

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes
February 4, 2021 via Zoom**

Present	Kwang Beom Cho (Co-Chair), Diane Dwarka (Co-Chair), Valerie Beckingham (Treasurer), Pat Bird, Sandra Rex, John Robertson, Erica Wiebe. A quorum was present.
Corresponding Members	Ken DeLisle (Equity and Diversity Committee), Lynne Sanderson (Committee on Community of Faith Support), Donald Schau (Committee on Lay Ministry Support), Marissa Smirl (YAAY). Lorraine MacKenzie Shepherd and Noel Sumintrado.
Regrets	James DeBeer, Grant Queskekapow.
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
Call to Order	Diane Dwarka opened the meeting at 3:30 PM.
Treaty Land Acknowledgement	Diane Dwarka made the following Treaty Land Acknowledgement for Prairie to Pine Regional Council and invited us to share the territory we are in: <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. We seek to live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.”</i>
Opening Worship	John Robertson gave a reflection on breathing and said a merger prayer.
Agenda	We reviewed the agenda.
033-2020/2021	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 January 7, 2021.
034-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of January 7, 2021, as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING	
Dates for 2021 Virtual Regional Meeting	We had agreed to set the regional meeting on the suggested dates of May 28-30, 2021. The meeting will be a virtual meeting.

035 – 2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council will hold the 2021 Regional Meeting as a virtual meeting on May 28, 2021 to May 30, 2021.

**Official UC
Representation**

Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd and Noel Suministrado joined our meeting to discuss a proposal to name an official United Church representative for ecumenical/interfaith matters in the regional council.

*Loraine Mackenzie
Shepherd*

The discussion began with the following proposal:

- Elect a representative to be an official voice for the United Church that can be contacted for emerging issues, worship services, social justice projects, etc.
- The representative to be responsible to find United Church representatives in each area of the regional council, as need presented.
- The regional council would put together a mailing list of all our ecumenical interfaith partners and let them know who they should contact.

Noel Suministrado

We questioned and discussed why we need to create a new position when we have two Co-Chairs. Is it anticipated that this role would be so demanding that the Chairs would not have time for it?

It was noted that there is no job description for the chairperson(s) of the regional council. If the responsibility of United Church ecumenical/interfaith representation falls to the chairperson(s), then they need a job description which would include a definition of their authority to delegate a representative in their absence.

The proposal further wishes the representative to also dedicate a significant time to building relations.

We believe there are two separate ideas here:

- Official United Church representation
- Community and relationship building with a pro-active stance

When it comes to community and relationship building, we question if just one person can do that for the whole regional council. There is also the issue of geography. When travel is no longer restricted, it doesn't seem ideal for one person to travel around the large distances between rural communities of faith.

Another point of view is that the structure of the regional council is a more fundamental underlying issue that needs to be addressed first. Once we re-evaluate and sort out our structure, we will have a clearer picture to work from. If the co-chairs attend events, they still need a contact person between the cluster and networks in the regional council.

We did not come to a firm decision on this matter during this meeting.

At this time, we agreed that the Co-chairs, Diane Dwarka and Kwang Beom Cho, will represent the regional council until we come up with a final solution.

A group was formed to further discuss this matter, which includes:

- Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd
- Noel Suministrado
- Diane Dwarka
- Kwang Beom Cho
- Shannon McCarthy

Moving toward becoming an anti-racist church

We think it would be helpful to set aside time for conversation around this specific matter. We would like to have someone present from the Equity and Diversity Committee and the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

Correspondence

- Letter from Shawn Sanford (St. Andrew's College) re: Annual meeting
- Letter from Denise Beard re: Winnipeg Respect Forum on March 30
- Email from Don Schau re: LLWL, annual reports

Shawn Sanford – Annual meeting

We will forward this letter to the annual meeting planning committee.

Denise Beard – Winnipeg Respect Forum

We will leave it up to Kwang Beom Cho and Diane Dwarka to see if they can attend this virtual event or find someone to go instead.

Don Schau – LLWL, annual reports

Once LLWL licenses are approved, please make arrangements with Cherry Abad to notify of the approval and send the certificate.

Representatives can visit the website for a summary of the latest regional meeting.

