



Events Newsletter: September 9, 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.*

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

News from the Pews and Other Ministries

♥ Celebrating a Covenant! September 20, Mill Woods, Edmonton

Mill Woods United Church (Edmonton) is very happy to welcome Rev. William Brook as our new Minister. We will be holding a Covenanting Service on **September 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.** Our church is located at 15 Grand Meadow Crescent in Mill Woods. Please join us for the service and luncheon afterwards. We ask that if you plan to stay for lunch, please contact our church office to confirm (780-463-2202 or mwuc1@telus.net) to help us plan accordingly. Thank you.

★ Regional update on the Albert referendum

-The Moderator has sent a letter to all communities of faith via the Regional Council. This letter is available to read on our website: [the English version is here](#).

La Modératrice envoie une lettre en soutien à toutes communautés de foi en conseils régional Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit. Cette lettre est publiée sur notre site web: [version française ici](#).

-Planning to support the Regional Council's engagement with the October 19 Alberta referendum continued through the summer; [here is the update](#). Here is the [link to the Region's position](#); a reminder that this position does not dictate to communities of faith, but is rather a position that recommends and explains a course of action. All communities of faith are invited to engage the process of learning and listening as we prepare for both the Alberta referendum and its ongoing effects after the vote. All of us are encouraged to help ensure as many people as possible vote. Some people, including those affected directly by the referendum questions, [are not eligible to vote](#). And of course, the entire country, including our BC and NWT family members, is affected by this vote.

-177 people were online for our session on the Alberta referendum last Wednesday night! Resources have been added to the [public resources folder](#), and this will continue, so please check back regularly. This is our library for referendum resources developed by the United Church. A recording of the learning event is available in that folder for those who could not attend.

★ AB referendum community conversation 2: Holding good conversations in our communities, 17 September, 6:30-8:00PM

Join Northern Spirit for the second in a series of public events on the October 19 Alberta referendum. This time we will focus on how we talk about the referendum. We'll look at:

Principles and best practices for talking with others about this contentious topic; How we centre the experiences of those most targeted and impacted by the questions; How we address beliefs that the church and politics don't mix; How we can bring our faith into the conversation. And more! [Details will be added to this shareable link](#) as we go.

★ Sunday September 20: Migrant Day of Action

We often focus on how migrants and refugees are treated in the US. But Canada's very concerning actions don't get much attention. On Sunday, September 20, one day before Parliament returns, migrants and allies will take action across Canada against deportations, exploitation, and migrant scapegoating, and for permanent resident status for all. Read this current list of [actions being held across the country](#). The Migrant Rights Network has created this [toolkit, and is available to support organizations](#) that want to bring people together locally. Thank you for standing with migrants. Across the country, migrants, foreign students, and refugee claimants are being targeted by [harsh legislation](#). Bill C-12, introduced earlier this year, denies access to hearings and places refugees at

serious risk of deportation without adequate protection. [Full information from the United Church is here.](#)

2027 Mission and Service Grants - Deadline to Apply October 5

The Regional Council Executive and the Mission and Ministry Grants Committee are looking ahead to considering applications for Grants to support the mission and ministry of Communities of Faith in 2027. To apply for Mission and Service Grants (**formerly called Mission Support Grants*) fill out the Application Form with all required information and supporting documents. **Submit the Application by October 5, 2026** by email to northernspirit@united-church.ca. To help you in organizing the required information, there is a checklist posted to our website as well. [All documents are available at this link on our website, under the "Regional Council" dropdown.](#) Please contact NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca with any questions or concerns.

New & Featured Events

★ Regional Connection Event: Camrose, October 24-25, 2026

The next Region Connect Gathering will be held in Camrose, AB, on October 24 & 25, 2026. All are invited to this space of connection and discussion, with a special Celebration of Ministry worship service on Sunday the 25th. [Registration is now open for this event](#), with a registration deadline of **October 1st**. [Full details on our website.](#) *(Please note that these connection events are planned to be ongoing and moving around the different parts of our Region. If this time or place doesn't work for you, stay tuned! Our next connection gathering is being planned for Spring 2027).*

★ Happening at the same time: YouthTREK in Camrose (Oct 23-25)

Calling all youth in grade 7-9: YouthTREK is coming to Camrose, and you're invited! YouthTREK is a chance for teens from around the province to have fun, build new friendships, and grow in faith. Curious? Check out these highlights from last year's YouthTREK: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQa5vEbESHb/>.

