

# Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting 2022



May 6-7, 2022  
(online meeting)



*Workbook - ROP Volume 1*

IN MEMORIAM . . . *those who have served as ministry personnel*

*Rev. Gary Robert Carruthers*

April 10, 2021

*Rev. Kathryn Thornton*

August 13, 2021

*Rev. George Davidson*

August 16, 2021

*Rev. Douglas Paul Flint*

September 14, 2021

*Rev. Thomas Delgaty*

September 26, 2021

*Rev. Robert Burton*

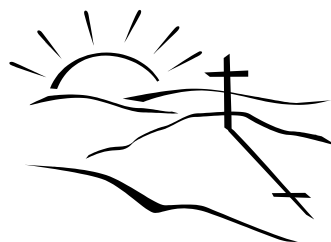
December 24, 2021

*Rev. Denis Thornton*

February 5, 2022

*Rev. William B.F. Corkum*

March 13, 2022



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#### 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ENABLING MOTIONS

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Council meeting be:
    - i. the members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
    - ii. Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council
    - iii. lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by communities of faith. (Manual 2022, C.1.2)
    - iv. members-at-large, lay members within the Regional Council who have been appointed members as necessary for the work of the Regional Council by the Regional Council Executive and who have not been elected by their community of faith.
  2. **Corresponding Members:** that all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this regional council meeting, with voice but not vote.
  3. **The Bounds of the Council:** that the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.
  4. **Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:** that the regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose. (Manual 2022; C.4.3)
  5. **Limits to Debate:** that without the permission of the Council, no member shall speak more than once on any proposal or amendment; and that speeches be limited to two minutes per person on each proposal, except at the discretion of the President.
  6. **Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this Regional Council meeting be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian.
  7. **Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2022 (pages 191-195); and that any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.
  8. **Unfinished Business:** that unfinished business be referred to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive.
  9. **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council be approved as distributed in the online workbook.
  10. **Reports:** that the verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.
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## A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

### **We promise to relate to one another with**

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

### **We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by**

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

### **In our Christian love for one another we will**

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

Today this pilgrimage will lead us to becoming a whole people. With God's help, I will leave behind what I must to make this journey. Thanks be to God.

## HOLY MANNERS

The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
  - each speak for ourselves;
  - speak for a purpose;
  - separate people from problems;
  - allow for full and equitable participation;
  - attend to others carefully without interruption;
  - welcome the conflict of ideas;
  - take a future orientation;
  - demonstrate appreciation;
  - honour the decisions of the body;
  - commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
  - keep the discussion at the table;
  - be mindful of our body language;
  - check in about good use of time;
  - allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
  - sincerely say what we really feel.
-

## MEETING PROCEDURES

*(Numbering in this section is from the 2022 Manual Appendix pg. 191-195  
and only includes sections relevant to this meeting)*

### 3.1 The Chair

The chair keeps a meeting of the council on track and may make rulings on procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

All members must be able to participate fully and comfortably.

Every voting member makes decisions on the basis of their own understanding of scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the council.

Any member of the council may bring to the attention of the chair any concerns about how a motion is being dealt with.

When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the council decides otherwise by a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The chair does not participate in the discussion or vote except in the case of a tie. If the chair wants to express an opinion, then they move aside from the role and ask another member to chair until the matter is disposed of.

### 3.2 How to Conduct a Meeting

#### 3.2.1 Process

A council may set its own process for conducting business. If the council has not set its own process, it follows the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules).

#### 3.2.2 Motions

A council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of a higher council.

A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.

#### 3.2.3 Challenging Rulings

A voting member may challenge a ruling of the chair at the time the ruling is made. The chair restates the ruling and may give reasons. The secretary then calls the vote without any discussion on whether the chair's ruling is sustained.

### 3.3 How to Amend a Motion

When a motion has been made and is open for discussion, any motion to amend must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.

When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the council may deal with the final form of the original motion.

Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.

A motion to amend fails if there is no seconder.

A motion to amend may not change the intention of the original motion.

A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

### **3.5 Motions That Interrupt the Meeting**

At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to

- a) close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- b) fix the time to adjourn;
- c) adjourn;
- d) take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- e) limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- f) postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- g) refer the motion to another body or commission;
- h) amend/change the motion; or
- i) postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specified time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

### **3.6 How to Reconsider a Motion**

A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

Only a voting member who voted “yes” for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.

A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.

The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed.

A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

### **3.7 Additional Procedures**

In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot’s Rules) will be followed.



**OTHER:**

Divide a Motion (seriatim)	This is a request to vote on a motion in parts rather than in total. A seconder is required. If two persons ask, the chairperson <u>must</u> grant the request.
Point of Information	Any person can go to a microphone, interrupt debate and ask for information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is speaking?".
Point of Order	Any person can interrupt to challenge or question procedures. For example, "We didn't vote", or "President, we are debating this motion to table and we shouldn't be."
Point of Privilege	Any person can interrupt debate to raise point of privilege. For example, "Our table group doesn't have copies of this motion" or "Could you please repeat the motion, I didn't hear it."

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### BASIC RULES for DEBATE on PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the Regional Council Meeting, proposals are received for information and consultation by the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. The Committee may make editorial suggestions to the proposing body to promote accurate understanding of the proposal by the people at the Regional Council Meeting. The Committee will communicate these suggestions to the proposing body and the proposing body may, or may not, take the suggestions.

Proposals that are received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be included in the Workbook (ROP Volume I). Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be provided in written form at the Regional Council Meeting.

The proposals will be available in a variety of ways: typed hard copy, via screen sharing, and read aloud at the time of decision-making.

Due to limitations of electronic online meetings any proposals received during the meeting or prior to the listening session one week prior to the meeting will be automatically referred to the Regional Council Executive.

2. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
  - i. The Convenor will indicate which proposal is being dealt with.
  - ii. A representative from the proposing body will be given 3 minutes to present the 'issue' described in the proposal and their proposed action to address the issue (Listening).
  - iii. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.
  - iv. All proposals will be 'Listened to' before discussion happens.

