

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes  
January 6, 2022 via Zoom**

<b>Present</b>	Pat Bird (Co-chair), Diane Dwarka (Co-chair), Erica Wiebe (Co-chair Elect), Valerie Beckingham (Treasurer), Julia Antonyshyn (YAAY), Marissa Smirl (YAAY), Joey Dearborn, M Chorney.  A quorum was present.
<b>Corresponding Members</b>	Betty Kelly (Chair, Nominating Committee), Jamie Miller (Chair, Equity & Diversity Committee), Heather Lea (Committee on Community of Faith Support), Donald Schau (Committee on Lay Ministry Support).
<b>Regrets</b>	Barbara Brown, James deBeer, Craig Miller, Grant Qeskekapow.
<b>Staff Present</b>	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister), Julie Graham (Justice and Communications Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
<b>Call to Order</b>	Pat Bird opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.
<b>Treaty Land Acknowledgement</b>	As we change in our work and understanding of justice and being in right relations, Pat Bird read the following Treaty Land Acknowledgement:  <i>“We recognize that the Prairie to Pine Regional Council functions on lands that are the traditional ancestral lands of many Indigenous peoples. We know that the mistakes which are part of the history of colonization have caused deep and lasting harm. We affirm that the sovereignty and distinct nationhood of Indigenous peoples needs to be upheld, and that the sustaining connection to traditional and ancestral lands must support in practical ways this sovereignty and nationhood. We commit ourselves to the truth-telling that needs to continue as we seek reconciliation and healing and as we work toward a better future.”</i>
<b>Opening Worship</b>	Julie Graham led us in opening worship with a reflection.
<b>Check-In</b>	We checked in by sharing our thoughts on darkness.
<b>Agenda</b>	We reviewed the agenda.
<b>036 – 2021/2022</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	We reviewed the minutes of November 7, 2021. We will review the minutes of December 2, 2021 at the next meeting.

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

**Correspondence**            There was no correspondence.

## **REPORTS**

**Finance**                      The income statement and balance sheet were provided for information.

Heather Dootoff reported.

We will finish this year in a surplus of governance and mission and ministry, and a small deficit in restricted funds.

We received an extra \$9735 as part of a contingency fund that was held by General Council for use by regional council during the transition. The funds were not needed so it was dispersed across the sixteen regional councils.

**Nominating Committee**            Betty Kelly brought forward one proposal for acceptance.

The regional council had previously dedicated one full seat for a youth commissioner to GC44. However, there has been no interest from youth. Twila MacNair advised the Nominating Committee to fill the spot with an alternate instead of letting it stay open.

**037 – 2021/2022**            **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that TESSA WHITECLOUD be named as a Prairie to Pine Regional Council Commissioner to General Council 44.**

*Recruitment for  
Regional Gathering  
Planning*                      Joey Dearborn reported.

The Nominating Committee currently has two people who have tentatively said yes to sitting on the regional gathering planning committee. Since planning has not started, a decision has not been made on if we are holding a business, thematic, or educational meeting. Putting more names forward would be easier if we knew what kind of meeting we are holding.

The committee is casting a wide net and once an initial group is put together, they can start working on what the format of the meeting will be.

**Equity & Diversity Committee**            Jamie Miller reported.

Until a proper committee can be formed, the Equity and Diversity Committee is willing to serve as a landing point for those working on right relations and reconciliation.

Jamie Miller is continuing as Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee. If the committee ends up getting a co-chair, it will be filled from the current members.

**Executive Minister's Report**

Shannon McCarthy reported.

*Prairie to Pine office move*

The Prairie to Pine office has finished its move to the Centre for Christian Studies (CCS). The office on St. Mary's Road was completely cleared out, inspected, and closed at the end of December 2021.

We will be holding a meeting with staff from Prairie to Pine and CCS for a virtual welcome and to go over building questions and procedures. It will be a chance for staff to see each other and ask questions.

*New staff*

Jennifer Janzen-Ball begins her new position as Minister of Theology and Leadership in January 2022.

*GC44 registration*

Commissioners to General Council 44 should have received links for registration. Training sessions will be available in January.

**Incorporated Ministries**

There was nothing from incorporated ministries.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS**

**Pastoral Relations Minister**

Judy Hare reported.

Judy was able to go on her first long break in many years, from December to early January. She came back to a blizzard in the city and a mountain of boxes in her new office.

The Pastoral Relations Commission has its first meeting next week and they are still adjusting to some of the policy shifts that were announced in December but were not communicated yet.

*Designated lay minister policy reflections*

In early December, designated lay ministers met and gave their reflections on the potential policy shifts that are coming in the report around them. It was good to hear their perspectives and we will continue to engage them in conversation. A proposal may be coming from designated lay ministers to commissioners to bring forward to GC44 on their behalf.

