

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada



Regional Meeting September 30 & October 7, 2020 Electronic Meeting



WORKBOOK - ROP Volume I

Rev. Lawrence (Larry Manley John Edwards

August 17, 2019

Rev. William (Bill) James Hickerson

September 13, 2019

Rev. Sanadius Fiddler

December 9, 2019

Rev. Donald (Don) Robertson

December 27, 2019

Rev. Marietta Marshall

July 10, 2020

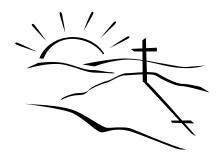


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	In Memoriam	inside front cover
2.	Annual Meeting of Prairie to Pine Regional Council Enabling Motions	2
3.	Covenant	3
4.	Holy Manners	4
5.	Meeting Procedures	5-7
6.	Basic Rules for Debate and Proposals	7-8
7.	Report of the Moderator and General Secretary	9-14
8.	Report of the Regional Council Executive Co-Chairs	14-19
9.	Report of the Office of Vocation Minister	20
10.	Profiles: Retirees	
	Brenda Gibson	
	Charles (Chuck) Ross	
	Gordon Taylor Kon Thomas	
	Ken Thomas Cathie Waldie	
	Janet Walker	
11.	Profiles: Recognition	20
	Sam Ross	28
	Elenor Thompson	
12	Reports: Regional Program Staff	29 30
12.	Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives	31-32
	Julie Graham, Regional Minister: Justice & Communications	
	Judy Hare, Personnel Minister	
	Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister	
13.	Report: Treasurer Valerie Beckingham	
14.	Report: Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive Consensus Decisions 2019/2020	41-53
15.	Report: Standing Committees of the Region	
	Nominations	54
	Pastoral Relations Commission	55
	Committee on Community of Faith Support	
	Committee on Lay Leadership / Lay Ministry Support	
	Committee on Ministry Personnel Support	
	Property Commission	
	United Church Women (UCW) i. Bursary	
	Young Adults and Youth (YAAY)	
16	. ,	02-03
10.	Reports: Others • Stewardship and Gifts Officer – Jane Harding	64
	Jubilee Fund	
	Manitoba Multifaith Council (MMC)	
	Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC)	
	Western Intercultural Ministry Network	
17.	Reports: Theological Schools and Educational Centres	
	Atlantic School of Theology	72
	Centre for Christian Studies (CCS)	
	Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre	
	St. Andrew's College	75-76
18.	Appendix I: Nominations Report 2020	77-82
	Appendix II: Proposals	
20.	Appendix III: 2019 Audited Financial Statements	86-101
21	Agenda	inside back cover

ANNUAL MEETING OF PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL ENABLING MOTIONS

- **1.** Roll of Regional Council: that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the 2nd Annual Regional Council meeting be:
 - i. the members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds served by the regional council;
 - ii. Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council
 - iii. lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by communities of faith. (Manual 2019, C.1.1 & C.1.2)
 - iv. members-at-large, lay members within the Regional Council who have been appointed members as necessary for the work of the Regional Council by the Regional Council Executive and who have not been elected by their community of faith.
- **2.** <u>Corresponding Members</u>: that all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this regional council meeting, with voice but not vote.
- **The Bounds of the Council:** that the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.
- **4.** Minimum Number of Members at Meetings: that the regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose. (Manual 2019; C.4.3)
- 5. <u>Limits to Debate</u>: that without the permission of the Council, no member shall speak more than once on any proposal or amendment; and that speeches be limited to two minutes per person on each proposal, except at the discretion of the President.
- **6. Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this Regional Council meeting be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian.
- 7. Rules of Debate and Order: that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2019 (pages 187-191); and that any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.
- **8.** <u>Unfinished Business:</u> that unfinished business be referred to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive.

A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

We promise to relate to one another with

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- · open-mindedness;
- · courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

In our Christian love for one another we will

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect:
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

HOLY MANNERS

The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource forthe 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honour the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.

MEETING PROCEDURES

(Numbering in this section is from the 2019 Manual Appendix pg. 188-191 and only includes sections relevant to this meeting)

3.1 The Chair

The chair keeps a meeting of the council on track and may make rulings on procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

All members must be able to participate fully and comfortably.

Every voting member makes decisions on the basis of their own understanding of scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the council.

Any member of the council may bring to the attention of the chair any concerns about how a motion is being dealt with.

When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the council decides otherwise by a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The chair does not participate in the discussion or vote except in the case of a tie. If the chair wants to express an opinion, then they move aside from the role and ask another member to chair until the matter is disposed of.

3.2 How to Conduct a Meeting

3.2.1 Process

A council may set its own process for conducting business. If the council has not set its own process, it follows the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules).

3.2.2 Motions

A council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of a higher council.

A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.

3.2.3 Challenging Rulings

A voting member may challenge a ruling of the chair at the time the ruling is made. The chair restates the ruling and may give reasons. The secretary then calls the vote without any discussion on whether the chair's ruling is sustained.

3.3 How to Amend a Motion

When a motion has been made and is open for discussion, any motion to amend must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.

When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the council may deal with the final form of the original motion.

Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.

A motion to amend fails if there is no seconder.

A motion to amend may not change the intention of the original motion.

A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

3.5 Motions That Interrupt the Meeting

At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to

- a) close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- b) fix the time to adjourn;
- c) adjourn;
- d) take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- e) limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- f) postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- g) refer the motion to another body or commission;
- h) amend/change the motion; or
- i) postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specified time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

3.6 How to Reconsider a Motion

A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

Only a voting member who voted "yes" for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.

A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.

The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed. A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

3.7 Additional Procedures

In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules) will be followed.

OTHER:

Divide a Motion (seriatim) This is a request to vote on a motion in parts rather than in total. A

seconder is required. If two persons ask, the chairperson must grant

the request.

information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is

speaking?".

Point of Order Any person can interrupt to challenge or question procedures. For

example, "We didn't vote", or "President, we are debating this motion

to table and we shouldn't be."

Point of Privilege Any person can interrupt debate to raise point of privilege. For

example, "Our table group doesn't have copies of this motion" or

"Could you please repeat the motion, I didn't hear it."

BASIC RULES for DEBATE on PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the Regional Council Meeting, proposals are received for information and consultation by the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. The Committee may make editorial suggestions to the proposing body to promote accurate understanding of the proposal by the people at the Regional Council Meeting. The Committee will communicate these suggestions to the proposing body and the proposing body may, or may not, take the suggestions.

Proposals that are received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be included in the Workbook (ROP Volume I). Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be provided in written form at the Regional Council Meeting.

The proposals will be available in a variety of ways: typed hard copy, via screen sharing, and read aloud at the time of decision-making.

Due to limitations of electronic online meetings any proposals received during the meeting or prior to the listening session one week prior to the meeting will be automatically referred to the Regional Council Executive.

- 2. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
 - i. The Convenor will indicate which proposal is being dealt with.
 - ii. A representative from the proposing body will be given 3 minutes to present the 'issue' described in the proposal and their proposed action to address the issue (Listening).
 - iii. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.
 - iv. All proposals will be 'Listened to' before discussion happens.

- v. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
- vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the Monday immediately prior to the constituted meeting of the Regional Council and a motion will be brought forth in the decision making time based on the feedback and according to the following:

If the Regional Council is the Council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.

If the General Council is the court of action:

- a. The Regional Council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- b. If it agrees, it passes the proposal to the General Council.
- c. *If it does not agree,* it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.
- d. The Regional Council may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.

If the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to General Council only if there is a compelling reason. (2019 Manual, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d), p.102)

REPORT of THE MODERATOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



The Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott *Moderator, The United Church of Canada*



Nora Sanders
General Secretary, The United Church of Canada

Dear Regional Council Friends;

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..... (Hebrews 10:24-25)

We hear this passage this year, in these times of pandemic isolation, differently than ever before. These days we are not tempted to neglect meeting together, but are *yearning* for the "normal" world when it is safe for all of us to meet together, to worship together, and to serve together once again. And yet we hear these words today with a new understanding of what it means to gather together, with a new understanding of the possibility of experiencing genuine community as we gather and worship through electronic means rather than sitting side by side in our pews.

We are writing to you in the middle of the summer, thinking ahead to your plans to gather for regional council meetings this fall. The usual spring meetings were put off this year with the expectation of meeting in person in the fall, but as the summer progresses, it seems increasingly clear that fall gatherings may be held virtually after all.

Your leadership in these unusual times is so important, and we are grateful to serve God alongside you in the United Church of Canada.

COVID-19

Sometimes in the past few months, it has felt almost impossible to think of anything except the pandemic and how it is affecting all of our lives and the life of our church! This has been a year of unexpectedly rapid and massive change. If you had told any of us as 2020 dawned that in less than three months all the churches would be closed, all the schools would be closed, all the restaurants would be closed, all but "essential" businesses would be closed, vacation trips would all be cancelled, and we would be expected to stay home and not visit with friends or family, we simply would not have believed you. Even in the early part of the year, when these things became realities in China, we felt compassion for the people there, but still could not imagine that we would ever be affected in a similar way.

This is something that none of us have ever experienced before, and it is not something we ever expected to experience. Anxiety and grief are natural and real, but we have also felt deeply inspired by the creativity, innovation and adaptability that our ministers and members have demonstrated. Online worship is vibrant and meaningful, and serving not only our members but also numbers of people who had not been attending church, but have somehow found their way in through our virtual doorways. Bible studies, youth groups, baking nights, book clubs, board meetings, refugee support committees, the National Indigenous Elders Council, and so many more groups and events are all happening through the use of electronic tools. Although clusters and networks were slow to get off the ground after the reorganization of the Church structures, now there are regular ZOOM gatherings of ministry and lay leaders in regional groups, where real conversations take place as they support one another through the changes of these times. The Moderator and General Secretary have both appreciated opportunities to be part of these regional gatherings, perhaps connecting in this way with more of you than it would have been possible to meet in person during the same time period. The General Council Office closed on March 16, initially for "two weeks" but as of the time of writing it has not reopened. We are beginning to bring some staff back into the office this fall, but, especially with our open space layout and close proximity of neighbouring workspaces, it will be some considerable time before all staff are back. Planning for staff to return to the office will take into account the ability of job functions to be performed from outside the office, the health and family situations of staff members. Those working in the office will find that it feels different in many respects with the appearance of masks, lack of access to the common lunch area, limited use of meeting formats, and so on. Fortunately, we have seen staff rise to the occasion and find creative ways of doing their jobs and connecting with the wider church from their own homes. As with other churches and organizations, this experience has given us the opportunity to examine travel practices and question the "necessity" of some of our former ways, and to consider the possibility of some staff doing all or some of their work from locations outside of the office on a continuing basis.

No doubt you are also looking for the learnings from this time, the things that you have found possible and that you do not want to lose in "returning to normal". We do not know yet what the "new normal" will look like, but it seems most likely that it will be different from what we understood as normal in the past. As we explore these unfamiliar paths, we give thanks that we are doing it together as a church, and with the comfort of God's ever loving presence.

Budget cuts

When so many things "shut down" in mid March because of the pandemic, we were less than two weeks away from the spring meeting of the General Council Executive. This was to have been an in person gathering with a focus on identifying strategic priorities to offer to the church for discussionleading into the 44th General Council. There was one significant piece of business of the agenda, the approval of budget principles to guide the 2021 budget of the General Council Office. Given the circumstances in which this meeting was held (electronically), with so many immediate practical concerns in people's minds, the "big picture strategic" work was deferred, and the focus shifted to the budget decisions that were needed. Although it would have been nice to avoid the difficult budget decisions too, this was not possible with church revenues are going down, as the size of our membership and number of congregations goes down. This has been a reality for some years and is accelerating. If anything was changed by the pandemic, it is the likelihood that even

more serious reductions will be needed as a result of the economic fallout that accompanies the pandemic shutdown.

The budget principles that the General Council Executive approved on March 28 require the 2021 budget to be about \$4 million smaller than this year's budget. These reductions will be roughly divided between grants and staff. Grant recipients have already been notified of the reduced grant levels that will apply in 2021, and this includes reductions in the Mission and Service allocations to Regional Councils. Staff reductions were made this spring and summer, so that severance costs could be borne within this fiscal year.

Anti-Racism

The issues raised by racialized and Indigenous participants at the unplanned, passionate, and painful discussion that ended the General Council 43 meeting in Oshawa, and the ongoing presence of systemic racism within our church, have been a major concern and area of work for this Executive of the General Council.

Early on in its tenure, the GCE set up an Anti-Racism Working Group, and they have been working hard to lift up issues of racial injustice, and to seek practical measures that will make a difference. Their <u>report</u> to the General Council Executive in March of 2020 lifts up the work done and the directions identified for further work.

The White Privilege Working Group has gone through some transitions in membership this year, and the willingness of Shannon McCarthy (Regional Council Executive Minister for the Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit regional councils) to take on the role of chair provides an important basis for partnership in this work between the General Council and Regional Councils. These two Working Groups, along with the Reference Group for Indigenous Peoples and the Reference Group for Racialized Peoples, and the staff that support them, will be meeting in September to discuss coordination and clarification of the work and to develop an outline for the United Church's Anti-Racism Strategy. We will be in conversation with Regional Councils as the anti-racism strategy is being developed.

Meanwhile, with advice from racialized staff, and oversight from both Working Groups, revisions have been made to the General Council Harassment policy to clarify its application to racial harassment, and the process that are available to activate it. The revised policy is slated for approval by the sub-executive this summer and will be in place by the time you meet this fall. Information and training will be available to help everyone become familiar with the scope and requirements of the revised policy.

We have been working closely with Anglicans and Lutherans, and with others from the Canadian Council of Churches, to express our shared commitment to the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, with links to statements in March, June and July. In June, the General Council Executive released a statement expressing clearly its conviction that Black Lives Matter to the United Church. The Moderator has also written to the Prime Minister to express strong support for the national recognition of August 1 as Emancipation Day, to mark the abolition of slavery in Canada. If you want a practical step that you can take, we encourage you to write your

own letter to the Prime Minister on this topic. Feel free to use the Moderator's letter as a model.

GC43 Commissioners will know that when the General Council was recalled in June to consider whether the next General Council meeting should be delayed, a <u>proposal</u> outlining a number of steps to combat racism was received. Although this proposal was received too close to the time of the meeting to allow for adequate discussion and preparation by commissioners, its principles received clear support and it was referred to the General Council Executive for further work with the expectation that there will be a report back to the next electronic recall of GC43 on October 24.

Those present in Oshawa, and those following closely the business of the General Council there heard clearly the importance of acknowledging and addressing racism. Even still, one challenge is that many United Church people assume that OTHER people are racists, and that racism is an individual and overt act as opposed to a system. We have denounced racism as a church. But some among us—particularly those of us who are White—may not really understand that although we oppose racism, we are part of racist systems and institutions, whether we realize it or not. The sad murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis has generated wider discussion and a deeper recognition of the systemic racism that is part the world in which we live. Many in the church have been educating themselves about White privilege, deepening their commitment to anti-racism work, affirming that Black Lives Matter, and following through with tangible actions that support our words. Too often, people believe that racism is a particular issue in the United States, or a problem outside the United Church. But racism actually relates to each of us, and is present in our own church. The good news is that understanding the reality of racism provides the basis for doing something about it, for speaking up when we hear inappropriate conversations, for sharing resources that have helped our own learning, and for pushing for social, institutional, and political changes that will bring about true respect, safety, and equality of opportunity for all.

We are in the process of recruiting an Anti-Racism and Equity Officer who will serve in the General Council Office and report directly to the General Secretary. This person will ensure that the various pieces of related work are coordinated, that information about the work is shared, and that learning opportunities are widely available.

Anti-racism work needs the leadership of the General Council Office, but also needs the commitment of United Church people in every Regional Council, and in local communities of faith. If you are doing work in this area, or have suggestions for us, we would be grateful to hear from you.

National Indigenous Council

The National Indigenous Council is now a year into its new structure. Through the first ten months of the life of this new body, they were ably supported by Cheryl Jourdain, former Speaker of the All Native Circle Conference, who had agreed to provide interim leadership through a transitional period. As of July 1, Murray Pruden has been serving as the Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice. The General Council Executive looks forward to working closely with the National Indigenous Council to advance the commitments made when the 43rd General Council accepted the Calls to the Church from the Caretakers of the Indigenous Circle.

United Property Resource Corporation

The establishment of the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) was approved by the General Council Executive in April of 2019 and got started in the months that followed. It is continuing to scale up quickly to achieve its mandate of becoming a trusted real estate advisor and support to faith communities by leading real estate initiatives on their behalf.

UPRC will work to ensure projects are commercially viable and support the mission of the community of faith and the United Church of Canada. This includes the development of safe, stable, and affordable housing for all Canadians while maximizing the social impact to achieve the highest possible economic, environmental and social benefits. UPRC has formally executed the agreement with Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) and is continuing to advance UCC real initiatives working alongside local faith communities.

The UPRC board is chaired by Don Hunter, who previously served on the General Council Executive as chair of the Permanent Committee on Finance. The first two staff of the corporation are Kris Tavella, who formerly did related work as part of EDGE, and the Chief Executive Officer Tim Blair, who began this spring in the midst of the COVID shutdown. Tim brings 20 years of real estate investment banking and private equity experience, and a strong commitment to the social values of the United Church, to the work.

This corporation has been created as a resource to the church, and either Tim or Kris are happy to hear from congregations and regional councils who have questions about property issues. You can expect to hear more announcements about the United Property Resource Group this fall. (tblair@united-church.ca or Ktavella@united-church.ca)

Recruitment of new General Secretary

At last October's recall meeting of the 43rd General Council, the General Secretary shared the news of her wish to retire in the fall of 2020. A Search Committee was appointed (chaired by the Moderator). and, after a bit of delay because of COVID-19 distractions, they concluded interviews in August, and came to a strong consensus in their recommendation, which was approved by the General Council Executive on August 27.

<u>Michael Blair</u> will begin his term as General Secretary of the General Council on November 1. Many of you will already know him...... and we are excited about the excellent experience and faithful vision that he will bring to this new role. Nora Sanders will continue to serve until the end of October.

GC 44 Delayed until 2022

At a special electronic meeting held on June 20, 2020, Commissioners of the 43rd General Council made this decision to delay the 44th General Council from 2021 to 2022. Given the uncertainty caused by the Global pandemic, this decision was made having in mind the health and well being of all participants, including Commissioners, global partners, staff, and guests.

The revised dates for GC44 have been set for July 22–26, 2022. These dates were selected based on the original 2021 dates, availability of the venues, and the UCW 60th Anniversary celebration which is scheduled to be held in Sydney Nova Scotia, July 11 - 15, 2022.

Deadlines for GC44 are June 14, 2021 for electing Commissioners and October 29, 2021 for submitting proposals.

Richard Bott, Moderator

Nora Sanders, General Secretary

On behalf of the General Council Executive

REPORT - REGION COUNCIL EXECUTIVE CO-CHAIRS



Lori Stewart



Kwang Beom Cho

Chair

The United Church of Canada marked a new beginning amid long hours of discussion and planning. It was the beginning of hope.

In history we know what kind of ministry we have had as a United Church, for justice, for peace, for the creative world, for human rights, for the kingdom of God. But we also confess that we have destroyed the creative order, were unjust, had a narrow sense of human rights, and had a sense of superiority, discrimination, and inequality.

We wanted to look inside us at the contradictions and change it with the "Missio Dei/Mission of God" theology and the blade of the 'Social Gospel'. We seek to form communities of faith that change not only on the outside shell, but also from the inside to the whole new, qualitatively.

In this great change, many people ask, "Is the United Church dying?" There are two answers to this question. We are "waiting to die (close)", but if this is the answer, we are done. Or we are "doing something before dying (closing)". If this is our answer, there is still hope for us. What stands in the way of this hope is the fear and uncertainty within us, within the communities of faith. We need courage now. This courage is not courage without fear, but the courage to take a step forward even if we have fear.

So, the seed of hope has been sown in our United Church. We continue to answer the question pose to Jesus', "Who is my neighbor?" in order to sprout, stem, leaf, and bear fruit from this seed. Then we hope to unite with our neighbors, the weak, those in need, and build a community together.

Jesus did his best in his life until the end. His death was not a failure or a setback. His death brought people back to life as hope, resurrection, and wholeness. We continue to do what we have to do as seeds, salt, light, and hope for the kingdom of God.

As Co-chairs of the Executive of a Regional Council which started with hope, we also agonized and agreed on how important it was to have an Intercultural perspective and from this point of view we wanted to renew our Region.

The first gathering of the Executive, which was face to face in September 2019, provided a chance to get to know one another and to reflect on how we might embrace intercultural values and norms in our work. The Calls to Change, from the Regional Council Meeting, and our desire to become a more intercultural church body led us to take time at this first meeting to look at characteristics of white, dominant culture and seek antidotes and alternative ways of doing things. At a later meeting Ha Na Park assisted us to explore further how to decolonize our governance.

