

**Minutes of Inaugural Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting
Keystone Centre - Brandon, Manitoba
June 13 – 16, 2019**

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Opening

The inaugural meeting of Prairie to Pine Regional Council of the United Church of Canada met from 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 13, 2020 to 12:00 PM Sunday, June 16, 2019. The meeting was held at the Keystone Centre, in Brandon, Manitoba. Wayne Sanderson, President of Region 5 Commission of The United Church of Canada, presided.

Wayne Sanderson declared the opening of the Prairie to Pine Inaugural Regional Council Meeting 2019 to be open at 6:00 PM.

“Welcome one and all. In the name of Jesus Christ, the only head of the church, and by the authority vested in me by this regional council, I declare the Prairie to Pine Inaugural Regional Council Meeting of the United Church of Canada open for worship, study, companionship, and such business as shall properly come before us.”

A rainbow candle was lit to remind us that we are all people of God, that all are welcome to this gathering, and that Christ is the centre of all we do and say. Let us never forget this.

Wayne introduced those at the front table. Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister; and Jamie McKay, Executive Assistant and Minute Secretary for this inaugural regional meeting.

**Acknowledgement
of Treaty Territory**

As we gather to share the work that rightly comes before this court, let us acknowledge that we are meeting in Treaty No. 2 land, the traditional territory of the Dakota, Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Métis people. We seek to live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people. So be it.

Welcome

Barb Jardine, head of local arrangements, welcomed all gathered for the meeting and made some announcements.

- The church office is located directly across the hall from this meeting room
- The bookstore is further down the hall and will have a green sign
- Washrooms are down the hall, in the church office, and in assembly hall
- Meals will be served buffet-style in the hallway; if you have special dietary needs, speak to the chef to pick up a special meal box
- The wifi password is posted on the church office door

**Enabling Motions
PPRC 001-2020**

Shannon McCarthy / Ken Delisle

1. Roll of Regional Council:

That the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the Inaugural 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; and**
- 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).**

2. Corresponding Members:

That all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this regional council meeting, with voice but not vote.

3. The Bounds of the Council:

- i. That the bounds of the Council for this meeting of the Regional Council be the plenary meeting room; and**
- ii. That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including ordination, commissioning and admission to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada on June 16th at 10:00 a.m. at the Keystone Centre, Brandon to fulfill its responsibility to ordain, commission and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for ordination, commissioning and admission and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.**

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. Limits to Debate:

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. Election Procedures for Vacancies in Regional Council Appointed Positions:

- i. That the Nominating Committee present a proposal with a slate of names for all vacancies at a time prior to the agenda time for voting; and**

- ii. That all other nominations be presented in writing to the convener of the Nominating Committee, or her/his designate.

7. **Scrutineers:**

That the responsibilities of a Scrutineer are to distribute, collect and count ballots, reporting the result to the President or Executive Minister; and to count show-of-hand votes when requested by the President or the Council.

8. **Agenda Committee:**

That the Agenda Committee for this inaugural meeting of the Regional Council be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian.

9. **Materials to be Distributed:**

That aside from documentation relevant to this meeting, no other material shall be distributed to Regional Council Attendees or placed on tables or put on PowerPoint, within the bounds of the Regional Council Meeting without permission of one of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee and Convener or a designate, the President, or the Executive Minister.

10. **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.

CARRIED

**Ratify Motion
PPRC 002-2020**

Shannon McCarthy / Betty Kelly

That having solicited suggestions, created opportunity for consultation, and voting across the Regional Council, we ratify the online decision to name ourselves Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

CARRIED

**Safe and
Respectful
Meeting
Environment**

Sherri McConnell provided information on creating a safe and respectful environment at this regional council meeting. A document called "Creating a Respectful Environment at the Regional Council" was provided at each of the tables, as well as at the flow table and on walls outside the meeting room.

If we were experiencing sexual harassment or other forms of harassment, we were asked to please seek out Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, or John Lee, so they could provide support and assistance in actions necessary to address the situation.

**Video from the
Moderator**

We watched a video from the Moderator, The Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott, who brought a message of hope and love. He hopes the transition into the new structure goes smoothly, recognizing this is a huge task that will give way to moments of

excitement as we grow into this new way of working together to support the ministries and communities of faith as they gather to live out their calls.