Regular registration is \$350 (\$100 if you are driving yourself there), and subsidies are available because we don't want anyone to miss it. [Registration is now open here.](#) *Please share with the youth in your life!*

★ *Stay up-to-date with news and resources for First Third Ministry! [Click here to sign up for the F3 newsletter.](#)*

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ The latest learning spaces from [United in Learning are outlined here](#). There is a wide range of practical and Spirit-ed content on offer for very affordable fees or for free.

★ **Weekly Wednesday online bible study resumes on September 9, online** *Wondering how the bible speaks to your own life situation? Looking for hope and courage in these frightening times? Needing inspiration for your upcoming sermon? Longing for deep connection and meaningful conversation with others?* Every **Wednesday at 1 pm SK** time a group of seekers, lay people, clergy and others from across the prairies and beyond gather to read, wonder and wrestle with scripture. It's a time for fellowship and deep reflection; an opportunity to bring our lives and the realities we are facing into conversation with sacred texts. It's a place to deepen your faith and build meaningful and lasting relationships. Isn't it time you checked this out? **Wednesdays at 1 pm SK & MDT / 2 pm CDT / 3 pm EDT** Use this link to join: <https://bit.ly/41Vh93V>. For more information, contact Jordan Cantwell: jcantwell@united-church.ca

★ **Strengthening Invitation | United in Prayer, Thursdays, 10 a.m. MT, online** Every **Thursday at 11am Central / 10am Mountain** the Growth and Stewardship team hosts a short online time of prayer for our church. Join with others across the country in giving thanks for all that God is doing among us and asking for strength and guidance for our communities of faith and the neighbours we serve. Use this [new zoom link](#) to join the weekly prayer time. *Let us know how we can pray for your community of faith.* Send your prayer request to growth@united-church.ca.

UCW Fall Rally, September 12, St. Albert

2026 Fall Rally to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Registration will be from 9:30-10am. Given the many changes in our current world, our theme is "Hope in our Changing World" with guest speaker, Rev. Chelsea Masterman of Grace United Church in Edmonton. The Rally will be held at St. Albert United Church @ 20 Green Grove Drive in St. Albert. [For full details click here to read the letter invitation.](#)

★ **Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Wednesday 30 September; Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People, Sunday October 4.** These two very significant days for committing to action for right relations are coming up soon. We will have resources for all ages posted next week. Your local planning and partnerships for and with all ages are the most important contribution. [Click here for an overview and supports.](#)

★ The **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is offering dedicated and free educational programming: [Lunch and Learn series Sept. 21-25](#)** 2026 as part of Truth and Reconciliation Week.

★ **LeaderShift's Rural Ministry Conference, October 2-4, Trochu, AB**

LeaderShift's Rural Ministry Conference returns this fall, October 2-4, 2026 hosted by Knox United Church, Three Hills and St. Paul's United, Trochu, AB! Our Theme Speaker is **Rev. Dr. Catherine Smith**, initiator and host of the Maritimes' [Rural Routes through the Holy](#). Come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! Choose from eight different workshops, including *Discipleship in a Rural Context* with Northern Spirit Regional Council's president, **Rev. Leigh Sinclair** and *Reaching Generation Alpha* with First Third Ministry Animator **Kevin Guenther-Trautwein**. You'll find conference and accommodation information and can register on the LeaderShift website: <https://leadershiftuccan.org/rural-ministry-conference-2026>.

