

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

<b>Present</b>	Kwang Beom Cho (Co-Chair), Diane Dwarka (Co-Chair), Valerie Beckingham (Treasurer), Pat Bird, James DeBeer, Sandra Rex, John Robertson, Erica Wiebe.  A quorum was present.
<b>Corresponding Members</b>	Ken DeLisle (Equity and Diversity Committee), Lynne Sanderson (Committee on Community of Faith Support), Donald Schau (Committee on Lay Ministry Support), Marissa Smirl (YAAY).
<b>Regrets</b>	There were no regrets.
<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>	Diane Dwarka opened the meeting at 3:30 PM.
<b>Treaty Land Acknowledgement</b>	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>
<b>Opening Worship</b>	Sandra Rex read a reflection and we checked in.
<b>Agenda</b>	We reviewed the agenda.
<b>038-2020/2021</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 from February 4, 2021.
<b>039-2020/2021</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of February 4, 2021, as distributed.</b>
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	
<i>Moving Towards Becoming an Anti-Racist Church</i>	Diane Dwarka, Ken DeLisle, Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, Noel Suministrado, and Shannon McCarthy will begin work on becoming an anti-racist church. Diane will call the first meeting date.

*Winnipeg Respect Forum*

Diane Dwarka and Chuck Ross will represent Prairie to Pine Regional Council at the Winnipeg Respect Forum on March 30, 2021.

*Annual Meeting*

The dates for the 2021 Regional Council meeting are May 28-30, 2021.

*Ash Wednesday Service Success*

The Ash Wednesday Service went very well. Thank you to Lynne Sanderson.

**Correspondence**

- Letter from Jeffrey Dale of Shining Waters Regional Council on the decriminalization of illicit substances

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Public Housing – Request from Virginia Platt*

We reviewed a request from Virginia Platt to sign on to a campaign to stop the sale of Manitoba Housing units and instead invest in public housing.

We agreed to share this request in the newsletter and post on the website to encourage congregations to participate in the action of this request.

*Decriminalization of Drugs*

We reviewed a proposal submitted by Jeffrey Dale of Shining Waters Regional Council about co-sponsoring a three-part conversation around the need for the Decriminalization of Illicit Substances for Personal Use across the country. Part of this conversation also includes how The United Church of Canada is involved in harm reduction. The proposal does not include a request for money, and it is not suggesting the regional council take a position on the issue. The regional council would join a space to hear stories and have a conversation about the issue.

We are in favour of this proposal. The co-chairs will work together with Julie Graham to send a response.

**REPORTS**

**Executive Minister Report**

Shannon McCarthy reported.

Executive ministers have been having conversations around assessments and figuring out how to get communities of faith up to the full amount. The majority of communities of faith in Prairie to Pine Regional Council are already close the full assessment amount.

They have been discussing funding principals around the assessment money from General Council will get divided up among the regional councils.

Shannon recently had a meeting with Murray Pruden, Michael Blair, John Thompson, and Teresa Burnett-Cole about creating an Indigenous Region. It won't have the same structure as regional councils and would be overseen by the National Indigenous Council. Indigenous congregations will have to decide if they want to be part of the

Indigenous Region. The National Indigenous Council has all the rights and abilities of a region so there is not a lot of structure that needs to be put in place.

General Council 43 is meeting on March 20, 2021 to decide if General Council will meet face-to-face or have an entirely virtual meeting in 2022.

## **FINANCE**

There is no formal financial report at this time as Heather has not yet received any grant income or information on salaries and benefits from General Council.

The treasurer position description could be reviewed and amended to reflect an updated description of duties and expectations. There have also been conversations on drafting an investment policy for the regional council.

## **PASTORAL RELATIONS**

### **Committee on Community of Faith Support**

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

#### **040 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation from the Committee on Community of Faith Support that Prairie to Pine Regional Council receive, accept, and prepare to celebrate at a future date the completed Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Communities of Faith:**

- Vermillion Bay United Church
- Winnipeg Chinese United Church

### **Committee on Lay Ministry Support**

Donald Schau brought forward two names to be approved as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders.

