

REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES of the REGION

NOMINATIONS

The Prairie to Pine Nominating Committee consists of Eric Matheson, Teresa Melnychuk, Anna Stewart, Meg Illman-White, Joey Dearborn, and Betty Kelly (chair). Our committee also works closely with the very helpful and capable Julie Graham and Cherry Abad. At the end of our regional council meeting, we will say farewell to Meg and to Eric from their work on this committee and wish them the best in what comes next for them.

The Nominating committee is pleased to share the current slate of Regional Boards, Committees and Task Groups with you. You will find it in the posted package of resources.

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.

A large piece of our work this year has been finding commissioners for General Council 44. We have sought to balance regional interests, as well as honouring our commitment to include diverse voices. Included on the agenda for your consideration is a slate of commissioners that will not only serve our regional council virtually at General Council next summer but will also be part of this work going into the next triennium. We are thankful that so many capable and interested individuals put their name forward to be a part of this meaningful work.

As you will notice, empty spaces do continue to exist on our list of committees. Our work is centred around finding a good fit to ensure that work can be fulfilling and energizing, while also fitting into tightly packed schedules. It is important that we match gifts and skills with positions, rather than filling in blank lines. 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. We know that a tap on the shoulder or a brief conversation is often the best way to attract new volunteers.

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. For more information, and to see current opportunities, [click here](#).

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

**PASTORAL RELATIONS
COMMISSION**

The Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) continues to meet monthly by conference call to do its work. 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, to ensure 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.

The PRC is a dedicated group of five who are supported and encouraged by Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister and Elsie Douglas, our Secretary. We rely heavily on the PRC Liaisons who work directly with communities of faith. During this past year, we accepted the resignation of Grant Queskekapow from the Commission and wish him well in his continued work.

Working with Church Hub continues to be a large learning curve for many communities of faith and for members of the PRC as well as those working as Pastoral Relations Liaisons. Sometimes the challenge is inadequate internet access and other times it seems to be adapting to the format and ensuring that accurate and complete information is uploaded. Our thanks to Deb Kigar, part of the General Council staff for assistance and coaching she willingly provides to Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel attempting to navigate Church Hub

Over this past year, the liaisons continued their work with communities of faith. Most contacts were through zoom meetings and some through conference calls. We are thankful for their commitment and willingness to continue this work in new ways!

Our monthly meetings included discussions related to the designation of position descriptions as Congregational Designated Ministries, dealing with requests to declare positions available for posting, the appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors when necessary, reviewing Ministry Profiles from communities of faith, along with the approval of numerous appointments and renewals of appointments.

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 Kakegamic, Sherri McConnell, Melanie Kauppila, Kathy Platt, Heather Sandilands, Patrick Woodbeck, Ila Swain and Kristin Woodburke.

As this year draws to an end, we offer heartfelt thanks to Ila Swain and Heather Sandilands who have completed their work as liaisons and seek to offer their gifts in different ways.

I also want to thank Elsie Douglas, our Secretary who does her best to keep us up to date and Judy Hare, Regional Pastoral Relations Minister who receives the documents, prepares our monthly motion list and shares her wisdom and experience with us.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Best, Chair
Pastoral Relations Commission*

Please refer to the Pastoral Relations Commission Status Report

**COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY OF FAITH SUPPORT**

I am sure we can all start our reports in the same way. What a year! And we are not past all that 2020/21 gave us. But the work of our committee goes on: We continue to receive and review Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support between Communities of Faith and the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We continue to review new governance structure documents. When appropriate we recommend to the Regional Council that these documents be approved. We continue to support Communities of Faith when in discussion over future decisions – how do we continue – what do we do if....

Our committee is currently made up of a combination of clergy and laity. Our members are: Pat Bird, Heather Lea, Shirley McLaren (note taker), Cheryl McKitrick, Judy Hare, staff support and myself. As of the rise of the annual meeting in May 2021 there will be a shift in its membership with Shirley McLaren and myself stepping off. And many thanks to Shirley for keeping us up to date with meeting notes! At the time of writing, we have some new possible members considering joining the committee.

