in May
- Developing our Governance Model which will also be presented to the executive in either May or June- Seeking to clean up the communication between the committees and commission and seek better ways of visioning and working together

Chinese United, Edmonton:

Leanne Templeton sent a note yesterday, "I met last week with an individual who translated many of the framed pieces of art (calligraphy) and was able to confirm the main themes of binders and files. If there are still more textual records at the church, I could go back for second visit."

FINANCE

Donna Kline reported.

Audit

Thank you to Heather for her work on the audit.
The auditor's report was presented along with the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 .

043-2023/2024

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the financial statements for the year end of December 31, 2023.**

US Draft

In 2018, the Alberta Northwest Conference issued a US draft to Dr Amy Butler for \$1,418.97 US which cost \$1896.72 Canadian. This draft was never presented and Dr Butler advised she had misplaced the draft.
In order to issue a new draft, the TD at 3803 Calgary Trail requires the Council to purchase a term deposit for \$1,418.97 US with a 3 year term.
The TD will then reissue the bank draft. We need to have an account at that branch, Leslie Penny and Donna Kline to be signing authorities on the account.

044-2023/2024

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve Leslie Penny and Donna Kline as signatories for the US Draft account.**

Action:

- Leslie Penny and Donna Kline will set up the account.
- Chantal will get the minutes to Donna Kline ahead of this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair

NA

Community of Faith Support Adam reported in his report.

Youth NA

Property Jim reported.

Action: Jim will send a copy of his report to Chantal to be added as an attachment for the minutes.

Incorporated Ministries NA

Nominations

045-2023/2024 It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve David Faber being named to the Lay Leadership Support Committee.

046-2023/2024 It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve Mary Annan and Mickey Wilson being named to the Affirming Committee.

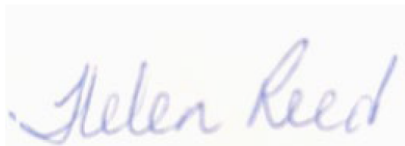
Other

OTHER Remit The remit has passed. Thank you to all who put work into the phoning, etc. 80% of pastoral charges voted across the country. General council needs to approve in October.

Centennial celebration June 9th GC will be ramping up for our 100th year celebration.

NEXT MEETING Next meeting will be June 12, 2024

ADJOURNMENT



Helen Reed, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