We identified the following ways in which we would be attentive to intercultural ways of doing things at meetings:

- Seek to understand and get the whole story rather than react to something we've heard only part of
- Value all voices
- Be patient as we allow each other time to express ourselves
- When we disagree with something, we will notice what is happening to us and seek to find out why
- We agreed that we would try a consensus decision-making model
- Without engagement and communication, true invitation and interaction is not possible.

We asked "what would decolonizing governance look like?" and noticed:

- We do better with intercultural sensitivity when we are not rushed
- Traditionally meetings are agenda focused rather than suited to relationship building.
- If the regional council wanted to include indigenous and intercultural members in an annual meeting, there would need to be more conversation, and the other calls to change would grow naturally out of that
- If we held a meeting with no agenda, what would happen?

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee took this discussion to heart in their preparations, seeking to minimize the time devoted to business, and allow more time for program and conversation. Unfortunately, with Covid 19 and the decision to meet electronically, the plan had to shift. With less time available, it may mean we are again agenda focused. However, we continue to ask the questions and seek a new way.

Communication

Communication was named as a huge priority by the Listening Team when we last met as a Regional Council. The Executive agreed to hire a staff person, who would have communication as one of their responsibilities, the position to be shared with the other two Regional Councils in the prairies. Julie Graham started in the New Year as Regional Minister for Justice and Communication. She made the completion of the website a priority and collaborated on a work plan with Jamie McKay and other staff.

The website was launched in March. It is hoped that having a staff position and the website will alleviate some of the communication problems. Following that big push, Julie was able to consult the region about our expectations and goals for her work in the Justice portfolio and for ongoing communication work.

Grants

We appointed a Grants Committee in September who reviewed the applications and presented a proposal about how to disperse funds for Ministry and Mission Support Grants. We agreed to accept the recommendations. The Regional Council Executive is now the body to approve requests for grants going to Church Development Inc. We received an application from Augustine United and forwarded our decision to CDI for their decision making.

Finances

We received regular Financial Reports at our meetings. Thanks to Heather Dootoff's hard work and Valerie Beckingham's collaboration, a detailed budget was prepared for 2020. Since 2019 was a transition year, it was not a typical or normal year to provide us with a good picture of what our actual costs would look like. As structures continue to evolve, so will the budget. The budget was adopted as presented. During 2020, expenditures for the region have been less than budgeted because of Covid 19 but major costs such as salaries and leases remained the same. An audit was completed for the 2019 books by BDO and the Executive approved the Audited Financial Statements as presented.

An accounting of money at our disposal from presbytery and conference transfers was prepared as a framework for a decision about how to deal with requests for money. An ad hoc Strategic Budgeting Committee was formed to propose priorities and criteria for dealing with requests for funds. That work is ongoing; however, the Executive did approve to provide funding for administrative support for Church Development Inc out of the funds transferred from Winnipeg Presbytery.

Pastoral Relations

We received reports and approved motions from the Committee on Community Support and the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support. We received decisions made at the Pastoral Relations Commission.

We worked on a number of Pastoral Relations policies:

- Pastoral Charge Supervisor
- Length of Appointments
- Part-time Ministry
- Cooperative Ministry Arrangements—name changed to Collaborative Ministry Agreements
- Marriage License Registration Policy

We agreed to the following processes:

- To request Formal Association
- To use the Yearbook guidelines for specialized ministries or other appointments
- To definitions for Other Ministry Employment or Regional Council recognized ministries.
- To use the criteria in Pastoral Relations: Engaging and Supporting (2013) to define Regional Council recognized ministries
- To make retired DLM were made members-at-large in the Regional Council
- A Conflict Resolution Facilitation Process

We approved governance documents for trial use at Prairie Spirit United Church and St. Charles Headingley. We approved the Ecumenical Shared Ministry between Neepawa UC and St. James Anglican Church.

We granted licenses to do sacraments to Eleanor Thompson and to do sacraments and weddings to Zack Kakegamic.

Covenants

The Committee on Community Support urged the Executive to create our own Covenant as our commitment to the Communities of Faith who are preparing their Covenants, and this was done.

We also agreed to accept and sign the covenant with Ministries in French. This covenant is about the United Church's intention to support Ministries in French and to have a network of Ministers who can lead churches in French across the country.

Property Commission

We dealt with recommendations that came to us from the Property commission. We agreed to disband Kelwood United Church and appointed trustees to deal with property matters, should they be needed. We also amended the Regional Council property policy so that congregations are no longer required to seek the consent of the Property Commission before they can use the currently restricted funds from the sale of a manse for their ongoing mission and work.

Equity and Diversity Committee

Executive received two proposals: A draft Affirming Vision Statement and Terms of Reference for the committee. These documents have to be approved by the full court in order for us to become an Affirming Region. We were also asked to review the Regional Council Responsibilities document.

Black Lives Matter

There is ongoing conversation on how can we support racialized clergy and members of our Regional Council. On behalf of the Council we wrote a letter specifically naming Black Lives Matter. Another thing being looked at is providing a safe space to our racialized clergy to have the conversations that they need to have and see if there are resources that our regional council can offer. We also are thinking about ways to provide space for white members of our Regional Council to have conversation about white privilege

Nominations

We received regular reports from the Nominations Committee with recommendations for new members for various committees and responsibilities, and approved those appointments.

We also agreed on the following process for appointing the chair(s) of the Executive:

- to have the possibility of co-chairs as an option but not mandatory
- If there are co-chairs to have them serve staggered terms
- If someone serves as chair elect rather than co-chair it be expect that they would stay on for an additional year as past chair after serving as chair

Governance

The Nominations Committee was asked to create a draft of a structure document for the governance of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. This is a work in progress.

We considered how to respond to requests for official United Church representation to various events e.g. ecumenical services, board meetings of camps. We decided that this need not be the Co-chairs but could be people from relevant networks or who are available locally.

Incorporated Ministries

We received and responded to correspondence related to Incorporated Ministries. The Council Executive is responsible the appointments of United Church representatives to boards of Incorporated Ministries within our Region. We approved the following: Wellman Lake Board members, representatives to the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents, Prairie View Lodge Board of Directors, Church Development Inc. Board of Directors, Rock Lake United Church Camp board, and the United Church Halfway Homes board.

Covid 19

The shutdown of workplaces due to Covid 19 meant staff moved to working remotely from home. It meant they had new tasks related to planning, dealing with financial implications, communicating protocols, and supporting ministers and communities of faith.

In March we made the decision to cancel the in-person Regional Council meeting. The staff and Planning Committee completed cancellations for the spring meeting. We are grateful to the Local Arrangements and Planning Committees for all their hard work and commiserate with them in having everything end so abruptly.

Judy Hare put together resources on what congregations need to know and do for Covid 19 protocols related to closing and re-opening. She also hosted regular Zoom meetings to keep lay people and ministers informed of what was happening and to provide support.

Thank You

Throughout the year we have made many decisions concerning how we will operate as a Region. This work makes us aware of the huge foundation laid by the Regional Commission before us. Their groundwork made it much easier as we continued to build.

We congratulated Grant Queskekapow from the Executive, who became a member of the National Indigenous Elders Council. Rob Smith, Tim Crouch, and Barbara Miller all resigned during the year, and Jamie McKay went on medical leave but, thankfully returning to work before the Regional Council Meeting. Shannon McCarthy helped guide our work. When she was on Sabbatical for three months, Judy Hare ably stepping in as Acting Executive Secretary. We welcomed Valerie Beckingham as Treasurer. Many of the chairs of commissions and committees joined the meetings from time to time for input, decisions, and to help us with our work.

We are so grateful to everyone. A big thanks to the current members of the Regional Council Executive: Erica Wiebe, Sandra Rex, Grant Queskekapow, James DeBeer, John Oussoron, John Robertson, Diane Dwarka, Pat Bird, Valerie Beckingham. Their patience, willingness to embrace change, presence at meetings, and faithful hope in new possibilities meant that together we were walking the path of hope towards a new future.

Kwang Beom Cho and Lori Stewart Co-chairs Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive

REPORT of the OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER



Karen Medland
Office of Vocation Minister
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and
Prairie to Pine Regions

Greetings in the name of Living God who by the Spirit moves and works amongst us, and who gave us the life of Jesus to teach us what it meant to be people of faith.

I cannot believe that it is over a year since we last gathered together. In the time since then I have been busy working with your candidacy board to support inquirers and candidates. They had a couple of in person meetings where they interviewed several inquirers and candidates. Since the pandemic they have been meeting, like so many of you, online which has added an interesting aspect to the interview process.

There has been an increase in the number of inquirers in the system and many of them have successfully become candidates. We have at present 36 inquirers and candidates in the three regions that the candidacy board are responsible for. If you are personally interested in paid accountable ministry in the United Church of Canada please email me for further information.

Although Church Hub continues to challenge many of us, especially anyone like me who uses a mac, I appreciate the willingness to engage in our new processes. The level of reporting for annual declaration continues to increase as we become more familiar with the new process. We are still waiting on all the mandatory training being moved from paper file to your profiles, but if you have any concerns about it please email me.

I continue to support mandatory training by being one of the online instructors for the boundaries training. These workshops continue to help us all be aware of the complexities of our world. The refresher on social media is very relevant at this time.

Finally, as the Office of Vocation Minister for your region if there is anything I can do to support your work please let me know.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Dr. Karen Medland
Office of Vocation Minister
kmedland@united-church.ca

PROFILES – RETIREES



Brenda Gibson

I graduated St Andrew's College, Saskatoon in 1985 after completing my B.A at the University of Winnipeg. At the time St. Andrew's had an all male teaching staff, and I appreciated that these men were excellent professors and passionate teachers of the prairie culture. During my education at St Andrew's I did a one year internship at The Pas, MB. This internship was a gift for many reasons, including the February Presbytery meeting that was held at Lynn Lake MB.

In June 1985 I was ordained at the Annual Meeting of Conference, in my hometown of Winnipeg. My first pastoral charge was Theodore-Springside, two small towns near Yorkton, Saskatchewan. As a citygirl, the rural learning curve was steep. I embraced the country life and enjoyed this experience immensely.

Four years later I entered a year-long CPE training (as it was called then) at Foothills Hospital, Calgary. This was a wonderful learning opportunity and once again, my supervisor and colleagues were thoughtful, caring individuals.

In 1990 I joined the Rev. Dennis Butcher in team ministry at Sherwood Park U.C, near Edmonton, AB. I appreciated working with Dennis, as we were a collaborative, respectful team, in a congregation of gifted people.

After 10 years I accepted a call at McClure United Church in Edmonton. This congregation deeply embraced its staff, and cared about its well-being. This congregation deeply embodied Christian values.

Having married into the military, I served a year and a half as a civilian chaplain at Base Borden, near Barrie Ontario. I enjoyed working with bilingual personnel, nine inter-denominational clergy, and the first military Imam. After 2 years the military moved us to Winnipeg, back to my roots. In Winnipeg I served at Kirkfield Park United Church where I was honoured to share ministry and communion with the Rev. Tony Maunder on a few occasions.

I then returned to the rural area, to Manitou-La Riviere Pastoral Charge. This was a great experience, in such a beautiful part of Manitoba, among welcoming, passionate people.

I finished the formal part of my career in North Kildonan U.C. for a 5 month appointment. This was a fun time as the congregation not only welcomed me, but we discerned together what the "new normal" would look like in this new era.

My ministry has taken me to many places, and I am grateful for all the people I have met, and all the experiences I have had. May God bless us all as we continue to serve within this great country and welcoming, wonderful church.

Charles (Chuck) Ross



I remember that back in the late 1970s, Carolyn Payton was the director of the Peace Corps. She coined the slogan "The toughest job you'll ever love."

I have often felt that way about ministry and working within the church. I spent 35 years in the RCAF and 21 years as a student and ordained minister. The Air Force was far easier.

The call to ministry was challenging- some of the hardest, most difficult and at the same time, most uplifting work and experiences in my life were with our United Church. Some of the most faith-filled and inspirational people and some of the most challenging relationships I had were in our United Church. Some of my angriest moments and happiest times were being a part of our United Church. Even when it appeared easy, ministry was really the "toughest job you'll ever love."

It was no easier for that itinerant preacher in first century Palestine. He never gave up, even under circumstances we can only presume to understand. Two thousand years later, in the shifting sands of our time, his message is still important and relevant- and we can't stop our service to God and the world just because, from time to time, it gets a little tough.

I was very fortunate to be part of the communities of faith in the In-Community Program for Ordination (remember that?), Roland, Oakville, Pilot Mound, Treherne—Rathwelland Graysville over these past several seasons. Each of them has challenged and rewarded me in my ministry, taught me ways to live my faith and teach others and provided a communion of saints and friends in this world. For this I am grateful and indebted.

The page turns as I retire from yet another career, but at the same time, not. One might say ministry is kinda like farming- you don't really retire, you just say you did.

Peace

Chuck Ross



Gordon Taylor

45 years of training for and serving in ministry cannot fit on 1 page. But more than that, who would read it?

I did not grow up wanting to be a minister. I wanted to be a lawyer. I wanted nothing to do with Church. But then Romans 5:5 happened, and plans changed. Looking back, I see how I was being helped along The Way.

As I entered Queen's Theological College, I started going to Chalmer's United. Deaconess Marg Quigley shaped my faith practice. Dr. Stan Lucyk revealed the beating heart of scripture and a dedication to inter-faith dialogue that is with me still. Fishburn-Marr (near Pincher Creek, AB) and Meaford United Church (ON) took me on as a summer student. After ordination (Bay of Quinte; 1978), I drove to Red Lake, ON, to grow into the responsibilities of ministry, find the love of my life (now Dr.) Eveline Milliken, and help rebuild a church destroyed by fire. From that distant post, I yearned for the fellowship of Presbytery. I chaired Cambrian's Christian Education and Social Action Committees engaging the *Telling My Story/Sharing My Faith* program, and opposing a proposal to bury nuclear waste in the area's mines.

At Gaetz Memorial UC (Red Deer, AB; 1981-87) I learned about team ministry. I conducted hundreds of weddings, 5 every other Saturday, thanks to the "cathedral" setting. I did not count the funerals. Each of those was too significant to become a statistic. I learned from those who grieved an infant, a 6 year old lost to leukemia, a brother murdered, a newlywed burned to death just weeks after the wedding, a family waiting in dread as the police drove up the lane. I remember the faces of the frightened and those at peace. I saw such faces during a term of CPE in the trauma and cardiac units of Foothills Hospital, Calgary. Hospital life, and especially a live birth and an autopsy, helped me appreciate anew the miracle that life is, and the need to seize each day with gratitude. Perhaps that is partly why I became involved in the anti-capital punishment movement.

In 1983, I began Doctor of Ministry studies at St. Stephen's College, studying abroad with Matthew Fox and Brian Swimme, Gordon Turner and Carl Schneider. My research found that redress of shame rather than resolution of guilt or fear was far more likely to account for strong faith. Our first child, Katherine was born and thanks to Eveline, I was able complete my D.Min. in 1989. Likewise I was privileged to sit on the Inter-Church/Interfaith Committee which prepared the *Bearing Faithful Witness* document. As a late addition to this team, I was grateful just to sit with so fine a gathering of scholars.

With the Victoria Statement freshly minted in 1988, we found ourselves in Winnipeg at the start of 25 years with Fort Garry UC. FGUC was full of great people too numerous to name. I had the opportunity to team with a variety of colleagues, two of whom went on to their own ordination. Our second child, Hilary, was born, and the congregation, like Gaetz, was wonderful in supporting us and our children as I sought to focus and energize our congregational mission to share the abundant life of Jesus.

Two important things came to FGUC from chairing the MNWO Committee on Evangelism and Congregational Development at that time. First, I was exposed to the 32 week *Disciple* Bible Study, which I subsequently led many times. Then, with three other under-40 ministers, I was invited to study evangelism at Columbia Theological Seminary with Faculty like Ben Johnson, Walter Bruggemann, Barbara Brown Taylor and Roger Noshioka. John Hogman also attended and presented a fine paper entitled *The United Church as Broken Myth*. For my part, I clarified my realization that the unique "possession" of the church is not love, but Jesus, and the best gift we can bring to faith, inter-faith, and non-faith discussions is insight into how his life enhances love.

Winnipeg Presbytery was the "congregation I attended;" so I tried to say "yes" to invitations to serve — whether on the Board of St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry which I co-chaired for a number of years, or as a Director of Church Development, Inc., or as Chair of Presbytery for a term. In 2000, I was elected as a Commissioner to General Council 37. I have wonderful memories of the vibrant Youth worship and Dr. Peter Wyatt's profound acknowledgement of our "solidarity in sin" with respect to Residential Schools. Nationally, I worked on organizing committees for one *Faith in the City* conference (with Rosemary Reuther, who had previously shaped my feminist consciousness), and two of the *More Franchises than Tim Horton's* conferences. There, Marina Nemat, known for *A Prisoner in Tehran,* taught lessons in courage and Leonard Sweet and the creative team of Midnight Oil helped me see worship must be EPIC if it was to speak to this age: Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, & Communal.

Being a Conference appointee to the U. of W. Faculty of Theology Advisory Council led to 9 years on the Lt. Governor's Advisory Committee for the *Advancement of Inter-religious Understanding Award*. What a joy it was to meet bright spiritual souls from every tradition. During my first sabbatical, I added to my tool kit Rev. Karen Hilfman-Millson's translation of the 5 Greek elements of church DNA into the more accessible and memorable *PALS+* (prayer, action, learning, sharing, growth). Hospitality and the dance of the Trinity (*perichoresis*) made its way into my chapter in *Three Ways of Grace*. Her decoder-ring model for organizing small groups remains relevant to the decentralizing church of our age of Covid-19.

After 25 years at FGUC and Intentional Interim training, I accepted Paul Campbell's suggestion to do "gap" ministry at the United Church in Meadowood (UCIM). The congregation, staff and I had so much fun together that 9 months quickly became six years. We burned the mortgage; became the 100th Affirming Congregation in the UCC; welcomed Moderator Gary Paterson with Easter jazz; developed community grief groups, partnered with College Jean Sauvé, and responded to climate change by selling hundreds of trees at cost into our neighborhood. I took a trip to Israel with mentor Stan Lucyk and several congregants. Three years later, on my second sabbatical, I co-led another trip there.

Three more leaders have helped my ministry practice over these last six years. Carey Nieuwhof has asked questions we'd rather avoid, such as "why are we not growing," and "how can we break out of stale patterns?" Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, in entertaining and erudite style, has helped reveal the Jewishness of Jesus, decoding oddities of the Gospels, the paradoxes of sibling rivalry, our need for law as well as love, and balancing individual and communal responsibilities. Finally, John Pentland, in *Fishing Tips*, has given rich insights into casting nets in a new direction – it is worth reading at least three times! As the UCIM leadership Board studied these texts with me, we made choices that led to significant improvement in attendance, financial stability, and joyful spirit. When we confirmed 22 adults into membership in the spring of 2019, it seemed a good time pass the torch.

I had not wanted to be a minister. But thanks to God's grace, and family, wonderful followers of Jesus and friends who worship God by another name, I found in ministry my true calling. To paraphrase John O'Donohue: may a slow wind likewise work God's ways of love around you and within, an invisible cloak, to mind YOUR life.

(The Rev. Dr.) Gordon Taylor, B.A., M.Div., D.Min.



Ken Thomas

I grew up in the United Church in Brandon. My paternal grandmother was the daughter of a Methodist Circuit Rider in Michigan. My first sense of call came as a teenager. I met Dr. McLure, who was touring Canada talking about his experiences in China. I spent several years with the Ecumenical Institute based out of Chicago, where I encountered some serious theology. I was also good at math, so I became a professional accountant. But something kept nagging at me, a growing restlessness. One day in church I was reminded of the Gospel of Thomas, logion 70, "When you bring forth that in yourselves, this which is yours will save you." It was time.

At this point, I want to thank Rev. Paul Campbell, whose example and whose encouragement was instrumental in my accepting the call to ministry and attending seminary.

Long ago, I discovered a book about John Wesley. Maybe I have Methodism in my DNA, but the more theology I have learned, the more staunchly Wesleyan I become. The model of Methodist circuits may be our best hope for the rural church, if we can let it work.

My period of pastoral ministry was short, but truly rewarding. It was a privilege and a blessing to serve at Roland United Church, a wonderful congregation in a remarkable community. Both Jackie and I cherish the memories of the seven years we spent there, the gracious support we received, and the many friends we made.

It has been a journey - CPA, M Div., not a common combination of letters, but one of many cherished memories and wonderful people.

I am not sure there is such a thing as retirement, not from the call of God to serve. I continue to be blessed serving on the property commission and as treasurer at Sandy Saulteaux, opportunities to work with great people, and to serve God using different gifts. The new normal, whatever it is, will still have a place for retired ministers.

