



News from the Region: September 16, 2026



News 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](#)!

Family News

♥ **Celebrating a Covenant! September 20, Barrhead AB**

The congregation of **Barrhead United** cordially invites you to join us for a special celebration of a new ministry and pastoral relationship. We will gather to formally covenant with our new minister, **Danny Fontaine**. Sunday, September 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Barrhead United Church, 5031 50th St., Barrhead AB, Message by Minister Emeritus the Rev. David Pype. Following the worship service, a time of community fellowship, a BBQ and conversation along with our Fall Harvest Sale (free-will donations will support our UCW). Your presence, prayers, and participation as part of our United Church family would be a profound blessing to us as we begin this new chapter. If you are unable to attend in person, you are welcome to [join us via our live stream](#).

♥ **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.

★ **Alberta Referendum work continues: events and resources**

Your task group has been hard at work, and invites you to the [next online learning conversation on 17 Sept at 6:30 MDT](#), focused on having honest conversations in our contexts, using the immigration questions as a lens. Please register. Our family in Chinook Winds also invites us to [their next event on getting the vote out, Sept 23](#). [All resources can be found here](#), and a number are in a shared public folder, so we can update as we go. This includes a new library of images for social media and church use, inviting us to express how faith calls us to vote for the common good. Please use widely; they are copyright free and prepared by the task group and Affirming Committee members, not by AI!

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.

Campus United @ UofA

Campus United is pleased to announce that we've launched at the University of Alberta. Campus United offers a space for members of the university community to find friendship and explore faith in an inclusive and supportive community. Please pray for all faculty, students, and admin staff as they begin the fall semester. If you'd like to support post-secondary students, please consider sharing treats for our gatherings. For more information, contact kguenthertrautwein@united-church.ca.

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

Wider Church News & Resources

★ 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](#).

★ General Council Nominations open

New opportunities to serve on national United Church committees and bodies will be posted on September 2. The upcoming opportunities include: The Manual Committee; Academic Awards and Scholarships Sub-Committee; General Council 46 Equity Support Team; Indigenous Justice Advisory Group; Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy; Roman Catholic–United Church Dialogue; Candidacy Boards; Response Committee; Remedial Committee. All details are on the national [Opportunities page](#). The deadline to submit nominations or expressions of interest is Wednesday, October 14, 2026. Please share!

★ Journey with the UCC's future leaders!

The Prairie Candidacy Board is seeking **two new members** for a term beginning in November 2026. Candidacy Board members accompany and assess people who are discerning a call to paid, accountable ministry. This work calls for people who listen deeply, ask thoughtful questions, work well with others, and care about faithful, well-equipped ministry leadership. Both lay people and ministry personnel from Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils are welcome to express interest. The board is especially hoping to hear from **lay people, women or non-binary people**. People who bring other diverse identities, experiences, and perspectives are also strongly encouraged. Could this be one way your gifts might serve the wider church - or is there someone you could encourage to consider it? **Deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2026.** Learn more about this opportunity by clicking on the link below or contact Laura Fohse, Vocational Minister, at lfohse@united-church.ca or call 639-396-0197. / <https://united-church.ca/opportunities/candidacy-boards>. To nominate someone (check with them first) or express your own interest, follow this link: <https://unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/servegc>.

★ National Day of Truth and Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day supports

September 30 is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and Sunday October 4 is the national day in support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit people. [We've prepared some resources and reminders](#); your presence and good

words in the community are important. Please do what you can in your context to honour these days, survivors, and all our relations.

★ **Mission and Service has a new online home!**

DID YOU KNOW? *87% of Mission and Service dollars fund programming in Canada*
- 23% of Mission and Service dollars fund programming through our global partners
- 100% of Mission and Service dollars fund mission and ministry, not administration. Mission and Service is... how we join together to share what we can with people and places that need it most. [Read more here.](#)

★ **CiRCLe M Seed Money for Community Projects**

The Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M) (www.circle-m.ca) is offering communities of faith seed money of up to \$4,000 for a project that connects you to your community. If interested, a grant description and an application form are available from Chairperson, Catherine Christie, christiecatherine4@gmail.com.

In Case You Missed It...

- Did You Know: Alberta Covenant Health Community Clergy Partnership Program Update

Covenant Health Alberta recently sent out a Community Clergy Partnership Program Update. This program allows churches to apply for parking placards for clergy members visiting Covenant Health sites to support members of their faith community. [Full details and application materials on our website!](#)

- St. Andrew's College and Lutheran Theological Seminary are seeking a Transitional President to provide leadership as the two schools become one institution. Applications are open until **September 20, 2026**. Learn more about the role and view the full posting at: <https://standrews.ca/lead-the-creation-of-a-new.../>

Worship Resources:

See United Church [Worship Resources](#) for upcoming Sundays and special celebrations.

[Creation Time 2 - September 20, 2026](#)

[World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel - September 20, 2026](#)

[Creation Time 3 - September 27, 2026](#)

[Orange Shirt Sunday - September 27, 2026](#)

[Creation Time 4 - October 4, 2026](#)

[World Communion Sunday - October 4, 2026](#)

[Creation Time 5 - October 11, 2026](#)

[Thanksgiving Sunday - October 11, 2026](#)

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17, 2026](#)
[Twenty-first after Pentecost- October 18, 2026](#)
[World Food Sunday - October 18, 2026](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2026 Prayer Cycle](#)

● [Click here to access past Newsletter issues](#)



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