We meet monthly by Zoom which we had begun doing before the pandemic made it necessary. It has been a great tool to connect and do the work. In between meetings are emails to respond to, covenants received to be reviewed and answer those “what if” kinds of questions. In order to develop connections with people in our Region, we grouped settler communities of faith into five groups based mostly on geography, with Winnipeg communities of faith arbitrarily assigned among the five groups. Each committee member has been primary contact for one group of 25-28 communities of faith. It is our hope that this will give Communities of Faith a name and contact that will be become familiar and help us to better fulfill our mandate to support communities of faith. Local community of faith leaders can help us do our work by letting us know what challenges or changes could be better faced with more support, information, resources, etc.

This past year we held two covenant celebration worships between Communities of Faith and the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. The first was included in the worship at the first ever virtual annual meeting of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council held over two Wednesdays – September 30 and October 7, 2020. The second celebration was within a Prairie to Pine Region Ash Wednesday Service February 17, 2021 also held by Zoom. Both services were well received and gave an opportunity to come together and celebrate while apart. A total of 108 covenants were celebrated at these two services and an additional 8-12 will likely be celebrated at the May 2021 meeting of Regional Council. There are about two dozen communities of faith still working on covenants or moving towards other transitions.

We are grateful to the Prairie to Pine Regional staff that supports us in our work. Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister provides us with wisdom and much needed information for us to deepen our understanding of the work we do. And our office administrator Cherry Abad helps us in all those much-needed areas of support such as management of receiving annual reports, covenants and governance documents. Cherry also printed and mailed certificates acknowledging new covenants to our communities of faith that have been completed and celebrated. Our heartfelt thanks to both Judy and Cherry!

We could not possibly do all the work of this committee without help. Some additional thanks need to go to those willing readers who have given of their time and talents to review covenants and in some cases governance drafts. We offer our gratitude to: Jeannie Baker, Lloyd Baker, Mona Denton, Peter Douglas, Allison Halstead, Mary Kalberg, Cheryl Kinney-Matheson, Cheryl McKitrick (now on this committee!), Betty Park, John Peach, Vicki Smith, Anna Stewart, Cheryl Weichern.

In the coming year our committee will be considering how best to support communities of faith in their regular self assessments and will discuss the writing and review of annual reports. Part of our mandate is also to promote and support United Fresh Start, a program highly recommended for Communities of Faith entering into new pastoral relationships.

We also want to recognize the eighteen Indigenous Communities of Faith that are not included in our geographic groups for connection and follow up. We initiated conversation with Gloria Cook, Indigenous Community Capacity Coordinator, and look forward to further opportunities to learn from and offer support to Keewatin Circle Communities of Faith. As the Indigenous Communities of Faith continue their process of determining how to be engaged with our region, we continue to hold our Indigenous brothers and sisters in our prayers while they journey through this discernment.

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

**COMMITTEE ON
LAY LEADERSHIP / LAY MINISTRY
SUPPORT**

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

This past year procedure documents for licensing and re-licensing LLWLs within Prairie to Pine Region have been completed. We have completed initial interviews related to five new Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and approval was given for their licensing by the Executive of the Regional Council:

- Julie Hutton (Minnedosa)
- Norah Laverty (Sioux Lookout)
- Millie Lewis (Cloverdale)
- Jamie Miller (Dryden)
- Phyllis Verbeek (Clandeboye-Winnipeg Beach)

As we continue to work under the restrictions of the pandemic we have had to learn to adapt the procedures to live in the current reality. While we consider the procedures complete for now, we anticipate that as our reality evolves, the procedures may also need revising. The transition into the new structure has created a backlog in the LLWL re-licensing effort. We are currently prioritizing and organizing the relicensing effort. Covid-19 prevented us from offering a Sacraments Elders workshop but we continue to plan for this to happen.

A significant part of the effort on this committee is reviewing and maintaining lists. For example, there are lists of LLWLs, CDMs, and pulpit supply.

The Committee is also in the process of drafting for the Prairie to Pine Regional Council a policy to supplement the national handbook around pulpit supply and other matters related to Licensed Lay Worship.

It has been a blessing to work with a group of committed people to continue this important work. Many thanks to Wendy Denbow, who has stepped down from 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, Hope Mattus, Doug Neufeld, Marg Scott and Judy Hare (staff resource))*

**COMMITTEE ON
MINISTRY PERSONNEL
SUPPORT**

Our last report was provided for the Annual Regional meeting held in September of 2020. The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support has continued to meet regularly throughout this pandemic time via the gift of technology.

The resignation of Jan Van Aertselaer in this past year created the request to nominating to find another member to join in our work. We welcomed Joan Jarvis to the work of our committee. Joan's many gifts and broad experience are deeply appreciated by us all.