And in all of this is, I have had the love and support of my wife Jackie; to her I owe the greatest thank you.

Blessings and Shalom

Ken Thomas

Cathie Waldie



As I reflect on my spiritual journey and call to ministry, I am aware of the different strands that were part of my Christian formation. I was born into a family with deep roots in the United Church: both my grandfather and uncle were ministers. Baptized at St. John's United in Winnipeg and confirmed at John Black Memorial United, I was active in many aspects of church life while growing up. During my teens I attended St. Mary's Academy for five years, which introduced me to the spirituality of the Roman Catholic faith tradition. It was the era of guitar music and folk masses, which I often participated in, finding myself drawn to the contemplative aspect of worship. After high school I studied at Mennonite Brethren Bible College (a forerunner of Canadian Mennonite University) for a year, where I learned about the Mennonite faith tradition with its emphasis on Biblical teaching, issues of peace and justice, and beautiful choral singing.

Around the time all of this was happening, John Black Memorial welcomed its first female minister, Lynette Miller. She and her teammate Ross Williams saw something in me that I didn't and encouraged my church involvement. The summer before I was to begin studying nursing at the University of Manitoba I had a spiritual experience in which I sensed God calling me to ministry. My initial reaction to this was "No, I'll do anything but that!" However, the Spirit continued to move and work in my life, and several years later I found myself entering Emmanuel College in Toronto as an "intended candidate" for ministry. Those years of theological education were rich in learning, community and personal growth, which further broadened my understanding of faith, spirituality and the Church. In 1984 I was ordained and settled on a two-point pastoral charge, Big Valley-Erskine, in east-central Alberta.

And now, some 36 years later, I am reflecting on the gift of this vocation that I initially resisted so strongly. I am grateful for the journey that pastoral ministry has taken me on, both geographically and spiritually. After four years of serving in Alberta I spent one year travelling and learning in Europe and Israel on a worship fellowship I received at Emmanuel. That was followed by six years serving the Teulon Balmoral pastoral charge, another six years at First United Church in Dryden, ten years with Crossroads pastoral charge, and finally ministry with Pembina Parish pastoral charge for the last nine years. Along the way I was married, blessed with three children: Nate, Rachel and Jay, and divorced.

Each of the communities of faith I have served has been unique, helping me to learn, grow and deepen my awareness of the Spirit's presence in all of life. Ministry has been a deeply fulfilling vocation for me, and it has been a privilege to walk with others through some of their most profound life moments. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve God and Christ's church in this way and look forward to continuing to serve in other ways, including the ministry of spiritual direction. Retiring in a time of pandemic has made me want to explore the spiritual resources of our faith tradition and others more fully, sharing them with those seeking meaning, peace and hope. God's grace has been abundant, and I trust that it will continue to hold all of us through what is, and is to come!



Janet Walker

At this time in my life, I'm living in a place of gratitude. I have been fortunate in my life to encountered many on my journey that helped shaped me to be the person I am today.

My family of birth – raised me in the church.

My experiences in my studies at Queen's, and the various ministries in which I worked, congregation, Conference, Cuba, and then I came to Winnipeg Presbytery, St Andrew's River Heights and Churchill Park, all of these helped shape the minister I am.

When we arrived in Winnipeg, my daughter Kathryn adopted a grandma for life, with our good friend Eleanor Geib became part of our family.

Kathryn grew-up in the church. A village of church people helped to raise her. I hope though now as an adult she can forgive me for the times I chose the church instead of her, leaving her to host Christmas at 10 years old while I responded to a pastoral emergency, not allowing her to take dance classes with her friends on Sunday mornings because we went to church and running out to meetings when the fire alarm was set off because of the microwave. Kathryn, please forgive me, Also though I need to thank Kathryn for being my daughter – for bringing light and laughter into my life.

I have to thank everyone for their patience when I exasperated them, and also to thank everyone for inspiring me.

Especially I thank those who have supported me through these last months of my illness.

Everyone asks – what's next for you Janet? For the moment I'm the proud mother of a bride to be. Kathryn and her fiancé Brandon will be married Sept. 18. And I will be a grandmother in January.

What else is next? I like the words from Leonard Cohen in "Anthem"

"There is a crack, a crack in everything

That's how the light gets in"

We look for the light that comes through the cracks. I'm open to that light.

A. A. Milne said in Winnie the Pooh "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good-bye so hard."

Thank you all.

PROFILES – RECOGNITION

Samuel (Sam) Ross (Designated Lay Minister)



Image and article by Joyce Johnston via https://sandysaulteaux.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Sandy-Saulteaux September-2020.pdf

"Humble with the energy of two men at times, Sam loved the music and often leads us in song. Sam had a long history in the church and had such an open mind about the traditional rites that were discussed. His heart is one of love for everyone in the circle, often lending his support in individual services provided by other student Ministers. I am so glad to hear he is one of the graduates as he is likely as much of a Blessing to his community as he was to his company of student Ministers."



Elenor Thompson* (Ordinand)

I grew up in a small remote northern Cree community of Oxford House in the 1960's and 70's at the time when there was still an 'indian' agent. My first formal education was in an United Church ran day school. All the teachers were non-local and all jobs were occupied by non-Indigenous people, so there was still a great apprehension towards them. There were days when my mother would tell us to hide under the bed when she saw a non-Indigenous person walking on the road. She had this fear that we would be taken away to Residential School like my older siblings. In spite of all that, my mother insisted that we learn our language and culture. She taught all her children independence, survival – living off the land, and pride.

Even as a young child, I saw how my older siblings and other community kids that returned for the summer from Residential Schools were different in a way that they were not as proud of the creator's gifts. I learned much later why all this occurred. I did not attend residential school however it had an affect on me. During the summers, getting to know my older siblings and bonding with them during the summer was good, but then to see them leave for the year was hard on me and even harder my parents and them. One of the eight students that perished in a plane crash returning from Residential school in 1972 was my sister, Ethel Francis Grieves.

Faith was always important in my family as my father -Vernon Grieves - was an elder in the United Church and he later became the first ordained Indigenous minister in Oxford House. My mother maintained strong traditional beliefs and practices while respecting all faiths. I learned much from both of my parents and they have broadened my vision and nurtured my own spiritual growth.

I married Rev. John Thompson in 1977, and the first 9 years of our life together were at South Indian Lake where I saw first hand the devastation to creation and a way of life when the Hydro dam raised the water 18 feet.

While living in Thompson and Winnipeg I furthered my post secondary education obtaining a diploma in Business Skills Integrated and a Bachelor of Education with honours.

In 1997 we moved to Oxford House, where I began my teaching career. Over the next 18 years I enjoyed teaching numerous classes in both the Elementary and High School.

My 'Call' to ministry came in very subtle ways. In 1997 my aunt Mary suggested that I train for ministry. Over the years, she asked me twice after that but each time I would tell her that I wasn't ready. But her suggestion had sparked something in my heart! In January, 2005 remembering that dad's wish was that one of his children become a minister so my brother, Gregory and I decided that we would start our training in October 2005. This didn't happen because my brother died from a heart attack in April 15, 2005. During the next 10 years, there were many youth suicides and daily attempts in my community. After school I would try to think of ways to reach out to our youth in need and I knew full well that traditional teachings were not seen as a means for healing. I decided that I would go through the church and try to bring about the healing since it was through the church that played a huge part of the loss of the traditional teachings. I started my training at SSSC on April, 2015. Little did I know that I would be the one that would find the great 'healing' through the church! My teaching career ended when I endured a stroke in July 2015. After recovery I continued my training the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Center in Beausejour as well as taking several courses at the Vancouver School of Theology and devoted my full time in my personal spiritual growth through Christian and traditional teachings.

I have enjoyed the journey, and I am very grateful to my family and grand children for their support and encouragement. A very special thanks to my daughter-in-law Jocelyn who drove me back and forth to Beausejour during my years of attending the SSSC. My grandchildren often came for the ride and this made the travel easier. Thanks also to my sons Victor, John and Joshua and my husband John for getting me a laptop to ease my education. I still don't know how to use it fully but their belief and confidence in me strengthens my resolve to overcome all challenges. Out of struggle and perseverance comes strength and compassion.

By the Grace of God, I look forward to serving the people at Gods Lake Narrows and wherever I am able. Faith and hope in one another will ensure a good way forward for generations to come.

Mehtoni nihnanaskomaw kihcimanihtoo!

REPORTS - PROGRAM STAFF

Erin Acland Keeper of the Archives



At this point in 2020, I expect that Covid Fog is a well-known phenomenon, and I definitely experienced it while thinking about the last year, or rather trying and nearly failing to recall what work was like pre-Covid. As always, it was busy with enthusiastic researchers, the occasional meeting, and mountains of boxes of backlogged records to process. However, that work has been overshadowed by the last six months when I've been working at home, and away from the records.

While there is always lots to do and I had no trouble keeping busy, my normal work has been completely disrupted. It is only since mid-August that I have returned to the Archives for one day per week. Currently, I am focusing on my backlog of research requests (over 150 were received since mid-March), and feeling deeply grateful that I could work from home when necessary and now can return to my physical work place under stringent protocols.

I have been in physical proximity to our archives for a total of 5.5 days since mid-March, and I have cherished that time. There is nothing quite like having your normal day-to-day life turned on its head to make me appreciate what I have and grieve for what I'm missing.

Reference

In 2019, the Archives received 418 requests. I researched 274 requests received by phone or email, and 85 researchers visited in-person. As well, 59 record creators contacted the Archives for advice on how to manage their records, or how to transfer or gift their archival records to the Archives.

Accessions

In 2019, conferences, presbyteries, and congregations transferred twenty substantial accessions to the Archives. Including:

- All Native Circle Conference
- Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario
- Northland Presbytery

- Cambrian Presbytery
- Winnipeg Presbytery
- Assiniboine Presbytery
- Rainbow Ministry

- Red Rock United Church
- Killarney United Church
- Hargrave United Church
- Douglas United Church
- Ochre River United Church
- Raymond Flett Memorial United Church
- Winnipegosis United Church
- Knox United Church (Fort Frances)
- Knox United Church (Emo)
- Guthrie Devlin United Church
- Pembina Parish United Church
- Silver Heights United Church

In addition, dozens of small but meaningful record collections were gifted to the Archives.

Grants

The Winnipeg Foundation has generously given a \$20,000 grant to the Archives to fund the archival processing of the records we hold from Teulon Residence.

University of Winnipeg

A draft Stewardship Agreement between the U of W and the United Church has been created and discussions continue about how the Archives can best be cared for indefinitely, but no decisions have been made at this point. While the Church will not give up ownership of its archival records, in future the work of maintaining, preserving, and providing access to the Archives may be under the purview of the U of W Archives.

General Council Task Groups

Since June 2019, I've served as the regional archivist representative on the Archives Consultation Task Group and the Records Ownership Task Group. After much research, discussion, and discernment, both Task Groups have created guidelines and policies about how best to maintain the denominational archives in the future as we live our new structure, and increasingly create records solely in digital environments.

Respectfully submitted, Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives

Julie Graham Regional Minister: Justice and Communications

My process of getting to know the people of the Regional Council didn't go quite as planned, and the communications half of the job has taken priority over the "justice" part of the job, at least for a good part of 2020. I try to divide my time equally between Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit, with time set aside for tri-Region program initiatives, and for staff and national commitments. Unfortunately, this means that each Region gets the equivalent of only about one dedicated day per week, but I hope to learn how to best maximize this time.

In mid January I joined a three-Region team of staff, led by Jamie Mckay, that focused on creating and posting the wide range of essential content to the three new Regional Council websites. The team included Cherry Abad, Bev Diebert, and Kathy Jackson, with help and support from all of the other staff. This took a lot of our collective time and energy through mid-March.

Five days after the sites successfully went live, the COVID shut down had begun. The next three months were focused on updates and tools for keeping the three Regions up to date, supported, and safe. As delegates know, all travel was cancelled, so getting to know the Region and its people moved online.

By June, a number of long-delayed program pieces were back on track, including an informal multi-Region intercultural "chai and coffee" focused on racism and Black Lives Matter; and an online learning and conversation workshop on non-binary gender language and its positive impact.

Each of these supported some key wider priorities, such as Affirming work and Intercultural ministry.

Support for **Affirming work**: I want to express my gratitude to the Equity and Diversity Committee for its strong support of the "Breaking the Binary" webinar named above; and for its positive and energizing approach to the Affirming process it is carrying on behalf of the Region. Making contact with all Affirming ministries and ministries in the Affirming process is one ongoing area of work.

Intercultural ministry and engagement: The Western Intercultural Ministries Network has moved its Calgary event for the West online and opened it to the entire church. Learning how to do this work online is now more important than ever, and this Network is offering leadership in innovative ways in difficult circumstances within the new structure. How we practice intercultural ministry on the ground has always been a challenge, and Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter are a call to make.

Nominating Committee: this area of work is crucial and has never been simple. The 2019 restructuring has made it more difficult and complex, at least for now. Strategies we're discussing have included using the website to maximum effect; how to create invitations that respect different cultures and practices; offering good information on opportunities and the scope of the request; continuing to work on how interested people can show their interest and talk about their skills and background. We hope to have conversations between the three Regions.

Getting to know **Clusters** and supporting them, especially those that carry forward work such as right relations, Affirming and more, will be a priority through 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Graham, Regional Minister: Justice and Communications
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.



Judy Hare
Pastoral Relations Minister

The time since the Inaugural meeting of Prairie to Pine Regional Council in June, 2019 has presented both challenge and opportunity. There was a period when committees, commissions and staff were able to continue to sort out and work within their mandates and functions in the new structure. Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel were able to sort out their needs and supports and attempt to determine who was doing what now in the new structure without presbyteries and with the new entity known as the Office of Vocation .

The work of the Pastoral Relations Minister includes **resourcing and supporting the work of several committees and commissions** within the new Regional Council structure: Committee on Community of Faith Support, Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support, Committee on Ministry Personnel Support, Pastoral Relations Commission with Pastoral Relations Liaisons. Each of them have a report in this workbook outlining their work.

Early in the new structure the plan had been for **Cherry Abad** to take over responsibilities for the administrative roles connected with the Pastoral Relations Commission such as receiving documents and drafting the agenda based on those, attending meetings and taking and formatting the minutes, allowing Elsie Douglas to focus on being the corresponding secretary and me as the Pastoral Relations Minister to focus on supporting Liaisons in their processes, responding to questions from Communities of Faith on pastoral relations matters, recruiting and supporting Pastoral Charge Supervisors, approving profiles for posting and completing the Record of Call/Appointment documents on Church Hub once final motions were made. The need for more of Cherry's time to support other aspects of the work of the Regional Council has meant that Cherry now provides support to the Pastoral Relations Commission by formatting minutes and sharing motions at intervals with the Regional Council Executive. Judy receives documents, sets the agenda and does follow up with documents on Church Hub. Elsie attends the meetings, takes the minutes and does follow up correspondence.

A report outlining the current Pastoral Relationships within Prairie to Pine Regional Council and the changes processed since the Inaugural Meeting in June, 2019 is included in this workbook. As of September, 2020 there are 173 non Indigenous Communities of Faith within 141 Pastoral Charges. Of those 5 Communities of Faith are in the process of disbanding or amalgamating; 25 pastoral charges are without paid accountable ministry personnel and are not in a profile/search process; another 11 pastoral charges are currently engaged in a profile/search process without any appointment while others are relying on one of 18 retired supply appointments. 61 Pastoral Charges rely on the support of Pastoral Charge Supervisors, three of those have ministry personnel who are candidates for ministry, five have ministry personnel from other denominations two of whom are in the Admissions process and two Pastoral Charges have ministry personnel on Long term Disability. We have had several new pastoral relationship begin since the COVID 19 period on March 15,2020 .Some have held Covenanting Services via ZOOM but 16 covenanting services have yet to be held and are being planned to take place somehow at some point hopefully this fall.

The twenty one Indigenous Communities of Faith in the former Keewatin Presbytery and the Ministry Personnel serving them are an important part of Prairie to Pine Regional Council. There were two Pastoral Charges who were engaged in pastoral relations processes this year as their ministry personnel prepared for transition in ministry status (Cross Lake with Samuel Ross ready for recognitions as a Designated Lay Minister and God's Lake with Elenor Thompson almost ready for Ordination). Thanks to Lorraine Kakegemic and Aileen Urguhart for their work with these communities. There were a few changes in the staff who were working most directly with the Indigenous Communities and providing some liaison information to the Pastoral Relations Minister and Commission of Prairie to Pine over the past year: first Cheryl Jourdain who was in the position of Community Capacity Development Coordinator (CCDC) moved into the role of Acting Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries with the retirement of Maggie Dieter. Over the following months several people in different combinations carried out the work of CCDC working with the Keewatin Circle (Gloria Cook, Rick Hebert, Joe McGill and Charlene Burns). Gloria completed her work in early 2020 and Joe retired the end of July, 2020. The General Council welcomed Murray Pruden into the role of Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice in July, 2020. We continue to await some clarification on matters related to dual membership.

There continues to be challenges with **navigating CHURCH HUB** by both Ministry Personnel and Communities of Faith especially Search Committees in places with limited or no access to high speed internet. Navigating the profile and search processes especially in the Indigenous Communities of Faith has only been possible using an alternative paper based system. I am so impressed by how proficient and comfortable ministry personnel and lay leaders have become with carrying out the mission, ministry and everyday tasks of the church using alternative means. Necessity has pushed us along into places it might have taken us longer to venture into were it not required.

The **Executive Minister**, Shannon McCarthy, went on **sabbatical** from December 1, 2019 through March 01, 2020 and the Pastoral Relations Minister in each of the Regional Councils that she has oversight responsibility for assumed the necessary responsibilities of that position in her absence. For me, that meant supporting the Executive of the Regional Council in their work especially working with the Treasurer and Financial Administrator in finalizing a Budget for 2020. In July and August the Pastoral Relations Minister for Northern Spirit was on holidays and a split **sabbatical** and I provided some coverage there along with my colleague from Living Skies.

I was SO grateful when **the websites** became functional in early March, 2020. It was a place for people to get information such **as processes**, **policies** and forms that are specific to the Prairie to Pine Region or things that they could not easily find on the General Council website. Thanks to Julie Graham, Jamie MacKay and Cherry Abad. I cannot imagine what it would have been like navigating these past six months without a website.

In March, our part of the world began its journey with COVID 19 and how the church exercised it mission and ministry changed significantly. As of mid-March most of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council staff began working from home. Poor quality internet and ZOOM access from my apartment meant that as soon as permitted I **returned to work by myself in the office** at 1622B St. Mary's Road.

We attempted to find ways to help leadership in the Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel access information, strategize about how to do mission and ministry within the pandemic restrictions and support one another in this historic journey. Most Tuesday afternoons between late March and the end of June opportunity was created for Ministry Personnel from Prairie to Pine Regional Council to gather together via ZOOM. After a break over the summer we have reengaged that practise on every second Tuesday afternoon. There were also occasional opportunities for lay leaders from Communities of Faith either as a Tri-Regional Council group including Living Skies and Northern Spirit as well as Prairie to Pine or within our Region alone to gather via ZOOM to share their questions and concerns during these unusual times. There will be some opportunity to these conversations again this fall starting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

Over the past year I have spent time connecting Ministry Personnel who are not in an active pastoral relationship and who want to continue to be open to exercise some of the functions of ministry into "formal association relationships" with Communities of Faith (The Manual (2019) section I.2.5.3). While some have done this initially we are still sorting out how to review this annually based on data received from the Office of Vocation Minister related to whether Ministry Personnel have completed their Annual Declarations related to Criminal Records Status and other

mandatory training refreshers (matters under the oversight of the Office of Vocation). All in good time.

As part of my responsibilities within the wider United Church, I and Jamie Bradshaw, Ministry Personnel at Strathclair and Shoal Lake have been part of the Ministry Streams Task Group. The Ministry Streams task group was established to deal with a number of proposals from GC43 (2018) connected to ministry streams and ministry needs of rural and marginalized communities of faith. The task group is mandated to consult widely with various groups of people within the church. (click here for the mandate, page 11 of the General Secretary's Accountability Report from GCE Sept 2019). Some of these proposals came from the former Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and I am grateful to be able to participate work that will impact our Communities of Faith and how ministry is available to them.