We were challenged to reach out to communities of faith around us to learn from them, support them, and to build the body of the church in a way that we can celebrate each other's hopes, dreams, and successes; to truly live Jesus' call to love one another.

Mayor of Brandon

Rick Chrest, the Mayor of Brandon, welcomed those at this meeting to the City of Brandon and expressed how honoured they were to host the inaugural meeting of the new regional council. He acknowledged those who have traveled from near and far areas of the regional council and from a wide array of communities. He has been impressed by the size of the group gathered here and has enjoyed the diversity we have brought to this meeting.

Rick added that it is National Pride Week and acknowledged that The United Church of Canada has been particularly supportive and key to the advancement of the LGBTQ community. He commended everyone for taking leadership roles within the church and in communities and wished us success in our inaugural meeting.

Elder Margaret Roscelli

Elder Margaret Roscelli welcomed all gathered at this meeting with a glad heart and a friendly hello in the Dakota language. Her Dakota name is Touched by the Wind Woman which belonged to her maternal grandmother. This meeting of the regional council is being held in the traditional territory of the Dakota tribe where the Dakota language is still spoken today.

"Years and years ago, the Dakota lived on the Great Plains and welcomed the settler people. They were hungry, we fed them. They were thirsty, we gave them water. They were sick, we taught them how to live on these Great Plains. The Dakota have lived and survived to this present day and we wish for us all to continue to walk together in a good way as we continue to live our way of life. We wish the water and air to remain pure and life-giving and that it remains here for all of us as we share this wonder life together. Thank you very much."

Special Guest Introductions

Wayne Sanderson introduced special guests in attendance.

The Moderator of The United Church of Canada, The Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott, has honoured us with his presence at this regional meeting. We will hear more from him during the week.

Alan Hall, Executive Officer of Ministry and Employment, joins us from the General Council office.

Karen Medland, Office of Vocation Minister, joins us from the Office of Vocation.

**Table
Introductions**

Wayne Sanderson asked the table groups to take a few minutes to introduce themselves to each other and to share some hope and dreams for the future of your ministry and the church as a whole.

**M & S Fundraiser
#1**

Two members of the YAAY Committee led us through a Mission and Service (M&S) Fundraiser. We played a game called “Kahoot!” and donations were accepted at the flow table.

After the fundraising game, the youth departed to the youth room for activities.

**Commission Chair
Report**

Sherri McConnell began her report by sharing a story about how she broke her right wrist eleven weeks before. For the next six weeks, she had to learn to navigate life in a new way. Having not broken a body part before, she was sure that life would go back to normal after a week or so, and that regular life would return once again.

As it turns out, she was quite wrong. Being right-handed, Sherri had to learn to do everything with her left hand, which slowed her down quite a bit and made tasks that were once simple, very challenging. She also needed a lot of help from her partner and the people she worked with.

Sherri reflected on the breaking of her wrist as a metaphor for the transition work being done in the regional council. Our expectations must be gentle and flexible as we lay our path down in this new structure of the church. Many things we thought would be simple, have been very challenging. We have had to learn to do things that were familiar before but now seem foreign as we learn a new way to be. We are using our left hands instead of our right but with perseverance, imagination, hope, humour, and grace, we are finding our collective way forward.

We have been able to address most of our goals, which have been:

- Staffing
- A name for the regional council
- A new governance structure
- Finance and budget reports
- Property matters have been addressed throughout the year
- We managed to hold our first inaugural regional meeting here in Brandon, Manitoba.

There are also a few things that still needed to be sorted out, which are:

- Determine how often we will meet for our regional meetings
- Time for visioning, priority-setting, and exploring ways to engage in the mission and ministry and justice work
- Conversations about clusters and networks
- Relationship building with Indigenous Communities of Faith located within the region

Sherri welcomed members of Keewatin Circle, formerly Keewatin Presbytery, who

have gathered with this court, or some version of this court, for the first time in 30 years. The loss of their presbytery and conference, All Native Circle Conference, has been very challenging and Keewatin Circle has said they need more time to figure out what the next steps will be in response to the changes in the church.

Change impacts each of us differently. Some are very excited and just want to get going. Others feel overloaded with struggles within our own communities of faith or pastoral charges. Some of us are still grieving and still looking back at all that has changed.

Sherri acknowledged the hard work of the regional meeting planning and local arrangements teams. She also expressed deep gratitude to the transition commission members.