- v. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
- vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the Monday immediately prior to the constituted meeting of the Regional Council and a motion will be brought forth in the decision making time based on the feedback and according to the following:

*If the Regional Council is the Council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.*

*If the General Council is the court of action:*

- a. The Regional Council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- b. *If it agrees*, it passes the proposal to the General Council.
- c. *If it does not agree*, it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.
- d. The Regional Council may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.

*If the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to General Council only if there is a compelling reason. (2022 Manual, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d))*



## REPORT of THE MODERATOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



**The Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott**  
*Moderator, The United Church of Canada*

### **Transcript from the Moderator's 2022 Welcome Video to Regional Council**

Hello to all of you gathered for this meeting of the Regional Council. Grace and peace and hope and love to you, from me, and from the rest of The United Church of Canada – in Jesus' name!

So much is going on, isn't it?

As the church, as the wider community of Canada, and as people of the world, we continue to try and understand what changes have been wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, by economic hardships, by changing social and political structures, by war, by climate disaster, and by... more. It's not an easy world to understand – and it's not always easy to articulate, or live out, our responses to everything that is happening.

And yet, as communities of faith made up of amazing individuals of every age and stage and place of life, you're doing that work. As people of deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice, you are connecting with God, with your neighbour, with your world – and working in hope for the healing of creation.

With everything that has happened, everything that is happening now, and the future that is coming, you are helping the church to truly be the body of Christ – in whatever shape and configuration it's going to take in this day and this age.

As this is my last opportunity to bring greetings to your Regional Council as your Moderator, I'd like to close by saying this – thank you, so very much, for being who you are.

Christ's peace IS with you, Beloved Community. Now. Always.

Alleluia!

Alleluia, amen.

Salutations à vous toutes et tous qui êtes réunis à cette assemblée du conseil régional. De ma part et de la part de toute l'Église Unie du Canada, puissent la grâce et la paix, l'espérance et l'amour être avec vous au nom de Jésus!

Il y a tant de choses qui surviennent n'est-ce pas?

En tant qu'Église, en tant que membres de l'ensemble de la communauté canadienne, en tant que citoyennes et citoyens du monde, nous nous efforçons de prendre toute la mesure des changements profonds qu'ont générés la pandémie de COVID-19, les difficultés économiques, les transformations des structures sociales et politiques, la guerre, le désastre climatique, toutes choses associées à bien d'autres facteurs. Le monde actuel est difficile à comprendre et il n'est souvent pas aisé de répondre de façon pertinente et engagée à tout ce qui se passe.

Et pourtant, en tant que communautés de foi constituées de personnes remarquables, de tous âges, étapes et milieux de vie, vous accomplissez cette tâche. En tant que gens animés par une spiritualité profonde, dans une vie de disciple dynamique et pour une quête audacieuse de justice, vous êtes intimement reliés à Dieu, à votre prochain, à notre monde, en œuvrant avec espérance pour la guérison de la création.

Dans tout ce qui s'est passé dernièrement, dans tout ce qui survient actuellement, et dans tout ce qui advient, vous contribuez à faire de l'Église le véritable corps du Christ, quelles que soient la forme ou la configuration qu'elle prendra en cette heure et en cette époque.

Alors que c'est la dernière fois que j'adresse mes salutations à votre conseil régional à titre de modérateur, je souhaite conclure ainsi : merci, merci infiniment d'être les personnes que vous êtes.

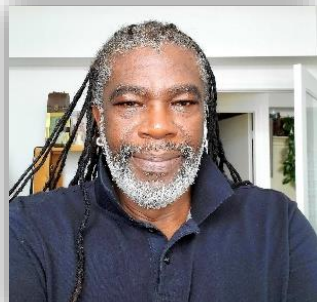
La paix du Christ EST avec vous, communauté bien-aimée. Maintenant, et pour toujours.

Alléluia!

Alléluia, amen.

Richard Bott,  
43<sup>rd</sup> Moderator of The United Church of Canada

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**Rev. Michael Blair**  
***General Secretary, The United Church of Canada***

Members of the regional council:

***Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship and daring justice.***

Let me add my greetings to that of the Moderator, along with of those of my staff colleagues in the General Council Office. We are grateful for the opportunity and privilege to be co-partners with you in the work and ministry of this church of ours, and we continue to nudge each other in our desire to live authentically as the beloved community of Jesus.

Here are a few highlights from our ministry since my last report.

### **Governance**

The General Council Executive has had the opportunity to serve four years in the role due to the postponement of the 44th General Council. This past quadrennium has allowed the Executive to deepen its understanding of its role in the new structure of the church. It has certainly been a learning process. Over the course of its mandate the Executive has met over 21 times, not including monthly learning and discussion sessions. Some of the work before the Executive has been challenging and has resulted in some difficult decision making.

As the Executive continues to live with integrity into the Caretakers' [Calls to the Church](#), it has prioritized its work of developing and deepening its relationship with the Indigenous Church. One tangible way it has been seeking to embody the call is to invite the National Indigenous Elders Council to accompany the work of the Executive. At each meeting of the Executive, an Elder is present to walk with the Executive. In the ongoing work of healing, the Executive approved \$3 million as a starting point to support communities impacted by the legacies of residential schools in [Bringing the Children Home](#). The Moderator and I have been meeting with Chiefs and Councils of the various communities to walk in a good way.

In September 2021, the Executive affirmed the new **Call and Vision for the Church**—Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice—and forwarded it to the Annual Meeting of the 43rd General Council for approval. We are engaging in a process of animating the Call and Vision across the church. A team of staff and elected members is working on this process. Resources for the [Call and Vision](#) can be found online.

As the church continues to live into its commitment to being an antiracist denomination, the Executive approved the [Antiracism Action Plan](#) in November 2021.