In response to requests for ways to support communities of faith and ministry personnel in rural areas **A United Church Rural Ministry Network** has been established by Catherine Abbey, Ministry Personnel in Living Skies. UCRMN, have put together a one page webpage at UCRMN.ca

In response to calls to provide access to worship services from communities of faith without regular paid accountable worship leadership, a **national task group on technology** was established. The **Rural Connect** initiative uses a hub/satellite model (or a Host/Partner model) where a hub church hosts the technology needed to connect up to three satellite partner churches in a fully interactive service, where all the churches participate and contribute to the worship, They have purchased a number of small boxes that can be affordably rented by satellite churches that only require plugging in and turning on - no technical skills needed at all. A cellular hotspot ensures sufficient bandwidth no matter what the local internet may be. In addition, we are providing loans for congregations to become hub or host churches, with an easy and generous repayment schedule. Hubs can charge for their services and this provides a revenue stream for repayment and then income for the church in subsequent years. The initiation got a bit sidetracked this spring with COVID 19 but they are now back on track. This is the link to the project's website: www.ruralconnectucc.ca

Part of my responsibility as Pastoral Relations Minister is to process requests for licensing for sacraments for Sacraments Elders or Candidates for Ordered Ministry or Designated Lay Ministry after relevant educational requirements, motions and forms have been completed. In 2019-2020 Pastoral Year there were approximately 36 Sacraments Elders licensed within Prairie to Pine to administer the sacraments within the Community of Faith where their membership is held. This is fairly consistent with the number of requests thus far in 2020-2021. At least one complex situation was taken to the Regional Council Executive for a decision on licensing. Some licences for Candidates in appointments were also processed.

In 2020, COVID 19 has resulted in some **shifts in the way** things like meetings, workshops, interviews, Covenanting Services, farewell and retirement celebrations but we are getting them done.

Connections with some of my staff colleagues in the Tri-Region area and nationally has increased significantly during this COVID period of time. I am grateful that I have become for proficient at and comfortable with some technology and platforms. Thanks to all of the volunteer members of the various Communities of Faith — Profile /Search Committees, governing bodies , Ministry and Personnel Committees, the Regional Council Committees and Commissions who has been willing to adapt to phone connections and ZOOM meetings and find innovative ways to continue with the mission and ministry of the church and its bureaucracy in these unusual times.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Shannon McCarthy Executive Minister



Well this has been an interesting year in the lives of our Regional Council! This was our first full year in operation with the structures that we created through the transition, and just when we thought things were running smoothly and we were getting in a groove...COVID 19 happened. So here we are in the fall of 2020 having online meetings that were originally supposed to happen in May and June, and life has changed dramatically in the last 6 months.

I was blessed to be able to take a Sabbatical in December, January and February to read, study and get in some needed Sabbath. That seems like a very long time ago now! I do want to thank all the staff who covered for me, especially the three Pastoral Relations Ministers: Judy Hare, Tracy Murton, and Earl Reaburn. They took on the difficult job of doing their own work as well as taking on some of mine and I truly appreciate it.

The Regional Council Executive has continued the work of establishing procedures and connections for the Regional Council, trying to vision and set the goals for the ongoing work of the Regional Council. They have tried to do this while also learning what it means to be intercultural and make decisions in a new way. We are also committed to working with all the councils of our denomination to work towards becoming an Anti-racist church. Thank you to the Executive for their commitment and faithfulness!

Much of the work of the Regional Council is still about establishing relationships with Communities of Faith, Incorporated Ministries, Camps as well as trying to enable the formation of clusters and networks. There are many demands for time, attention and financial assistance and unfortunately your Executive has had to make hard decisions about where to allocate staff time, financial resources and people resources. We are also committed to working with all the councils of our church to work towards becoming an Anti-racist church.

The transition from Conferences and Presbyteries to Regional Councils is still new, luckily one of the blessings of that transition is that we were in a better position when we were forced to work from home due to COVID 19, because all the staff are now using the same laptops and software programs we were able to adjust quickly. During this time I think our staff did an amazing job maintaining connection, providing support, calmly offering as much information as possible and thanks to our new websites we were able to communicate quickly! Special thanks to everyone who got the websites up and running just in time, especially Jamie Mckay, Julie Graham, Cherry Abad, Bev Diebert, and Kathy Jackson. It was also a benefit that many of our committees and commissions were already familiar with zoom and we were able to make decisions quickly to support Ministry Personnel and Communities of Faith in this difficult time.

I am always amazed at the ability of our church to come together during difficult times, I am confident that regardless of the challenges that the year ahead will bring the people of our Regional Council will meet them head on with prayerfulness, determination and faithfulness.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.

REPORT – REGIONAL COUNCIL TREASURER



Valerie Beckingham Treasurer

The 2019 audited financial statements included in this workbook show the financial position of Prairie to Pine Region at December 31, 2019, and its financial performance during its first year of operation. During 2019, staff worked skillfully and hard to build a financial structure that will support the region in years to come. It has been a privilege to work with them.

We are now within three months of the end of 2020, Prairie to Pine's second year, and the 2019 financial statements seem like very old news. Of course they are, because they were meant to have been distributed in the workbook for the regional gathering last May. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused so many activities to be cancelled or delayed.

Our financial position at the end of 2020 is expected to be much the same as at the end of 2019. It may be better. But a budget surplus, should we have one, will not be only good news, because the reason our expenditures will have been lower than budgeted is that planned activities have been curtailed by the pandemic.

Beyond our annual income and expenditures, Prairie to Pine has been entrusted with the net financial resources of the former Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and its six presbyteries. This money has not yet been used, partly because 2019 was the start-up year and 2020 restricted by the pandemic, but mostly because this one-time money, which a member of executive council aptly termed "grace money", represents both an opportunity for our future and a responsibility to donors to use the funds wisely. The executive has appointed a committee to study this matter and recommend guidelines for allocating the funds in ways that build our future and that honour the wishes of the former conference and presbyteries.

I have enjoyed my first year as Treasurer and look forward to continuing to work with Prairie to Pine executive and staff.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Beckingham, Treasurer Prairie to Pine Regional Council

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE Consensus Decisions 2019/2020

JUNE 4, 2019

- Receive the annual report of Church Development Incorporated including the nomination slate for 2019/2020.
- Receive the auditors report for Church Development Incorporated for 2018.
- Approve the nominations slate for 2019/2020.
- Approve the following as the policies related to licences to administer the sacraments within the Prairie to Pine Regional Council (to be the guidelines/parameters for the Pastoral Relations Minister in considering/approving requests for licencing for sacraments on behalf of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council):
- That within the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, the responsibility for granting licences to administer the sacraments in section C.2.9 has been assigned to the Pastoral Relations Minister within the policy of The Manual and the policies of the Regional Council (Motion on November 09, 2018);
- That the following policy be adopted by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council for use in addition to section I.2.4 of The Manual (2019) clarifying the normative practise, process and terms of licences for various persons:
 - With regard to section I.2.4.1 a) That within Prairie to Pine Regional Council a license WILL NORMALLY be granted to ministry personnel who are <u>Designated</u> <u>Lay Minsters</u>, <u>candidate supply</u>, <u>diaconal supply</u> who have completed training for the sacraments within the United Church of Canada through either:
 - a course in Worship and Sacraments from a United Church Theological School/Programs with a letter of confirmation
 - a course for sacraments elders given by a body or through a mentor approved by the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support with a letter of confirmation
 - AND who are under appointment to a Pastoral Charge Community of Faith within the Prairie to Pine Region and therefore have all mandatory trainings and credential requirements up to date.

SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2019

- Receive and approve the minutes from the Prairie to Pine Regional Transitional Commission.
 - May 6, 2019
 - May 21, 2019
 - June 4, 2019
- Approve Caryn Douglas as the Region's representative to Initiatives for Just Communities for 2019-2020.
- Approve the appointment of Madison Carver as a United Church of Canada student representative to the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents for 2019-2020.
- That Valerie Beckingham be approved as the Treasurer and member of the Region Executive for Prairie to Pine Region effective immediately.

- That Lori Stewart will be an interim officer of the court for the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy.
- That James deBeer will be an officer of the court for the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy.
- That BDO be our auditor for 2019 financial year.
- That the Pastoral Charge Supervisor Policy (Appendix A) be approved as distributed.
- That Prairie to Pine Regional Council continue following the past practice of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario as below on the length of appointments and to be evaluated in 2020. (Appendix B)

Past practice:

- Students (candidates for Ordination, Commissioning or and Designated Lay Minister) annually on the pastoral year because it was tied into their continued status as a Candidate which was reviewed/renewed annually
- Designated Lay Ministers Recognized- up to three years at a time (they were not eligible for Call without time limit). Financial information will be required annually at the end of the pastoral year.
- Retired Supply (both those appointed to perpetual vacancies and those in GAP positions while Needs Assessment or Search processes are happening) – annually on pastoral year
- Admission candidates have an initial appointment of 2 years
- That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive, consistent with the principles below adopt a policy for part-time ministry positions that:
 - encourages fuller range/scope of ministry responsibilities in all position descriptions
 - discourages the approval of position descriptions seeking worship leadership every Sunday for positions with part-time hours
 - 3. encourages communities of faith to explore all possible cooperative arrangements with other communities of faith in order to create fulltime ministry positions before seeking approval for part-time ministry positions
 - 4. acknowledges that there may be exceptional circumstances and therefore requests the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to create criteria for such exceptions
 - 5. And affirms the practises of the Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission:
 - to return any profile documents received from communities of faith from this date forward that do not comply with the above policy for appropriate revisions
 - to request that any communities of faith with part-time positions currently posted that do not comply with these part-time ministry guidelines to make appropriate revisions to their position descriptions before any Call or Appointment is made or any requests for renewals for appointments are approved in 2020.

Principles:

- Communities of Faith may prefer to have worship services with every Sunday
- Communities of Faith may not have the financial viability to support full-time ministry
- The Pastoral Relations Commission needs to take into account the need/desire of some part-time ministry personnel to expand their employment opportunities
- There may be Communities of Faith/Pastoral Charges that agree to work together to create fulltime a fulltime position for an individual (i.e. through a Memorandum of Understanding)
- The Pastoral Relations Commission wishes to encourage a full range/scope of ministry for its ministry personnel

• Approve a policy allowing for the use of Memorandums of Understanding and Service Agreements within the pastoral relations processes as described below:

Memorandum of Understandings are written documents approved the governing boards of two pastoral charges/communities of faith each of which are or are open to being in a distinct part time Call or Appointment with the same ministry personnel. The document outlines the coordination of certain obligations/responsibilities to enable one person to hold the two positions minimizing any potential scheduling conflicts (worship times especially for special seasons of the church year, scheduling of board meeting, mechanisms to sort out any). The MOU document is negotiated by the profile or search group of charges open to engaging the services of the same ministry personnel during those processes and are approved by all parties as part of the approval of profile or search documents. Or the MOU is negotiated by the Ministry and Personnel Committees in consultation with an incumbent ministry personnel approved by the two governing boards when one or both charges already is in the midst of a Call or Appointment with Ministry Personnel.

MOUs allow for the possibility of fulltime employment of ministry personnel without the formal realignment of communities of faiths and governance structures. They may also be one step in a movement toward formal realignment.

Service Agreements These agreements were between pastoral charges and approved by the Pastoral Relations system in the wider church (Pastoral Relations Committees/Commissions or Settlement Committees/Commissions). In these arrangements, a Ministry Personnel was Called or Appointed by one Pastoral Charge, and then another neighbouring pastoral charge (usually one that was significantly smaller) had specific ministry needs (usually for worship and pastoral care) met by the minister called/appointed to the one charge, in exchange for a specified amount of money given to that charge by the smaller charge. The details of these arrangements were/are noted in writing, and approved by the governing bodies of the two (2) Pastoral Charges involved. If there was/is a minister in place at the time the service agreement is negotiated that person was/is consulted, and if there was /is not a minister in place, these arrangements were/are noted in any kind of needs assessment documents when a new pastoral relations profile is approved or search begins. The Called/Appointed Minister is also the Pastoral Charge Supervisor of the charge/community of faith entering into the service agreement as the purchaser of services.

- Have a policy allowing Cooperative Ministry Arrangements including congregational designated ministers as defined in the document 'Cooperative Ministry Arrangements' (Appendix D).
- In relation to section I.2.5.3, indicate that those required to demonstrate a formal association with a community of faith in order to be eligible to exercise any of the functions of ministry including performing marriages under the authority of a License requested through Prairie to Pine Regional Council will do so by:
 - A letter from the governing body of a community of faith including a motion responding to a request from the Ministry Personnel to be in a formal association with that community of faith and acknowledging that they understand the accountability relationship associated with that request.
- Use the Yearbook guidelines for Specialized Ministries or other (United) Church appointments to define other ministry positions until/unless General Council develops other guidelines.
- Use the criteria recorded in Pastoral Relations: Engaging and Supporting (2013) pages 34-35 for
 what was previously known as "presbytery recognized ministries to define Regional Council
 recognized ministries within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council until/unless criteria for
 guidelines expanding the scope of ministry recognized by Regional Councils are clarified by
 General Council.

- Disband Kelwood United Church effective October 31, 2019.
- That in the event that there are outstanding property issue with Kelwood United Church after October 31, 2019 that Donald Schau, Sandra Rex, and Patricia Bird would act as trustees on behalf of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.
- Accept the Marriage License Registration Policy (Appendix G) as presented.
- That it is our intention to make retired Designated Lay Minsters members-at-large in Prairie to Pine Regional Council once we have the ability to do so following the General Council 43 meeting on October 19, 2019.
- That at the request of Keewatin Circle we grant Zack Kakegamic the right to perform sacraments for Pikangikum as well as his current student placement in Sandy Lake.
- That we grant Elenor Thompson the right to perform sacraments.
- That we agree to request Zack Kakegamic the right to perform marriages in the province of Ontario.
- That the discretionary fund can be accessed with the approval any two of: Regional Council Pastoral Relations Minister (Judy Hare), the Executive Minister (Shannon McCarthy), or the Chair of Pastoral Relations Commission (Mary Best).
- That Shannon McCarthy will write a job description and recruit for a new staff position to work in mission and communications.
- That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the approve the Wellman Lake United Church Camp 2019-2020 Board of Directors:
 - Joyce Bateman
 - Breana How
 - Blair Mullin
 - Lucile Neufield
 - Max Polon

- Kevin Sprong
- Kendal Stechyshyn
- Barry Waito
- Candace Wenzel
- Lanaya Zaretzky
- Asks the Nominations Committee to create a draft of a structure document.

OCTOBER 24, 2019

- Receive and approve the minutes from September 18-19, 2019 as amended.
- Accept the nominations report as submitted.

Based on these efforts, the Nominating Committee presents the following list of names for the Prairie to Pine Annual Meeting Planning Committee for the Prairie to Pine Executive for consideration and approval:

- Rolanda Taylor (named in June, 2019 as a continuing member)
- Diane Dwarka (named by P 2 P Executive)
- Patricia Baker
- Damber Khadkar
- Susie McPherson Derendy
- Heather Robbins
- Betty Kelly
- Bob Gilbert (tentative acceptance)

- Local arrangements representatives (if meeting in Steinbach)
 - Gay Boese
 - Marlene Silinski
- Worship Planning
 - Julie Baker
 - Cheryl Kinney Matheson
- Take the following actions:
 - a) Approve the Prairie View Lodge 2019-2020 Board of Directors
 - Linda Cavers
 - Pat Cesmystruk
 - Susanne Fortin
 - Yvette Glenn
 - Bev Leadbeater
 - Jack McKay
 - Judy MacKinnon
 - Alan Melvin
 - Carol Simpson
 - b) Approve the Winnipeg Presbytery (The United Church of Canada) Church Development Inc. 2019-2020 Board of Directors
 - Dennis Butcher
 - Stuart Fletcher-Cook
 - Gordon Goossen
 - Lisa Lix
 - Teresa Moysey
 - Doris Quinn
 - Dwight Rutherford
 - Del Sexsmith
 - Warren Thompson
 - Kirk Windsor
 - Betty Young
- That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council regional meeting will be changed to May 28-30, 2020.
- Accept the finance report as submitted.
- Accept the recommendations from the Mission support Grants committee as presented.
- That Valerie Beckingham replace Rob Smith as a signing authority on the Prairie to Pine Regional Council account at Conexus Credit Union. As a result of this change Valerie Beckingham, Shannon McCarthy, Tricia Gerhard and Heather Dootoff are the authorized signing authorities, with any two signers required to approve transactions.

NOVEMBER 28, 2019

- Receive and approve the minutes from October 24, 2019.
- Receive the Committee on Community of Faith Report as presented.
- Receive a copy of all motions passed by the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council between January and October 2019 (PRC Motions 2019 #1 – 27 – Appendix B) and for the record attach to the minutes of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive minutes.
- That the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council include among its members at large any
 lay members who were serving as designated lay ministers within Prairie to Pine Regional
 Council at the time of their retirement, who were recognized as Designated Lay Ministers by
 Prairie to Pine Regional Council or its predecessors and who make a request of Prairie to Pine
 Regional Council through its executive to become a member at large.
- That pastoral charges of communities of faith will pay registration fees for their pastoral charge supervisors who are not order of ministry.
- That the grant request from Augustine United Church should be forwarded to Church Development Inc (CDI).
- Approve the following criteria for exceptions to the Part Time Ministry Policy recommended by the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC Motion 2019 # 29) and include them as part of the policy (PPE 010 -2019/2020):
 - Geographic isolation
 - Lack of lay leadership within the Community of Faith to provide worship services
 - Lack of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders in the area
 - Lack of retired ministry personnel able to provide pulpit supply
 - Other: seasonal position of less than 6 months in a calendar year (i.e. West Hawk Lake Pastoral Charge)

And a case for any one or more of these exceptions should be made as part of the submission of the position description portion of the Community of Faith Ministry Profile when seeking approval from the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission to post a new position.

- Accept the finance report as presented.
- Accept the new staff job description and allow Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister to proceed with hiring.
- Accept the draft budget report as presented with the understanding that the projected deficit will need to be erased.

JANUARY 23, 2020

- Accept the agenda as presented.
- Receive and approve the minutes from November 28, 2019 as amended.
- That Heather Dootoff and Shannon McCarthy be authorized to communicate with Canada Revenue Agency on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council (formerly The Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario).
- Approve the 2020 budget as presented, with the deficit to be offset by funds from Presbytery,
 MNWO Conference, and church closures that have been designated for networking, rural ministry, and undesignated funds, if necessary.

- Approve the governance document titled "Prairie Spirit United Church Governance 2019" for use during a 2-year trial period, that:
 - During the trial period the document should be revised to reflect comments made by the Committee on Community of Faith Support;
 - Other small revisions be may also be made if practical use indicates they would be useful; and
 - The revised document is to be resubmitted to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Committee on Community of Faith Support by September 1, 2022.
- Approve the document titled "Governance Structure St Charles Headingly United Church Official Board" for use during a 2-year trial period, and that:
 - During the trial period the document should be revised to reflect comments made by the Committee on Community of Faith Support;
 - That other small revisions may also be made if practical use indicates they would be useful; and
 - The revised document is to be resubmitted to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Committee on Community of Faith Support by September 1, 2022.
- Approve Meg Illman-White to be a member of the Prairie to Pine Nomination Committee, effective immediately.
- Approve the following:
 - David Howell, Carol Fletcher, and Maria Szabo Berces have resigned as Liaisons effective December 2019.
 - Sherri McConnell added to the Liaison pool, effective immediately; and
 - David Howell added to the Committee for Ministry Personnel Support, effective immediately.
- Approve the appointment of Barbara Brown and Joyce Allen to be the two Conference/Regional Council appointed board members on the Fred Douglas Society Inc. Board of Directors, effectively immediately:
 - As per 5.02 of the Fred Douglas Society Inc. Bylaws; and
 - As per definition 1.01 f) of the Fred Douglas Society Inc. Bylaws referencing Conference of Manitoba of Northwestern Ontario of the United Church of Canada or its successor, Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

FEBRUARY20, 2020

- Accept the agenda as presented.
- Receive and approve the minutes from January 23, 2020 with corrections.
- Accept and sign the covenant with Ministries in French with a letter requesting clarification on the points raised.
- Accept the recommendation of the Property Commission and adopts the following amendment to the Regional Council property policies, as follows:

That proceeds from manse sales shall, if the sale of the manse is a part of the closing of the congregation, be governed by the Manual as amended from time to time, and Regional property polices for closure of congregations;

and where the manse is the property of an ongoing congregation or pastoral charge, the proceeds of the manse sale shall be, without restriction, retained by the congregation for the ongoing mission and work of that congregation or pastoral charge,

and further, that all existing congregational funds from the previous sale of manses, that may be currently considered restricted, be released for the ongoing mission and work of said congregation or pastoral charge without restriction.

MARCH 27, 2020

- That Hyerim Park be made a corresponding member for this meeting.
- Accept the minutes of February 20, 2020 as distributed.
- Accept our Conflict Resolution policy effective immediately as follows:

Conflict Resolution Facilitation Process for Prairie to Pine Regional Council

The United Church of Canada has a Dispute Resolution Policy that outlines the procedures and policy referenced in Section J.6.3 of The Manual 2019. This policy applies where a complaint has been made about a lay member or adherent of the United Church. This policy resource may be found online at:

https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook dispute-resolution.pdf

For concerns about ministry personnel, see Section J.6 of The Manual 2019.