Members of the 2018/2019 Regional Council Commission:

- Sherri McConnell, Chair
- Wayne Sanderson, President of MNWO Conference
- Rob Smith, Treasurer
- Gloria Cook
- Kathy Highmore
- Betty Kelly
- Barb Miller
- Grant Queskekapow
- Maria Szabo-Berces
- Ken Thomas

In concluding her report, Sherri read a paragraph from, “Embers: One Ojibway’s Meditations” by Richard Wagamese.

Questions

How was the structure determined?

The governance structure that is being brought forward at this meeting is based on requirements in The Manual. There are some things we haven’t figured out yet as it was hard to know exactly what we would need before we began. We put things into place to get us going and to address emergent concerns. We also worked with the knowledge that we have less money than we used to, so we have had to be creative.

Executive Minister’s Report

Shannon McCarthy began her report by sharing a few humorous sayings she has deployed since the regional council entered the new structure on January 1, 2019. A few of them were:

- “It’s just a little wet and trampled, it’s still good.” We adopted the attitude that if everything wasn’t in place and in perfect running order on January 1st, it’ll be okay, we’ll still survive.
- “That’s not our stuff.” We learned quickly to stay focused on what work was important and essential for the commission and what work we could designate to others.

- “It’s been 163 days!” The old structure was in place for 94 years and had that long to ripen and run as effectively as it did.

Shannon made special note of the incredible amount of work that was done by the Regional Council Commission. Since January 1, 2019, the commission met by Zoom every two weeks, with many meetings extending past two hours. They have gone above and beyond in taking on the work that has steadily reached their hands.

For many, this regional meeting doesn’t seem all that different from past conference meetings. This was done on purpose so we could begin the conversations needed to imagine all kinds of different ways for us to be. Over the next year, we can grow into our vision.

Voting is different this year. A ruling from the General Secretary has stated that the regional council can only add members-at-large in order to achieve balance between ordered and lay. Many pastoral charges remain vacant, but they still have the right to send delegates which means we have a lot more lay people present than we do ministry delegates.

At this meeting, we have a lot of people who previously had a vote but no longer have one. We’ve adjusted our business process to achieve consensus as much as possible until the actual vote happens. Even if you don’t have a green voting card, you can participate in every other part of the meeting. The General Secretary is writing a proposal that will go to the recall General Council Executive meeting in September which will allow the regional councils to add more members-at-large as needed to do the work of the regional council.

Shannon asked the Regional Council Commission members to come to the stage to be seen and acknowledged for the incredible amount of work they have done. Each commission member received a card of thanks.

Shannon thanked the staff with special thanks, acknowledgment, and gratitude to conference staff who did not transition into the new structure. They were the ones who closed down the conference as the regional council was starting up. We thank them for their hard work, dedication, and grace as they left the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

Staff of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario:

- Linda Firman
- Joan Jarvis
- Gaye Pokotylo
- Maggie Zoske

Regional council staff are the staff that work specifically for the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, and they are:

- Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister

- Cherry Abad, Program Support
- Twila MacNair, Young Adult And Youth Minister
- Eric Acland, Keeper of the Archives

Tri-regional staff are the staff that are shared between Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit Regional Councils, and they are:

- Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister
- Jamie Mckay, Executive Assistant
- Heather Dootoff, Finance Administrator

**Business Process at
Prairie to Pine
Regional Council –
June 13-16, 2019**

The Prairie to Pine Regional Council Commission has given approval in principle to using the General Council model for business at the meeting in Brandon, Manitoba, 2019.

Shannon McCarthy outlined the three-phase process for business at this meeting:

- Listen – Listening sessions to hear proposals that come before us and where originators of the proposal will answer questions for clarification.
- Discuss – Time to discuss in table groups and provide feedback. This is the time to rework proposals so they will be ready to be voted on during the decision time. We will use warm and cool cards to get a sense of the feeling on the floor without entering into parliamentary procedure. Everyone has a say and we are working towards a consensus before voting.
- Decide – We move into parliamentary procedure and vote using the green cards.

**Structure
Introduction**

Sherri McConnell described the new structure of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

Executive Council

With the rise of this inaugural regional meeting, and with the acceptance of the nomination report, members will form the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We hope that membership will reflect balance and diversity in ways that had previously been important to the former conferences.

