NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Events Newsletter: October 21, 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

♥ Pastoral letter on the CFB Wainwright tragedy

Please see the letter on this terrible tragedy from Regional Council chairperson Rev Leigh Sinclair here. "We are the Body of Christ. When one part hurts, we all ache and reach out to comfort and serve. This is a time of deep pain for the community of the

Canadian military and all the connected families, chaplains, neighbours and friends. We write to invite you into prayer and service to one another."

♥ **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.

★ **Regional Celebration of Ministries service *Sunday October 25, 10:30AM MDT on YouTube,*** plus Youth Trek and Region-Connect events.
Join Northern Spirit Regional Council and the Francophone Candidacy Board in this bilingual French and English service celebrating two ordinations: Bernadette Levesque and Ozioma Obijiofor. We will gather in song, communion, and joy. You are welcome to join us in person at Camrose United Church, and the service will be livestreamed on the Camrose United Church YouTube channel. You can share the invitation and read about our two ordinands here. This is a busy weekend in our Region- please pray for the youth gathered from Western Canada at Youth Trek in Camrose; and for all those attending the Region-Connect workshop at Camrose United Church.

★ **From your Regional Council: *The Turning of the Seasons* — Resources for 2027**
Clergy and lay worship leaders are invited to sign up for *The Turning of the Seasons*, a year-long collection of contemplative resources delivered by email throughout 2027. Created by Janice Maclean at Prayer Bench, to support worship, small groups and personal reflection, these ready-to-use resources will invite us to keep watch, notice, give thanks, discover the sacred in the world around us, and honour the mysterious spaces between the realms. **Your Regional Council purchased a license so that you receive these resources freely. Sign up through the Prayer Bench website** and receive a seasonal collection of reflections, prayers, practices, worship resources and small-group materials throughout the year.
Visit the Prayer Bench website to learn more and to sign up.

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).

★ **Job Opportunity: Robertson-Wesley Spiritual Engagement Coordinator**
Robertson-Wesley United Church (Edmonton) are currently seeking a **Spiritual Engagement Coordinator.** Click here for full job posting and details.

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ The latest education and gathering spaces from the wider church are shared in the United in Learning October newsletter.

★ **Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble AGM online, *Oct 23-25,*** *on Zoom*
This is the annual decision-making learning, and community space for Affirm United. If you're an Affirming ministry, you're a member! All Affirming ministries are asked to attend as you can. And everyone is welcome. Access the agenda here, and note all the great topics on Saturday. The business meeting on Friday evening helps set direction for this collective movement, and on Sunday the community will gather for worship. Register here.

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.

Monthly Godly Play Online Gathering Drop-In *(upcoming: November 18)*
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

*Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.

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