

OTHER REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP ANIMATOR,
GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

Stewardship Animator for
Pacific Mountain, Chinook Winds, Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regions
Philanthropy Unit, General Council Office



Generosity is a practical expression of love. Gary Inrig.

Greetings,

My name is Vicki Nelson and I am the new Stewardship Animator serving Prairie to Pine Regional Council. I live and work from Regina, and am looking forward to the opportunity to get to work alongside the people and communities in Prairie to Pine.

My role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of stewardship, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way we may connect is through an online learning program, **Called to be the Church: The Journey**. These trainings are designed for congregational leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase giving and deepen connections within your community of faith. Cohorts are currently being assembled for [Module 1: Stewardship Best Practices](#). After 4 weekly gatherings, participants will have developed a custom stewardship plan for their community of faith. Following that we will work together to realize this plan, inviting more people to make generous use of the gifts God has given and expressing gratitude for shared abundance. If this type of training would be valuable in your faith community, please [reach out](#) and we will find a time that works for you.

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, the Mission & Service Fund is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to save and transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we can do more than we can do alone. In 2020, Mission & Service funding supported life changing and life saving work in Prairie to Pine Region. From *1 Just City*, to *The Counselling Centre*, the vulnerable are being cared for and their worth celebrated. Your Mission & Service also supported camping ministries—*Rock Lake Camp* and *Wellman Lake Camp* had programs generously funded. And that wasn't all. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Prairie to Pine, and around the globe. Thank you for your gifts.

Sharing stories about Mission & Service is an effective way to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage generosity in your community of faith. The pandemic has changed many things, including the way Minutes for Mission are distributed and told, however they certainly have not gone away. New stories are frequently [posted](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos](#) that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you all. It has been a hard year, with lots of uncertainty, but you have persisted. You have found meaningful ways to be a person of faith during a dark time, and are still generously giving of yourself to provide leadership to this Regional Council. It is amazing. Thank you.

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson * VNelson@united-church.ca * **1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045**

JUBILEE FUND

JF JUBILEE FUND
ETHICAL INVESTING IN MANITOBA

In spite of the difficulties and uncertainties inherent in a pandemic, the Jubilee Fund is doing well and has ended the year in a strong financial position. That means that it is able to continue helping Manitoba non-profits that are working to reduce the impact of poverty.

The big downside to the year was no in-person gatherings in which Jubilee could provide an opportunity for folks to experience a poverty simulation process, take a bus tour around some of the projects that Jubilee supports or enjoy a champagne breakfast fundraiser while learning about issues related to poverty. The Annual Meeting was again held virtually on Wednesday, April 21 and was preceded by a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation *Community Based Solutions—Indigenous Social Innovation* by Diane Roussin. Diane is the Project Director for The Winnipeg Boldness Project, a research and development project focused on improving outcomes for children in Winnipeg's North End through social innovation and social lab processes. One of her suggestions was that by using Indigenous wisdom there can be systemic change. As well, rather than designing systems for survival we should be working toward designing them for the people involved, to thrive.

An example of the over 60 projects which Jubilee supports through non-traditional financing is the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation. As described in the February 2021 Jubilee Fund newsletter: "The Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization is a quasi-government organization delivering support programs that focus on community and economic development. Programs serve community members experiencing low income, homelessness or marginalization as well as newcomers to Canada. The organization was renting commercial office space. As they grew, partnerships increased and office space needs grew. With multiple long-term government contracts, rent payments were larger than what would be required to purchase the building. RBC was prepared to provide a mortgage, but they didn't have the required equity. Jubilee Fund provided equity through a direct loan. Now previous rent payments are paying the mortgage and building equity for the organization."

A major change at Jubilee at the end of December was the retirement of Executive Director Derek Pachal. Unfortunately, it was not possible to have a gathering to celebrate and thank Derek for his contributions, but they were acknowledged at the virtual Annual Meeting. Also, at that meeting the new Executive Director, Peter Cantelon, was introduced. Peter began his duties the beginning of February, is quickly becoming familiar with the organization and is finding ways to put his talents to use.

Another upcoming change will be that of re-locating offices. The search for the new location is in progress.

Thanks to the Prairie to Pine Region for the opportunity to serve on the Jubilee Fund Board as your representative. My 6-year term is now up. It has been a privilege to work with the staff and many like-minded folks from other denominations, representatives from the community and those with particular areas of expertise, in the endeavour to reduce poverty. In that six years there has been amazing growth in the Jubilee Fund—both financially and the projects in which it is involved. I look forward to seeing where it goes from here. I leave knowing that my successor, Lynda Trono, will bring much experience, energy and wisdom to the board.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Duncan

MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL



The Manitoba Multifaith Council has continued to function throughout the COVID 19 pandemic by through the use electronic. Devices, such as Zoom.