We have asked that two of these members be from the Indigenous Church or an Indigenous Community of Faith.

Sherri clarified the difference between a committee, team, and commission. Committees and teams report to the regional council executive and decisions need executive approval. Commissions have the power to make their own decisions and share their motions with the executive who accepts their decisions and appends them to the executive minutes. The minutes are also shared for information.

Finance Team

The finance team decides how often they need to meet and consists of a treasurer, Shannon McCarthy, Heather Dootoff, and members. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is a standing committee and it has been functional since December 2018. The task of the nominating committee is to fill vacancies in the new system. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Regional Meeting Planning Team

The regional meeting planning team makes the arrangements for the regional meetings. They are called a team because the regional meeting is not yet an annual meeting. If it decided that the regional meeting will be an annual meeting, they may choose to call themselves a committee, or remain a team. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Property Commission

The property commission deals with property matters for the regional council. As there are always tight deadlines where responsiveness is key for quick timely decisions, they are a commission. They make their own decisions, share their minutes, and send their motions to the executive.

Pastoral Relations Commission

The pastoral relations commission is another group that needs to make decisions in a timely fashion. They work with the Pastoral Relations Liaisons. They make their own decisions, share their minutes, and send their motions to the executive.

Pastoral Relations Liaisons

Pastoral relations liaisons are a trained team of individuals who work directly with communities of faith to get things organized as the community of faith searches for a minister. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support provides support to all ministry personnel, including retirees. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Committee on Lay Leadership Support

The Committee on Lay Leadership Support coordinates and oversees ongoing support, leadership and training for lay people, including congregational designated ministry, licensed lay worship leaders, and sacraments elders. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Committee on Community of Faith Support

The Committee on Community of Faith Support provides support to the communities of faith, including covenants, supporting emerging ministries, support in disbanding, amalgamating, and if a community of faith were interested in changing their structure. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

YAAY Committee

The young and young adult committee supports the ministry of youth and young adults in the regional council. They report to the executive and their decisions need executive approval.

Feedback sheets

Feedback forms were available at all tables and everyone was invited to provide their feedback and input into the policies and procedures presented. The executive, commissions, committees, and teams will receive this input after the meeting.

Nominating Committee

Betty Kelly reported from the nominating committee. She named and thanked the members of the nominating committee:

- Betty Kelly, Chair
- Diane Dwarka
- Eric Matheson
- Teresa Melnychuk
- Anna Stewart

The nominating committee recommends persons to be appointed by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council or its Executive, to serve members of its Executive or committees, and if required as representative to General Council.

The nominating committee ensures that the regional council and each of its commissions, committees, and task groups provides clear job descriptions, terms of reference, length of term, and suggested composition/balance for their group when declaring vacancies and requesting new members.

The nominating committee informs the people of the regional council about the many way to serve the ministry of the regional council, and invites you to consider how your gifts, experience, and diversity can contribute to the life and work of the regional council.

Betty made a call for nominations:

- Executive Commission – Co-chair & Treasurer
- Property Commission – 1 seat
- Regional Meeting Planning Committee – Rolanda Taylor and other members to be filled in as we know more about the next regional meeting
- Nominating Committee – 1 seat
- Pastoral Relations Committees
- Pastoral Relations Liaisons

Make a nomination

To make a nomination, please seek out someone on the nominations committee. The deadline for submission is Friday at suppertime. The final report for acceptance will be on Saturday.

Announcements Pat Bird made some announcements.

Worship

Adjournment Wayne Sanderson adjourned the meeting until tomorrow at 9:00 AM.

Friday, June 14, 2019

Gathering Music Gathering music began at 8:45 AM.

Worship

Announcement Wayne Sanderson announced that there were sixty new registrants who have never been to a general meeting of the church. He invited them to stand as they were able to receive a warm welcome.

**Reports from
General Council**

- **Alan Hall** Alan Hall, Executive Officer of Ministry and Employment, reported.

On January 1, 2019, we have moved from four courts of decision-making and governance to three councils of the decision-making governance. These three councils are the communities of faith, regional councils, and the denominational council. Admittedly, we still use General Council to describe the denominational council.

There are sixteen regional councils supported by six regional council ministers and regional council staff. Shannon McCarthy serves Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit Regional Councils, which interestingly, take up half the geography of Canada.

