

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes
May 6, 2021 via Zoom**

Present	Kwang Beom Cho (Co-Chair), Diane Dwarka (Co-Chair), Valerie Beckingham (Treasurer), Pat Bird, James DeBeer, Sandra Rex, Erica Wiebe. A quorum was present.
Corresponding Members	Ken DeLisle (Equity and Diversity Committee), Betty Kelly (Nominating Committee), Lynne Sanderson (Committee on Community of Faith Support), Donald Schau (Committee on Lay Ministry Support), Marissa Smirl (YAAY).
Regrets	There were no regrets.
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Twila MacNair (Young Adult and Youth Ministries), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
Call to Order	Kwang Beom Cho opened the meeting at 3:30 PM.
Treaty Land Acknowledgement	<p>Kwang Beom Cho made the following Treaty Land Acknowledgement for Prairie to Pine Regional Council and invited us to share the territory we are in:</p> <p><i>“As we gather to share the work that rightly comes before this court, let us acknowledge that we are meeting in Treaty No. 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dené peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.</i></p> <p><i>We are also aware that the water which brews our coffee and tea, the water we use in our kitchens and our bathrooms, comes to us from the Shoal Lake First Nation. With respect, we acknowledge the history, spirituality and culture of these peoples. We acknowledge their stories and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through the many generations.</i></p> <p><i>May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.”</i></p>
Opening Worship	We watched a video submitted by Marissa Smirl, “How Wolves Change Rivers.” We checked in and reflected on the video.
Agenda	We reviewed the agenda.
053-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.
Approval of Minutes	We reviewed the minutes from April 1, 2021.
054-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of April 1, 2021, as amended.

BUSINESS ARISING

Right to Housing

Virigina Platt (Harrow United Church) joined the meeting at 4:00 PM. Virginia brought forward a request for the regional council to join a list of organizations in support of the right to housing. The request does not require a financial commitment.

The Executive supports the request and agrees to add Prairie to Pine Regional Council to the list of organization in support of the right to housing.

Correspondence

- Letter from Jeff Cook
- Letter from Mona Denton

The executive received a request to make a public statement in support of the current provincial health guidelines and COVID-19 restrictions.

The co-chairs will write a statement in support which will be posted on the website, added to the newsletter, and sent to as many communities of faith as we can. This statement will also be available for people to download and send to others.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

REPORTS

Executive Minister Report

Shannon McCarthy reported.

It's annual meeting time. Tri-regional staff had Session One of the Northern Spirit annual meeting on Tuesday, and they finish up Northern Spirit with Session Two. The next annual meetings are Prairie to Pine at the end of May and Living Skies in the beginning of June.

Shannon is in conversation with 7-Eleven about what we are doing for the building at 1622 St. Mary's Road. An update is coming soon.

The General Council extended the deadline for annual meetings and the pastoral relations exceptions from June 30 to December 31, 2021. There is a Sunday is a worship service to formally acknowledge and apologize to the unwed mothers and the forced adoptions that the United Church took part in. The assessment formula was approved by General Council and can be found in the United Church Commons.

We have a new staff person working within the regional council. Vicky Nelson, Stewardship Animator for Western Canada, lives and works in Regina. She has been active in camping and youth ministry life in Regina and the former Saskatchewan Conference. She is currently looking for congregations that want to participate in a stewardship training program.

The Executive welcomes Vicki Nelson.

FINANCE

The financial report for the first quarter of 2021 (January 1 to March 31) (Appendix A) was presented for information.

We had a short discussion on how committees can begin to submit a budget for the upcoming year. Budgets will be due in September 2021 and information will be sent out to current members of committees.

Valerie, Heather Dootoff, and Shannon McCarthy are currently in discussion about drafting an investment policy, which will be brought forward during upcoming meetings.

055 – 2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive receives and accepts the Prairie to Pine Financial Report January 1 to March 31, 2021 (Appendix A), as distributed.

056 – 2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council invest \$400,000 through the Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. (CDI) Grace Church Fund, with the yearly income to be paid to Prairie to Pine Regional Council to fund projects and activities that align with its priorities.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Judy Hare reported.

Judy will send an email to the Committee on Community of Faith Support to see if they have any congregations who might be interested in the stewardship training program with Vicki Nelson.

The Committee on Community of Faith Support is working on the rollout of a Workplace Discrimination Violence and Harassment Policy and the education around respectful congregations that is attached to this piece of work.

Part of the rollout will be a small piece in M&P workshops. The respectful congregations education is lengthy and it might be difficult to sign a large group of people up for that training. Perhaps some people would do a smaller module.

The committee continues to work on renewals.

Judy has been working and planning with the annual meeting planning team about what has been labeled milestone moments: anniversaries, retirements, admissions, ordinations, etc.

We have a few ministry personnel who living through some significant health issues. As they journey through these issues, we will try to support them in their pastoral charges.

The results of the Ministry Wellness Survey will be available to read in Judy Hare's report in the Workbook – ROP Volume 1 (Prairie to Pine Regional Council Online Meeting, May 28-30, 2021).

**Nominations
Committee**

Betty Kelly reported.

Recruiting for all vacancies has gone well. Members are missing the involvement in the wider church and ready to volunteer again.

For all positions, the nominating committee has made a strong effort to recruit Indigenous and intercultural members. The committee is aware the slate is not as representative and balanced as it should be and that marginalized people are still underrepresented. The journey is continuing.

The Executive has major turnover this year and new members have stepped up. Diane Dwarka and Pat Bird will be the co-chairs for the coming year. Erica Wiebe has agreed to be co-chair elect for the following year.

A number of executive nominees asked about an orientation session to help them know what they are responsible for and what they are expected to do.

Nominations will not be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. The balance process to acknowledge the diversity in the regional council is too complex to come from the floor. From the Executive, the Nominating Committee asks for affirmation and support.

Biographies and pictures of the GC44 Commissioners will be posted on the website before the annual meeting.

Betty Kelly gave thanks to Kwang Beom Cho for his role over the last two years as Executive Council Co-chair. She also said thank you to those who are stepping down from the Executive.

**Justice &
Communications**

Julie Graham sent regrets for this meeting. We will hear from her after the annual meetings have concluded.

Co-Chairs Report

Diane Dwarka thanked Kwang Beom Cho for his role over the last two years as Executive Council Co-chair.

**Annual Meeting
Planning Committee**

Diane Dwarka reported.

The planning is going well and there are a lot of plans in place. We will be honouring retirees, one admittance, anniversaries, and milestones. Gloria Cook will present a Medicine Wheel teaching. The YAAY committee will be helping with technical support.

During the Sunday morning service, we are holding a celebration of the regional council becoming an affirming ministry. It will be broadcast on YouTube. Little Britain United Church and Crestview United Church will become affirming on June 6th.

Next Meeting(s) The Executive agreed to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 3:30 PM with the next meeting dates:

- May 28-30, 2021 (Annual meeting)

Closing Prayer Diane Dwarka said a prayer to close the meeting.

Adjournment Diane Dwarka adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Kwang Beom Cho, Co-Chair

Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