The major work of our committee through the past months has been to establish the network of MP2MP (Ministry Personnel to Ministry Personnel) Connectors with those ministry personnel who wished to have the support and regular contact as they continue to navigate the challenges of leadership in such challenging times. The feedback we have received from both connectors and "connectees" indicates that this program is beneficial to all who are participating. We offer our thanks to those who have willingly offered their gifts and time to support ministry personnel as Connectors:

Heather Robins	Ken DeLisle
Cheryl Kinney Matheson	Cathie Waldie
Irene Greenwood	Nancy Sanders
Deborah Vitt	Joan Jarvis
Deborah Murray	Jack Ballantine Dickson
Anne Duncan	

Another significant part of our work and discussions in these past months has been to seek guidance and direction as to how we may best serve, support, and build relationship with Indigenous ministry personnel in Keewatin Circle. The work of building relationship was strengthened by the gift of an opportunity for learning with Gloria Cook as she shared with us *"Our journey as an Indigenous (First Nation) people...a way of looking at our life journey."* Gloria is serving as Community Capacity Development Coordinator working with Keewatin Circle. Her wisdom and insights were greatly appreciated by our committee and we look forward to continuing to work with her.

Earlier in 2021 we invited ministry personnel across our Region to respond to a Wellness Survey. It was our hope to gain a broader sense of how ministry personnel are emotionally, spiritually, mentally and physically as they enter year 2 of this pandemic time and faithfully work to do all that is needed at this time. The response to the survey from personnel within our region was very high, an indication to us of the importance of asking the questions, and the desire of ministry personnel to share their experiences. We shall consider how best to let the results be made known in the future while also being able to use the information to help us as we continue to seek ways to provide support to those serving the church.

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support would like to once again acknowledge to ministry personnel the demands and challenges that the pandemic continues to place on your shoulders as you provide needed and valued leadership. 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.

Regrettably, one of our members, Nancy Sanders ends her term as of the rise of this Regional Meeting. We thank you Nancy for sharing your gifts, skills, intellect and wisdom with our committee, and by extension to our Region, as we have sought to do our work. We will miss your presence at our meetings.

As we continue our work, we also need to uphold the work of the Regional staff who play such a vital role in our work.

Thank you Cherry for the administrative and organizational work that you do that helps us as we seek to fulfill our mandate and responsibilities.

We also wish to offer our great appreciation to Judy as staff resource to our committee and the many ways you support us in our work. Your commitment to the church and in particular to the work of our committee; your organization and facilitation of bi-weekly ministry personnel gatherings; your desire and ability to keep us aware of changes that are ever constant and impacting the work of not only our committee, but of the Region; your questions that help us discern direction, to name but a few. In these most challenging of times, your wisdom, experience, knowledge, and energy that you continue to offer to ministry personnel, our committee, our Region, and the wider church, cannot be understated. Thank you.

*Respectfully submitted,
David Howell, Beth Rutherford, Joan Jarvis, Nancy Sanders,
Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister)*

PROPERTY COMMISSION

The commission members are Ken Thomas (Chair), Keith McFarlane, Chuck Ross, and Wayne Sanderson, with Dwight Rutherford as a corresponding member.

The commission continues to be busy. 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. From July 2020 to May 1, 2021 the commission met 11 times and passed 15 motions regarding church property in the Region. These included the sale of three church buildings, one manse, and three parcels of land. There were three requests to list property, and others dealt with approval of major renovations and financing and transfer of a lease.

We also responded to numerous property related questions. We facilitated closing the sale of a senior's residence.

The Regional Council continues to have 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.

The commission wishes to remind everyone that all United Church properties are governed by the United Church of Canada Act. Proper procedures must be followed and proper documentation completed for transactions to be registered by Provincial registries. The processes are not difficult and can be completed quickly if followed properly. We recommend consultation with the commission prior to proceeding with any property related transactions, major renovations, or financing.

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,
Rev. Ken Thomas, Chair*

**EQUITY AND DIVERSITY
COMMITTEE**

**We are a safe space for sacred stories and
the sacred stories are your stories.**

Let's begin where we left off –

October 7, 2020, the Regional Gathering for Prairie to Pine, approved UNANIMOUSLY the Vision Statement created by the Equity and Diversity Task Group.

November 5, 2020, the Regional Council Executive approved the Action Plan submitted by the Task Group which made Equity and Diversity a Standing Committee.