- **Ha Na Park** Ha Na Park, General Council Executive Representative, reported.

To give context and a new spirit to the new work that is underway, half of the fifteen members of the General Council Executive is comprised of Indigenous and racialized members. Each member brings their own self and experience to the table and helps each other learn and un-learn way in which the work we do is still colonizing. The General Council Executive has been experimenting with how we might work together towards becoming a decolonizing church, embracing interest, culturalism, risking faith, and daring to hope.

Ha Na encourages everyone to ask the following:

“Now that the restructuring is happening, how is this allowing and how is it freeing us to engage in mission and ministry?”

The Executive has felt the words in the New Creed, “We are called to be the Church” would be the guiding theological principle for their work. They will be encouraging communities of faith across the church to see the five points in the Creed as the basis of their mission and ministry and look for new ways to express them as their ministries evolve.

Music United Video

We watched a video introducing us to Music United which exists to connect and support musicians of all sorts who find themselves in leadership within The United Church of Canada.

Music United is a group of committed and passionate volunteers working in various communities. They have an active Facebook page where they engage in discussions and upcoming events and a website (musicunited.ca) where you can learn more about their executive and regional convenors, find proposed job opportunities, learn about the Oxford Fund, and connect with other available resources.

Connect with them online or tell someone in your sphere of influence. They would like to know what you are up to and to know what they can do to be a relevant and life-giving community that supports God’s Calling.

Centre for Christian Studies

We watched a video introducing us to the Centre for Christian Studies (CCS).

The Centre for Christian Studies is a national theological school based in Winnipeg, Manitoba and offers continuing education for anyone who wants to deepen their skills for faith-filled leadership. Its specialty is to prepare people for diaconal ministry. Students come from all across Canada.

The CCS program revolves around three main themes

- Spiritual Care
- Education and Worship
- Social Justice

The CSS approach is grounded in the idea of Learning in Community, the community of students, the field placement or congregational community, and the wider diaconal community. For more information, visit ccsonline.ca.

BREAK

Gathering Music

Gathering music began at 10:45 AM.

Theme 1: Panel Discussion

There was a panel discussion. Table group time was given for discussion.

- Announcements** Pat Bird made some announcements.
- LUNCH** Rolanda Taylor said a blessing for our meal.
- Gathering Music** Gathering music began at 12:45 PM.
- Business 2:
Affirming Task
Group
(listening)** The proposals in the workbook were presented time was provided for questions for clarification.
- St. Andrew's
College** Richard Manley-Tannis reported on St. Andrew's College.

In 2018-2019 there was steady enrollment with 156 students registering. Continuing Education is an important aspect of what is done at St. Andrew's College. During the past year, they offered a unique Social Enterprise Symposium and an online Feminist Spirituality course. A few campus renovations have been taking place, including the construction of Halifax Hospice. Like everyone associated with the United Church of Canada, they are adjusting to the new polity and structure. If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch at any time.
- Office of Vocation** Karen Medland, Office of Vocation Minister for Prairie to Pine, Living Skies and Northern Spirit Regional Councils gave a report outlining the responsibilities that are now retained by the Office of Vocation.
- Visioning &
Prioritization** Sherri McConnell led us in a process of visioning and prioritization.

We focused on the following question:
How are we going to do mission and justice work in Prairie to Pine Region?

Session 1: Information Sharing
What are the Manual requirements of the Region?
What are the presbytery priorities for the Region?
Actual Budget available for mission and justice work?

We had a time of storytelling and information regarding Clusters that are active in our Regional Council from:
 - David Howell, Russell Silverton
 - Craig Miller, Brandon
 - Barb Jardine, Forrest, Douglas
- Announcements** Pat Bird made some announcements.
- BREAK**