Payam Towfigh, the new president along with the Executive has been diligently keeping the organization going. The Annual General Meeting which had been postponed from the spring was held virtually on September 1, 2020. The program concluded with a moving interview of one of the Yazidi students who came to Winnipeg through Operation Ezra and had recently graduated from high school. Jamileh Naso interviewed Abdullah Naso by asking thought provoking questions such as the hurdles faced, persons who helped, and hopes for the future. Abdullah expressed his thanks for Operation Ezra and acknowledged that one of his favourite things at school was sports. He indicated that he hoped to attend university and engage in scientific lab work.

Christine Baronins brought the AGM to a close by introducing a musical video created by Eric Whitacre. The video brings together peoples from around the world to participate virtually in “Sing Gently.” The differing voices blending in harmony seemed to capture President Payam’s hopes that MMC will continue to exhibit its own unique unity in our city and province.

The **Annual Leadership Breakfast** which is usually held in February had to be cancelled.



Her Honour, the Honourable Janice Filmon, our Lieutenant Governor decided that, despite COVID the **Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding** could be held virtually and so on February 16, 2021 Winnipeg Free Press journalist, John Longhurst became the 2020 awardee. The Winnipeg Free Press is the only newspaper in Canada that carries a Faith page. Because of John’s efforts reports are no longer limited to the Saturday edition of the newspaper but are published during the week as well. The Free Press has been documenting the impact of COVID on faith communities.

“In this province where we so proudly embrace multiculturalism, Mr. Longhurst’s vision, passion and commitment to bring voices from our diverse religious and cultural communities together, truly exemplifies the spirit of this award,” said Lt.-Gov. Janice C. Filmon. “It is my pleasure to formally recognize Mr. Longhurst for his work in building harmony and understanding in our province, our country, our world.”

Spiritual Health Care

The Spiritual Health Care Committee presented a half-day workshop: **Coping with Grief and Loss During COVID-19** on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The presenters were Anne Whitford-Fast and Lynne Granke, a Certified Supervisor Educator with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care.

Justice and Corrections Committee

Opening Doors: a Zoom seminar. was held on Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 from 1:30– 3:00 pm focusing on: “**Understanding the needs of released inmates**: How to better understand the needs and challenges facing ex-inmates released from the provincial system, and the potential role of faith communities and faith-based organizations in providing support. and services to released inmates. The speaker was Cameron Zacharias Area Director, Manitoba Justice Responsible Reintegration Initiative.

Opening Doors: Hearing from **Those Returning to The Community** was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

The Annual General Meeting which is usually held in May is now scheduled for September 1, 2021.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diane Dwarka
Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member*

**MANITOBA INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION COUNCIL
(MIIC)**



It has been my privilege to serve as a United Church appointee to the Board of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council over the past 3 years. This has been a very challenging year for all of us -staff & directors- within the MIIC circle ... and sadly, in the late fall, I realized I needed to submit my resignation due to increasing family responsibilities.

MIIC policy changes will impact the way Faith group appointments are made. The Board itself will recruit potential board members to fall within their own skills and faith group criteria. The United Church Nominating Committee will no longer fulfill that task, but interested individuals from the UCC are encouraged to apply directly to the MIIC Recruitment Committee. The transition between our most recent appointment of Karen Toole and this new recruitment process meant she was unable to serve.

As I conclude this report, I thank you for the opportunity to serve with the fine people within the Board of MIIC and the remarkable staff who embody the care and welcome that Welcome Place is known for.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Anderson Corkum*

UNITED CHURCH HALFWAY HOMES



Relevant Information about the Halfway Homes in Winnipeg:

- Ours is a lively ministry of hospitality and rehabilitation.
- The United Church has directed Halfway Homes in Winnipeg for more than 50 years.
- The activities in the Homes support and assist women and men who are in the process of re-entering general society, after a season of their incarceration.
- Two residential homes for men are located on Dorchester Avenue and Dominion Street
- A residential home for women is located on McMillan Avenue.
- Length of stay (weeks or months) for each resident depends upon a number of complex factors.
- Each of our residences have operated at near capacity this past year:
Dominion 10 residents, McMillan 8, Dorchester 8
- Audrey Dennis has offered her energy as our very capable Executive Director over these past few years.
- Each home is staffed by very reliable House and Case Managers and other expert staff. All but the Executive Director and House Managers are Union supported.
- The Halfway Homes Inc. is a non profit enterprise. The Parole Board of Canada and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority send residents our way, and thereby all the finances for running the Houses are pre-arranged by payments for daily occupancy. Also, charitable donations for this work are welcomed and tax receipts are issued.
- United Church Mission funds do not enter in to our regular financing. The General Council owns the properties and we forward monthly rental payments.
- This ministry benefits from the skill of our long-term and committed bookkeeper:
Catherine Barnsley.
- The organization enjoys a generous arrangement for office and meeting spaces at Harrow United Church.
- Throughout this current Covid-burdened season, all staff have been diligent in following proper health and safety protocols.
- The Halfway Homes of Winnipeg is directed by an enthusiastic Board of Directors made up of several retired Winnipeggers and other capable young persons.
- The Board ensures that both an annual Audit and a General Meeting are conducted.
- Among other general oversight matters, the Board is currently looking into replacing or else upgrading one of the Houses. [After long seasons of constant use, each property deserves extensive upgrading.]
- As an incorporated ministry of the United Church, the Board is accountable to the Desk that oversees property in the General Council.
- Hopefully, we will all move beyond current social restrictions. So in the future we will be pleased answer your enquiries and/or come and speak with your community.