The Executive and General Secretary have forwarded a number of proposals to the 44th General Council aimed at strengthening our collective ministry, including **GCE06** Ministry Leadership to meet the needs of the church in the 2020s; **GCE04** Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, asking that we approach this from a lens of principles rather than policy; **GCE07** the implementation of a Captive Insurance Program with a move to set up an insurance company to help communities of faith deal with rising insurance costs; and **GS08** Climate Justice, seeking to booster the work of the [Faithful Footprints](#) program and renew the church's commitment to the reduction of emissions by 80 percent by 2030.

### **Management**

Transition continues to be a reality for the work of the General Council Office. Three key areas of transition are staffing, strategic planning, and the future of work.

### **Staffing**

This past year a number of staffs have retired, including the *Rev. Dr. John Young*, Executive Minister for Theological Leadership; *Ms. Catherine Rodd*, Executive Officer Communications; and the *Rev. Dr. Jenny Stephens*, Coordinator – Office of Vocation. We also said goodbye to *Ms. Sue Fortner*, Executive Assistant to the Moderator and General Secretary. *Ms. Cynthia Gunn*, who has served as Legal Counsel for over 26 years, will also be retiring this summer. We have been grateful for the gifts of the staff that have joined the team. As the church seeks to take seriously its commitment to becoming an antiracist church rooted in equity, and with the learnings from the pandemic, we have been able to recruit a fairly diverse group of staff. We welcomed the *Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu* as the Executive Minister – Church in Mission; *Ms. Sarah Charters* to the role of President of The United Church of Canada Foundation and Executive Officer – Philanthropy; the *Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball* to the role of Executive Minister – Theological Leadership; *Ms. Nicole Treksler* as Legal Counsel; *Ms. Marlene Britton* as Team Lead, Policy and Programs for Ministry Personnel (Office of Vocation); *Ms. Jennifer Henry* as Senior Program Development and Strategy Lead; and *Ms. Carol Owegi* as Bilingual Executive Assistant to the Moderator and General Secretary. We are grateful to the gifts these folks bring to the team.

### **Strategic Plan**

We are working on the implementation of the strategic plan and its five objectives: Nurture the Common Good, Strengthen Invitation, Invigorate Leadership, Embolden Justice, and Deepen Integrity.

A transition team has been working diligently to create the operational plan that will further the five strategic objectives. Staff teams in each objective area are developing multi-year initiatives for all three years of the plan (2022–2025) as well as developing plans (activities, resources, objectives, and key results) for year one. The third stream includes reviewing existing work and functions, including an external audit of communications and of EDGE, and an internal process being undertaken by the senior managers. While this transition to centralized and aligned planning is challenging and we pursue opportunities in culture change, we are on track and making good progress.

**Future of Work**

Beginning September 1, 2022, the General Council Office will be operating as a fully hybrid workspace. Staff roles are classified as either *Essential, Flexible, Remote, or Deployed*. Historically, going to the office to work was the primary way of understanding the workplace. We are proposing to change the office paradigm from “workspace” to “collaboration and meeting space.” We need to shift our thinking from a set number of hours in the office to planned events and connecting opportunities. This will be an intentional time for the office as it seeks to imagine new ways of working collaboratively in a more disperse environment. Management is committed to learning from this way of working as we look to designing and planning for the new offices to be located at 300 Bloor Street (in partnership with Bloor Street United Church), which will be open at the end of 2025.

Thank you for all you do and your place in the Beloved Community.

So, be bold, Beloved.

Be brave, Beloved.

Be blessed, Beloved.

**REPORT – REGION COUNCIL EXECUTIVE CO-CHAIRS**

**Diane Dwarka**  
*Chair*



**Patricia Bird**  
*Chair*

During this past year, the work of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council has continued to grow as we learn more about how to connect and work with each other. COVID has required us to become more and more proficient in online technology, but we have also worked hard to create and encourage lines of communication between the Communities of Faith and the Regional Council and between Communities of Faith themselves. It has not been an easy year as most of us had to continue with electronic interactions. Many communities and individuals cannot participate fully due to lack of electronic devices, poor internet connection and a need for help in navigating the increasing online requirements.

The Regional Council Executive met monthly throughout this year. We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting and the chance to come together again to talk, celebrate and remember who we have been as part of this United Church faith community.

Some of the highlights for us this year have been:

### **Celebrations**

Attending the **Ordination Service for Eleanor Thompson** in Bunibonibee First Nation (Oxford House); the **Commissioning of Sam Ross** at Pimicikamak First Nation (Cross Lake) this fall. Both services were under the authority of the National Indigenous Council (NIC) and represent the first services led by NIC in Canada.

Officiating at a service celebrating the **Admission to the Order of Ministry** of the United Church of Canada of **Rev. Christopher St. George** at Victoria United Church, Melita.

Officiating at a service celebrating the **Ordination to the Order of Ministry** of the United Church of Canada **Susan Irene McIlveen** at Churchill Park United, Winnipeg. In gratitude we celebrate Life, Blessings, and Ministry.

**We Are All Treaty People Celebration 2021:** We attended a ceremony at the Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest, St. John's Park, Winnipeg which included a Welcoming Ceremony, a Pipe and Water Ceremony. Elder Teachings from The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, a feast, a giveaway' and a Closing Ceremony.

As your co-chairs, it was an honour to represent our Regional Council at these events.

**Structure Document:** we have been part of a task group working on updating and completing our Regional Council's Structure Document. This document will provide a standardized format of Purpose, Responsibility, Meeting requirements and Accountability as well as skill and time commitments needed for all positions and committees of the Regional Council.

It will be a helpful document for those seeking or holding a volunteer position.

**Land Acknowledgement:** Thanks to those who worked on producing a new Land Acknowledgement which is currently being used at our meetings and on our website. We recognize that Land Acknowledgements are not intended to be a static statement and we will continue to challenge and change our words and actions as we continue toward reconciliation and justice.