- Gathering Music** Gathering music began at 3:15 PM.
- Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** Rob Smith reported on Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC).
- Rob provided information about the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre Legacy Fund which is a newly established endowment fund with the United Church of Canada Foundation. Donations can be made to the legacy fund through the United Church of Canada Foundation to support Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in the long term.
- SSSC has recently completed a review of their ministry program and determined they need two people to look after their ministry training program. These positions are called Keepers of the Learning Circle. Susan McPherson Derendy has accepted the position of Keeper of the Learning Circle. They continue to search for a second person.
- In 2018, SSSC ran a program which worked with Indigenous parents who were trying to reunite with their children who had been apprehended by Child and Family Services. The success of this program led to the successful application of a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation, in which SSSC was granted \$100,000.
- They are also excited to announce that they have had an increase in the amount of facility rentals, approximately double of previous rentals.
- Business 3: Discussion** Table group time was given to discuss the proposals.
- Faithful Footprints** Jill Hisco made a presentation on the Faithful Footprints program.
- In 2016 the UCC General Council commissioned Caring for Creation, Our Communities and Our Congregations: The Case for a National Carbon Reduction Program for Faith Buildings. Faithful Footprints' 5-year plan is the beginning of implementing those learnings, to move the UCC into a leadership position in building energy efficiency and climate action. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.faithfulfootprints.org>
- M & S Fundraiser 2** We played Kahoot!
- Black Clergy Gathering Report** Rolanda Taylor gave a report on the 2019 Black Clergy Gathering.
- The gathering took place May 5-8, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This gathering was originally known as the Journey of Black Peoples in the United Church.
- Pastoral Relations** Judy Hare 4:45 PM

Commission Report

See Judy's report in the workbook, "Pastoral Relations Commission."

Judy shared some statistics:

- 25 communities of faith we are reliant on re-engaged pensioners

Mary Best has shared a report on pages 59-60 of the Workbook.

--- report on pages 44-46.

Committee on Community of Faith Support Report (covenanting)

Heather Lea.

The Committee is just beginning its work and is focusing on answering the following questions: Who are these communities of faith? How many? Where are they? How do we tell them who we are? What are we supposed to do? What does it mean to support communities of faith in this region and what is our mandate?

The Committee has the following membership:

Shirley McLaren
Lynne Sanderson
Marc Whitehead
Deborah Vitt
Heather Lea (Convenor)
Judy Hare (staff support)

140-160 settler communities of faith

20 indigenous communities of faith

Mandate

Seems to be some disconnect between our mandate and the name of the committee. Received feedback that working on the covenants was a positive experience. In April, we did some follow up phone calls, that lead to further conversations. We sent letters to Indigenous Communities of Faith.

The Committee is responsible for:

Covenants

Can you look at them as the act of "joining"

The way we will be working together and knowing each other, is new. Now we have 140, 160, 180, communities of faith, we are in the early stages of a new relationship. In any relationship people ask, how do we do this?

As we being life and work as PPRC, it seems reasonable to ask one another, how do you do it, where you are? What's important to you? Tell us your ministry story.

Governance documents

Provide both general and specific rules to help communities of faith make decisions. Communities of faith and regional councils must decide how they will do their governance. How do you do governance where you are?

Church and secular policies
Promote and support use of United Fresh Start
Receive regular self-assessment reports

Input:

What do you think is a reasonable frequency for communities of faith to do regular self-assessment reports? Majority 2-3 years.

We have received 77 annual reports as of June 7, 2019, meaning approximately 70 have not been sent in.

We have received 47 draft covenants received from communities of faith. Please complete by the end of September. They will be read, be reported back to committee, reported back to the region, and then finally reported back to the communities of faith.

What happens if you don't send in a covenant?

We would ask why but we won't forget about you!

In Memorium

We watched an In Memorium presentation and took time to remember and reflect on those who in the past year have taken their journey to join the Saints in heaven.

**Nominations
Deadline**

We were reminded that the nominations deadline is after supper.

SUPPER

Grant Queskekapow said a blessing.

**Gathering Music &
Announcements**

Gathering Mindy Campbell and Pat Bird made some announcements.

**Theme 2:
Moderator Richard
Bott**

The Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott lead a theme discussion.

**Worship
(Covenanting with
Staff)**

Jamie Bradshaw / Wayne Sanderson

Adjournment

Saturday, June 15, 2019

Gathering Music

Gathering music began at 8:45 AM.

Worship Jamie Bradshaw

Vision & Prioritizing 2 Sherri McConnell led us in another session of visioning and prioritizing

We heard a presentation from the Carman United Church Green Team. We had time in table groups to discuss and respond to questions

BREAK

Gathering Music Gathering music began at 10:45 AM.

Theme 3: Youth YAAY led us in a time of reflection and visioning.

Candidate Speeches Mary Best introduced the candidates. We heard candidate speeches from James DeBeer, Susan McPherson-Derendy, and Donald Schau.