The following is the agreed upon process for the appointment and reimbursement of Conflict Resolution Facilitators within Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

- 1. <u>Choosing a Conflict Resolution Facilitator (CRF)</u>: conflict of interest should be determined by the requesting body and the CRF, with the assistance of the appropriate staff person, using the attached or similar guidelines.
- 2. <u>Determining if there should be a conflict resolution process</u>: This includes any email, phone conversations, conference calls and initial meetings with participants. The number of hours will vary depending on the situation. The cost for this will be \$40/hour.
- 3. <u>Conflict resolution process</u>: After the agreement to proceed is signed, the fee will be \$300/time unit (morning, afternoon or evening) for the resolution process.
- 4. <u>Preparing the report</u>: preparing the report will take approximately 8-10 hours for a less complex situation, or up to 20 hours for a very complex situation. The fee for this will be \$30/hour.
- 5. <u>Submitting the report</u>: the report will be submitted to the body who requested the CRF process (or who received the complaint) and who will cover the costs of the work. The body receiving the report will determine any further distribution.
- 6. Payment of CRF: After the report is submitted, the CRF will submit a detailed invoice (including travel, accommodation and other expenses, as well as time spent in each phase of the process) to the overseeing body. Should there be costly travel expenses (eg. airfare and/or accommodation), the CRF may submit them before the process is completed.
- That Prairie to Pine Regional Council:
 - Assume responsibility for the cost of accounting assistance/support for CDI as outlined in the documents from Del Sexsmith and Gord Goossen dated January 08, 2020 (10 hrs/month @ \$ 50.00 per hour);
 - That in 2020 funds for this be taken from monies transferred from Winnipeg
 Presbytery to Region 5/Prairie to Pine Regional Council when it ceases to exist on
 December 31, 2018 with the understanding that other arrangements to fund these
 costs may be made by Prairie to Pine Regional Council in 2021 to cover these costs
 and beyond; and

- That Prairie to Pine Regional Council be open to making arrangements to develop and administer a contract for an individual to carry out this work once notified by the board of CDI of their identification of an appropriate person.
- Approve the United Church Halfway Homes Inc. 2019-2020 Board of Directors:
 - Crystal Lynn Adams
 - Paul Campbell
 - J. Carlos Clark
 - David Collins
 - James Dixon
 - Edward Johnso
 - Duncan Michie
 - Anne Walker
- Cancel the face-to-face gathering 2020 Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual Meeting, scheduled for May 28 – 30, 2020 in Steinbach, MB be cancelled, and; Instead, that we hold a meeting of the Regional Council in the fall of 2020 with a mode of meeting and a date to be selected later.
- Approve the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Policy regarding the lengths of appointments, which
 the Pastoral Relations Commission of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council recommended at their
 meeting on March 10, 2020:
 - Members of the Order of Ministry within the United Church of Canada (ordained or diaconal ministers), active or retired, with updated credentials, are eligible for an appointment of up to three years, based on the pastoral year ending June 30 (renewable) or in exceptional situations the end of the calendar year (December 31); Note: Retired Ministry Personnel must wait at least 13 weeks after they begin collecting pension to negotiate an appointment.
 - Candidates for Ministry or Designated Lay Ministry Applicants are eligible for appointments of up to one year at a time, based on the pastoral year ending June 30, and conditional upon the continuation of their student status
 - Recognized Designated Lay Ministers are eligible for appointments of up to three years in length, at a time based on the pastoral year (renewable)
 - Admissions applicants are eligible for an initial appointment of three years in length, with renewal dependent on their progress on completion of requirements at that point
- Change the name to collaborative ministry agreements.

MAY 1, 2020

- Accept the minutes of March 27, 2020 with the following corrections:
 - Valerie Beckingham to be included as Member and Heather Dootoff as staff;
 - Re-write the wording on Collaborative Ministry Agreements (065-2019/2020).
- That there should be a fall meeting that can be in two (2) parts (2 to 2 ½ hour per meeting) and there should be some education in advance. Any proposal will be discussed on the 2nd meeting. The Executive agreed on September 30th and October 7th.
- Follow the Regional Council's policy on Licensing Sacraments and not to grant an exception to Rainy River Pastoral Charge.
- Receive the motions from the Pastoral Relations Commission from November 2019 to March 2020 (Appendix B).

- Approve the following recommendations of the Nominating Committee:
 - a) The Prairie to Pine Executive structure should include co-chairs as an option, but it should also include the option of one person in the chair position.
 - b) When there are co-chairs, and the retiring co-chair has served one year as co-chair elect, (i.e. vice co-chair), and two years in the co-chair positions they will be given the option of remaining for one additional year on the executive, or retiring from the Executive.
 - c) Should someone serve one year as chair elect and one year as a chair, rather than as cochair, that person would then be expected/strongly encouraged to serve an additional year on the executive after their year as chair. (i.e. to achieve that 3 years of developing and sharing the leadership skills and learnings.)
 - d) There be an understanding that the new P2P structure is still evolving and there will continue to be adjustments going forward.
- Approve Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. 2019-2020 Board of Directors:
 - Neita Avery
 - Jordan Basso
 - Kathryn Basso
 - Jim Bigelow
 - Larry Heinrichs
 - Tannys Lockerby
 - Jim Lundgren
 - David Manning
 - Val Mikolasek
 - Elaine Trefiak
- That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. 2020-2021 Board of Directors:
 - Cathy Ballantine
 - Jim Bigelow
 - Michelle Funk
 - Larry Heinrichs
 - Shauna Lees
 - David Manning
 - Jan Martens
 - Val Mikolasek
 - Bonnie Robbins
 - Elaine Trefiak

JUNE 4, 2020

- Accept the minutes of May 1, 2020 with the following correction: Remove Tim Crouch's name from the list of those present
- Approve the 2019 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

• Accept the recommendation of the Committee on Community of Faith Support to approve the request by Neepawa United Church to enter into an Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement with the congregation of St. James' Anglican church in Neepawa according to the ESM Agreement dated April 21, 2020, and approved on May 4, 2020 by Neepawa United Church congregation with the expectation that this ESM Agreement be reviewed according to the provisions of section 4.i) and that a report, including requests for any changes in the ESM Agreement, be made to the Prairie to Pine Committee on Community of Faith Support by March 1, 2022.

JULY 2, 2020

- Accept the minutes of June 4, 2020 as corrected.
- Appoint Kathleen McCandless and Richard Jones to the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents for a term of 3 years beginning July 1, 2020; and reappoint Madison Carver to a one-year term, as an United Church Student appointment.
- Appoint Alan Franchuk, Teresa Melnychuk, and Beverley Simpson as Regional Council Trustees for the purpose of acting in that capacity on property matters as may be required from time to time in the absence of congregational trustees effective immediately.
- Give permission to the FDS board to pursue to the transfer of ownership from the Kiwanis Club of Winnipeg Seniors Building Inc. of a 120-unit life lease operation to the Fred Douglas Society should the necessary criteria of the Fred Douglas Society Board be met and subject to a program including engagement of the residents. And that the final approval for transfer be made by the Prairie to Pine Executive at a future meeting.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

- Approve the minutes of July 2, 2020 as distributed.
- Accept Tim Crouch's resignation from the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive with regrets, effectively immediately.
- That the Committee on Community of Faith Support recommend that Prairie to Pine Regional Council receive, accept, and prepare to celebrate completed Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Communities of Faith at the Prairie to Pine 2020 Regional Council zoom meeting:
 - Alexander
 - Altona
 - Augustine
 - Beausejour
 - Benito Kenville
 - Birds Hill
 - Birtle-Miniota
 - (Brandon) Central
 - (Brandon) Knox
 - (Brandon) Trinity
 - Carberry
 - Cartwright
 - Churchill Park

- Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach
- Cornerstone
- Crescent Ft. Rouge
- Crestview
- Cromer-Hargrave
- Crossroads
- Dauphin
- Deloraine-Melita-Tilston
- Dryden
- Elgin
- Elkhorn
- Emo Devlin
- Ethelbert

- Flin Flon
- (Fort Frances) Knox
- Fort Garry
- Gladstone
- Glenboro
- Gravsville
- Grey St. (Winnipeg)
- Hamiota
- Immanuel
- John Black Memorial
- (Keewatin) St. Andrews
- Kenora
- Killarney
- Little Britain
- Lutheran United- Thompson
- MacGregor
- Manitou La Riviere
- McClure
- McCreary
- Meridian
- Minnedosa
- Morris
- Neepawa
- Ninette
- Niverville
- Northwest Interlake
- Oakbank
- Oaklake Pastoral Charge
- Oakville
- Pembina Parish
- Pine River
- (Portage) McKenzie
- (Portage) Trinity

- Prairie Spirit
- Rainy River
- Reston-Pipestone (Reston & Pipestone)
- Rivers
- Roblin Pastoral Charge
- Rock Lake
- Roland
- Rosser Grosse Isle
- Selkirk
- (Sioux Lookout) St. Andrews
- (Sioux Narrows) Lake of the Woods Chapel
- Snow Lake
- Souris
- Sparling
- St. Andrew's River Heights
- St. Charles Headingly
- Steinbach
- Stonewall
- (Swan River) St. Andrew's
- The Pas
- Transcona
- Teulon-Balmoral
- Treherne
- United Church in Meadowood
- Valley PC (Emerson & Greenridge)
- Virden
- Warren Meadowlea
- Wawanesa Brandon Hills
- West Hawk Lake
- Westworth
- Winnipeg (Trinity)
- Winnipeg Westminster
- Approve the Position Description of the Ministry Personnel to Ministry Personnel Connector (MP2MP) (Appendix A) as amended and authorize the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support to proceed with the recruitment of MP2MP Connectors, and thereby with the initiation of the program.
- Receive a copy of all motions passed by the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council between April 2020 and July 2020 (Appendix B) and for the record attach the Pastoral Relations Commission motions to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive minutes.
- That Prairie to Pine Regional council Executive take the following action:

Winnipeg Presbytery (The United Church of Canada) Church Development Inc./Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

...whereas the bylaws of the Winnipeg Presbytery (The United Church of Canada) Church Development Inc. require that all members be nominated and appointed by Winnipeg Presbytery; and whereas Prairie to Pine Regional Council is the successor to Winnipeg Presbytery for the purposes of fulfilling the presbytery's responsibilities under the bylaws of this corporation approve the following members for 2020/2021:

- Dennis Butcher
- Stuart Fletcher-Cook
- Gordon Goossen
- Lisa Lix
- Teresa Moysey
- Doris Quinn

- Dwight Rutherford
- Del Sexsmith
- Warren Thompson
- Kirk Windsor
- Betty Young

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Winnipeg Presbytery (The United Church of Canada) Church Development Inc. 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

- Stuart Fletcher-Cook
- Gordon Goossen
- Lisa Lix
- Teresa Moysey

- Doris Quinn
- Del Sexsmith
- Betty Young

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the corporate name change to Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc..

- Approve the recommendation from the Nominations Committee of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to appoint Cheryl McKitrick and Pat Bird to the Committee on Community of Faith Support for a two-year term, effective immediately.
- Receive a copy of all motions passed by the Property Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council between May 2020 and August 2020 (Appendix C) and for the record attach the Property Commission motions to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive minutes.

REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES of the REGION

NOMINATIONS

The Prairie to Pine Nominating Committee consists of Diane Dwarka, Eric Matheson, Teresa Melnychuk, Anna Stewart, Meg Illman-White and Betty Kelly. We also receive very capable support from Julie Graham, and Cherry Abad. At the rise of the

Annual Meeting we will wish Diane Dwarka a fond farewell as a member of the Nominating Committee, as she becomes co-chair of P2P Region with Kwang beom Cho. Diane we will miss you and your thoughtful input, but we also know that your gifts will be well used as you and Kwang provide leadership for the region in the coming year. Thank you and best wishes in your new role Diane.

The Nominating committee is pleased to share the current (as of Sept. 4, 2020) complete slate of Regional Boards, Committees and Task Groups with you (see Appendix I)

P2P is blessed to have over 90 members of Prairie to Pine serving on committees, boards, and task groups, all currently doing work for the Region and the wider church. Even though we often do not hear the details of who is doing what, there is a lot happening and once again we say THANK YOU to all those doing work on our collective behalf.

You will notice that there are some empty spaces in the list. The Nominating Committee believes that it is important to find a good fit so that people are volunteering for work that will be fulfilling and energizing. Its important that we do not simply seek out warm bodies to fill the vacancies. But we do not know all of you. We may not know what interests you, what gifts and skills you have to offer, and what new skills you are wanting to develop. We rely on your help to discern whether you or someone you know, might be a good fit for one of the volunteer opportunities with the Region, or with one of the related boards or interest groups. When someone's name pops into your mind as you read a volunteer opportunity, do reach out and give that individual an encouraging tap on the shoulder.

Do keep looking at the opportunities: Every month in Prairie to Pine Regional Council new opportunities come up, and somewhere there is a good fit for your interests and sense of call. From committees to short-term task groups, from finances to personnel to social justice, there is always a need for what you can bring.

We would be delighted to talk with you further and help you discern. You can email your Nominating Committee at <u>p2p.nominations@gmail.com</u>. For more information, and to see current opportunities, <u>click here</u>.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Kelly, on behalf of P2P Nominating Committee

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Pastoral Relations Commission has met monthly by conference call since the inaugural meeting of Prairie to Pine Region. This small group is responsible for dealing with calls and appointments of ministry personnel, ensuring that communities of faith are financially able to support the ministry they desire,

that ministry personnel have accurate position descriptions and that the terms of the call or appointment conform to the guidelines mandated by The United Church of Canada.

This past year, we bade farewell to Linda Paul and Diane Gillis, and welcomed Sherri McConnell, Grant Queskekapow, and Ila Swain onto the Commission. We are supported by the Pastoral Relations Liaisons who work directly with communities of faith as they seek to determine their ministry needs and to find the right person to engage as their minister.

Much of the work this past year has related to Church Hub, which presented a huge learning curve for communities of faith and for those of us who are part of the Commission. The transition has not always been smooth, but I am thankful for the work of liaisons and communities of faith who have persevered through this time of change.

Our work over these past few months has included recommending policies to the Regional Executive and/or developing practices related to:

- Formal association for retired ministry personnel
- Length of ministry appointments
- Part-time ministry
- Pastoral Charge Supervisors
- Collaborative Ministry Arrangements

All of our work has been made possible through the hard work and dedication of those who serve as Liaisons: Aileen Urquhart, Harold Kenyon, Elizabeth Brown, Linda Buchanan, Mona Denton, Lorraine Kakagamic, Sherri McConnell, Melanie Kauppila, Kathy Platt, Heather Sandilands, Patrick Woodbeck, Ila Swain and Kristin Woodburke. It is with thanks that we said farewell to those who ended their terms as Liaisons: Cathie Waldie, Maria Szabo Berces, David Howell and Carol Fletcher.

I also want to thank Elsie Douglas, our Secretary who helps to keep us on track and Judy Hare, Regional Pastoral Relations Minister who shares her wisdom and understanding with us.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Best, Chair Pastoral Relations Commission

Please refer to the additional material from the Pastoral Relations Commission

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY OF FAITH SUPPORT

Another year, another year wiser? This is what we hope to say as your Committee on Community of Faith Support. Our first full year was a lot of R&D, Research and Development. We needed to get a handle on the purpose of the committee and then the implementation of that. This led to the creation of several

documents, some "How To's" and "What do we do if?", and check lists. These can be found on the Prairie to Pine website (https://prairietopinerc.ca/about/governance/committees-on-support/ccfs/) in "Regional Council Polices and Resources." In the same place there are also resources to help Communities of Faith prepare their Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support. It has been a long body of work, one which we are still working to complete.

Our committee members as we began Year 2 were: Heather Lea (Convenor), Shirley McLaren (note taker), Marc Whitehead, Lynne Sanderson. We are also grateful to have Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, as our Staff Support. Her knowledge and wisdom are much appreciated. Also, someone we would be truly lost without is Cherry Abad, Administrative Support to our committee. Thank-you Cherry for all you do with efficiency and grace for us. With regrets Marc had to step off the committee; later Heather gave up the position of convenor and Lynne Sanderson agreed to serve as acting convenor. So, we have had our moments. But it has been good to look back to see what has been accomplished with our small but mighty team.

A large portion of our time this year was spent working with settler Communities of Faith in the receiving and reviewing of just over one hundred covenants. We have had a willing and wonderful group of readers who helped us by doing a written review of each covenant. Then Committee members sent responses back to each Community of Faith to indicate acceptance or whether some added work or information was needed. We are grateful for the willingness, time and effort the readers gave for this task. Readers were Jeannie Baker, Lloyd Baker, Mona Denton, Peter Douglas, Allison Halstead, Mary Kalberg, Cheryl Kinney-Matheson, Cheryl McKitrick, Betty Park, John Peach, Vicki Smith, Anna Stewart, Cheryl Wiechern.

Early in 2020 Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive completed their portion of the covenant. We now look forward to a Service of Celebration lifting up completed Covenants between the Regional Council and close to eighty settler Communities of Faith. At this time about sixty covenants have not been completed and we will make plans as to how best to celebrate them when the time comes.

There are also eighteen Indigenous Communities of Faith in Prairie to Pine Region. These Indigenous Communities of Faith are in the process of determining whether they will covenant with Prairie to Pine, or with the Indigenous Ministries Council, or with both. In the meantime we continue to hold in prayer our Indigenous brothers and sisters while they journey through this discernment.

Committee members also spent time, in person and / or on Zoom, telephone or email, with about half a dozen Communities of Faith discerning the next steps when looking at disbanding, amalgamating, reimagining new ways forward or transitioning to new ministry. One of these was working with Neepawa United Church and St. James' Anglican Church to enter into a new Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement. This was a truly exciting body of work done while Zooming through pandemic times.

It is our mandate to promote the benefits from the United Fresh Start program. This is highly recommended for Communities of Faith entering into new pastoral relationships. There are also cases where this can be beneficial to existing relationships within Communities of Faith. For more information go to the same link listed for our committee on the Prairie to Pine website listed above and look under the Denominational Policies and Resources tab.

It is our mandate to promote the benefits from the United Fresh Start program. This is highly recommended for Communities of Faith entering into new pastoral relationships. There are also cases where this can be beneficial to existing relationships within Communities of Faith. For more information go to the same link listed for our committee on the Prairie to Pine website listed above and look under the Denominational Policies and Resources tab.

At the time of writing this report we are welcoming two new members to our committee, Pat Bird and Cheryl McKitrick. This has helped boost the energy of our group as we look forward to what future plans might look like, possibly offering workshops as needs are identified. **We'd like to hear from you as to how we can offer information, support and encouragement for your Community of Faith.** It has been a time of learning and growing and understanding for all of us and we look forward to the year ahead.

Blessings and Peace.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Sanderson, Chair Committee on Community of Faith Support

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP / LAY MINISTRY SUPPORT

The Committee on Lay Ministry Support is responsible for supporting, licensing, and tracking information for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL), Sacraments Elders, and Congregational Designated Ministers (CDM). More detail on our role, including a link to our mandate, can be found at https://prairietopinerc.ca/about/governance/committees-on-

support/clls/. In our first full year of operation, we continued to expand knowledge and understanding of our role and what is needed to transition people and information from the old structure to the new. Much of our time this year was spent on defining procedures for licensing and re-licensing LLWLs and Sacraments Elders, and the timelines for their relicensing. Covid-19 prevented us from offering a Sacraments Elders workshop but we continue to plan for this to happen. Renews of licenses continues. Prior to Covid-19 we were able meet in person to interview prospective LLWLs. We are currently working on how to continue this process.

With membership of the committee spread out geographically we were ahead of Covid-19 in instituting remote participation in meetings. While not without its challenges, it was a blessing to work with a group of committed people to continue this important work. Many thanks to Michelle Owens (May) and Wendy Denbow (September) who stepped away from work with the committee. We are also blessed to have the guidance of our staff resource, Judy Hare.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Schau, Chair on behalf of the committee (Jamie Bradshaw, Wendy Denbow, Judy Hare (staff resource), Hope Mattus, Doug Neufeld, Michelle Owens, Marg Scott)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY PERSONNEL SUPPORT

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support met on a regular basis throughout the past year. Seeking to provide concrete opportunities for ministry personnel to connect with one another for mutual support, we were in the final stages of planning a gathering to be held on April 23, 2020, at McKenzie United Church in Portage la Prairie when the pandemic made its

presence known and required us to physically distance from one another. We were forced to postpone that plan until we are able to gather safely, and look forward to the day when such a reunion will be possible for us. Our Committee would like to thank the McKenzie faith community for its openness to offering us its hospitality. We will be back in touch one day!

