

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
January 8, 2025 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Leigh Sinclair (Chair), Donna Kline (Treasurer), Paul Walfall, Marilyn Carroll, Lorraine Stewart, Susan Silverthorne, Mervin Gallant, Helen Reed (Past Chair), A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Leslie Penny
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Jim Belliveau,
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister);
CALL TO ORDER	Leigh called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. We checked in and Leigh led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 024-2024/2025	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of December 11, 2024 as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING	
Relationships between the NSRC and it's Communities of Faith	We continued our discussion. Leigh took notes regarding the discussion which will be provided to the Executive members.
CORRESPONDENCE	
Kirk Center	We received a letter from Kirk Center thanking us for the grant that they received for 2025. Received for information.
FINANCE	Heather provided us with updated financial documents. The updated figure for Emergency Fund income is \$93,831 (includes 50K from foundation). Funds sent to Jasper are \$55,000 and there was a previous \$4500 sent to an Anglican church serving a community affected by 2023 fires.

We currently have 3 youth attending Youth Forum We have been asked to fund \$300 per youth – up to 6. Which would be \$1800.

025-2024/2025

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve setting aside \$1800 from the Cluster budget to support up to 6 youth attending the Youth Forum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair

Leigh has been a part of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. It is a small but mighty group. A group of the committee will be taking a tour of the facility in a few weeks.

Property

Jim reported. The committee hasn't met since our last meeting.

There is a United Church Cemetery that appears that an individual has owned this cemetery which is not something that is permitted. They are working on investigating this.

Incorporated Ministries

NA

Nominations

Morgan Lawrence submitted an expression of interest for the Executive.

We seem to have filled our Executive pretty well.

Most of our committees have vacancies. Let's speak with her and see if she would be a good fit for another committee.

To do:

- Chloe will send the descriptions of the roles to Lorraine
- Lorraine will reach out to Morgan

Affirming

Leigh drafted a letter to the premier and MLAs to address the transphobic legislation. The affirming committee was very happy with the letter.

Julie has added the updated letter to the SharePoint. If everybody could take a look at the letter and let Julie know of any changes or concerns, otherwise the letter will go out Friday afternoon.

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister

Shannon has been travelling. She will be on vacation again for two weeks starting next week.

Staff are working to get our calendars organized for the year.

**Pastoral Relations
Minister**

None of the committees/commissions have met since our last meeting.

St. Andrew's – We received a retirement request from Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilfrong Pritchard. This will be approved at the meeting of the commission tomorrow.

**Justice &
Communications**

In the newsletter this week there is the first of a series of installments from Gail Simonson regarding the centennial.

WIMN is also working on a centennial project. Not a lot of details are public yet, but hopefully we should know more soon.

On Feb 27 there will be an in person and online gathering at Southminster Steinhauer on the report that was released in late November regarding unmarked burials.

OTHER

Centennial

We are planning to take some time during the annual meeting to celebrate, lament etc.

Annual Meeting

The planning committee has started to meet. Let's work on getting the word out to folks.

To do:

Chloe to make sure it is on every newsletter – save the date

Flourishing Event

The moderator's flourishing event is happening in Edmonton on May 2. Location TBD

To do:

Chloe to add to the newsletter

**Roseland United
Church**

On December 29 Helen attending the Rosalind United decommissioning service on behalf of the region.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be February 12, 2025.