*Respectfully submitted,
Duncan Michie, Board chair
On behalf of the Board*

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY NETWORK



(Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, Pacific Mountain Regional Councils, and the Indigenous Church)



The Western Intercultural Network is a relatively 'young' network of communities in the United Church of Canada committed to a fully inclusive and intercultural church, covering the five Western Regional Councils.

The network holds gatherings and online conversations that focus on intercultural discussions. Network members are engaging in and promoting action in their regions towards living out the UCC's vision of being an intercultural church ([Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](https://www.united-church.ca)), and come together occasionally for educational events and other opportunities for dialogue. An executive from the five Western Regional Councils of the United Church offers us leadership.

Our vision of becoming an intercultural United Church encompasses:

- Racialized people and communities, which includes ethnic churches within the United Church, racialized lay leaders and ministry personnel, and more.
- Indigenous people and communities, within the United Church and beyond, of all traditions.
- People with disabilities.
- LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people and communities.

We honour these identities, and the spaces where they intersect. Our ministry includes courageous (and awkward!) conversations about our diversity, and about the social privilege and history that hinder right relationships. We believe the Good News of Jesus Christ calls us into such conversations and relationship.

2020-21 Activities

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic required the WIMN's Interim Executive to change its plans for holding an in-person education event in September. We instead offered a highly successful online event – **New Wine: Western Intercultural Ministry Gathering** over three Fridays - September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2020. The gathering focussed on presentations and discussions on creating missional, sustainable, intercultural ministries together, with leadership provided by Rev. Tony Snow, from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and Coordinator for Indigenous Right Relations, Chinook Winds Region, and Rev. Dr. Eric Law, Founder/Director of the Diverse Leadership Inst., Los Angeles, California. The online format allowed us to expand the reach of this education event and we had over 60 persons attending the sessions on each day.

Annual Meeting

WIMN hosted its Annual meeting on November 17, 2020, in conjunction with one of its Chai/Coffee Sessions.

At that meeting the members of the Interim Executive that had guided the Network's activities for 2019-20 were pleased to welcome new members to lead the Network.

The new Executive for 2020-21 comprises:

Co-Chairs: Deborah Richards (Pacific Mountain) and Kurt Katzmar (Northern Spirit)

Secretary: Kathy Yamashita (Chinook Winds)

Elder: Kay Quon

Chinook Winds: Alwin Maben (past chair)

Northern Spirit: Chelsea Masterman

Living Skies: Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau

Prairie to Pine: Kwang Beom Cho, Damber Khadka, Bill Millar

Staff support: Julie Graham, Chris Mah Poy, and Emo Yango (General Council).

The Executive meets monthly for about 90 minutes, and this provide an opportunity for us to connect about activities in our region, as well as engage in planning discussions. The sessions are lively!

Looking forward

The new Executive has been discussing how the Network will engage in supporting and living out the call within our regions to be an Intercultural Church, as well as how we build intercultural social values and communities by working with other organisations in our provinces like Multicultural Councils and Multifaith bodies. Those discussions will continue throughout the year and we hope to find ways to engage the network in these engaging conversations. We have been heartened and energized by the engaging conversations that we have had during our New Wine intercultural gathering in fall 2020 and various Network Chai/Coffee times held in 2020 and early 2021.

The following decisions have been made about Network activities for 2021:

- Given ongoing uncertainty about in-person gatherings and church building re-openings this coming fall, we have decided not to hold a longer in person or online gathering in 2021. Instead, shorter programs and other opportunities will be the focus. We pray that in 2022 we will be able to be together again in a larger in-person gathering.
- The Network's Intercultural conversation (Chai/Coffee) times will continue through 2021. Our hope is to have 3 or 4 such conversation times during the year. In February we enjoyed a really rich national and intergenerational conversation focussed on the question 'Who do we want to be as we re-open our communities?'

Upcoming Events

Our next Chai/Coffee gathering in this series will be **Thursday June 3**, likely at 9:00AM Pacific, 10:00AM Mountain Daylight (AB)/ Central Standard (SK), 11:00AM Central Daylight (MB and NW Ontario), and noon Eastern.

Contact Us

If you would like to be contacted about WIMN events you can [sign up for occasional updates here](#); you can unsubscribe at any time, and we don't share your information with anyone else.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kurt Katzmar and Deborah Richards

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Executive of the Western Intercultural Ministries Network

April 9, 2021