Last call: Voices from the Rivers of Abya Yala and Turtle Island: KAIROS Prairies North Regional Gathering, Saturday, September 12, 9:00AM-5:00PM, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Edmonton, and online

Join KAIROS national and Prairies North in person or online for a public gathering that brings together activists from the rivers of Abya Yala and Turtle Island. Through stories, dialogue and shared learning, partners Kelly Paola Téllez Mantilla and Paola Chindoy will engage with Indigenous and settler participants in and around Edmonton to explore connections, deepen relationships and strengthen collective action for justice. Participants will take part in two immersive learning experiences: the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, facilitated by Indigenous leaders from Turtle Island, and *Cuerpo Territorio* (Body-Territory) activities led by facilitators from Abya Yala. [Full details are here](#). Please share!

Resources for 2SLGBTQ+ Teens from Living Skies RC Launch Party, September 22, 6:30 MT, online

You're invited to cover yourself in rainbows and join us for an online launch party of our newly published Resources for 2SLGBTQ+ Teens. This toolkit answers the question "can I be 2SLGBTQ+ and also a Christian?" and includes current research, definitions, supports for mental health, and additional reading for parents and those who support gender and sexually diverse youth. At our party we will share some highlights for the resource and chat about ways that our communities of faith are offering ministry to and with youth as they grow and explore their identity and their faith. Please register below to receive the zoom link! Sept 22, 6:30-7:30 Mountain Time.

Registration link: https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/3e_p4FVERmmbusdSBTcUCw

★ **Setting the table for peace: World Food Day resource for October 16**

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank World Food Day resource highlights how conflict drives hunger – and how peace can help build food security. In this worship guide, you will find resources to PRAY, LEARN, ADVOCATE, and GIVE. The full resource can be downloaded

Mark Your Calendars for the Next National Church Cross Country Check-In

Join the General Secretary, members of the General Council Executive, and the Moderator for a live conversation with people across the United Church. Listen, ask questions, put faces to names, and share perspectives that can help inform the church's leadership and decision-making.

[Upcoming sessions](#) (French sessions to be announced soon!): **October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. ET; November 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. ET.** [Learn more on ChurchX.](#)

★ Being Good Relations, hold the date: Learning gathering on residential school denialism, *Friday November 6 at noon to Saturday Nov 7 at 3:00PM, Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer*

The Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Inter-regional Being Good Relations Network would like to invite you to our speaker and network event this fall. Dr. Crystal Fraser will offer her reflections and guidance on combatting Residential School Denialism. The network is inviting its members, communities of faith and allies to participate in discussions, workshops and deep listening as we join in the struggle to combat denialism and live out Reconciliation. [Registration is free of charge and required.](#) We are honoured to work with Dr Crystal Fraser, Gwichyà Gwich'in, originally from Inuvik and Dachan Choo Gèhnjik (Tree River) in the Northwest Territories and is a historian and Associate Professor in the Department of History, Classics, & Religion and the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. Her research, teaching, and community work focus on histories of residential and day schooling in the North, Indigenous childhoods, and relationships between colonialism, education, genocide, and human rights in the 20th and 21st centuries. Please plan to join this life-giving space, where will learn in community and plan for action together. [Use this link to share and invite.](#)

★ *Re:Unite* Young Adult Retreat

November 12-15. Calling all young adults (ages 18-30ish)! United Church folks & friends: come travel to the largest island in Howe Sound, BC, surrounded by trees and water for a long weekend of rest, community and fun. We'll have good food, meaningful conversations, late night board games, great music and campfires (weather permitting!) It's a weekend you'll want to show up for. [Click here to register.](#)

Joyful Resistance: Intercultural Worship Arts for Bold Discipleship, Nov 19-21 2026 at the Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton AB. Join the Western Intercultural Ministries Network in an immersive, intercultural worship-arts conference. This will be hosted by the five Western Regional Councils, and is open to everyone anywhere in the country. We'll explore **joy as a form of resistance** that sustains bold discipleship and justice-oriented ministry. Join in plenary, rotating stations, theological reflection with hands-on musical and arts. We'll combine theological reflection with

hands-on musical and artistic practice. More details to come, including cost and full program. [All details will be posted here.](#)

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



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