

**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 [p2p.nominations@gmail.com](mailto:p2p.nominations@gmail.com). For more information, and to see current opportunities, [click here](#).

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

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**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 Queskepow, 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 Policies 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.

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At the time of writing this report we are welcoming two new members to our committee, Pat Bird and Cheryl McKittrick. 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://prairietopiner.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. Renewals 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 Executive met at St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Centre. As the meeting was held the day before the Rally, National UCW President, Beulah Hayley was invited as a special guest to our meeting.

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:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| <b>Damber Khadka</b> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 (YAAAY)

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-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

\*This person will no longer occupy this position after the 2020 Regional Gathering

In 2019, the YAAAY 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 YAAAY 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.

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 re-constructed 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*