*Borrowing funds - Kildonan United Church*

Kildonan United Church (KUC) has ended their current pastoral relationship due to lack of funds and is preparing to be disbanded, which includes selling their church building. KUC Council has made known their desire to borrow money from the Regional Council to cover expenses until their building can be sold.

Upon approval and prior to the release of further funds, KUC will provide to Heather Lea on behalf of Committee on Community of Faith Support and Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council the following documentation:

- 1) Minutes of a KUC Council meeting with a motion to request said loan.
- 2) Independent Financial Review report for 2021,
- 3) A detailed year-end financial report for 2020 and 2021,
- 4) Budget projections for January 2022 and for February to June 30, 2022,
- 5) Accounting for the first \$10,000.00 and monthly financial statements before subsequent amounts are released, and
- 6) Any further information or reports that may be requested by Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

### 038 – 2021/2022

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive authorizes the following:**

- **That an interest-free loan of up to \$25,000 to Kildonan United Church to be repaid in full upon the sale of the Kildonan United Church building,**
- **That a first transfer of \$10,000 may be made upon receipt of the formal motion from Kildonan United Church Council as soon as possible after January 13, 2022, and,**
- **That prior to the release of further funds, Kildonan United Church will provide to Heather Lea on behalf of Committee on Community of Faith Support and Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council the following documentation:**
  - 1) **Minutes of a KUC Council meeting with a motion to request said loan,**
  - 2) **Independent Financial Review report for 2021,**
  - 3) **A detailed year-end financial report for 2020 and 2021,**
  - 4) **Budget projections for January 2022 and for February to June 30, 2022,**
  - 5) **Accounting for the first \$10,000.00 and monthly financial statements before subsequent amounts are released, and**
  - 6) **Any further information or reports that may be requested by Prairie to Pine Regional Council.**

*Committee on  
Community of Faith  
Support*

Heather Lea reported.

The Committee on Community of Faith Support has received most covenants from our communities of faith, with a few still working on them. One challenge for the committee is how to encourage communities of faith to submit regular self-assessments.

We agreed that regular submissions could be defined as every three years. The committee will proceed with asking communities of faith to submit self-assessments every three years.

*Committee on Lay  
Ministry/Lay  
Leadership Support*

Donald Schau brought forward a recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support.

**039 – 2021/2022**

**ALLISON ABBOTT-  
WIEBE**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support, having conducted an interview on November 30, 2021, received documentation confirming a Police Records Check and completion of the training for Licensed Lay Worship Leadership, confirmed support from the governing body of the Community of Faith at St. Paul's United Church – Graysville, and confirmation of completion of required Introductory Boundaries training, to license ALLISON ABBOTT-WIEBE as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in Prairie to Pine Regional Council.**

Erica Wiebe abstained.

**Justice and  
Communications**

Julie Graham reported.

*Website banner*

Julie updated the land reconciliation page on the regional council website to reflect the reviewed and approved version from December 2, 2021. It is noted that these are living words and will change and grow over time. Communities of faith, ministries, and groups within the regional council are urged to develop their own contextual land recognition, and if desired, using the regional council wording as a guide.

*Ice art competition*

The ice art competition is slowly getting started. There is a Facebook group where people can view and post photos. The website also contains information about hashtags that can be used when posting on social media.

*Newsletter  
reformatting*

We continue to receive feedback that the newsletters are too long, and people aren't retaining the information. We also need to address accessibility issues for readers.

The administrative support staff who publishes the newsletter in their regional council have agreed to reformat the length and layout. Julie will be sending out submission guidelines and making an announcement to staff.

*Norway House  
Survivors Circle*

Conversations continue with Grant Queskekapow on beginning a Norway House Survivors Circle. They had hoped to meet in person but at this time, it will have to move forward online.

As mentioned by Jamie Miller in the Equity and Diversity report, until a proper committee can be formed, that committee is willing to serve as a landing point for those working on right relations and reconciliation. We all understand the importance of this work and that it needs to be held over the long term.

**Structure document**

Pat Bird reported.

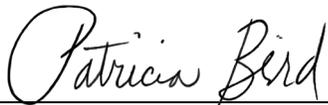
The work on the structure document continues. The task group has a draft base document and are working on making an inventory of all the information that has been received so far. They are planning a meeting to work on outstanding reports and to check if they are following format.

**Next Meeting(s)** The Executive agreed to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM with the next meeting dates:

- February 3, 2022

**Closing Prayer** Julie Graham said a prayer to close the meeting.

**Adjournment** Diane Dwarka adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.



Patricia Bird, Co-Chair



Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