All but one of the former Task Group members continued on - **Ken DeLisle, Jamie Miller, Don Schau, Cathey Dey, Linda Rodgers, and Alan Gershuny. Liz Carter-Morgan**, who was a member of the Task Group, was called to other work. **Julie Graham** as the Regional Minister: Justice and Communication is our staff liaison.

On December 3, 2020, the Regional Council Executive approved the Terms of Reference for the Committee. They also approved **Hope Mattus** and **Stewart Hill** as new members.

Rev. Lesley Harrison was asked to help us think through who we are; who is missing; how do we tackle the Action Plan before us and how do we get our work known.

We gathered January 21 and 28, 2021 as she led us through a challenging, inspiring, creative and community building exercises.

At this same time, we informed, encouraged and support action by the Regional Council Executive to send a letter of support to Pastor Lee-Dong-hwan, A Korean minister who was punished by the Korean Methodist Church for offering a blessing at a Queer Fest, contrary to that denominations policies.

At our February meeting, we agreed to form four Task Groups as was suggested by Rev. Harrison - Educational, Ally/Encourager, Communications and Strategic Planning, and Regional Council. There are 2 members to each group.

Also, we created 2 other groups to work on a possible workshop at this Regional Gathering and worship.

On March 4, 2021, the Regional Council Executive approved **Yeseullyn Lee** as our newest member.

THERE ARE STILL SPOTS OPEN!

We also sent congratulations and attended the public Affirming services for McKenzie United Church in Portage La Prairie and Steinbach United Church.

Finally, we meet with committees, task groups, staff and volunteers from four other Regions to discuss our common work for Affirming ministries.

Thank you to all the committee members, Julie, Regional Council Executive and staff for all your help and direction.

We end where we started.

May 28, 2021 we will have a public celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry and will receive our certificate at that worship. It is the last step in being recognized as Affirming.

Bring your family, friends, community of faith, rainbows, balloons, and noisemakers. Be a rainbow.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Miller and Ken DeLisle, Co- Chairs*

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. In 2020, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we met via Zoom to make decisions regarding the Bursaries.



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.

Because of the Pandemic, and the difficult position all our Communities of Faith found themselves in, our financial resources for the Bursaries were sorely lacking. In 2020 we were pleased to award two applicants a total of \$3,000 in Prairie to Pine Regional Bursaries:

Damber Khadka , 3 rd year Master of Divinity program at AST	- \$1,000;
Jen Carter-Morgan , 2 nd year Diaconal Ministry studies at CCS	- \$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 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. For this year we had no applicants. Please encourage members of your Community of Faith who would benefit from this bursary, to apply in the future.

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

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

Our Bursary Committee wishes to thank both Judy Hare and Cherry Abad and 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. Thank you all for your patience during these trying times.

At our Prairie to Pine Regional UCW meeting on December 1, 2020 we had our election of officers, and as I was stepping into a new role, **Darlynn Smith** very graciously accepted the position of Chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary Committee.

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

Darlynn Smith, Convener
Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary Committee

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YAAY)

As with any committee of the church, this has been a strange year for the Young Adults and Youth Committee. Much of our ministry relies upon being able to gather together for community and support, building lasting relationships that youth carry with them throughout their lives - the pandemic stole that from the youth of our region this year. While recognizing that online gatherings can never fully replicate the feeling of being together in-person, the YAAY Committee has been hard at work creating experiences for youth to feel connected and to combat the isolation of the pandemic.

In February 2020, just weeks before the first wave came to Manitoba, we held our Zeebu 2020 youth retreat at Westworth United Church in Winnipeg. The theme was Faith and Games and we explored how the games we play can be connected to our faith. We had 39 participants, 10 Home Group Leaders, and 15 young adult members on the Planning Team. Thank you to Westworth UC for hosting us and to the United Church in Meadowood for hosting our weekend Planning Team Meeting.

The YAAY Committee would like to give a special thanks to Rey Anderson for his generosity in providing Indigenous teachings every morning. It was a wonderful way to start our days feeling calm and well-grounded. Thanks as well to our Chaplains, Bev Ward and Patrick Woodbeck, and to the several United Churches that prepared and delivered our meals throughout the weekend. Having 60+ youth and young adults sleeping on a church floor together feels like a lifetime ago, but the day will come when we can have our beloved retreats again.

