

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
November 12, 2025 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	George Mafuleka (Chair-Elect), Helen Reed (Acting Chair), Donna Kline (Treasurer), Leslie Penny, Lorraine Stewart, Mervin Gallant A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Leigh Sinclair (Chair), Susan Silverthorne,
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Jim Belliveau
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Francesca Martina (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Kevin Guenther Trautwein
CALL TO ORDER	Helen called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. She led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 026-2025/2026	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of October 17, 2025 as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING	
Telfordville Pastoral Charge	This is still in progress so we will discuss at our December meeting.
Climate Change Task Group	Chloe has put the call out in the newsletter. We received one response and Chloe will provide that to Leigh. We will continue to keep this in the newsletter for now.
Hay River Disbandment 027-2025/2026	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the disbandment of Grace United Church, Hay River: Grace (SM) Pastoral Charge as of today, November 12, 2025.
Faith United Church	This is still in progress so we will discuss at our December meeting.
Toward 2035	We will continue this discussion at our next meeting.
CORRESPONDENCE	We received a letter from Adam Hall on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Commission. Trinity United & Spirit West are in the process of starting a shared pastoral relationship. Rev. Carolyn Woodall is interested in serving as a shared interim minister. Both churches have agreed to support her salary 50%. The request is that

the Region help by providing short term financial support to launch this collaboration. They are asking for \$30,000 from the interest of the New Ministry Development Fund.

028-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve \$30,000 from the interest of the New Ministry Development Fund to support the shared ministry collaboration between Spirit West United and Trinity United.

Donna abstained

To do:

- Chantal to notify Adam of the decision
- Francesca to arrange the funds transfer

**REVIEW OF REPORTS &
ACCEPTANCE**

029-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the following reports:

- Executive Minister Report
- Chair Report
- Pastoral Relations Report
- Archives Report
- Growth Animator Q3 Report
- Property Report

FINANCE

Francesca reported

Chinese United

Shannon provided an update.

We are in the process of firing the property management group.

Wilson is going to do a drive by and see if the lights are on. The gym lights might be a cause for the higher bill. We also might need to put the gas back on for winter. Shannon has spoken with UPRC and will help us find a new property management company.

NEW BUSINESS

Clergy Retreat

An email went out this week with details about the clergy retreat. It will take place May 5-6, 2026 at Star of the North in St. Albert.

To do:

- Chloe will put a reminder in the calendar/newsletter as we get closer

**Nominations Team
Priorities**

The Executive has spaces that need to be filled. There are spaces everywhere. Property should be ok. However, the Anti Racism task group has nobody on it.

Helen will be going on holidays. In the beginning of December she will take a look at nominations.

To do:

- Helen will check in with Leigh and Shannon in early December

Mission Support Grants Mission + Service Grants 2026 recommendations:

- A grant of **\$5000 to Fort Nelson: Hillcrest Pastoral Charge** to support their ministry in their community. The grants committee would also like to communicate to bodies including the Executive that if this community does find a minister, the committee feels they should be supported out of the region apart from MSG granting monies.
- **\$1,875 to Edmonton Interfaith Centre**
- **\$20,000 to Camp Maskepetoon**
- **\$32,000 to Bissell Centre**
- **\$30,000 to Camp Whitney**
- **\$17,125 to Edmonton Inner-City Pastoral Ministry**
- \$30,000 to Kirk Centre - **conditional - Francesca and Donna can hopefully speak to this one.*

There has been some discussion whether Kirk Centre can receive a grant as they are not a charity. We believe we have been able to do this previously.

To do:

- Shannon, Francesca and Donna will work together to figure out if we can give it to Kirk Centre.

030-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following Mission & Service Grants with the noted conditions.

**Incorporated Ministries
031-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following:

- a. Jellinek Society

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Jellinek Society 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Greg Babiuk
Roger Hamm
Jill Horbay
Tom Hunter
Hugh MacGregor
Scott McKeen
Murray Olsen
Valerie Stewart

Jane Zakreski

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2025, the 2025 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

**DISCUSSION re:
GROWTH/LEADERSHIP/
JUSTICE**

Since Leigh was not with us today, we will have further discussions about this at our next meeting.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Structure Document

Leigh provided us with draft structure documents for Lay Delegates, Executive, Executive Chair, and Treasurer.

We discussed these documents and provided comments regarding some amendments.

To do:

- Leigh to review the recommended changes and bring an amended copy back to the Executive for approval

**Needs Assessment
Follow Up**

NA

Wedding Resources

Chloe is working with Adam to create a resource page for lay people who want to complete.

Travelling Connections

Francesca provided us with a draft budget for these events.

Northern Spirit Tour Budget 2026

Event	\$2,800
Staff Travel	\$1,800
Shared Staff Travel	<u>\$2,800</u>
Total est. cost	\$7,400

We are planning to go to Grand prairie in spring 2026
Other dates and locations not confirmed yet. Staff are working on this. The Executive are happy to let Staff go forward with this project.

First Third Ministry

Kevin reported.

He has been working with Pamela Evans. The day after he was hired he flew out to Vernon, BC for a week of meetings and getting to know the rest of the team. Right now priorities are around connecting with communities of faith in the regions and letting them know what First Third Ministry is. Next steps would include helping

them figure out what they can do together and how we can support and resource those projects.

There is an Unchartered Event for older teens that takes place in February and then the National Youth Event in August, and Youth Trek that takes place in November. Kevin will be working to advertise these events and get youth to take part.

He will also be working on a mailout introducing himself and providing some information on First Third Ministry.

A question has been asked, is there funds available for youth travel to such events?

To do:

- Shannon, Donna and Francesca to discuss with Kevin what a budget for youth events might look like.

Triannual Meeting Handbook

We reviewed the Triannual Meeting Handbook Leigh has amended. The only note is that the word “society” can be removed from the Northern Spirit Regional Council Student Bursary Fund Society.

032-2025/2026

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the 2025 TriAnnual Meeting Handbook as amended.**

OTHER

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be December 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT



Leigh Sinclair – Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