LUNCH

Gathering Music Gathering music began at 12:45 PM.

M & S Fundraiser 3 We played Kahoot!

Nominations Elections & Final Report Betty Kelly reported the results of the nominations elections and gave a final Nominations Committee report.

Nominations closed at suppertime on Friday, June 14, 2019. There are still some vacancies that are not filled.

The vacancies that were filled are as follows:

Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive

- Kwang beom Cho, Co-Chair

Pastoral Relations Commission

- Grant Queskepow
- Ila Swain

Affirm United Task Group

- Ken Delisle
- Alan Gershuny
- Linda Rogers
- Cathey Day

Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council

- Karen Toole

Betty made special note of the Young Adult And Youth Committee and their large list of active young people.

Wayne Sanderson thanked Betty Kelly and the Nominating Committee for all their hard work.

PPRC 003-2020

**Betty Kelly/Teresa Melnychuk
That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve the Prairie to Pine Nominations
Committee Report dated June 15, 2019.**

CARRIED

**Listening Team
Report**

Julie Baker reported from the Listening Team on the feedback received.

The Listening Team heard and observed a few consistent themes from the feedback. There were quite a few stories about work that is currently being done in the areas of youth gatherings, ministries, intercultural ministry, truth and reconciliation, care for creation and climate justice.

We clearly value spending time building relationships and talking with each other throughout the regional council, to be inspired, encouraged, and challenged by each other to share common concerns or to give advice.

A significant theme was the loss of many of the old communication channels that were in place before the restructure. Online communication might be a way to meet many of those communication goals. However, we also heard that if we are going to rely on electronic communication, we need to increase our capacity to use it and figure out how to make it accessible to more remote parts of the regional council. Even those with access to technology, in many cases, don't feel equipped to use it well. It is also possible that regional meetings like this might be utilized to teach us how to use things like Zoom.

There was significant support to dedicate some of this regional council's financial resources to hire a person or form a permanent committee, or both, that would be dedicated to facilitating us in this communications work.

There was a lot of feedback which is being typed up so the listening team can begin to pull out further themes and shape them into something the regional council can use to help make their decisions.

Stewardship

Kathryn Hofley, Stewardship and Gift Officer, reported on Stewardship & Gifts.

Also known as the Giving and Generosity Team, the Philanthropy Unit provide consulting, resources, and support for individuals and congregations and other communities in the areas of:

- Congregational giving & stewardship
- Mission & Service
- Planned and major giving
- The work of The United Church of Canada Foundation

In 2018, the Conference of Manitoba of Northwestern Ontario donated \$1,545,713.00 to Mission and Service.

Kathryn thanked the YAAV Committee for putting together this year's Mission & Service Fundraiser at this regional meeting.

Kathryn finished her report by sharing a story of a conversation she had once with a man who asked her if she had any children. When she answered that she did not, he said, "That means you are a rich Christian woman." To this, Kathryn replied, "Yes, I am a Christian and I am a woman," and stopped herself before saying she was not a rich person.

When we think of what rich is, one might think of money, and who has more of it than we do. Kathryn told the man that he was right, that she was indeed rich because she had everything she could possibly want, that the work and life she has been given has been a gift.

Kathryn Hofley is retiring on June 27, 2019 after 19 years and 9 months of service. She led those gathered at this regional meeting in an impromptu singing of "Go Make a Difference."

Youth and Young Adult (YAAV) Report

Twila MacNair, Youth And Young Adult Minister, reported on the YAAV Committee.

The youth have embraced the need for change in the new structure with a feeling of excitement about the possibilities that this change brings. They still have some geographical representatives but they also have a position-based structure where people can work in different areas like social media, website, reconciliation, etc.

Announcements

Pat Bird made a few announcements.

M&S Fundraiser #4

We played Kahoot!

Prayer for Cross Lake First Nation

We received news that another Indigenous youth has committed suicide in Cross Lake First Nation. Barb Jardine said a prayer for Cross Lake First Nation.