Structure Document

The structure document is a work-in-process and we will bring this matter back when there is an update.

REPORTS

Executive Minister Report

Shannon McCarthy reported.

Harassment and Violence Prevention Response Policy

A complaint was made under the Harassment and Violence Prevention Response Policy but has been withdrawn. A considerable amount of staff time has been used to deal with the situation and there is still work to be done. We are hopeful for a good outcome for everyone involved.

Continuing Education

Executive ministers are meeting monthly with Cameron Trimbald and are reading and discussing three books:

- Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds by Adrienne Maree Brown
- Who Do We Choose To Be? Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity by Meg Wheatley
- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Shannon is also attending Bartimaeus Kinsler Institute 2021: Deepening Practices of Restorative Solidarity, which is taking place online from February 12 to 15, 2021.

Steinbach United Church – Affirming Celebration

We received a request from Steinbach United Church for a staff person of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to attend their affirming celebration on March 14, 2021.

Shannon will confirm if the request was for staff or for a regional council representative.

Monthly Meetings with GC

Executive Ministers and staff leaders are meeting to discuss work in the regional council, any issues we are facing, and what things the General Council can do to support us. They are also discussing how to evaluate the new system:

- Is it working for us?
- How do we make it work?
- What changes need to be made?

FINANCE

There is nothing new to report from finance. Heather Dootoff is preparing for the audit which is scheduled to begin in 12 days.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Pastoral Relations Commission

The Pastoral Relations Commission is preparing for the renewals of appointments and the renewals of licenses for sacraments elders.

We are working on role clarification for the Community Capacity Development Coordinators as they work with clergy and Indigenous communities of faith.

Committee on Community of Faith Support

Lynne Sanderson brought forward the names of communities of faith who have completed their Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support.

036 – 2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation of the Committee on Community of Faith Support to receive, accept, and prepare to celebrate February 17, 2021 by Zoom the completed Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Communities of Faith:

- Harrow United Church
- Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry
- Southwest Interlake

Governance document – Charleswood United Church

Lynne Sanderson brought forward a request for approval on a governance document from Charleswood United Church.

037 – 2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves Charleswood United

Church for continued use of the document titled “Constitution of Charleswood United Church” as amended March 8, 2020 and the flowchart titled “Charleswood United Church Proposed Governance Model”; and that the community of faith be asked in the future to use terms such as “Governance Document” or “Governance Structure” rather than Constitution.

Ash Wednesday

An Ash Wednesday Covenanting service is scheduled for February 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Ashes are encouraged to be prepared in advance for personal use.

**Committee on
Ministry Personnel
Support**

The Committee of Ministry Personnel Support has started their MP2MP Connectors program and they are getting good feedback.

**Equity and Diversity
Task Group**

The Equity and Diversity Task Group held a workshop over two evenings and discussed a number of questions:

- What gifts are we bringing?
- How do we speak?
- How do we decide priorities?
- What do we do about the lack of visible diversity within the committee?

The second evening was focused on conversations on structures and way to separate the work in the action plan.

**Nominations
Committee**

Julie Graham reported for the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is taking on a lot of extra work. The big piece is they are starting is the re-writing of position descriptions to really capture what we are asking people to do. Julie has been connecting with Adele Halliday on how to move past using language that assumes everyone knows what is being said and how we can be clear about what accommodations and supports are available.

We would also really like to get the annual meeting planning committee up and running as soon as possible. The draft job description for the annual meeting planning committee is ready and we are working with Cherry Abad to send out a general call-out via special newsletter focused on grabbing people’s attention.

Further work is being done on a form that can indicate interest to the various openings on the different committees. Work is also being done so that the form can be used to nominate someone else.

**Justice &
Communications**

Julie Graham reported.


The visioning piece with the Equity and Diversity Committee has been an ongoing highlight. Julie has been working on putting together a list of all affirming and in-process ministries and would like to speak further with the Equity and Diversity Committee about having an affirming check-in.

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

- March 4, 2021
- April 1, 2021

Closing Prayer Diane Dwarka read a reflection to close the meeting.

Adjournment Diane Dwarka adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.


Kwang Beom Cho, Co-Chair


Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair


Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