**Truth and Reconciliation:** A small group is exploring our role in carrying forward the work of Truth and Reconciliation. We are aware this will be a long, ongoing commitment for continued education, understanding and actions required as we seek the way to reparations and resurgence of important rights and relationships. We need to keep reminding ourselves of the need to unite as human beings.

Working towards becoming an **Anti Racist** and an **Intercultural** Church This is ongoing work which each of us must engage in for this goal to become a reality.

**General Council 44:** **Who Do You Say I am?** is the theme for this General Council, the longest in the history of the UCC. The meeting was constituted on February 13, 2022 and will culminate with the Closing Worship and Installation of the new Moderator on August 07, 2022. There are 14 commissioners and four alternates from this region who are participating in learning sessions and decision-making sessions.



**The Committees and Commissions Work:** We thank the Pastoral Relations Commission, the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support, the Committee on Community of Faith Support and the Committee on Lay Support, the Property Commission, the Equity and Diversity Committee, and the Nominating Committee for their tireless work.

**Staff:** a huge “thank you” to Shannon McCarthy, Judy Hare, Julie Graham, Twila MacNair, Jamie McKay, Cherry Abad, and Heather Dootoff for their ongoing work.

It feels like this year has gone by much too quickly. possibly, not fast enough for others. This time of reflection is so important in allowing us to take stock of what we have done, what we have lost or gained and what is still to be done.

We have enjoyed our time as co-chairs and have each benefited from a supportive, collegial partnership with great communication and a common goal for the well being of this Regional Council.

In closing, we are all fellow travellers on a road to self discovery and understanding. We need each other to walk beside and help carry loads that are too much for individuals. Only through love and understanding can we be the joyful noise that this world needs.

*Diane Dwarka and Patricia Bird*

*Co-chairs*

*Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive*

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## REPORT of the OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER



**Karen Medland**  
*Office of Vocation Minister*  
*Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and*  
*Prairie to Pine Regions*

Hi my name is Karen Medland and I am the Minister for the Office of Vocation working in Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions. Well, another year has passed in our ministry together during these strange times.

As your Office of Vocation Minister, I feel blessed to serve with you all in this work, trying to support you in any way I can. We continue to see people responding to the call from God to ministry which keeps the candidacy board busy.

We have at present 38 candidates and inquirers within the three regions that I support. Out of that number we expect to see 8 be commissioned, ordained, or recognised sometime this year, which gives me great hope for the church as we look to the future. If you or someone you know is interested in serving in paid accountable ministry please contact the Office of Vocation where you will be directed to an Office of Vocation Minister for assistance.

Some of you may already be aware that I am moving on from this role and joining Chinook Winds Region as the Pastoral Relations Minister. It has been a great honour to serve you all over the last three years and I pray that your ministries continue to show the love of God in the world to all who encounter them.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rev. Dr Karen Medland*

*Office of Vocation Minister for Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions*

[kmedland@united-church.ca](mailto:kmedland@united-church.ca)



**GUEST SPEAKER****Dr. Stewart L. Hill**

Dr. Stewart Hill received a doctorate at the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba in 2021, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in natural resources and environmental management. He currently works as a Senior Research and Policy Analyst at the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), the Manitoba northern Chiefs organization. Dr. Hill is from the God's Lake First Nation and was born and raised in northern Manitoba at God's Lake and speaks his Cree language fluently. His PhD thesis researched and asserted Indigenous governance over land and water in the traditional territory of his home community of God's Lake First Nation, that has implications for all First Nations, using Indigenous methodologies. Dr. Hill has over thirty (30) years experience providing research, writing, technical and analytical services for First Nations, government, academia and non-governmental organizations in the field of natural resources, environmental and lands management.



## PROFILE- RETIREES



**Lynda Trono**

My twice daily ministry of cleaning the port-a-potty outside West Broadway at the beginning of the pandemic. A variation on foot washing.

### **“Love in practice is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams.”**

This is what Father Zosima says to the youngest Karamazov brother, Alyosha, in Dostoyevsky’s classic, The Brothers Karamazov. Not that I have read the book. I just read the quote. I feel like I’ve been living that quote for the past 10 years at West Broadway Community Ministry. (Now 1JustCity)

I often joke with people who ask what I do and say, “I get paid to love people.” And I guess I do. Love in practice is not easy when you are face to face with the consequences of the political decision to sanction poverty. Those consequences are broken human beings and sometimes they are hard to love. How do love the guy who kicks over the tables at the back of the drop-in because someone stole his boots? Or the one who throws a cup of tea at you? Or the many who seek constant attention because no one ever sees them?

The work of love means finding a way through a sea of demands - for help, for attention, for bus tickets, for a letter, for a loaf of bread, for just a little favour, to just use the washroom. I empathize with the Levite who passed by the wounded man on the road to Jericho. Maybe he had already helped 9 others and just wanted to get home for supper. Maybe it was dreadful to have to walk by.

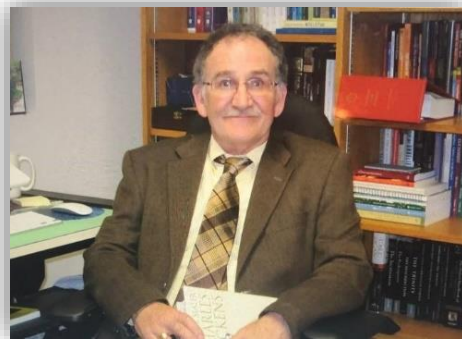
All that said, there were many many who were easy to love, who inspired me with their resilience, their generosity, their desire to give back to the community. Love can be harsh and dreadful but also very beautiful. And always meaningful. This work of love was the ongoing project of a whole community of volunteers, staff and partner churches. Without them there would be no ministry. I am so grateful to have been a part of that.

I give thanks for 15 amazing years working with this Conference, travelling from Flin Flon to Marathon and meeting all kinds of hardworking faith-filled people. The Communication, Education and Justice Committee and the YAAY committee were great to work with and we pulled off some exciting initiatives together. It was a delight to serve St. Mary's Road UC for 2 1/2 years - a chance to be in a community of imaginative and dedicated people. For a warm loving space to come home to over the years, I am thankful to Alan Doerksen to whom I was once married but who will never be an "x". And to my son Joel who continues to amaze me with his words on behalf of the marginalized.