On behalf of our Committee, Jan Van Aertselaer and Beth Rutherford attended the weekly ZOOM gatherings that were offered by the Region throughout the early months of the pandemic. This, as well as the ongoing experience of Committee members serving as ministry personnel, helped us to understand something of the dangers, toils and snares through which ministers in our Region were striving to accompany the communities they serve in this challenging time. Realizing that direct support to ministry personnel is necessary in crisis and in generally calmer times, we came to the decision that we would establish a network of MP2MP (Ministry Personnel to Ministry Personnel) Connectors tasked with phoning, emailing or using other forms of technology to contact and check in with ministry personnel, offering them the care of the this Region of the Church. As this report is prepared, our Committee is in the process of establishing this network.

As these strange months of distancing have gone on, our Committee has been keenly aware of ministry personnel retiring without an opportunity to address the Region and to have their years of ministry celebrated in a gathering of colleagues, family and friends. We have attempted to make a connection with each of these ministers, and look to the day when we will hear your stories in gathered community and give thanks together for your ministry.

In August, Jan Van Aertselaer found it necessary to resign from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support. Her wisdom and insight made a significant contribution to the Committee's work. We are grateful, Jan, for your time with us on the Committee, and will miss your presence at our meetings.

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support would like to acknowledge to ministry personnel the wide ranging and weighty demands that the pandemic has placed upon your shoulders, even as the usual challenges and crises of ministry continue to require all of the skill and compassion you can muster. May grace and peace continue to accompany you as you accompany the faith communities you are called to serve, and may you know with confidence that your church is grateful for your offering of your gifts within it

Respectfully submitted, David Howell, Beth Rutherford, Nancy Sanders, Jan Van Aertselaer, Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister)

PROPERTY COMMISSION

The commission members are Ken Thomas (Chair), Keith McFarlane, Chuck Ross and Dwight Rutherford.

The commission has been busy, doing the work previously done by six presbyteries. The work is not only vital, but at times, an interesting journey into the history of our church in this region, especially in rural areas where older, small churches continue to close.

The commission meets at the call of the chair by conference call in order to respond quickly to requests. During the year 2019/20 the commission met 15 times and passed 21 motions regarding church property in the Region. Twelve of these dealt with the sale of church buildings or manses, five were permission to list property, and the others dealt with major renovations and approval of large grants and loans.

Many of these require dealing with old titles in the name of the founding churches, deceased trustees on the title, and other complications. One was related to a congregation that had been closed for over 40 years. We also responded to numerous property related questions, including the property of a congregation that had been closed for nearly 60 years, but the church building is still being used. We are also been facilitating the sale of a senior's residence.

At the request of the commission, the Regional Council Executive elected three permanent regional trustees to be available when dealing with properties that are still in the name of the church, but no longer have congregational trustees.

Regional Council Executive also approved, on the recommendation of the commission, a resolution concerning funds from the sale of manses. At one time proceeds from the sale of a manses were restricted to funding housing allowance. The circumstances regarding these funds and the housing allowance have changed significantly and congregations have been requesting to use these funds for other purposes. This resolution frees all current and future funds from the sale of manse property within the bounds of the region for the unrestricted use of the congregation.

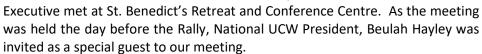
The commission continues to recommend that all communities of faith who anticipate selling or renovating property in the future ensure that the title is brought up to date.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Thomas, Chair

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) NETWORK

Prairie to Pine UCW met in the spring and the fall in 2019.

In May 2019, Prairie to Pine UCW





In order to establish a network within Prairie to Pine UCW units and members, the secretary sent a letter to all known contacts, giving them information regarding the operation of our network.

A letter received from the Prairie to Pine Regional Executive stated that the President of Prairie to Pine UCW would be made a corresponding member of the Regional Executive, and receive minutes and notice of meetings but not be allowed a vote.

The Rally "To a New Beginning" was held at St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Centre from Tuesday evening May 14, to Thursday morning May 16. Leaders and presenters at the Rally were Rev. Mona Denton, Worship Leader; Pat Claeys, Music Leader; Beulah Hayley, National UCW President, who gave a presentation on the work of the National UCW and the new project called "Women for Change in Zambia"; Rev. Peter Denton, who gave a presentation on a project called "Joshua's Dream"; and Linda Bish, who gave a presentation on the history of Labyrinths. Entertainment was provided by Rocker's United. It was a very interesting, informative, and fun Rally ending with a communion service and lunch.

Several members of the Prairie to Pine Executive attended the Prairie to Pine Regional Inaugural Council meeting in June 2019.

In August 2019, several members of Prairie to Pine Executive attended a retreat weekend at the Wellman Lake United Church Camp in Duck Mountains Provincial Park, MB.

In September 2019, Gaye Pokotylo (Past President) and Iris Wedge (Communication Director, Prairie to Pine UCW) attended the National UCW meeting in Mississauga.

Prairie to Pine UCW welcomed two new members and one returning member at the October 2019 meeting at Harrow United Church.

Also at the October meeting, Karen Corbett was chosen as our President Elect. Her installation was scheduled to be held at our April 2020 meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Barker, Prairie to Pine UCW President

BURSARY

The **Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary** has been funded by donations to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, by UCWs or Communities of Faith, and by some Interest paid from the F. B. McArthur Estate Trust. The Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary has been administered by a Committee within Prairie to Pine Regional UCW Network and usually meets in person twice a year, and by teleconference in June.

The purpose of the Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary has been to financially assist promising candidates for the Order of Ministry (ordained or diaconal) from our Conference who are registered in theological studies, as well as persons in the Designated Lay Ministry Training program qualifying for leadership in the Church.

In 2019 we had only one applicant for the Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary:

Damber Khadka, 2nd year Master of Divinity program at AST

\$2,000

We sincerely thank all UCWs and Communities of Faith for their contributions, and ask for their continued support. If your Community of Faith no longer has a contributing UCW, our committee requests that you consider including this in your future yearly budget.

The **UCW Bursary** of \$800 (in total) is awarded annually from Prairie to Pine Regional UCW funds to persons, at least 18 years of age, (and not in, or studying towards, paid accountable ministry). The applicant must be actively involved in, and taking a course that would benefit, a local United Church Community of Faith. In 2019 we had only one applicant for the UCW Bursary; Alison Abbot-Wiebe, who received \$250. Please encourage members of your Community of Faith who would benefit from this bursary, to apply in the future.

As well, the **Agatha Kaasa Bursary**, established in 2003 by the National UCW is available to women for leadership training, continuing education or projects/events that would benefit United Church work. This bursary application form can be found on the National site "search."

There is another National Bursary, the **Dorothy Amos Fund**, for any woman who is a UCW member, and not in paid accountable ministry. This Bursary was founded in 2012 in honour of Dorothy Amos using proceeds from the UCW 50th Anniversary. Both these National Bursaries can be found by searching under the particular Bursary/Fund name.

Our Bursary Committee wishes to thank both Judy Hare and Cherry Abad as well as the Prairie to Pine Regional Council office for their years of work on our behalf. Our committee also works with Karen Medland, Minister for the Office of Vocation, and Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator, both representatives for our Prairie to Pine Region.

Respectfully,

Respectfully submitted, V. Shirley May, Convener Prairie to Pine Regional Council Bursary Committee

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YAAY)

The Young Adults and Youth Committee had a busy year with a few changes to the committee that came into full effect this year. We increased the size of the committee and shifted our positions from being primarily geographically based to now

including duty-based positions as well. Below is a listing of the positions as well as the people who filled those positions starting at the 2019 Regional Gathering.

Co-convenors: Sheena Henderson* and Marissa Smirl

Past Co-convenor: Erica Wiebe* Secretary: Julia Antonyshyn

Adult Advisors: Kristin Woodburke* and Lincoln Dunn Co-co-co-co-cos: Julia Antonyshyn and Brittany Simmons

Social Media and Media Watch: Chelsea Sosiak and Natasha Gibbons

Website Coordinator: Elizabeth Kenyon Nominations Rep: George Meggison

Equity Monitors: Ayla Hamilton and Lilja Best

Grade 7-9 Rep: Olivia Krynski* Grade 10-12 Rep: Holly Typliski Young Adult Rep: Jade Webber

Indigenous Rep: Vacant

Reconciliation Event Rep: William Miller Explorer Project Rep: Brooke Munford*

Rock Lake United Church Camp Rep: Xander Miller Wellman Lake United Church Camp Rep: vacant

Ontario Rep: Naomi Dunn

Eastern Manitoba Rep: Anya Klassen*
Central Manitoba Rep: Shavaughn Jochum
Western Manitoba Rep: Ayla Hamilton
Northern Manitoba Rep: Dawson Grieves

Winnipeg Reps: Abbey Smirl*, Quinlin McLoed and Aidan McLoed

Brandon Rep: vacant

In 2019, the YAAY Committee held two very successful youth retreats. ZEEBU was held February 15-18, 2019 at Transcona Memorial UC in Winnipeg. The theme for this retreat was "Loving the Under Loved" and had guest leadership with volunteers from 1JustCity and Rising Youth. There were 14 young adults on the Planning Team, 12 Home Group Leaders and 55 participants. ALF was held October 24-27, 2019 at Trinity United Church in Portage la Prairie. The theme was "Where in the World? Geography of the Bible". There were 14 young adults on the Planning Team, 13 Home Group Leaders and 62 participants. This year we added two roles to our Planning Teams; Emotional Support Person and Indigenous Knowledge Keeper. The addition of these roles has been very beneficial to the programming and support offered at our youth retreats.

The YAAY Committee also had the pleasure of planning the Mission and Service fundraiser, as well as one of the theme sessions at the Regional Gathering in Brandon in June 2019. We helped the delegates to use their devices to answer questions on Kahoot! for the fundraiser. Theme time included songs led by youth, a presentation by Jade Webber, one of our young adults, describing what "Community of Faith" looks like for her, sharing time by 25 children, youth and young adults in attendance, and a time for table groups to use lots of colour on flip-chart paper to create their visions of their ideal church communities going forward.

^{*}This person will no longer occupy this position after the 2020 Regional Gathering

As we continue to figure out how to reach youth all across our large geographic region, youth clusters/networks/communities of faith may be formed in smaller geographic areas where there is passion and energy to do so. For example, a community of faith called CYU (Cambrian Youth United) has formed in the Ontario part of our region to continue youth work that has been happening for many years. This community crosses a regional border to minister especially to youth in the eastern part of Prairie to Pine Region and the western part of Canadian Shield Region. In 2019 they held one retreat in April in Emo and one retreat in Thunder Bay in September. They are embarking on the process towards becoming an Affirming Ministry. Two of their youth and one of their leaders attended the Affirm United Conference and AGM in Edmonton in July 2019.

Similarly, in 2019, the Winnipeg and Eastern Manitoba Reps of the YAAY Committee worked in cooperation with youth leaders and youth groups from different communities of faith in and around Winnipeg to organize Travelling Youth Group events. These single evening or afternoon events were held at Steinbach UC, St. Vital Park, UC in Meadowood, St. Mary's Road UC and Immanuel UC. There is potential for this to evolve into a cluster, network or community of faith.

Various Young Adult Recreational Gatherings (YARG) were held throughout the year, including a soup making event for St Matthews-Maryland and West Broadway funded by Rising Youth and a Trivia Night, among others.

Thanks to Crossroads Pastoral Charge (Carman/Sperling) for hosting another Explorer for three months in 2019. Bella Barbeiro from Canadian Shield Region explored the vocation of ministry along-side Karen Tjaden and Harold Kenyon. She was involved in many parts of the work and life of those communities of faith including exploring reconciliation and researching possible faith learning resources for use with the children in Crossroads Pastoral Charge. Bella also joined the youth and the adults at the regional annual meeting in Brandon and attended several YARG events.

In July 2019, Neechi Camp joined with Wampum (the Ontario version of a reconciliation camp). Twila accompanied 3 young leaders and 9 participants from Prairie to Pine Region to Five Oaks Retreat Centre near Paris, Ontario to join a similar-sized group of young people from Ontario. Our youth came from Oxford House, Rainy River, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg, Brandon and La Broquerie. The camp brought together Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youth to learn and play together, with a goal of building friendships, which is very fitting to a camp with the name Neechi, which means friend. We explored the area and learned beading, games, natural rope making and hoop dancing from the Haudenosaunee people of Six Nations. We learned to fillet a fish and cook it over a fire in a master chef challenge where we used some of the edible plants around us to supplement and garnish the meal. We visited a reconstructed long house and learned about its history and the life activities of the people who once lived in them. Thanks to the many communities of faith who financially supported Neechi Camp 2019: Steinbach, Selkirk, Knox in Brandon, Trinity in Portage, Westworth in Winnipeg, and Mackenzie in Portage.

Thanks to the following churches for hosting overnight meetings/retreats and providing meals:

- North Kildonan UC in January 2019
- Transcona Memorial UC in February 2019
- Trinity UC (Brandon) in June 2019

- Trinity UC (Wpg) in September 2019
- Trinity UC (Portage) in October 2019
- Atlantic Garden City UC in November 2019

Although 2020 has and will continue to look very different than 2019, the YAAY Committee is excited to continue to create spaces for the youth and young adults of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to connect and learn together.

Respectfully submitted,
Marissa Smirl and Sheena Henderson
Co-Convenors of the YAAY Committee of Prairie to Pine Regional Council

OTHER REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP and GIFTS OFFICER, GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

July 2020

Stewardship Update 2019 Annual Report

Even though we are in the midst of the Pandemic and unable to continue working face to face and in groups as in the past, work continues with the generous people of the United Church of Canada.

2019 was a year of change and opportunity for many congregations in our Region. Even before the Pandemic hit we were starting to use more technology and meetings were increasingly happening online. Well, haven't we mastered that now?

My regional responsibilities have become more broad and I am now the Regional Stewardship & Gifts Officer for Western Canada serving Pacific Mountain, Chinook Winds, Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine. I love to see your faces in person, however, I will not be making travel plans to be with individual Communities of Faith going forward. I believe we can manage quite well on Zoom. I am available for all of your questions and seminars on Congregational Giving, Mission & Service, Legacy Giving, Governance and Policy around CRA and investments and represent the United Church of Canada Foundation in the west.

My 2020 - 2021 focus will be in Stewardship Education. Time to go back to basics and I can't wait to connect with Communities of Faith around their mission and ministry and steps to make them more vital and sustainable.

Please connect with me at any time with questions, comments or just great ideas!

Blessings on your ministries!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harding, Regional Stewardship & Gifts Officer
jharding@united-church.ca call/text 604-761-1677

JUBILEE FUND



One of the things which the Pandemic we are currently living with teaches is the importance of flexibility. The Jubilee Fund is no exception to this reality. As a result, programs have been cancelled or postponed and Zoom has been used extensively for meetings and decision-making. But in spite of these "inconveniences," the past year has been full of positive experiences and accomplishments both before the lockdown in March as well as after.

A major event for the Jubilee Staff took place over the summer of 2019 when the offices moved from 207 Fort Street to 1622-B St. Mary's Road. It is now sub-letting space from the United Church, which became vacant as a result of church restructuring. The Jubilee Staff were graciously welcomed by the United Church folks and are very much enjoying the larger, accessible space. It seems to be a good fit for all concerned.

In July 2019 there was a test launch of HOPE – A Poverty Simulation. This Poverty Simulation was designed by a committee of folks who were both familiar with the Jubilee Fund and/or have worked within the poverty reduction sector. Three members of the committee are Diaconal Ministers in the United Church, two of whom have many years of experience working in outreach ministries. The plan was to offer this simulation in August 2020 but it had to be cancelled because of COVID. It will be offered at a later date when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the simulation is available on a cost recovery basis for rental to the community at large. If you are interested in hosting such an event, please call the Jubilee office.

The 2nd Annual Project Tour took place on a very rainy evening in September 2019. It provided an opportunity for participants to become acquainted with a couple of the Jubilee Fund projects including Diversity Food Service at the University of Winnipeg and the Garden Grove Child Care. The 3rd Annual Project Tour, which was slated for September 2020, has succumbed to COVID-19.

The 2nd Annual Champagne Brunch was held at the Assiniboine Park Pavilion on November 9, 2019. The guest speaker was Jamie Wilson, a former Treaty Commissioner in the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. Jamie gave a very enlightening presentation on treaties with First Nations. The 3rd Annual Champagne Brunch is slated for November 7, 2020. Bashir Khan, a Winnipeg Immigration and Refugee Lawyer will be the guest speaker. Sidhu Mohammed, a refugee who lost his hand to frostbite after walking across the Canadian border from the USA, is one of Khan's former clients and will also share some of his story.

Community Based Solutions, at which community speakers present on poverty related topics followed by Jubilee's Annual General Meeting, has become one of Jubilee Fund's annual events. The theme for this year's gathering was mental health and addictions and was held via Zoom on April 22. Molly McCracken from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; Kate Gale who has lived experience with mental health and poverty; and Jason Ediger, a psychologist with the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Institute, were the speakers. Although it was a very different format from the in-person gathering which was first planned, the response from those in attendance on line was very positive.

An initiative of the Jubilee Fund prompted by the Pandemic is an Emergency Loan Fund Program to provide operational cash flow relief for charities and non-profits that are negatively impacted by COVID-19. So far, at least one non-profit organization has applied for, and received, financing.

New members of the Paid in Full Club this past year are Sunny Mountain Day Care, the SEED Winnipeg Recognition Counts Program and Pollock's Hardware. Congratulations!

So, in spite of the disruptions of the lock down and staff working from home, it has almost been "business as usual."

Respectfully submitted, Anne Duncan

MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL



Manitoba Multifaith Council, and before that, its predecessor, Manitoba Interfaith Council, has had a long partnership history with the wider United Church community, first through the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, and now a renewal of that relationship through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We embrace this opportunity to continue and honour our relationship.

Belle Jarniewski in completing her second term as President, notes, "As we deal with unexpected challenges and uncertainty, our faith communities have quickly learned to adapt to the current normal. Humbled as we are by this virus, we are reaching out to one another in important and positive ways — from the day-to-day phone calls, Zoom, Skype, and FaceTime virtual visits and meetings to doing our best to ensure that our families, our friends, and even strangers do not feel abandoned or hungry.

"Places of worship have quickly looked to out-of-the-box solutions in order to provide daily, weekly, and even holiday services. Funerals are also being live-streamed, as friends and family are unable to participate in traditional mourning processes. Clergy help to bring us through these difficult times with an important virtual presence." "Our MMC year of activities was of course cut short. Nevertheless, I am grateful for the many events which filled our calendars from September to March".

A few highlights from the year:

Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding

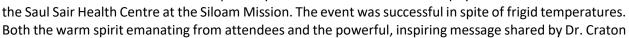


The Manitoba Multifaith Council was pleased to honour Sensei Fredrich Ulrich as the 2020 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding. As with all worthy nominee submissions, Sensei Ulrich has had a significant and lasting impact on the Winnipeg Community with his vast and varied interfaith outreach. Throughout his career Reverend Ulrich has been actively involved in interfaith work including involvement with the Interfaith Round Table for 10+ years.

Multifaith Leadership Breakfast

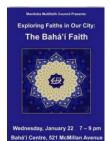
The annual leadership breakfast was held Wednesday, February 15, 2020 at Booth University College with Dr. Neil Craton a Sport Medicine Consultant at Legacy Sport Medicine, as keynote speaker.

In addition to a vast medical career, Dr. Craton is also known as a local author of an award-winning book, *Wisdom from the Homeless: Lessons a Doctor Learned at a Homeless Shelter*. This book was inspired by Neil's service as a volunteer physician at





Education



The Education Committee began to implement a program of information evenings about religions that, although well represented among the population in Manitoba, are less known to the public. The first two evenings, were held on the Baha'i and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints on January 22 and February 12 respectively. The planned evening on Sikhism had to be postponed to the fall due to Covid 19. At each session, they shared the history/origin of the faith, international engagement (where is this faith practiced), some basic beliefs, some, local community, a day in the life of... (what does a life lived according to this faith look like in Winnipeg), challenges (for

instance persecution, mixed marriage), service (how does this religious community contribute to humanity), and, finally, also on how various religious traditions share a common humanity. The presenters were diverse, including men, women, young and old.

Spiritual Health Care

The Spiritual Health Committee planned two half-day workshops entitled Caring for People Living with Trauma on November 13th at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. 25 people who registered for the workshop came from Winnipeg and some rural communities. The evaluations expressed appreciation for the workshop.

The Spiritual Health committee is in the process of planning another workshop that may continue with the theme of trauma, or stress and anxiety related to living with the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information will be circulated when details of the seminar are complete.

MMC continues to advocate for Spiritual Care positions to be filled where they are vacant or deleted.

On a positive note, the St. Boniface General Hospital hired five more spiritual health care practitioners and now offers services 7 days a week.