#### **041 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the licensing of MILLIE LEWIS as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in Prairie to Pine Regional Council, for a term of three years, in accordance with Section I.1.11.5 of The Manual (2021).**

#### **042 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the licensing of PHYLLIS VERBEEK as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in Prairie to Pine Regional Council, for a term of three years, in accordance with Section I.1.11.5 of The Manual (2021).**

### **Structure Document**

We would like each committee to review the structure document and make any revisions necessary to reflect their current vision. We set a deadline of May 6, 2021.

### **Nominations Committee**

Joey Dearborn led us in a discussion about recruiting for commissions, committees, and task groups.

Joey asked us what barriers we found when recruiting for vacant seats. Some points that were made:

- People felt they didn't have the ability, experience, or technical skills
- People are unsure of the time commitment required
- People are unsure of the position description and how their skills match up

Joey asked what methods we found to be effective when recruiting for vacant seats. Some answers we received were:

- Tapping people on the shoulder and asking people directly.
- Most recruitments were from direct contact with someone they know and trust.
- The more meaningful the work is to a particular person, the more energy people seem to have to dedicate to it.

Joey asked what other methods we might use to recruit for vacant seats. Some answers we received were:

- We could compile a 'talent database.'
- The Nominations Committee brings reports to the Executive but could also bring a Request for Nominations, to widen the net of contacts and connections.

*YESEULLYN LEE*

Yeseullyn Lee, from the Korean Church would like to join the Equity and Diversity Committee. She and Ken DeLisle have dialogued through email and he has sent her some documents to inform her of the work. She still wants to join, and Equity and Diversity and Nominating are asking to have her name approved.

**043 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Executive approve YESEULLYN LEE as an additional member of the Prairie to Pine Equity and Diversity Committee, effective immediately.**

Betty Kelly reported.

Prairie to Pine has 14 open seats, plus one spot for one of the co-chairs. They have been asked to name three individuals to a national pool to be drawn from by the General Council Executive for final balancing.

The key issue for Nominations and the Executive is there needs to be a selection process to ensure the 14 individuals provide full balanced representation. The Nominations Committee suggests that they will discern the balanced final slate and recommend it to the Executive, followed by the full Prairie to Pine membership for approval.

**044 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Executive approve the following members of the Prairie to Pine Annual Meeting Planning for the 2021 meeting, effective**

**immediately:**

- Diane Dwarka
- Ken DeLisle
- Abbey Smirl
- Elizabeth Brown

**Justice & Communications**

Julie Graham spoke on the letter from Jeffrey Dale and the request from Virginia Platt earlier in the meeting. Both these requests were agreed upon by the Executive.

**Co-Chairs Report**

The chairpersons of each regional council met with the General Secretary Michael Blair at the end of February. They shared what they have learned since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also talked about the assessment model under the new structure. Prairie to Pine is close to the full assessment amount.

Adele Halliday joined the meeting and asked each regional council to report on where they are on becoming an anti-racist church.

**Next Meeting(s)**

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

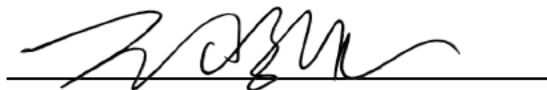
- April 1, 2021
- May 6, 2021
- May 28-30, 2021 (Annual meeting)

**Closing Prayer**

Kwang Beom Cho said a prayer to close the meeting.

**Adjournment**

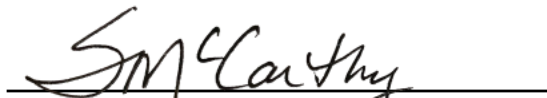
Diane Dwarka adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.



Kwang Beom Cho, Co-Chair



Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