I am grateful for the diaconal community, my wonderful friends, colleagues and allies in the work of love and justice. And I celebrate the multi-faith community that I got to know and appreciate over the years, who deepened my understanding of the Holy.

I am filled with gratitude for this United Church of ours. I have never felt alone in this work of love. You were always there. When I had to walk by the 10th person on the road to Jericho, I knew there would be some good person coming behind me to help out. You were always there, holding signs on the steps of the Leg, writing letters, sending donations, teaching children that Jesus cared especially for those in poverty. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Lynda Trono*



**Laird Russell-Yearwood**

The church is not a community gathered around a minister, but a community of many ministries where that part of God's family, known as the Body of Christ, come together for the worthy work that is worship. At worship the community enters intentionally into the presence of the living God (we are all of us called upon to check our egos at the door) so as to enable us to truly glorify God and enjoy God forever. For myself I would sum up my understanding of ministry with two words: faithfulness and presence, everything else flows from these.

*Shalom*  
*Laird Russell-Yearwood*

**REPORTS –PROGRAM STAFF**

**Erin Acland**  
*Keeper of the Archives*



While researching reference requests, I frequently access past ROPs. They offer great snapshots of the activities and the ethos of yesteryear. The topics that dominated conversation and business for years, if not decades, can be pretty inspiring and interesting and embarrassing and shameful. As I write my third pandemic-era staff report, I'm struck by the reality that in one hundred years an archivist, knowledge keeper, or researcher, may very well come across this ROP and say, "huh, Covid, that was still a thing?" Yes, future reader, it very much is still going on.

Every year that I've worked for the Church has been a busy year, and this year is no different. For much of the year, I worked both on-site at the University of Winnipeg and from home. There were long stretches where UW's Covid Policy limited my access to the Archives to only one or two days a week, and a few months where I had nearly unlimited access. I can do much of my job sitting in front of a computer, but many central aspects of my work require me to physically access the records. My days on-site were particularly eventful as I rushed to get done everything that could only be done on-site.

In-person research was extremely limited all year, and only two people accessed the Archives in-person. It was exciting to have them there. While I have constant requests coming in via email and phone, it was lovely to see actual people dive into the records. It was a good reminder of one of the reasons why I love this job. These records matter. They help people tell their story.

**Reference and Archival Accessions**

In 2021, I received 315 archival requests. While I received fewer requests than in pre-Covid times, reference continues to take up the majority of my time. Balancing the needs of users with the other functions required in my work continues to be a struggle. 248 requests were for reference assistance, and 67 requests were for records management help or discussions about donations and transfers of records to the Archives.

I continued to discourage most archival donations this year unless the records were in danger. I have a backlog of accessioning to do for the last two years.

**University of Winnipeg**

My UW update is virtually unchanged from last year. Discussions continue with the University of Winnipeg about the future management and stewardship of the Archives. A Stewardship Agreement has

been drafted and was reviewed by leadership within the Church, and is currently under review by the UW.

Work continues on the UW Library and Archive's massive revitalization and remodeling project.

The staff of the UW Archives and myself have biweekly staff meetings to stay connected professionally and socially during this time of mostly being apart.

### **Grants**

The Archives received \$10,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage: Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations under the Museums Assistance Program.

### **DUCC**

I am a part of the Diakonia of the United Church of Canada's Archives Committee. It is an active committee, we've co-hosted Archives webinars for DUCC members and friends, while continuing to co-create the DUCC Archives.

### **Indigenous Collections Research Guide**

As part of our on-going work to make our records more known and accessible to Indigenous communities and people, I created a Research Guide. This guide briefly lists and describes all 139 archival collections that were created by, or about, Indigenous communities and peoples. Communities and geographic areas named in records were listed in the guide, as well as some keywords and subject areas.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives*

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**Julie Graham**  
***Regional Minister: Justice and Communications***



It is a gift to be in continued community with the people and ministries of Prairie to Pine, after another year of meeting and greeting you virtually. I still long for that happy day when I can meet many more of you in person. Please don't ever hesitate to be in touch: [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca) and via my home office- please ask the office for that number.

Many of you will remember that as we gathered at last year's annual meeting, news came from the Tk'emlúpsenc First Nation in Kamloops that confirmation of unmarked burials at the residential "school" had been announced. That confirmation of decades of survivor testimony was both devastating and a moment for renewed commitment to the Calls to Action, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Church Apologies, the Caretakers' Calls to the Church, and more. Those commitments have shaped a lot of my work over the past year, and I have been grateful to work alongside many in these Regional Council and beyond as we try to renew and live into our responsibilities.

**Right relations** ([Click here for the web page](#)).

Throughout the year I have tried to hold priority on promoting any Indigenous-led learning spaces. Orange Shirt Day was a top priority and kept us very busy with resources, news, and events, as it will again in 2022. June, Indigenous History Month, against faced the limitations of COVID.

I continue to follow up with cemetery and unmarked burials working groups, notably Brandon, and thankful to them for all they've taught me.

A significant piece for elder Grant Queskekapow, co chairs Diane Dwarka and Pat Bird, right relations advocate Irene Greenwood, and myself has been the request for a Survivors Circle Norway House, MB. Elder Grant has given us instructions, support, and guidance as we put together a group of people who will be ready to attend in person or online listening circles for the survivors of the residential school the United Church ran in Norway House. I thank this group, and those we approached, for their patient and persistent work as we try to discern how to carry a number of sacred responsibilities.

This has also pushed us to begin identifying who in the Region is interested in working on right relations generally, and to look at some of the blocks to the work created unintentionally in the restructuring. This conversation might lead us into looking at right relations governance and better connection with Clusters (and more encouragement for them to form.) This all remains a pressing and complex need.

Finally, I want to deeply thank the circle that brought the Region to a new land recognition. [Please see our new\(ish\) resource page](#). I continue to work with others on offering land acknowledgement learning spaces for all our communities of faith.

**Affirming** ([Click here for the web page](#)).

I am staff support to the Equity and Diversity Committee. In November we held what seems to be the first (in recent memory) Affirming ministries support gathering. Currently the committee is planning to take leadership for a session in Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble's Kitchen Sink series. And of course, last year 500 people gathered on YouTube for our Affirming celebration, followed by rainbow dessert and coffee on Zoom. See below for another Equity and Diversity project. Special thanks to past co-chair Ken DeLisle and to chair Jamie Miller for all their persistent guidance, humour, and commitment to radical hospitality, and to the entire committee.



**Intercultural** ([Click here for the web page](#)). The Western Intercultural Network continues its work, which includes Damber Khadka and Bill Millar as Prairie to Pine members on the executive. More P2P people are always welcome! The Network will not hold a fall 2022 event, instead taking another break from big online events. However, it will continue with at least quarterly open, 90 minute intercultural “coffee/ chai” learning and conversation events. I maintain the Network list and send out occasional updates, and feel privileged to be part of this vibrant and diverse group of leaders. I also presented on this network at a national staff gathering.

**Anti-racism:** This is a denomination-wide commitment that will soon have a public action plan in which we can all join. I continue to be part of discussion with national staff about coordinating anti-racism networking with Regional Councils, and accessing lists of people who have done Sessions 3 and 4 of the national training and could be leaders for us. I am part of the facilitation team for the national training, and am supporting the Equity and Diversity Committee as we begin some exciting discernment and planning about the possibility of a Regionally contextual racial justice training for our whole Regional Council.

**Other justice networking:** Housing as a human right; Guaranteed Livable Income; Palestine; Faithful Footprints and For the Love of Creation, both climate change related: these are all areas in which PtoP people are active. In March we held a three-Region refugee supporters and sponsors check in concerning the national refugee sponsorship program, with national staff Khwaka Kukubo. This included a focus on COVID impacts; Afghanistan; and LGBTQ refugees. From time to time I am also drawn in to General Council related justice work and network conversations and projects.



**Community-building:** Snow and Ice Art. ([Click here for the web page](#)).

This COVID winter we launched a three-Region Love Your Neighbour ice art and snow sculpture initiative. The Committee on Community of Faith Support gave its blessing and off we went, with a good number of Prairie to Pine Communities of Faith joining in with sculpting, ice art, media coverage, and lots of great photos. My follow up has not been as extensive as I'd like; I am hoping to be in touch with all registrants to see if we should do this again, and to thank them for brightening a hard winter. (Left: Rosser, Waskada, Fort Garry, and St Mary's Rd United Churches!)

**Networks and Clusters** ([Click here for the web page](#)).

A summary of all known Networks and Clusters in each Regional Council is posted, thanks to lots of shared work and sleuthing. This area of work is a COVID and restructuring related struggle for many across the church, and Clusters especially continue to have a hard time getting up and running. Conversations with justice-focused Clusters have raised the concern that many find our governance confusing, and don't know who is allowed or encouraged to speak for the church.

**Nominating Committee support:** It has been a privilege to work more closely with this dynamic group, and to see again and again how to they respond to the challenging reality of communications networks that were seriously disrupted by the restructuring. We have focused on regular newsletter and [website communication](#), and on job descriptions, invitations, two renewed forms for expressions of interest and evaluation, and other tools that help explain the wide range of needs and opportunities available to the people of this Region. The committee has also developed a form that allows more detailed self or other nominations, and an impressive tracking system. I remain in awe of the scope and detail of their work.

**Communications**

**Newsletters:** This continues to be a lot of vital weekly work, especially for fearless editor Cherry Abad, who works with the mountain of content that comes in, maintains the website archive, and works with new subscribers. I am so grateful for her work. This year, we began an experiment that will run through June and will give our 1,000 plus subscribers a chance to evaluate: We split the newsletter into alternating News and Events, in an effort to narrow down the focus and both the amount and scope of the content. Thank you to the meeting of ministry personnel who gave me some good advice on what works and doesn't, and to others who have written in with constructive feedback; we welcome this as we continue to adapt to our new structures.

**Events:** For two years we have all set sail on a sea of online events that occasionally builds to a tidal wave. This is both amazing and occasionally overwhelming for everyone. I have prioritised working with the newsletters team (Cherry, Bev and Kathy) to promote events and workshops that: have Indigenous leadership/ are focused on right relations; are Affirming; or intercultural; or anti-racism focused; focus on anti-poverty or climate justice; or reflect Regional initiatives and concerns such as housing. Generally we priority-promote first Regional, and then General Council, ecumenical, and national/ regional KAIROS events. Please remember that community of faith events has a dedicated calendar and event posting form- click here to see it.

**Website** troubleshooting and development are always ongoing, and the Prairie to Pine site in particular has had a number of systemic problems. As of February 2022 these have been mostly resolved, which I hardly dare write. Keeping the site up to date is a priority for Cherry and me, and having a look at the homepage or [main newsfeed](#) regularly is good for your health. Many thanks to Cherry and to YAAY-er extraordinaire Elizabeth Kenyon for all their posting.

**Media:** Lots of community coverage that I track and post to our Facebook page. I have worked with Brenda Suderman at the Free Press on a couple of items, as has Shannon. Thank you to those who sit on the Free Press interfaith advisory group and try to keep faith-based reporting front of mind.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Julie Graham, Regional Minister: Justice and Communications for  
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.*



**Judy Hare**  
***Pastoral Relations Minister***

On the internet you can google “word of the year” with varying results. For me the word describing this past year would be “pivoting” or “adapting” (hard to choose one). It seemed we all reached a point where we didn’t dare plan too far ahead because when we even tried, something happen that required modification or major change. But despite the constant state of flux we found ourselves in, the volunteers on the committees and commission that work with on a regular basis, the Ministry Personnel, Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and Sacraments Elders who support ministry with members and adherents within the roughly 160 pastoral charges in Prairie to Pine Regional Council, never gave up hope. There were times of low energy and activity, when breaks were needed and taken, and times of creativity when new way of doing and of being were tolerated or even embraced. We changed our patterns and means of communicating, bridging distances in through technology and the Regional Council changed its physical location in December 2021, moving to share space with the staff at the Centre for Christian Studies at Woodsworth House on Maryland Street in Winnipeg.

