

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
December 11, 2024 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Leigh Sinclair (Chair), Mervin Gallant, Leslie Penny, Susan Silverthorne, Donna Kline, Paul Walfall, Marilyn Carroll A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Lorraine Stewart,
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Gaie Goin, Jim Belliveau,
GUESTS	Rachel Young,
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Chloe Burns (Administrative Support);
CALL TO ORDER	Leigh called the meeting to order. We checked in and Leigh led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 019-2023/2024	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of November 13, 2024 as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING	
Relationships between the NSRC	In 2025, the Executive would like to know how strong the relationships are in between – Communities of Faith (COFs), NSRC bodies and staff, Outreach and Community Ministries (CM), clusters, networks etc. The hope is that they are living and covenantal relationships. These are ones where two or more people or communities live out a mutually supportive connection and ask God to be within their very fabric. We discussed what some indicators could be of strong relationships (notes recorded by Leigh). Homework for January is to decide some top indicators and consider how to measure them.
Jasper Update	Shannon is meeting on Friday with the Bishop to discuss some shared ministry stuff. A conversation around insurance coverage might be something to be that we want to initiate in the future. We have learned a lot in dealing with Jasper.

CORRESPONDENCE

Climate Action

We received a letter from Juliana Weber from Grace United Church. She is a member of Edmonton Youth for Climate. They would like us to sign on to their open letter for Youth Climate Corp.

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive sign on to the Youth Climate Corp. open letter.

To do:

- Julie with coordinate with Juliana

Letter from the Foundation re: Centennial

We received a letter from Sarah Charters, president of the foundation and director of philanthropy, regarding the stuff that has been coming from Brian Brown around the Centennial. The letter is making it clear that congregations should do what they want, and that Brian's "requests" are not endorsed by the Foundation at all.

Received for information.

FINANCE

Updated financials were provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the appointment of Katharine Moore to the Pastoral Relations Commission.

We have received two applications for the Youth Forum 2025. These individuals were Emain Forsythe and Lorraine Nyarota. There are still 4 spots remaining for youth if anybody is interested or knows of an individual who you want to recommend.

Amy Crawford who is the National Youth Staff person has asked each regional council to pay \$300 per youth to assist with offsetting the cost to send them to youth forum. This would be \$1800. Since our budget is already approved for next year, this needs to be discussed. This can be tabled for a decision in January.

Property

Jim provided a written report for our review (attached).

The commission is trying to determine how many cemeteries are orphaned etc. and making sure that there is a record of all of the cemeteries that we are responsible for. They are trying to get the survey out to the communities of faith.

Pastoral Relations

Adam provided a written report for our review (attached).

Adam's report includes an update regarding St. Andrew's. We previously discussed paying Rev. Dirk's salary out.

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the reimbursement to St. Andrew's United Church for Rev. Dirk's salary for the months of December 2024 to February 2025.

There has been a suggestion brought forward by Peter Chynoweth regarding the region paying the fee for supervisors. This is not something that is feasible at this time. The new policy went into effect in January. It is still rather new. We might want to send out another letter to remind folks of the policy and what is expected.

Affirming

Louise Rogers, Mickey Wilson and Rachel Young joined us from the affirming committee.

They shared their stories and experiences as well as the impact that they are seeing regarding the new AB laws.

Leigh will write a letter on behalf of the executive to communities of faith with some action items.

It would be important to connect with Chinook Winds Regional Council as well and collaborate on some of the actions that we feel are needed.

This discussion will continue next month.

To do:

- Leigh will draft a letter on behalf of the executive.

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister

Shannon attended the General Council Executive meetings in Toronto at the end of November. Talked a lot about long-term planning pieces and visioning for the future.

A lot of our staff will be on holidays throughout December as they are trying to catch up on holidays and comp time etc.

OTHER

Annual Meeting

Riverbend has said yes to our request to host the meeting.

Carolyn Woodall will be in touch with Riverbend to confirm and to start convening the annual meeting planning committee meetings.

NEXT MEETING Next meeting will be January 8, 2024

ADJOURNMENT



Leigh Sinclair – Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