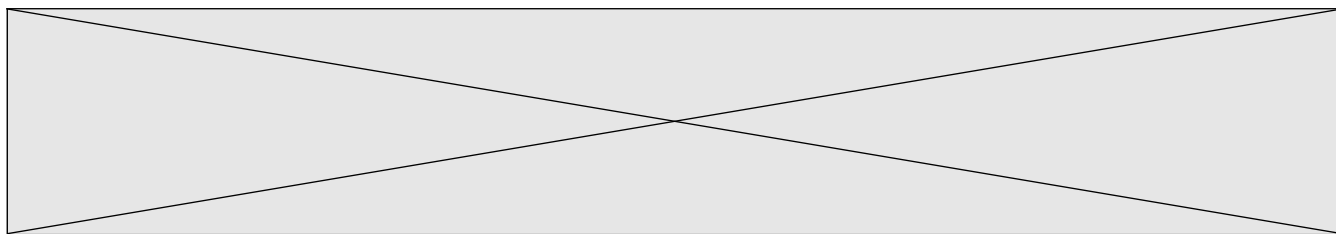
ADJOURNMENT



Leigh Sinclair – Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister



	Opening Balance January 1, 2024	Receipts	Expense	Balance	Internal Transfers	Closing Balance October 31, 2024
		\$672,550.34	-\$479,342.51	\$193,207.83		\$193,207.83
Externally Restricted						
Archive Trust Fund	102,416.40		-5100.00	97,316.40		97,316.40
Regional Archive Fund	42,792.39	5,937.57		48,729.96		48,729.96
Emergency Relief Trust Fund	18,454.65	76,010.00	-39,500.00	54,964.65		54,964.65
Reclaiming the Mission Fund	24,159.77			24,159.77		24,159.77
				0.00		
Ann Mazur Fund	188,287.96			188,287.96		188,287.96
Student Bursary Fund	179,685.59	4,496.30	-11,200.00	172,981.89		172,981.89
Internally Restricted						
Conflict Resolution Trust Fund	30,000.00			30,000.00		30,000.00
Pastoral Relations Emergency Fund	10,000.00		-2,773.45	7,226.55		7,226.55
Legacy Fund (040 - 2021/2022)	335,500.15			335,500.15		335,500.15
Contingency Reserve Fund (Finance Policy 3.1.1.)	150,000.00			150,000.00		150,000.00
Future Programming (formerly Annual Meeting Fund (040 - 2021/2022)(Mar 13/24)	25,253.41		-400.00	24,853.41		24,853.41
Totals	\$1,106,550.32 **	\$758,994.21	-\$538,315.96	\$1,327,228.57	\$0.00	\$1,327,228.57
Conexus chequing	103,537.96	Korean Loan	50,000.00	Receipts	758,994.21	
Conexus Savings	207,724.27	Frontier (Bursary)	145,673.36	Less Expense	-538,315.96	
Student Bursary Savings	26948.53	Term Deposits	1,201,521.14	Income/Loss	220,678.25	
St. Stephens loan	15,761.19	Accrued Interest	36,124.64	Beginning balance	1,106,550.32	
Ann Mazur loans	14,094.60	TD GIC	1,896.72	Ending balance	1,327,228.57	
Accounts Receivable	13,046.68	Cash on Hand		Liability	2,062.76	
			\$1,816,329.09		\$1,329,291.33	
				Retained earnings	487,037.76	
					\$1,816,329.09	

** 2024 adjustments included

Communities of Faith, Community Ministries and Northern Spirit Regional Council Relationships
December 17, 2024

Covenantal relationships are ones where two or more people or communities promise to live out a mutually supportive connection and ask God to be within their very fabric. This is the relationship between the Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSRC) (its members, ministries and staff) and each Community of Faith.

In 2025, the Executive would like to know how strong these relationships are from the many points of view – Communities of Faith (COFs), NSRC bodies, Outreach and Community Ministries (CM), clusters, networks etc.

JANUARY MEETING:

What is missing here?

What 3 indicators are most important for us nourish (either by continuing, improving or beginning these practices)?

Some of these are drawn from the promises we make to one another as UCC connected folks (requirements from the Manual or NSRC's policies and practices).

1.

NSRC creates opportunities for **connecting** one another with your geographical neighbours for mutual support, sharing of resources and outreach.

COF and CM **participate** in 1 or more of these opportunities per year.

2.

NSRC **creates** opportunities for like minded people to gather (for example support a Network or Cluster gathering, retreats for worship planning or Ministry Personnel peer support).

For example: goal could be that each NSRC Commission and Committee provide one gathering each year, some of which can take place in conjunction with Annual Meeting or other events).

COF and CM leaders (paid and volunteer) **attend** gatherings and events (for example support a Network or Cluster gathering, retreats for worship planning or Ministry Personnel peer support)

For example: goal could be that each COF and CM send one person to one gathering each year, some of which can take place in conjunction with Annual Meeting or other events).

3.

NSRC staff and volunteers endeavor to **listen** well and cooperate towards getting the right person/policy/commission/committee to personally connect with COM/CM.

COF and CM leaders **call/email** the NSRC staff and/or Commissions when issues arise needing cooperation such as issues around Property, Pastoral Relations, Social Justice initiatives, governance changes, pastoral care needs or other emergent things)

4.

NSRC staff and/or Commissions **reach out** to each COM and CM once a year, even when there is no specific need or issue arising.

COF and CM leaders **call/email** the NSRC staff and/or Commissions yearly to check in and communicate needs arising and more often to ask specific questions of polity or resources as well as for learning opportunities (like M and P training)

5.

NSRC Executive or Commissions **report annually** (or more) to COF and CMs.

COF and CM leadership **review these and report** to appropriate folks in COF and CM.

NSRC volunteers **read Annual Reports** that are submitted and refer/respond to COM/Outreach Ministries and other partners as needed.

COF and CM **send in an Annual Report** (or more)

6.

NSRC holds **at least one gathering annually** (online or in person) of all members of the Regional Council that includes worship and learning.

COF and CM **send representatives** to that/those meeting(s) who report back relevant information to their communities.

7.

NSRC Commission and staff **respond** to communication re: property or governance changes sought by COF AND CM appropriately and timely manner.

COF and **CM connect with** appropriate NSRC Commission and/or staff about any changes they are seeking to their governance or property in a timely manner.

8.

NSRC will be **responsible with the monies** allocated to them in consultation with COM and CM through their representatives.

COF and CM **pay assessments** allowing staff to do their role, allowing volunteers to be resourced in their roles and so we have funds in emergency savings from NSRC and GC.

9.

NSRC Executive or Commissions will **join** with a COM/CM for worship opportunities to share their passion and work.

COF and CM will **invite** NSRC Executive or Commissions to join them in visioning, long term planning and/or restructuring discussions.