This past year has been one where I have continued to connect with colleagues in the Regional Councils and General Council staff doing work in the area of pastoral relations and/or community of faith support every month or two, way more frequently than in pre-pandemic times. All staff including all those working through the General Council Office or one of the sixteen Regional Council Offices are invited into ZOOM meetings a few times per year so that we can become more familiar with one another’s work and the overall work of the denomination and get to put faces to names of people we have occasion to talk with for work purposes. This is something we would not have had the opportunity to do pre-

pandemic. Our tri-regional council pastoral relations/office of vocation staff met monthly online and the full staff complement of Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regional Council met a few times per year.

Some things are swinging back slowly toward the ways they used to be pre-pandemic, but just like the reality that this virus will be something we learn to live with, some things may never return to the way they were, having discovered options that can inform the ways we go ahead. Timely communications still remain one of the significant challenges in this “connected” world and church where not everyone has the same access to technology and its many platforms and mediums. To that end, as the Regional Council moved to more focused presentation of Weekly News (one week focused exclusively on events and the next on news), I introduced an email bulletin called “*Crucial Clips*” to be sent quarterly to active Ministry Personnel and Pastoral Charge Supervisors with information necessary for the functioning of communities of faith and ministry personnel and updates on the work of the various committees and commissions.

As communities of faith/pastoral charges begin to take stock of what ministry will look like going forward, the Pastoral Relations Commission hosted a zoom conversation on January 29, 2022 about the need for and nature of collaborative ministry at this juncture in our history. There was a level of excitement as people were encouraged to think about different potential partners that might enable and enrich mission and ministry and their part in it, especially in places where only part time or no ordered ministry leadership has been accessible and more has been desired. It was our hope that that conversation was the beginning of many more conversations sparked locally, but the Pastoral Relations Commission, the Committee on Community of Faith Support and I continue to discern the role we would play in initiating, facilitating and supporting those next step conversations. I would be happy to share the resources from that January event with anyone who was not able to be present or discuss the next steps. Some decisions before the Commissioners at General Council 44 may impact the flexibility in the ministry options that we have going forward.

The Regional Council Annual meeting this year is a bit earlier than usual and pastoral relations was not able to “pivot” or “adapt” some of our processes and timelines to enable the provision of some information or reports that you might usually have as part of the Annual Meeting or the Workbook. In the absence of the Pastoral Relations Commission Status update, I offer the following comments for your consideration:

- 66 non-Indigenous Communities of Faith representing 53 different Pastoral Charges have Pastoral Charge Supervisors: six communities of faith representing five of those pastoral charges have supervisors because they have Candidates under appointment (Atikokan; Oak Lake-Griswold; Roblin; Keewatin: St. Andrew’s & Lake of the Woods Chapel, Sioux Narrows) three pastoral charge have supervisors because they have ministers from other denominations in the Admissions process under appointment (Rock Lake; Fort Frances-Knox: Pembina Parish) and of those eight communities of faith, seven pastoral charges have supervisors as part of a Collaborative Ministry Arrangements with another pastoral charge (Service Agreement: Rainy River -Stratton; Alexander; Minto; Brookdale; Dugald; Ninette; Gilbert Plains).
- There are four pastoral charges with retired ministry personnel under appointment in 2021-2022 while they are in the profile/search process (Steinbach, Niverville; Roland; Miami); eighteen communities of faith representing 15 pastoral charges with retired ministers

in appointment **renewed regularly who are NOT currently in a search process** (Flin Flon; Lakeside: Ste. Rose; Hillsideview; Forrest; Reston-Pipestone; Souris; Central-Brandon; Graysville; Broadway Disciples ; Cartwright; Prairie Vision; Clandeboye-Winnipeg Beach; Glenboro; Little Britain; Warren-Meadow Lea).

- **There are 36 communities of faith representing 27 pastoral charges who are completely reliant on lay volunteers (including sacraments elders) and rotational pulpit supply with the support of pastoral charge supervisor who are NOT currently in a profile/search process (Lay-Led by the definition): Anola; Birtle-Miniota; Cadurcis; Circle Marsh (3); Cloverdale; Cromer-Hargrave; Rossendale; Southwest Interlake(3); The Pas: Northminster; Treherne-Rathwell; Vermillion Bay; Wallace; West Hawk Lake; Winnipeg: Chinese United Church; Newdale-Cardale; Northwest Interlake (2); Oak River; Ochre River; Pine Falls; Pine River; Elgin; Elkhorn; Ethelbert; Kenton-Shiloh; Thompson Lutheran United; Snow Lake Anglican United; Red Lake Anglican United).**
- There are a few pastoral charges with pastoral charge **supervisors reliant on local or rotational leadership** who have been in **profile/search process for less than a year** (Kenora; McKenzie-Portage; Wawanesa- Brandon Hills; Gordon King Memorial United Church; Hartney-Lauder) or longer than a year (Rivers; Swan River: St. Andrew's; Valley (3); MacGregor; Manitou-La Riviere; Gladstone; Holland.
- On July 01, 2021, Prairie to Pine had **163 non-Indigenous Communities of faith organized into 140 Pastoral Charges**; 18 or 19 Indigenous Communities of Faith/Outreach Ministries.
- Since July 1, 2021, there have been two communities of faith disbanded and seven in conversations around disbanding or amalgamations.
- **Non- Indigenous Ministry Statistics:** We currently have 50 Ministry Personnel in Fulltime equivalent Calls/Appointments (five of those through Collaborative Ministry Arrangement with more than one charge; four Ministers from other denominations in the Admissions process or other; three Ministers from other denominations serving in Ecumenical Shared Ministry settings (Pinawa; Morris; Neepawa).
- We have 34 Ministry Personnel in part-time appointments serving 39 Pastoral Charges (of those 5 are Candidates for ministry and 20 are retired Ministry Personnel).
- The 84 Ministry Personnel in all Calls/appointments include people with the following designations: 1 Candidate for Diaconal ministry; 2 candidates for Designated Lay Ministry; 2 Candidates for Ordained Ministry; six Designated Lay Ministers (some re-engaged pensioners); 9 Diaconal Ministers (some re-engaged pensioners); 57 Ordained UCC Ministers (some re-engaged pensioners) and seven ministers from other denominations. These numbers may be off by one or two.