"Holy and gracious God, we hold our sisters and brothers in Cross Lake First Nation up to you in prayer. We pray that you bring comfort in this time of dismay and sorrow. There is so much lost when someone is gone from a community. We pray that there will be encouragement and care among the community as they care for another, and that there will not be more deaths from loss of hope or whatever else

might be beyond people's minds. We pray for your light and encouragement, your care, your hope. May God help nourish the community. Let our love surround them also. We place it in your hands, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

**Business 3
(Decision)**

Motions arising from Proposal #1 Affirming Regional Council: Prairie to Pine

**MOTION
PPRC 004-2020**

Don Schau/Diane Dwarka
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council commits to becoming a member of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble as an Affirming Regional Council.

CARRIED

**MOTION
PPRC 005-2020**

Don Schau/Diane Dwarka
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve the interim vision statement and interim action plan presented by the Affirming Task Group.

CARRIED

**MOTION
PPRC 006-2020**

Don Schau/Diane Dwarka
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council fulfill the interim action plan with the intent to achieve full Affirming status by the Regional Council meeting in 2020.

CARRIED

**MOTION
PPRC 007-2020**

Don Schau/Diane Dwarka
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve an annual budget of \$100 to join Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and approve a budget up to \$2000 for 2019-2020 to carry out the interim action plan and to make a committed effort to send a representative to the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble Annual Meeting.

Carol Fletcher/ Gaye Boese
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve an annual budget of \$100 to join Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and approve a budget up to \$2000 for 2019-2020 to carry out the interim action plan and ~~to make a committed effort~~ to send a representative to the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble annual Meeting.

AMENDMANT DEFEATED

Don Schau/Ann Smith
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve an annual budget of \$100 to join Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and approve a budget up to \$2000 for 2019-2020 to carry out the interim action plan, \$1000 of which will be dedicated to ~~and~~ ~~to making~~ ~~make~~ a committed effort to send a representative to the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble annual Meeting.

AMENDMANT CARRIED

Don Schau/Diane Dwarka
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council an annual budget of \$100 to join Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and approve a budget up to \$2000 for 2019-2020 to

carry out the interim action plan, \$1000 of which will be dedicated to making a committed effort to send a representative to the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble annual Meeting.

CARRIED

Motions arising from Proposal #2 Responsibilities Retained by the Regional Council

**MOTION
PPRC 008-2020**

**Sherri McConnell/Maria Szabo-Berces
That only the full court of Prairie to Pine Regional Council have the authority to set additional assessments for Prairie to Pine Regional Council.**

CARRIED

PPRC 009-202

**Sherri McConnell/Maria Szabo-Berces
That Commissioners to General Council be elected by the full court of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, with the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive empowered to appoint up to one third of the commissioners in exceptional circumstances if necessary.**

CARRIED

**National
Indigenous Council
Report**

Cheryl Jourdain, Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Prairie to Pine Regional Council, reported on the National Indigenous Council.

The Indigenous Church has also been in a transition space since the closing of All Native Circle Conference. They are currently in an implementation process around the Caretaker's document and using it to move forward into the new structure.

A National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering is scheduled for August 2019 in Chippewas of Rama First Nation, which is an Anishinaanbe First Nation located in Ontario. Many decisions will be made around the Indigenous Church at this meeting. A new National Indigenous Council will come forward in August as well as a National Elders Council. Nominations are currently open for both these councils.

Cheryl thanked the court for the adjustment to the agenda to give Indigenous delegates additional time and space for conversations needed. She noted that having conversations when they need to happen, and not necessarily following a strict agenda, is one of the ways we, the Indigenous Church, will change you.

**M&S Fundraising
Update**

Shannon McCarthy announced that from this meeting we have raised \$3704 for Mission & Service.

Courtesies

Maria Szabo-Berces did the courtesies.

Closing

Wayne Sanderson asked if there was any unfinished business. Hearing none.

**Closing Motions
PPRC 010-2020**

Wayne Sanderson/Bob Gilbert
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive be empowered to do all routine and emergent business which the regional council itself may do until the rise of the next regional council meeting, at a date and time to be announced in the future.

CARRIED

Closing Prayer

Jamie Bradshaw said a closing prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

**.Honouring the
Retirees' &
Banquet**

A banquet was held to honour the retirees.

Sunday, June 16, 2019

Rehearsal

There was a rehearsal of the Celebration of Ministry Service.

**Celebration of
Ministry Service**

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held at Keystone Centre in Brandon, Manitoba.

**Reception to
follow Service**

A reception followed the service.

Sherri McConnell, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister