

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
May 14, 2025 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	<p>Leigh Sinclair (Chair), Helen Reed (Past Chair), Donna Kline (Treasurer), Leslie Penny, Marilyn Carroll, Lorraine Stewart, Susan Silverthorne, Paul Walfall</p> <p>A quorum was present.</p>
REGRETS	<p>Mervin Gallant</p>
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	<p>Jim Belliveau,</p>
STAFF PRESENT	<p>Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister);</p>
CALL TO ORDER	<p>Leigh called the meeting to order and led us in reflection & prayer.</p>
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	<p>We reviewed the agenda.</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 048-2024/2025	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of April 9, 2025 as distributed.</p>
BUSINESS ARISING	
Listening	<p>Donna and Lorraine reported on their listening project and we discussed next steps.</p>
Centennial greeting video to Coff	<p>Susan is almost done editing the video. It will be about 7 minutes. Susan will upload to a google drive and get it to Julie to add to YouTube and send out.</p> <p>The regions were asked to provide a one minute video each to celebrate the centennial. Julie has the raw footage from the 3 minute tri-region video that we put together. We are hoping to get the full video once the centennial committee has put that together (with all regions across Canada) to send out and share with the communities of faith.</p> <p>To do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susan to get video to Julie• Julie to add the video to YouTube and send out (and deal with closed captioning)• Leigh will get a letter prepared to go out along with the video greeting

- Julie will attempt to get the full video submitted to the GC centennial committee and send out to the communities of faith.

CORRESPONDENCE

NA

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Mission Support Grant Approvals

Due to a few different circumstances, we have had two groups who have submitted applications for Mission Support Grants. These two groups are Edmonton Interfaith Centre and Camp Whitney. We have money that has been put in reserves that we can use in these situations.

049-2024/2025

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve additional Mission Support Grants to the following:

- Edmonton Interfaith Centre - \$1875
- Camp Whitney - \$9125

Fort Nelson

Adam brought forward a discussion regarding Fort Nelson. They are in a situation right now where they rely on Mission Support Funding in order to fund their ministry. So, it is difficult to plan if they don't know ahead of time what they might be able to receive.

It was discussed that we do often have money in reserves, so if later in the year, that money doesn't get used for other arising circumstances, they could inquire about getting extra funding.

Shannon pointed out that it is possible for the Executive to make a commitment to a certain amount of funding for a certain amount of time, if we want to.

To do:

- Adam and the Pastoral Relations Commission will send profile to the Executive to discuss

Livestream grant request

We received a request from United Churches in Edmonton and Area Cluster for \$2500 to help facilitate a live streaming of the Newfoundland Centennial service on June 9 at Fort Edmonton Park.

We have already given \$3000 to this event.

The executive has decided that we will decline funding at this time and encourage them to worship together and be present at the event and then check in with Newfoundland later.

050-2024/2025

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive decline the grant request from the United Churches of Edmonton and Area Cluster.

To do:

- Chantal to draft a letter for Shannon/Leigh to inform the group of our decision.

FINANCE

Heather reported and provided us with updated financial statements (attached)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair

Leigh reported.

We have been asked to choose two representatives to stay for an extra day at General Council in August. Leigh will stay for this and Deanna Cox will be our other representative. The purpose for this is to discuss Towards 2035.

There is a lot of excitement building for General Council in August.

Community of Faith Support

NA

Youth

NA

Property

Jim reported (attached)

**Incorporated Ministries
051-2024/2025**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following actions:

a) Coronation Presbytery Hardisty Lake Camp Council

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Coronation Presbytery Hardisty Lake Camp Council 2021-2022 Board of Directors

**Karen Abel
Deb DeGraw
Russell Moore Lyssa Mossestad**

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Coronation Presbytery Hardisty Lake Camp Council 2022-2023 Board of Directors

**Karen Abel
Paul Allard
Karli Grove
Deb DeGraw**

Russell Moore
Lyssa Mossestad

**...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada
approve the Coronation Presbytery Hardisty Lake Camp Council 2023-2024
Board of Directors**

Karen Abel
Paul Allard
Caroline Boddy
MJ Hedeman
Randy Hedeman
Sherrie Hughes
Melvin Luntz
Russell Moore
Lyssa Mossestad
Charlotte Nickel

a) These are based on the Annual General Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2021, March 1, 2022, November 20, 2023, the 2021, 2022, 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

Nominations

We do not currently have a nomination committee. We need to be able to present any vacancies and encourage people to fill those positions. Do we have any creative ways to do this?

