

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting: July 2, 2025

WE DECIDED:

- That the Leadership Team support the renewal of Carol Loewen's license as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader.
- That Spirit of Hope United Church will not accept requests from people desiring to promote the buying or selling of items in *The Spark*.
- That Spirit of Hope United Church pay the \$500 registration fee to participate in the Aug 23 Pride Parade, and that other United Churches participating be asked to assist with the cost of the fee.

WE DISCUSSED:

- Minister Blaine's report including: steps taken to invite other Edmonton United Church of Canada congregations to the Aug 23 Edmonton Pride Parade; update on 45th General Council meetings in June – with main meeting Aug 7 to 12; Rev. Gregg's nomination to the Remedial Committee of the Office of Vocation for The United Church of Canada.
- Topics for a minster-led study group between Sept and Dec.
- Focus on Learning and Growth FIAT related issues and activities by Chris and Heather: big thanks to Bob Griffith who assembled a display commemorating The UCC's 100th anniversary; BLT! Breakfast planning for 2025-26; youth and families' Zoom meetings.
- Excellent report by Jim on the one-day session he and Phyllis attended on June 14 for Edmonton pastoral charges to discuss their status and future considerations.
- Potential outreach projects and information sessions to be researched.
- The Soaring Project (Youth Empowered Together [YET]) that ran from Jan to June at Spirit of Hope, with a short video by the youth.
- Thanks to the Affirm Team for the June 15 Affirmiversary service, to participants in the June 14 Rainbow Fun Fest, and to Colin Fraser, Bryan Meintzer and Chris Meintzer for internet work in one of the meeting rooms.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- Meeting of Caring Connections Team on July 9 to discuss priorities and strategies to build meaningful connections with members of our church family.
- The United Church of Canada's historic apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities livestreaming at Spirit of Hope from Knox United Church in Calgary on Fri, Aug 8 (9:00 a.m. MT).
- Outdoor worship on July 13 and 20 at Avonmore Park, making lunches for the Inner-City Pastoral Ministry service on Sun, Aug 3.
- Striking a team to plan the Sept 21st Community BBQ and Showcase, including applying for a City of Edmonton grant after Aug 3rd.
- Looking ahead to Jazz and Reflection concerts and Breakfast Learning Together (BLT!) in the fall.
- Continuing to welcome new people into Spirit of Hope, with warmth, openness, and hospitality.
- Guided and inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus and other sources of great wisdom, continuing to journey; learning, changing, and growing together.

Next meeting: Wed, Sept 3, 2025

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

- Chair: Jim Lewis
- Past Chair: Carol Loewen
- Secretary: Phyllis Verhaar
- Treasurer: Kevin Gue
- Ministry and Personnel: Eva Cooper
- Trustees: Sandra Hawes
- Property, Finance and Stewardship: Cathy Martin
- Worship Faith in Action Team (FIAT): Roslyn Thomson and Vici Wynn
- Learning and Growth FIAT: Heather Green and Chris Meintzer
- Just and Caring Community FIAT: Judy Meintzer and Sara van Halderen
- Communications: Susan Bamm
- Minister: Reverend Blaine Gregg