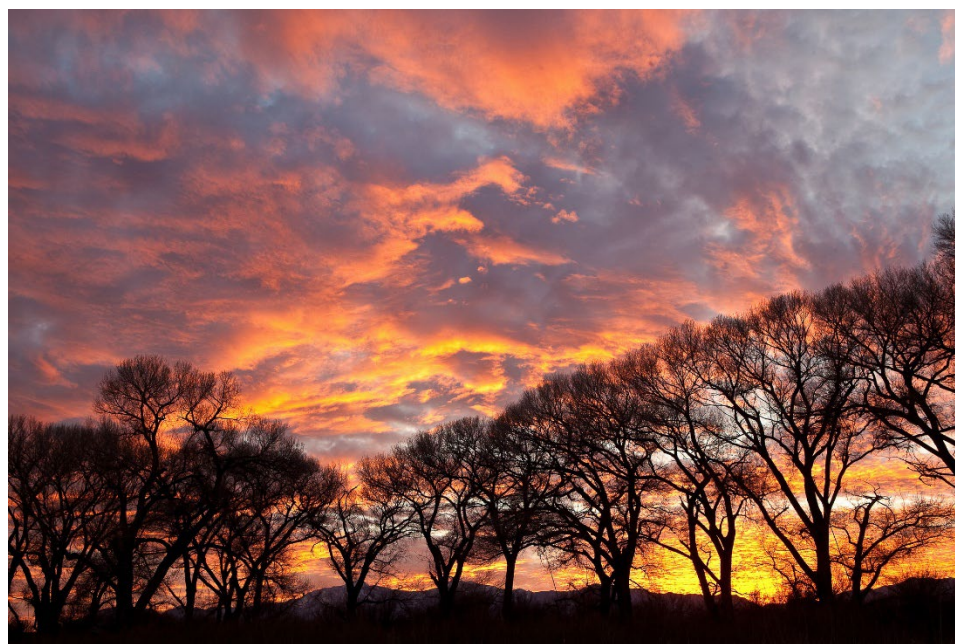




## ***Events Newsletter: February 11, 2026***



### **Upcoming events 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).*

*[Check out our local events calendar](#), and [submit your own community events!](#)*

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## **News from the Pews and Other Ministries**

♥ We honour the life and mourn the death of *Rev. Norm Macdonald*, in Edmonton, on January 20, 2026. [Read his obituary at this link.](#)

♥ We celebrate with **St. David's United in Leduc, AB**, as they celebrate their church becoming officially Affirming! 🙏 They will be celebrating this designation on [March 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

### **Faithful Footprints: 2026 Funding Cycle Opens**

The Faithful Footprints Grant supports United Church communities of faith in making decarbonization upgrades to their buildings. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to help reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening long-

term sustainability. **The 2026 funding cycle opens January 28, 2026, with Expressions of Interest accepted beginning that date.** Learn more about eligibility, timelines, and how to apply on the [Faithful Footprints Grant webpage](#).

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## New & Featured Events

★ **Register now for the Regional Connection Event, April 25 and 26, Grande Prairie**

The Regional Council is travelling to you! The weekend of April 25 and 26, all of Northern Spirit is invited to join us in Grande Prairie for a time of connection, learning, and worshipping. [More details are now available on our website](#), and you can [register to attend this event here](#). (Future connection events are also in planning, for those not neighbouring Grande Prairie or those who can't attend in April.) We look forward to gathering this Spring!

★ **The Great Exhale: A Gentle Pause for Faithful Souls: Clergy Retreat, May 5-6, Star of the North Retreat Centre, St. Albert, AB**

A retreat for clergy: **All active ministry personnel** (currently in, or searching for, a call or appointment) from Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are warmly invited to **The Great Exhale**, a retreat for rest, renewal, and connection, held May 5–6 at **Star of the North Retreat Centre** in St. Albert, Alberta. Designed with spaciousness in mind, this retreat offers time to rest, reflect, pray, laugh, walk, and simply breathe—alongside worship and shared learning. The retreat will be facilitated by **Rev. Jordan Cantwell**, with gentle sessions focused on listening deeply, reconnecting with God, and renewing imagination for ministry. Flexible registration options are available to support accessibility. More information can be found on the registration form. **Registration deadline is March 15.** Click [here to register](#). Contact Laura Fohse, Vocational Minister for more information.