Justice and Corrections Committee



The work of Divisional chaplaincy continues to participate on the Manitoba Multifaith Council Justice Committee, which has a renewed focus on encouraging faith communities to safely support inmates returning to the community. The Art Contest is in its 10th year with Knox United Church in Brandon sponsoring this year's contest. The theme, 'This is my story" resonated with many participants. The professional artist who adjudicated the

contest remarked that the quality of entries has improved. The art is on display at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba in August. The Chaplaincy Advisory Committee proves to be an important venue through which the Community Safety Division can directly meet with MMC representatives.

150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer: July 15th – December 11th 2020.

This year marks 150 years since Manitoba became Canada's fifth province. Because of COVID-19 all celebratory events to mark this year have been postponed. In commemoration of Manitoba's 150th birthday, Manitoba Multifaith Council(MMC) has invited Manitobans of all various faith traditions and those of no formal faith observance to consider joining them in 150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer. MMC acknowledges and appreciates the work of all frontline workers and volunteers.

We encourage all Manitobans to be creative and generous and to reach out to their neighbours in acts of kindness and solidarity. Please participate even in some small way for increased collaboration and spirituality. We can draw closer to one another and rejoice in the gifts of peace, hope, and love both now and in the future. For more information, please go to their <u>Facebook</u> page.

Thank you, Paul Peters Derry for being our rep over the past years.

Respectfully submitted, Your new rep, Diane Dwarka, Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member

MANITOBA INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION COUNCIL (MIIC)



It is my pleasure to report on the life and work of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council as a United Church representative serving on its Board of Directors. The mission of M.I.I.C. Is to welcome and provide settlement services for refugees and immigrants living in Manitoba. Our work centres out of Welcome Place in Winnipeg, with a range of services to assist refugee/newcomers in their settlement and integration into Canadian society.

MIIC has been assisting refugees and newcomers from around the world for the past 70 years. In recent years, the work expanded rapidly, and so with it our organization and staff size. Government grants to provide support services for The Resettlement Assistance Program fuelled much of that recent growth, and as some of you may know, that grant was withdrawn from us this year. This, needless to say, has placed our Board and Staff into a time of deep change to programs and needing to let staff go. With the leadership of the staff who remain, (and in spite of COVID-19 slowdowns), we have continued to reach out to newcomers and sponsors, offering whatever settlement services and assistance we can provide.

We know there are many congregations and community groups across this province/region who are engaged together in welcoming one or more newcomers to Canada. If there are ways our staff could be of assistance to you, or your newcomers, please be in touch. You will be able to read more about us on our website, MIIC.ca.

As we go forward into this new year, I want to assure you that "MIIC Welcome Place" is alive and well. We are grateful for the Provincial and Federal Governments and The United Way, in the ways they support this important work, and we are grateful to the individuals and congregations who support the work of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, with their volunteer time, their dollars, and their prayers.

Respectfully Submitted, Marilyn Anderson Corkum

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY NETWORK





(The Western Intercultural Ministry Network includes the people of, and leadership from, Pacific Mountain, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.)



The Interim Executive:

At the Annual General Meeting of the **Intercultural Ministry Network** (Northern Spirit Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council) held on October 16, 2019 at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, the then executive decided to expand our network to include all of the Western region under an assumed name "Western Intercultural Ministry Network" with the following members as its Interim Executive: **Kay Quon** — Elder (Edmonton), **Katheryn Yamashita**

(Lethbridge), Julie Graham (staff support), Pamela Won – Secretary, (Calgary) Kwang Beom Cho – Vicechair (Winnipeg), Alwin Maben – Chair (Coronation)

At that time we did not have anybody from the Pacific Mountain region at the AGM to be coopted into the Interim Executive. However, with help from the Regional Councils and with little persuasion, we were able to have **Deborah Richards** representing **Pacific Mountain Region** and **Kurt Katzmar** representing **Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network** and later **Dambar Khadka** joined us as Interim Executive member. We are grateful to all our interim Executive members for their wisdom, enthusiasm and input with regard to the functioning of our committee

Policies and Procedures (Terms of Reference):

As an Interim Executive we started working on preparing **Policies and Procedures (Terms of Reference)** with Dr. Kathy Yamashita on the chair. We thank Kathy for drafting the terms of Reference and the committee accepted the same with some corrections which was later shared with all the five Regional Councils for their information (Copy attached).

Committee Meetings:

Our first Interim Executive Committee meeting over Zoom was on **November 5, 2019**. In order to keep the momentum going after the success of our Continuing Education and Learning Day event - "Continuing the Awkward Conversation to become and Intercultural and Sustainable Church" (Oct.16-18, 2019) with Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law and Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton and a "Korean Ministers/Lay Leaders Gathering 2019" on Oct.18-19 at Edmonton Korean Church with Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park, we began planning to host the Education and Learning day event for 2020. Initially, we planned to host it in September 22-25, 2020 at FCJ Centre, Calgary with the Theme: "New Wine" – Creating Missional, Sustainable and Intercultural Ministries in the United Church." While Rev. Dr. Eric Law was returning as one of the Main Speakers we were also hoping to have the support from or collaboration with The First Nations and "Being Good Relations" Network. After preparing a budget for this event, we also sought financial support from all concerned regional councils who were gracious enough to accept our proposal and the budget. So far the committee has met seven times over Zoom. We are especially grateful to Dr. Kathy Yamashita for taking the minutes and sharing it as Pamela Won was not able to participate in most of our meetings.

Continuing Education and Learning Day event 2020:

With COVID-19 coming in the way, we had to change our plans with regard to hosting the Education Event. While we retained the Theme: "New Wine" – Creating Missional, Sustainable and Intercultural Ministries in the United Church." with Rev. Dr. Eric Law as returning Main Speaker, we also contacted few Indigenous leaders to be the Second speaker. We are happy that Rev. Tony Snow accepted our invitation and will be the other Speaker at this event. In consultation with the speakers, our committee decided to host this year's Education Event online on three separate Fridays with a particular theme which is as follows:

September 25: Missional Ministries October 2: Sustainable Ministries October 9: Intercultural Ministries

There will be presentations, dialogue between Tony and Eric, small group conversations, Q and A, and a break in each session. At the end of each day, participants will be given "homework" contextual to their ministry, and tools to engage people in their ministry. They will bring their experience and reflection back to the following session. Each day will include an optional afternoon or evening informal conversation circle to close the day; these will be based regionally, linguistically, and more. While the cost is free, registration is required. For full information please go to: http://bit.ly/2CqFRjt. We look forward to many participating and benefitting from this event.

With the change in plans the budget too was revised and we are grateful to **Norther Spirit** and **Chinook**Winds Regional Councils for approving our budget and also for extending Staff support to our ministry.

We are particularly grateful to **Julie Graham** for the tremendous staff support she is extending to us.

Zoom Chai/Coffee Conversation:

A special feature has been the two Zoom Chai/Coffee Sessions we had this year. The first one on February 4, 2020 was mainly for those who attended the last education event. This session was chaired by Dr. Kathy Yamashita and was quite well attended with lots of suggestion and concern shared with regard to intercultural ministry. The second session was on June 23, 2020 where the focus was on Racism within the United Church. This too was well attended and was planned and Moderated by Deborah Richards and Julie Graham to whom we are very much grateful. Another session is planned for November 17, 2020 at 12.30 PM (MST). All are welcome to participate.

Support to DUIM:

"Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry" offered by the Canadian Council of Churches from time to time has not been held Alberta so far. There was a request to host the same in Alberta with the help of Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network. Rev. Jonathan Schmidt - Associate Secretary: Intercultural Leadership; Justice and Peace, had an exploratory meeting with Rev. Kurt Katzmar and other members of the Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network on February 5, 2020 at Sherwood Park United Church. Unfortunately not much progress has been made due to COVID-19.

Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting this year will be on **November 24, 2020 at 12.30 PM (MST)**. We hope that interested folks from all regions will participate in this and that we will be able to form a New Executive to continue the work of Intercultural Ministry within our region with new vision and enthusiasm.

Once again we express our sincere gratitude to all the Regional Councils in the Western Region, particularly, **Northern Spirit** and **Chinook Winds Regional councils** for all the support and encouragement we have received and look forward to continued support and guidance in the important ministry for the Glory of God and for the good of all God's children.

Respectfully submitted, Alwin Maben, Chair

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS and EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

ATLANTIC SCHOOL of THEOLOGY www.astheology.ns.ca



Academic year 2019-20 has been a year unlike any other. Atlantic School of Theology posted a banner enrollment, with 183 students. This is our highest enrollment in many, many years. And of course we finished the year with a pandemic, scrambling to shift all courses to the online environment, and ensuring that those who have worked so hard to graduate would be able to receive their degrees and diplomas, even without an in-person Convocation. With considerable faith, resourcefulness, and inspiration, our students, staff, and faculty rallied. It has been stressful, but we have done it together. We are so grateful to our church partners – you! – for your faithful support.

We have students from every Canadian province and a few in the USA as well. Our expanding Summer Distance MDiv program allows students to "earn while they learn," serving in a local church part-time and studying part-time over five years. Interest in the Master of Arts (Theology and Religious Studies) program is growing, especially among ministers who already have the MDiv degree.

In the past year, our Continuing Education offerings have also expanded, including on-campus and online offerings. An innovative Preaching Masterclass, workshops on Eldercare and Parish Nursing, an online program on Feminist Spirituality, an on-campus program on Indigenous Spirituality, and a drumming and song circle were among the many opportunities for lifelong learning for lay and clergy folks. Several of our for-credit graduate courses are also open to Continuing Education participants.

As the academic year draws to a close, we are saying a fond and grateful farewell to Dr. Joan Campbell, CSM, who has taught at AST since 2005. We will miss her dedication, scholarship, good humour, and excellent teaching. Sister Joan is returning to PEI to live.

Looking ahead, our popular Summer term will be fully online in 2020, and planning is underway for the fall. AST will face a significant shortfall in revenues (due to the closure of our residence for at least one term, among other financial pressures), but we will weather the storm.

AST exists to serve our churches and our society. Please let us know how we can serve you. Inquiries about programs of study and about Pine Hill Divinity Hall's generous financial support for students are always welcome.

Repectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell Academic Dean

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES



Hold fast to what is good, love one another with mutual affection (Romans 12:9-10)

Paul's words to the community in Rome speak boldly to our 2019-2020 school year at the Centre for Christian Studies. We adopted a new strategic plan; holding fast to our mission of educating for diaconal ministry, with an expansive vision of *diakonia* for everyone –diaconal education needs to be broadly accessible: not only people in formation to become diaconal ministers, but also to lay folks and working clergy for continuing education and spiritual development.

Last fall our learning circles gathered in Winnipeg for the fall Integrating Year circle (our graduating class), and for themes centred on Spiritual Practices and Storytelling. Our online learning circle focused on Power and Privilege started in January, and then as the pandemic hit in North America, we realized that the rest of the spring learning circles would need to be online as well. Our learning community, staff and students together, showed immense adaptability shifting to an online format for the spring learning circle intensives.

Through networks like the Prairie to Pine weekly clergy gatherings, we started to hear the pressing pastoral needs emerging during the pandemic, and in April offered a series of workshops including Zoom Tips, Crisis Pastoral Care, Pastoral Care Uses of the Spiral and Trauma Informed Pastoral Care. Each workshop gathered 75 – 100 participants, a testament to the importance of adaptive approaches to pastoral care education, grounded in up to date practice, theory and theology.

Unable to hold our annual banquet, we made a donation towards feeding our local Winnipeg community through 1 Just City, and held an online tea party instead – celebrating with over 70 guests! We commend the 2020 graduating class of Diaconal Ministries Diploma: Christina Crawford, Joe Kadi, Lorrie Lowes, Barb McGill, Kim McNaughton and Karen Orlandi. We also celebrated Alison Brooks-Stark's completion of a certificate in Spiritual Care and Anne Manikel who is the 2020 Companion of the Centre.

With restrictions continuing on travel and gatherings, we cancelled our summer Learning on Purpose course, instead offering a shorter orientation in late August to new students. Our fall circles, Integrating Year, Ministry as Listening and Eco-Justice, will be again gathering online; and we are grateful for the generosity of donors, who supported our innovation into online learning before pandemic times. We are offering the Word and Example learning circle online this fall; which focusing on Anglican Deacon formation. We are finding that online learning widens accessibility to learning circles, especially for folks who are interested in taking a week-long circle as a stand alone continuing education opportunity.

God continues to call us all to diaconal ministry – whether we are laity or clergy, ordained or diaconal. Our baptism into the body of Christ requires that we care for one another, deepening our faith, responding pastorally to the needs around us and seeking justice. We are grateful for all of you who join us in the ministry of diaconal education: through participation in field placements, as learning facilitators and mentors, through donations and by serving on our council and committees. We are grateful for each discerning conversation that includes the question "Have you considered the possibility that you are being called to diaconal ministry?"

We continue to hold fast to what is good, grateful for the mutual affection found in community, encouraged by generations before us and sustained in our mission of educating leaders for justice, compassion and transformation.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Owens Principal, Centre for Christian Studies

SANDY-SAULTEAUX SPIRITUAL CENTRE



Greetings to you all from the Twilight Zone of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic reality! Now that I have your attention, Aniin Boozhoo from the territory of the Stone Fort Treaty (Treaty Number One) here along the Brokenhead River, Beausejour, MB. What a different world we are living in than the one in 2019. We have adjusted our way of working together and educating students and have moved online to Zoom like so much of the world. We have been forced to shut down our retreat operations during the best year for this business in our history here. This pandemic has brought out the best in creativity and put a huge financial challenge before us too. Our Indigenous ancestors have survived devastating pandemics in the past and we at Sandy- Saulteaux Spiritual Centre will too!

When Manitoba shut down in the middle of March, we realized we took the right approach when earlier we cancelled our Leaming Circles the last week of March and first week of April. This also meant we had to cancel the graduation ceremony for our five graduates: Murray Pruden from Smoky Lake, AB; John Snow Jr. from Morley, AB; Elenor Thompson from Oxford House, MB; Bruce Kakakaway from White Bear, SK; and Sam Ross from Cross Lake, MB. We were set to recognize Honored Elders Mary Courtenay (former Keeper of the Leaming Circle) and Jacob Keno from Garden Hill, MB.

We have transitioned our face-to-face learning circles to online Zoom sessions and continue our Indigenous ministry training program. We never considered this type of education because of the proven success of our thi1iy-six Learning Circle experience. Other schools already had experience and platforms to deliver their education this was but we at SSSC had to create ours out of whole cloth. We did it and learned along the way as our ancestors did. In order to do our connecting and educating work through Zoom we did an upgrade to our internet capability by installing a 70-foot signal tower and all the ethemet and Wi-Fi equipment necessary.

Since Wi-Fi access in many of our First Nation and Northern student communities is limited we are making arrangements for the continuation of their training by correspondence. We are assessing student technology needs and will be upgrading their equipment as well.

We hoped to have an outdoor event that brought Indigenous and Settler folk together on the land but just for two days instead of a whole week but we cancelled at the last minute due to the latest spike of infections in Manitoba. We put all our remote learning lessons together and in just a couple of days put together a free one day Zoom Mamawe Ota Askihk event and our participants were ve1y happy how it went. We've learned a few things!

In response to our 2019 Program Review we hired Diane Meredith as Second Keeper of the Learning Circle who began her work with us May 1, 2020. She worked from her home in Toronto, ON and was finally able to move to Manitoba August 12th. After quarantining for fourteen days she has been able to work out of her office here at the Centre. Due to the Restaii Manitoba guidelines we have reconfigured our current office allocations and reassigned our library and common rooms in our lodges as offices and installed internet and phone services there.

All these changes have cost us dearly and we are so thankful for the prayers and ongoing support of Prairie to Pine Region and the whole United Church of Canada. We are at the leading edge of change in the Indigenous church and are excited about what the future holds as we move forward. I know you share our optimism because you show that with your prayers and finances sent our way. We know our success is yours as well and continually pray for your flourishing!

Sincerely,

Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Learning Circle For: Susie McPherson Derendy, Keeper of the Learning Circle

Diane Meredith, Second Keeper of the Learning Circle

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE



Dear friends of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council,

I am sorry that we will be unable to gather in community this year. I pray you and yours are well during these strange days. As well, please know that the college is here to offer you support and care, whether in your communities of faith, vocationally and in other ways that might be helpful during these times of isolation and concern.

I am writing to you today as our journey into Easter's Holy Days begins. As I sit here, with the cursor waiting, the word paradox keeps repeating itself in my musings. If ever that tension, when two things exist and yet seem incompatible, was most apparent it is indeed in the place where death and resurrection continually meet.

For three weeks now, I have been working from home. Away from the college's hallways and staircases, its proud stone and blessed sanctuary, the world has changed. It has changed for all of us. It seems to me that this Gospel thing, this Good News to which we are committed, speaks with a clarity to a hurting world that I do not recall in my lifetime.

We have all been touched by the pandemic. Whether that is life disrupted, illness experienced, and, in too many cases, suffering and death, we are all affected, and the world is moving on. From leadership that advocates for basic universal income to those who would sow fear and distrust, the full range of that which we are capable is on full display.

In these strange days, the college continues its work. In its unfolding mission, to prepare people for leadership through the lens of justice, I would like to highlight two places in which I have seen hope that demonstrates most clearly the ongoing relevance of this unfolding experiment called St. Andrew's College.

While the pandemic arrived, as each day seemed to bring further confusion, data overload, and questions of how to ensure all might be safe, the staff and faculty responded in such a manner that illustrated the nimbleness of the college. While our partners at the University of Saskatchewan mandated moving to offering all courses remotely within a week, the faculty were able to be up in running in less than two days. Though not easy, the commitment to ensuring that learning continued was only balanced by the staff's care of our tenants and residents.

With over 60% of our residents hailing from away, the staff have challenged me and held us all appropriately accountable to ensuring that the college roles as a *home away from home* was not only maintained, but improved. From maintain a cleaning regiment that ensures a safe environment to working with the university, it has been clear that St. Andrew's is a community that takes all of its relationships – tenants, faculty, residents, students and staff – as the embodiment of a body in which we are all connected.

The second highlight is connected with our denominational pastoral and liturgical response to the reality that our worshipping communities have been shuttered and quickly reopened. In such places as my Facebook feed, twitter page and on Instagram, the college's students and alum have responded in vibrant ways that within a few short weeks connects faith communities beyond traditional boundaries and offers pastoral care through such tools that range from the phone to instant and direct messaging. This emboldened ministry, literally being born in the midst of a pandemic, has many lessons for the college.

Let me just highlight one of those teachings in the short time we have left in this year's conversation. As students and alum begin to engage in the relational medium of the digital, the college has some thinking to do. We will need to begin to take seriously how we bring the best of our leadership training in the brick and mortar of life into this new space. How we offer pastoral care, nurture theological reflection and critical thinking in these new places of ministry will require careful consideration. Where do learnings and assignments, practice and ministry meet in place like Instagram and TikTok? What does it mean to bring the Good News into these places that connect with worship, which may no longer be bound to just Sundays at 10:00 and where pews are replaced with YouTube chat boxes?

These are the very challenges in which this institution called St. Andrew's has been engaged since 1912. The world has changed, and it will again. With your ongoing trust and support, friends, I am indeed hopeful that the places where death and resurrection always meet, whether in the digital or in-person, St. Andrew's will continue to prepare people for Christian leadership who help the lost find safety, the hurting healing and the mourning solace.

In Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal
St. Andrew's College

Appendix I - NOMINATIONS REPORT 2020

	Prairie to Pine Executive		
1	Kwang beom Cho	Co-chair	2021
2	Diane Dwarka	Co-chair	2022
3	vacant	Co-chair elect	2022
4	Valerie Beckingham	Treasurer	2022
5	Pat Bird		2021
6	Tim Crouch		2021
7	James deBeer		2021
8	John Robertson		2021
9	Sandra Rex		2021
10	Erica Wiebe		2021
11	Grant Queskekapow		2021
	Officer of the Court		
	Lori Stewart		
	James deBeer		
	Property Commission		
1	Ken Thomas	Chair	2021
2	Keith McFarlane		2021
3	Chuck Ross		2021
4	Dwight Rutherford		2021
5	Wayne Sanderson		2022
	Trustees		
	Bev Simpson		2022
	Teresa Melnychuk	Secretary	2022
	Al Franchuk	Chair	2022
	Annual Meeting Planning Com		
1		Local Arrangements	
2		Local Arrangements	
3	Patricia Baker		2022
4			
5			
6			
7			
8	Diane Dwarka	Executive rep	2021
	Cherry Abad	Staff Support	
	Twila MacNair	YAAY Support	

	Nominating Committee		
1	Betty Kelly	Chair	2021
2	Eric Matheson		2021
3	Anna Stewart		2021
4	Meg Illman-White		2021
5	vacant		2022
6	vacant		2022
	Pastoral Relations Commission		
1	Mary Best	Chair	2022
2	Elsie Douglas	Secretary	2022
3	Harold Kenyon		2022
4	Sherri McConnell		2022
5	Aileen Urquhart		2021
6	Grant Queskekapow		2021
7	Ila Swain		2021
	Committee on Minister Pours	I Commont	
1	Committee on Ministry Personne	Support	2021
1	Jan van Aertselaer		2021
2	Beth Rutherford	Convertence	2021
3	Nancy Sanders	Secretary	2021
4	David Howell		2022
5	Joan Jarvis		2022
6	vacant		2022
	Committee on Community of Fait	h Support	
1	Heather Lea	• •	2022
2	Lynne Sanderson	Chair (INTERIM)	2021
3	Shirley McLaren		2021
4	vacant		2021
5	Cheryl McKitrick		2022
6	Pat Bird		2022
	Committee on Londiniston Comm		
1	Committee on Lay Ministry Suppo		202
1	Doug Neufeld	Secretary	202
2	Don Schau	Chair	2021
3	Marg Scott		2022
4	Hope Mattus		2021
5	vacant		2021
6	vacant		2022
7	vacant		2022

Pastoral Relations Liaisons

- 1 Mary Best
- 2 Elizabeth Brown
- 3 Linda Buchanan
- 4 Mona Denton
- 5 Carol Fletcher
- 6 Loraine Kakegamic
- 7 Mel Kaupilla
- 8 Harold Kenyon
- 9 Kathy Platt
- 10 Heather Sandilands (2021)
- 11 Aileen Urquhart
- 12 Cathie Waldie
- 13 Patrick Woodbeck
- 14 Kristen Woodburke (2022)
- 15 Sherri McConnell
- 16 vacant
- 17 vacant
- 18 vacant
- 19 vacant
- 20 vacant

Mission Support Grants

Committee

Pat Bird	2021
Anna Stewart	2022

Young Adults and Youth Committee YAAY

Julia Antonyshyn	Co-convenor	2022
Marissa Smirl	Co-convenor	2021
Sheena Henderson	Past Co-convenor	2021
Lincoln Dunn	Adult Advisor	2021
Ha Na Park	Adult Advisor	2022

Staff Resource, Youth and Young Adult Program

Twila MacNair Coordinator

Julia Antonyshyn Secretary 2021

Co-Coordinators Coordinating

George Meggison Co-Coordinators 2022

Co-Coordinators Coordinating 2021

Brittany Simmons Co-Coordinators

Anya Klassen Social Media/Media Watch Reps 2022

*pending approval at

Chelsea Sosiak	Social Media/Media Watch Reps	2021
Elizabeth Kenyon	Website Coordinator	2021
George Meggison	Nominations Manager	2021
Lilja Best	Equity Monitor	2021
M Chorney	Equity Monitors	2022
Dylan Radcliffe	Grade 7-9 Rep	2022
Holly Typliski	Grade 10-12 Rep	2022
Jade Webber	Young Adult Rep	2022
William Miller	Reconciliation Event Rep	2021
M Chorney	Explorer Project Rep	2022
Xander Miller	Rock Lake Camp Rep	2021
vacant	Wellman Lake Camp Rep	2021
Abbey Smirl	Staff Assistant	2022
Area Reps:		
Naomi Dunn	Ontario	2021
vacant	Eastern Manitoba	
Shavaughn Jochum	Central Manitoba	2021
Jillia Meggison	Western Manitoba	2022
Dawson Grieves	Northern Manitoba	2021
Aidan McLeod	Winnipeg	2022
Quinlin McLeod	Winnipeg	2021
vacant	Brandon	

TASK GROUPS and Short-term Committees

	Diversity and Equity Task Group*		annual meeting
1	Jamie Miller	cochair	2022
2	Don Schau		2021
3	Ken Delisle	cochair	2022
4	Alan Gershuny		2021
5	Linda Rodgers		2022
6	Cathey Day		2021

Board/Council Appointments of Region

Annual Meeting of Initiatives for Just Communities

1 Caryn Douglas 2022

	Prairire To Pine United Church D	evelopment Inc.	
1	Del Sexsmith	Chair	2021
2	Teresa Moysey	Vice-chair	2021
3	Gordon Goossen	Treasurer and Invest. Officer	2021
4	Lisa Lix	Director	2021
5	Stuart Fletcher-Cook	Director	2021
6	Doris Quinn	Director	2021
7	Betty Young	Director	2021
8	Dwight Rutherford	member	2021
9	Warren Thompson	member	2021
10	Kirk Windsor	member	2021
11	Dennis Butcher	member	2021
12	<u>vacant</u>	member	2021
	Fred Douglas Society		
1	Barbara Brown		indefinite
2	Joyce Allen		indefinite
	Jubliee Fund		
1	Anne Duncan		2021
	Manitoba Council for Internation	nal Cooperation (MCIC)	2024
1	Ellen Wood		2021
	Manitoba Interfaith Immigration	a Council	
1	Marilyn Anderson Corkum	Council	2022
2	Karen Toole		2022
2	Rafell Toole		2022
	Manitoba Multifaith Council		
1	Diane Dwarka		2022
_	Diane Dwarka		2022
	St. Andrew's College Academic C	Committee	
1	Teresa Moysey		
_			
	St. Andrew's College - Board of F	Regents	
1	Doug Neufeld	-	2021
2	vacant		2021
	University of Winnipeg - Board o	of Regents	
1	Blair Evans	-	2021
2			2021
_			

3	Rohith Mascarenhas		2022
4	Michelle Pereira		2022
5	Shanna Sterling		2022
6	Kathleen McCandless		2023
7	Richard Jones		2023
8			2023
9	Madison Carver	Student Rep	2021
10		Student Rep	2021
	Wellman Lake United Church Ca	mp Board Of Directors	
	Wellman Lake United Church Ca Joyce Bateman	mp Board Of Directors Secretary	2021
		•	2021 2021
	Joyce Bateman	•	_
	Joyce Bateman Breana How	•	2021
	Joyce Bateman Breana How Blair Mullin	Secretary	2021 2021
	Joyce Bateman Breana How Blair Mullin Lucile Neufield	Secretary	2021 2021 2021
	Joyce Bateman Breana How Blair Mullin Lucile Neufield Max Polon	Secretary Treasurer	2021 2021 2021 2021

Appendix II - PROPOSALS

REMIT 1 - Amendment to the Basis of Union's Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel

Background:

The 43rd General Council 2019:

- (i) approved a change to Article 10.0 of the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and
- (ii) authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The Question:

Does the Regional Council agree that:

- (a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.

Proposal #1 Affirming Region: Prairie to Pine
Origin: Equity and Diversity Committee

What is the issue? (describe in broad terms)

We believe God/ Creator/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to: Publicly, intentionally and explicitly declare our inclusion of all people including the full range of genders, sexual orientations and sexual identities, by becoming an Affirming Region.

Why is this issue important? What are the key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues? The gospel teaches us to build communities that include all, but especially those who are marginalized. Those who do not identify as binary heterosexual are still pushed to the margins, often in the name of Jesus.

What is the history/background of this issue?

Most of the founding courts of Prairie to Pine Region were Affirming. Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble recognizes that the new regions are new entities, but also that we carry the history of the courts that went before.

For this reason, Prairie to Pine Region was given the option of a simplified process to be declared an Affirming Ministry. By following this process, we can now be declared an Affirming Ministry at our next regional gathering.

What are the principles informing this issue?

Continuing the long history of Affirming Ministries in our area, from congregations to the former Presbyteries and Conference, is important to many people in our region. With the ease of access to technology ever increasing, the seemingly instant connection to social media and the depersonalization of interactions over the internet comes a rise of hateful rhetoric. Unsettled political climates fuel fear and hate based actions that solidify the need for this public witness for love and inclusion more than ever.

What would be the implications of taking no action on this issue?

We will no longer be able to call our region Affirming or use the Affirm logo.

If we do not approve this motion at our next gathering, we will need to go through the full process as laid out in "Open Hearts".

Lack of action on this matter will have a negative impact on our region with the seeming disregard for previous struggles and accomplishments of past committees on this issue, a lack of support for our members who are part of marginalized communities and the absence of visual identification for new comers.

How might Prairie to Pine Regional Council respond to the issue?

- 1. It is recommended that the Regional Council approve the vision statement presented by the Equity and Diversity Committee and as approved by Affirm United/S'affirmer. (attached here).
- 2. It is recommended that the above proposal be accepted by at least 75% of the Regional Court.

PROPOSAL#

DRAFT AFFIRMING VISION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE LGBTQ12S+ COMMUNITY

Prairie to Pine, a Regional Council of The United Church of Canada, is called to offer an open door, an open heart, an open mind and an open hand.

An open door is evidence of the belief that all people are created in God's image and are unconditionally loved by the Creator.

An open heart follows Jesus' teachings to love one another. We extend that love to all, inclusive of their ability, age, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any other human division.

An open mind calls us to continue working for justice, dignity, and the full inclusion of everyone in all aspects of the church community and society.

An open hand is a symbol of our work towards reconciliation as Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples, and our call to live into the intercultural global community.

We recognize the unique and diverse Communities of Faith and recognize we are at varying levels of development and capacities.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2019

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2019

	Contents
Independent Auditor's Report	2
Financial Statements	
Statement of Financial Position	4
Statement of Operations	Ę
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	6
Statement of Cash Flows	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8



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www.bdo.ca

BDO Canada LLP 700 - 200 Graham Avenue Winnipeg MB R3C 4L5 Canada

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Prairie to Pine Regional Council (the "Council"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 10 in the financial statements, which indicates on January 1, 2019, the Council entered into a restructuring transaction with The United Church of Canada - Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and the surrounding Presbyteries. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants Winnipeg, Manitoba June 4, 2020

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL **Statement of Financial Position**

Assets	
Current Assets Cash and bank	\$ 916,156
Short-term investments (Note 2)	19,891
Accounts receivable	9,934
Lease inducement receivable	6,445
Prepaid expenses	4,161
Due from related party (Note 3)	4,502
	961,089
Capital assets (Note 4)	39,614
	\$ 1,000,703

Liabilities and Net Assets

December 31, 2019

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,901
Due to related party (Note 3)	33,383
Current portion of deferred lease inducement (Note 6)	6,445
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	47,025
Designated funds (Note 7)	 109,313
	201,067

Commitments (Note 8)

Net assets	799,636	

Approved by the Regional Council Executive:

SmcCauthy Executive Minister

Value Bukerh Treasurer

\$ 1,000,703

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL **Statement of Operations**

For the year ended December 31, 2019

		Budget	Total
		(unaudited)	
Revenue United Church of Canada grants Event fees Donations Investment income Amortization of lease inducement Sales of goods and services	\$	614,000 40,000 - - - -	\$ 719,972 49,821 48,575 5,392 6,444 305
		654,000	830,509
Expenses Allocations and payments to programs Amortization Annual meeting General fund Office and administration Staffing costs	_	145,000 - 75,000 45,000 46,904 337,772 649,676	186,779 20,780 75,702 34,595 59,777 350,634 728,267
Excess of revenue over expenses before other item		4,324	102,242
Other Items Transfers from Conference and Presbytery (Note 10)		-	697,394
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$	4,324	\$ 799,636

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended December 31, 2019	
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ -
Excess of revenue over expenses	 799,636
Net assets, end of year	\$ 799,636

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2019

Cash Flows from (used in) Operating Activities		
Cash Flows from (used in) Operating Activities Excess of revenue over expenses	\$	799,636
Adjustments for non-cash item	Ψ	100,000
Amortization of capital assets		20,780
		820,416
Adjustments for non-cash items		,
Accounts receivable		(9,934)
Lease inducement receivable		(6,445)
Prepaid expenses		(4,161)
Due from related party		(4,502)
Due to related party		33,383
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		4,901
Deferred lease inducement		6,445
Deferred revenue		47,025
Trust and special funds		109,313
		996,441
Cash Flows from (used in) Investing Activities		
Transferred capital assets (note 10)		(60,394)
Purchase of investments		(19,891)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Increase in cash and cash equivalents for the year		916,156
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	916,156

For the year ended December 31, 2019

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

The Prairie to Pine Regional Council (the "Council") is composed of Communities of Faith of The United Church of Canada within the Province of Manitoba and those in the Central Time Zone of Northwestern Ontario (including Atikokan). The Regional Council of The United Church of Canada is a decision making body responsible to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight. The Council is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. It is exempt from income taxes under section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The purpose of the Council is:

- Provide support advice and services to Communities of Faith in the areas of human resources, property, archives, leadership training.
- Provide oversight of Communities of Faith and supporting them in their life and work and ensure compliance with the policies and polity of the United Church.
- To ordain and commission members of the order of ministry, recognize Designated Lay Minister, and celebrate admission and re-admissions into the order of ministry.
- To speak both pastorally and prophetically while providing education and advocacy on issues that affect the health of our communities.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Revenue Recognition

The Council follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Grants and Assessments - These revenues are recognized as revenue in the period for which the assessment is made based on the approved budget of the Council.

Interest - Interest revenue is recognized as income when the Council becomes entitled to such earnings.

Deferred Contributions - Contributions restricted for particular purposes are deferred and recognized as revenue when the related expenses are incurred.

Donations - Donation revenue is recorded when received. Donation revenue received for specific purposes is unrestricted and will be used at the discretion of the Council. The Council's practice is to allocate these funds as per the donor's request.

For the year ended December 31, 2019

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Volunteer Services

The Conference receives the benefit of the contribution of significant time by many volunteers. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of the time, volunteer services are not recognized in these financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in bank accounts and guaranteed investment certificates that mature within 3 months.

Capital Assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost.

Leasehold improvements are amortized on a straight-line basis starting in the year of acquisition and will be amortized based on the term of the lease.

Other capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis starting the year after acquisition over the following term:

Computer equipment
Office equipment

3 years 5 years

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in operations. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items remeasured at fair value at each statement of financial position date and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

Post Retirement Benefit Plan

The employees of the Council participate in a defined benefit pension plan administered nationally by The United Church of Canada. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to this multi-employer contributory defined benefit.

For the year ended December 31, 2019

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

2. Short-term Investments

Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.65%, maturing March 22, 2021	\$ 1,885
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.65%, maturing April 4, 2021	2,051
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.65%, maturing April 5, 2021	12,605
Assiniboine CU GIC - 1.00%, maturing March 13, 2022	704
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.75%, maturing May 9, 2022	705
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.30%, maturing September 17, 2022	698
Assiniboine CU GIC - 1.00%, maturing September 26, 2023	 1,243
	\$ 19,891

3. Related Parties

The following table summarizes the Council's related party transactions for the year:

Grants from the United Church of Canada

These transactions are in the normal course of operations, measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount agreed upon by the two parties.

The amounts due (to) from related parties at year end are as follows:

Due from Northern Spirit Regional Council	\$ 4,502
Due to Living Skies Regional Council Due to United Church of Canada	\$ (6,595) (26,788)
Total	\$ (33,383)

719,972

For the year ended December 31, 2019

3. Related Parties (continued)

Northern Spirit Regional Council and Living Skies Regional Council are also United Church Regional Councils with similar purposes, goals and policies. These regions share employees and accounting with the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

United Church of Canada is the governing body for all Regional Council's in Canada and they provide grants and assistance to each region.

4. Capital Assets

	 Cost	 umulated ortization
Leasehold improvements Computer equipment Office equipment	\$ 54,747 3,548 2,099	\$ 18,249 2,057 474
	\$ 60,394	\$ 20,780
Net book value		\$ 39,614

5. Deferred Revenue

Balance, beginning of year	\$ -
Revenue generation fund	10,673
Winnipeg Presbytery lease commitment	 36,352
Balance, end of year	\$ 47,025

6. Deferred Lease Inducement

Balance, beginning of year	\$ -
Lease inducement for reduced rent period on assumed lease Less current portion	 6,445 (6,445)
Balance, end of year	\$ -

For the year ended December 31, 2019

7. Designated Funds

Trusts		
Archives Sale of Property Fund	\$	44,204
McArthur Estate	·	9,932
Neechi		3,250
Oral History Archive Trust		4,257
		61,643
Special Funds		
Archives Donation Fund		3,500
Archives Special Funds		863
Bursary Fund		4,618
Education & Students 2015		1,000
Effective Leadership events 2013-2015		685
Overview & Visioning event 2014		2,500
Ministry and Personnel - future projects		5,234
Keewatin		12,493
Youth Events		14,457
Youth Leadership Development		2,320
		47,670
	\$	109,313

The Council administers funds for various projects and groups operating within the Region. Amounts received and expended on behalf of these projects and groups are recorded directly to these accounts.

The Council also administers funds for various projects and groups operating within the Prairie to Pine Region communities of faith. Amounts received and expended on behalf of these projects and groups are recorded directly to these accounts.

For the year ended December 31, 2019

8. Commitments

The Council has an operating lease for its building beginning on January 1, 2012 for a period of ten years. The following are the minimum lease payments over the next two years:

2020 2021	\$	59,378 60,900
2021	_	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	\$	120,278

9. Pension Plan

Retirement benefits for employees of the Council are provided through the pension plan of The United Church of Canada (the "Plan"). The Plan is a multi-employer pension plan which provides pensions for members of the Ministry Personnel and lay employees of the Offices of the General Council, Regional Council, or Community of Faith of The United Church of Canada. The Plan is a contributory defined benefit pension plan which is financed by contributions from participating employers and employees, and by the investment earnings of the Plan. The Plan is registered under the Pension Benefits Act, (Ontario), Registration #0355230.

At the date of the last actuarial valuations and publicly available financial information, there were no unfunded liabilities related to either past service or to amendments to the Plan.

During the year, the Council made employee contributions to the plan of approximately \$23,821.

For the year ended December 31, 2019

10. Restructuring

On January 1, 2019, the Council entered into a restructuring transaction with The United Church of Canada - Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and the surrounding Presbyteries. The restructuring transaction was approved in the 2018 General Council of the United Church of Canada and passed by Parliament April 2, 2019 as amendment to the United Church of Canada Act. The restructuring transaction was undertaken to provide services more efficiently. This acquisition has been recorded by the acquisition method and the net assets have been included in these financial statements from the date of acquisition.

Assets	
Cash	\$ 450,045
Accounts receivable	107,007
Property, plant and equipment	60,393
Investments	284,544
Lease inducement	12,888
Due from related party	 3,081
	917,958
Assumed Liabilities	
Accounts payable	110,164
Accrued vacation	6,977
Deferred revenue	10,673
Deferred lease inducement	12,885
Trust and special funds	 79,865
	220,564
Consideration	
Net assets	 697,394
	\$ 917,958

The receipt of \$697,394 has been recognized as a separate line item on the Statement of Operations, which represents the net effect of the assets and liabilities received. No compensation was exchanged.

For the year ended December 31, 2019

11. Subsequent Event

The global pandemic, COVID-19, has disrupted economic activities and supply chains. It has also impacted the Council's operations and, in particular, its ability to support local Communities of Faith. Although temporary and given the dynamic nature of these circumstances, the duration of the business disruption and its financial impacts cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. The Council's ability to pay for its operating costs depends on its ability to continue to receive grants and cash flows for operations.

12. Financial Instrument Risk

The Council is exposed to different types of risk in the normal course of operations. The Council's objective in risk management is to optimize the risk return trade-off, within set limits, by applying integrated risk management and control strategies, policies and procedures throughout the Council's activities.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument fails to discharge an obligation and causes financial loss to another party. Financial instruments which potentially subject the Council to credit risk consist principally of accounts receivable.

The Council is not exposed to significant credit risk as the receivable is spread among a broad client base and payment in full is typically collected when it is due. The Council establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts that represents its estimate of potential credit losses. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based on management's estimates and assumptions regarding current market conditions, customer analysis and historical payment trends. These factors are considered when determining whether past due accounts are allowed for or written off. The risk has not changed in the year.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council is not exposed to significant market risk.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Council is not exposed to significant interest rate risk. Its cash is held in short-term or variable rate products.

Foreign Currency Risk

The Council is not exposed to significant foreign currency risk as it does not have any financial instruments denominated in foreign currency and the number of transactions in foreign currency are minimal.

AGENDA

	September 30, 2020
6:30 p.m.	Tech start / prep
7:00	Worship- Equity & Diversity Committee
7:15	Official start, introduction of Co-chairs, introduction of process
7:30	Equity and Diversity Committee education and discussion
8:15	Remit education and discussion
8:55	Closing worship
9:00	Adjourn for the day
	October 7, 2020
6:45	Tech start/prep
7:00	Opening / Introductions
7:20	Reports - Co-chairs - Executive Minister - Finance - Nominations*
7:45	Decision-making on the motions (voting)
8:00	 Covenanting with Communities of Faith (Committee on Community of Faith Support) In Memoriam Recognition of Sam Ross and Elenor Thompson Acknowledging Retirees Worship / Communion Covenanting with Co-chairs, Executive
9:15	Closing motions / Adjournment