Helen is willing to help with the “selling” portion at the AGM.

Chloe is also planning to make a visual display for the AGM.

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister

Getting ready for a centennial celebration in Saskatoon next week, followed by our AGM in Edmonton.

Towards 2035 – letter went out to ministry personnel and pastoral charges. We are now able to discuss this. It will be discussed as a workshop at the AGM.

Ministry personnel received an evaluation survey regarding the restructuring. Encouraged to please fill it out.

Each region was asked to submit a 1 minute video to the centennial celebration committee. Thank you to staff who helped gather those videos. Our logo was also requested to create banners

We have one proposal for the regional council meeting. This is a request to give marriage license to sacrament elders and lay worship leaders. Right now this isn't technically possible under the provincial rules. So this will need to be a discussion at the AGM.

To do:

- Shannon and Adam to prepare a fact sheet for the AGM to help with information that would be helpful with the proposal

**Pastoral Relations
Minister**

Adam will have a detailed report in the workbook for the AGM. As well as a display.

There are two pastoral relations committees that have not met for the past two months because they cannot fulfill quorum. This means a lot more work is being pushed up to the commission to deal with.

**Justice &
Communications**

Justice and Communications report to 14 May 2025 NSRC Executive

Centennial: FINALLY taking off through local events that are creative and numerous. I guess our resources were ahead of the curve. Leanne is very busy with requests despite our attempts to get ahead of this.

We submitted a three-Region three minute video as part of the St John's national Centennial service. I will try to access the entire national video in advance of the St John's service.

Here from the Beginning display and work: I have been very happy to support this work with the leadership of Paul Walfall and other Black Clergy Network members. We will need to lean into the July 27 launch at Pilgrim UC in Edmonton, which aligns with Emancipation Day. Upcoming work includes promoting the many stories this work is surfacing; and working on how to get the display moving through the country throughout this Centennial year.

Affirming Tri- Region gathering on Preparing for Pride May 13 drew 30 people from all three Regions. This created a lot of energy- alone we would have had low attendance, and people were energized by seeing people from AB to NW Ontario. The three Regional Affirming committees are interested in continuing to look at this shared model. Holding regular space for conversation, relationship, and support is something all three Regional committees want to We had to postpone the May 10 Affirming Donut meeting (the circle around Edmonton) because of low response; the committee is going to visit the two congregations that wanted to come, and has rescheduled a donut and timbit meeting Oct 25. We look forward to the May 30 event on the experiences of those targeted by AB's transphobic legislation and welcome any promotion help. Anecdotally, the committee is hearing that hundreds of letters have

been sent from communities of faith and members as a result of the action and Executive letter on the legislation. A number have reported that they held letter-writing sessions after church. So far we have only received one response from government, from Sports, and they simply repeated what the legislation is.

Being Good Relations Separatism: There is great concern with the separatist push led by a minority in AB. The network will be bringing a request and content suggestions for a letter from the Regional Councils to the Treaty chiefs and organizations who are reminding separatist groups and the AB government that the province is entirely under Treaty between First Nations and Metis and the federal Crown. They suggest it be cc-ed to the AB government; the intent would be to lend the United Church's public support to Indigenous Nations Treaty holders. More information to come.

Nuclear power: This issue never goes away. We're now seeing a re-tread of this decades-old plan, this time targeting the Peace River area. The East Coast regions of the UCC are making a submission to the formal federal process and asked if we could do the same. However, the process closes today. Given the complexity, learning curve, and inability to talk with local communities of faith and First Nations on this timeline, I asked "UCC East" to send me their submission so we can start the learning process.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Planning

Planning is underway. A few of us are meeting on Friday to go over the final detailed agenda.

OTHER


NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be June 18 at 9:30 am

ADJOURNMENT



Leigh Sinclair – Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