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## Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

**Black History Month: Here From the Beginning and other resources**

**Here From the Beginning:** Unveiled last year as a Centennial project, [Here from the Beginning](#) is an in-person and [virtual exhibition](#) that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the United Church, amplifying voices that have long been overshadowed. It is a celebration of faith, history, and community. [Learn more and explore the exhibition online](#).

**Explore additional resources** for Black History Month and anti-racism work throughout the year on the GC [website](#).

## **Lenten Prayer Meetings**

Come together, let us pray. Every Sunday during Lent come let us gather to pray. Each prayer meeting starts at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time. ALL ARE INVITED. Everyone in the Edmonton area is invited to join in-person: all prayer meeting locations are [listed on our website](#). For all our communities not in the Edmonton area, we invite you to join us in one of two ways: over Zoom ([connection info on our website](#)); or by gathering to pray in your own community at the same time, joining your prayers and spirits to ours. *The prayers of the people of God are powerful and effective.* (James 2:16, paraphrased). [Full details](#).

## ★ **Congregational Leadership Webinars: February and March 2026, online**

A series of webinars on topics including Spiritual Discipline, Conflict, Consensus, and Congregational Meetings. Leaders and laypeople are welcome to sign up for one or many. [Full information about webinars on offer and registration links](#).

## ★ **Awakening Your Purpose, a conference to help deepen your discernment of God's call, Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, Good Shepherd Anglican Church, 15495 Castle Downs Rd, Edmonton.**

The Diocese of Edmonton is hosting a one-day vocational discernment conference on Saturday, February 21, inviting ecumenical partners to participate. The day will include teaching and reflection on Christian vocation, time for guided personal reflection, and a panel of inspiring lay leaders from a range of backgrounds who will each speak about their own sense of God's call in their lives. This conference might be of interest to people who want to deepen their Christian discipleship but do not feel called to ordained ministry, people who are navigating a transition in their lives, young adults who are exploring how following Jesus might look for them, and people who are beginning to wonder about a call to ordained ministry. [Full details and register here](#).

## ★ **Next Cross-Country Check-In, February 25, online**

People across the country are invited to join a live [Cross-Country Check-In](#) on **February 25, 2026 (6:00–7:30 p.m. ET)**. This online town hall is a chance to connect directly with church leadership, ask questions about General Council 45, learn more about how the GCE works, and put faces to names. Whether you choose to listen in or call with a question, all are welcome. [Register here](#).

## ★ **Coldest Night of the Year, February 28, in-person across the country**

On February 28, [join with Canadians across the country](#) to support organizations that serve those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. This family-friendly activity brings communities together for connection, learning, and social change. In Edmonton, **Walk for the Bissell Centre!** A number of United Churches are putting together teams at the Edmonton Downtown location, where funds raised will benefit the Bissell Centre. [Click here to create your own team](#), and let's walk together!

**Save the date: WUC Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Conference and AGM, April 9 - 11, 2026, Edmonton AB.**

Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. *Theme:* Justice and Hope. Interesting speakers are being finalized. Watch for the poster and registration form which will be out soon.

**Imagine children's retreat, April 17-19, Sylvan Lake, AB, Kasota East Camp.**

Mark your calendars! The *Imagine* children's retreat (ages 8-11) will be **April 17-19** in Sylvan Lake, AB, at Kasota East Camp. Children and their leaders are invited to come to this springtime sleep over for games and crafts, singing, worship, and campfire. Bursaries are available. To learn more, visit [First Third Ministry](#) or contact [Kevin GT](#).

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*\*[Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.](#)*



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