Just days before the shutdown, on March 8th 2020, we had our last in-person Traveling Youth Group at Immanuel United Church in Winnipeg. There were 25 people in attendance who played games and sang songs led by YAAY Committee Winnipeg Representatives. They capped off the afternoon by attending a movie at the Freeze Frame Film Festival at CCFM. Thank you Immanuel UC for your hospitality and for providing refreshments for participants.

Once the pandemic struck, the YAAY Committee started offering online events for youth and young adults. A spring online drop-in ran from April 23rd to June 25th. Several youth came every week for a check-in, games, and discussion. One week we offered an information session on attending General Council Youth Forum. Thank you to the rotating group of young leaders who offered this important space for our youth to have somewhere consistent to come and share their feelings.

Many Prairie to Pine youth and young adults had been looking forward to making the pilgrimage to Calgary, AB in August for Rendezvous 2020. Rendezvous is a triennial national conference that brings young people together from across the country for inspirational guest speakers, thought-provoking workshops and worships, and most importantly to make lifelong friends while feeling the energy of over 500 young people in the same room.

The Rendezvous Design Team quickly pivoted to create “Rendezvous Reimagined”, a four-day online event. The theme remained the same: **“bold faith, brave space and brazen grace.”** Featured speakers included 1) Dr. James Makokis, a leader and well-known expert within the Indigenous, LGBTQ2 and medical community; 2) Pam Rocker, an activist and award winning writer, speaker, and musician who has worked for almost a decade for the full inclusion of LGBTQ2S+ people in faith communities and beyond; and 3) Maricar Delfun, Program Coordinator of the Regional Ecumenical Council in the Cordillera. Those who attended Rendezvous Reimagined were inspired by the speakers and workshops, and were pleasantly surprised to find how easily community was still built through Zoom home groups and online events like games nights and talent shows. It was truly a Rendezvous to remember.

One of the really interesting things about a global pandemic is that it suddenly doesn’t matter where in the world you are. Our youth and young adults have been participating in events from other regions like Evolve in British Columbia and the Wednesday night young adult group hosted by Rev. Laura Fohse in Saskatchewan. With all of the hardships we’ve faced this year, these new friendships have been a silver lining.

Throughout 2020, we have been working on a Refugee fundraising drive to help one of our young adults bring her family to Winnipeg. This fundraising is being done in partnership with Young United Church. We held two fundraisers in 2020, selling masks and then reusable tote bags made by some of our youth. Together these raised \$1,507. We are looking forward to holding more fundraisers in the future to reach our goal of \$8,000. Additional funds have been added to this pot in the form of donations from parents registering youth for our free online retreats, and from a trivia night in January, but that will show up in the 2021 annual report provided at next year’s AGM!

In October 2020 we hosted “ALF Abridged,” our first ever online regional youth retreat. There was a lot of uncertainty in planning ALF this year. Manitoba’s COVID-19 case counts dropped dramatically over the summer, and for a while there was hope that we could host the same event in several smaller groups at churches throughout the region. As the second wave took off; however, this soon became impossible and we had to rework the event to be fully online. Despite all this we still hosted a successful event for 10 participants with the help of 8 Home Group Leaders and 15 young adult Planning Team Members. We learned a lot from this experience that we will continue to apply to future online events.

Throughout the pandemic, the YAAY Committee has continued to find ways to bring the young adults of our region together through our Young Adult Recreational Gatherings (YARG) group. Depending on the state of the pandemic here in Manitoba, these events have included everything from online check-ins, to Zoom games nights, to picnics in the park, to celebrating each other’s birthdays virtually. No matter what the next year throws our way, you can count on strong young adult programming here in Prairie to Pine! We could not make this happen without the impressive efforts of several of our young adults, most importantly Jade Webber, YAAY’s Young Adult Representative.

As always, the YAAY Committee would like to thank Twila MacNair, Coordinator of Young Adult and Youth Ministry, for her diligent work in supporting our endeavors. Thank you Twila for always going above and beyond and for your dedication to our region’s youth and young adults, particularly during this challenging time.

This year has been strange, to say the least. While there will still be much uncertainty in the year to come, the YAAAY Committee would like to extend our gratitude to our dedicated volunteer members and to everyone else who has helped us along the way. We will continue innovating our way through this pandemic and creating spaces for the youth and young adults of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to connect and learn together.

Excitedly awaiting the day we can be together again.

Respectfully submitted,

Marissa Smirl and Julia Antonyshyn

Co-Convenors of the YAAAY Committee of Prairie to Pine Regional Council

