NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Events Newsletter: October 6, 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

♥ **Covenanting Service:** In honor of **Rev. Dr. Lloyd Nyarota with Vermilion River Pastoral Charge** (congregations of First United Church in Vermilion, McQueen Memorial United Church in Mannville, and Wesley United Church in Kitscoty). Together we will worship **Sunday, October 18, 3 p.m.,** First United Church, 4918-52 Ave. Vermilion, Alberta. We would love to have you share this special occasion with us& welcome Rev. Dr. Lloyd Nyarota as we begin this journey together. Please join us for refreshments & fellowship following the Service.

♥ **Happy Clergy Appreciation Month** to all ministers in Northern Spirit! Blessings on your October, and thank you for all the work you do in our Region and beyond.

★ 2027 Minimum Salaries & Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel

The 2027 Minimum Salaries & Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel (Pastoral Relations system), which reflects the Annual Economic Adjustments, is now live on the General Council website and can be found at this link (at the bottom of the page).

★ Alberta Referendum work continues: be sure to tell us about your good work

The countdown continues, and in this tense time, thank you to the many ministries who are offering spaces for learning and reflection. If your community of faith is offering space for this, or for getting the vote out- we want to hear about it! We welcome website articles, and if you're offering a public event or service, please post it here. All referendum 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!

★ 2 Opportunities for Young Adults

-**The Indigenous Justice Advisory Group**

The Indigenous Justice Advisory Group advises both the National Indigenous Council and the General Council Executive on matters related to Indigenous justice, reminding the church that the ministry of healing and reconciliation belongs to the whole church. **Vacancies:** One to two vacancies; non-Indigenous/settler, including one young adult

-**General Council Equity Support Team**

We are searching for people to form a team to support General Council 46 as it strives to be a space of equitable participation and decision-making.

★ **A Thanksgiving Message from your Growth Animator** (Jordan Cantwell) - click here to read

Thanksgiving with The United Church of Canada Foundation

"Come in, come in and sit down." Community is one of God's greatest gifts: gathering around a table, sharing what we have, and making room for each other.
This Thanksgiving, The United Church of Canada Foundation is inviting us to celebrate that gift by supporting Mission and Service. Our generosity helps uplift community meals, breakfast clubs, Out of the Cold programs, and other initiatives that bring people together and offer welcome, care, and connection throughout the year. Please consider making a Thanksgiving gift today and helping share the abundance of community: unitedchurchfoundation.ca/thanksgiving.

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.

★ Godly Play Online Gathering Drop-In

Focused on your questions. Godly Play Trainers Mary Nichol (BC), Ruth Lumax (AB) and Anne Clark (BC) will host once a month, one hour sessions to gather people, share experiences and best practices to help you in your Godly Play work. We've set different dates and times in hopes that people can find a session that suits them. Come join the conversation.
To register: https://www.godlyplay.ca/event-details/godly-play-online-gatherings-drop-in-2026-09-19-08-00

★ Church Property Network gathering, *Wednesday, October 14th at 7pm ET, online*

The Church Property Network is an initiative led by The United Church of Canada and United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) to support Communities of Faith with property solutions. This monthly webinar series explores practical strategies to enhance your church's sustainability while aligning with your congregation's mission. **Next Session: Wednesday, October 14 / Topic: Insurance Requirements.** Join our upcoming webinar to learn about essential insurance requirements, explore the new UCC Protect resources, and get your policy questions answered. Find more information and register at CHURCHx.

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 here.

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.

PEACE TRAIN CANADA, Fourth Trip - *October 23 - 31, 2026, Kamloops, Jasper, Edmonton, Saskatoon, and more*
Peace Train Canada is inviting you to gather with those on the Peace Train from Vancouver to Ottawa this fall. Peace Train Canada is a citizen-led effort to reclaim and renew our solidarity and Canadian identity as a culture of peace. At each train stop the Peace Train tries to raise awareness of this initiative and call people to remember Canada's role in Peace Keeping. Meet the train for a peace vigil in **Kamloops (October 24, 12:15 am)**; **Jasper (October 24, 11 am)**; **Edmonton (October 24, 6:30 pm)**; **Saskatoon (October 25, 6:00 am)**; or in further stops across Canada. Track the Train at https://tsimobile.viarail.ca/. *Train is a verb. If you want Peace, Train for Peace. Full details at* www.peacetraincanada.com.

Make the Most of Your Worship Planning! Webinar with *Gathering* **magazine,** *Wednesday 28 Oct, 9:00AM MDT/ CST, 10:00AM CDT, online*
Discover more of what GatheringWorship.ca has to offer! Join this practical webinar to explore the platform and learn how to make the most of your subscription and its worship-planning resources. Find out about all the features on GatheringWorship.ca; learn about navigating the site; ask questions and let us know what works well and what could be improved.

★ **Online Godly Play Core training,** *over 6 Saturdays - November 2026 - February 2027*
Through an action/reflection model of learning you will learn more about creating sacred space, building and working in community, nurturing spiritual development, using silence, story and play to make meaning. All learning takes place in a prayerful and playful atmosphere with creative and experienced Godly Play trainers. $350 CDN to register for all sessions. Space is limited to 12 people. To register: https://www.godlyplay.ca/event-details/godly-play-online-core-training-2026-11-07-09-00

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Sermon on the Mount, online workshop series 5 Nov- Nov 26
Join Rev Mitchell Anderson and Rev Don Schweitzer for an exploration of the Sermon on the Mount's meaning in relation to the history of colonial relationships in Canada and Indigenous resistance to this; the origin, nature and teachings of the *Declaration*; where things are at in terms of implementing the *Declaration* in Canada, and how the Sermon on the Mount speaks to this. Full details and registration here.

Affirming Leaders Day 2026, *Saturday, November 7, 9:30am-3:30pm MT; online*
Affirming Connections is an important ally in our Affirming work as a Region, and we regularly recommend their excellent events. Coming up is their annual professional development day for the people doing **the work**: clergy, organizers, volunteers, allies,

and queer folks. This year is built around what you've been asking for - practical tools for hard times. We'll dig into engaging vulnerable people with real skill, unpacking what it actually takes to be Public, Intentional and Explicit about affirmation, not just welcoming in theory. And we'll get into tactical frivolity and how joy gets organized! More details coming soon. See details and register here.

Registration open! Being Good Relations: 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.

***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.

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*Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
1-587-407-0330
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritrc.ca

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