- We currently have eight pastoral charges with one or more positions approved for Congregational Designated Ministers working in team with ministers in Call/appointment (Winnipeg: United Church in Meadowood; Westminster; Transcona Memorial; Trinity; Dryden: First United; Roland United Church; Trinity: Portage La Prairie; Kenora; Knox).
- We currently have around 55 non-Indigenous Ministry Personnel who are collecting United Church Pension or are not appointed in pastoral charge who are in **formal association relationships** with communities of faith/pastoral charges enabling them to exercise the functions of ministry throughout the Regional Council.

Our statistics related to Indigenous Ministries and Ministers are not currently as accurate as they could or maybe should be, hampered by the absence of a staff person in the role of Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Keewatin Circle. Our thanks to Gloria Cook and Rick Hebert who held this position at various times this past year and our prayers that the search currently underway will result in the appointment of a new CCDC soon.

The ministry that I continue to be enriched by and challenged within as part of the staff of Prairie to Pine Regional Council of this United Church of ours would not be possible without the Administrative Assistance provided by Cherry Abad and the partnering with so many volunteers who serve on committees, commissions and governing bodies of the Regional Council and the communities of faith /pastoral charges. I am grateful for the time, experience and skills they willingly share and all they continue to teach me.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister,*  
*Prairie to Pine Regional Council*

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**Shannon McCarthy**  
***Executive Minister***



In some ways it is hard to believe that we have been a Regional Council for four years, and in other ways it seems like much longer! The reality is that we haven't experienced a full year of 'normal' operations, due to covid and the work of shaping our Regional Council and its work. It is my hope as we move into 2022/2023 that we can find ways of gathering and connecting around the mission and ministry of Prairie to Pine Regional Council. That we can take our learnings from the pandemic and integrate them into how we meet and gather as the church community who wants to be in relationship with one another, but also wants to be respectful of the time and energy of its volunteers as well as the cost to our environment and our fiscal reality.

We are still working on making sure our structure serves the needs of the Regional Council and the Communities of Faith within our bounds. We continue to refine our policies and get our structure document in writing and posted on the website. We have been trying to be flexible and change how things work as we go in order to be responsive; however, the Regional Council and the General Council will be doing a more formal evaluation of the new structures in 2023/2024.

I want to thank all of the staff for their dedication, hard work, and ministry in Prairie to Pine Regional Council. Your staff; Judy Hare, Julie Graham, Twila MacNair, Heather Dootoff, Cherry Abad, Jamie McKay and Erin Acland, all work hard to ensure that Communities of Faith and members of the Regional Council have the support and resources they need to do the work of the United Church in our area. As a staff team we have been trying to improve communication and make sure people can connect in multiple ways to find out what is happening in Prairie to Pine Regional Council and that you have the information you need as Communities of Faith. Please make sure you are signed up for our newsletter, bookmark our website, and join us on Facebook.

Since our lease at 1622 St. Mary's Rd was up in 2021 we made the decision not to renew, this was a decision made to save us money, to accommodate for a smaller staff, and for some staff to work remotely. With a smaller staff team, no longer sharing the space with Winnipeg Presbytery and some staff deciding to work from home it seemed like a good time to look for a smaller more affordable space. In December 2021 we moved into our new space at the Centre for Christian Studies at 60 Maryland Ave. Thanks everyone who worked to make this move a success! I also want to take this opportunity to thank Dave Turchyn for his many years as Caretaker for the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and Prairie to Pine Regional Council. Dave's presence around the office will be missed and we wish him well.

As a staff team we also mourn the loss of Linda Firman who passed away in December. Although she wasn't on the Regional Council staff she was instrumental in the transition from Conference to Regional Council and closing up the books of the Conference and Winnipeg Presbytery. As we packed up the office Linda's name came up often. For many years Linda kept the office running smoothly, she was very fiscally responsible and would never order one of something if she could save money by ordering 100 of them. She was a dedicated member of the staff team who was always up for a laugh or some fun at coffee breaks and she will be missed by the church community as well as her husband Ted and family.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank to the Executive and the Co-chairs, Diane Dwarka and Pat Bird, for another year of prayerful discernment and decision-making on behalf of the Regional Council. We have met monthly for the last two years and are getting to a place that we believe we can shift to meeting once every two months via zoom and having one face-to-face meeting each fall to review our vision and mission.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister*

*Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.*



REMEMBERING

RECONNECTING

RE-VISIONING



**PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE  
Consensus Decisions 2021/2022**

<b>MOTION #</b>		<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Page #</b>	
001	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes June 3, 2021	2	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.
002	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes June 3, 2021	2	It was agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive will contribute \$250 in 2021 to support the Religion in the News Project at the Winnipeg Free Press, and create a line in the budget, to be reviewed annually.
003	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes June 3, 2021	3	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive take the following action: a) Rock Lake Camp ... approve Rock Lake Camp 2020-2021 Board of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Manning</li> <li>• Valerie Mikolasek</li> <li>• Michelle Funk</li> <li>• Cathy Bellentine</li> <li>• Elaine Trefiak</li> <li>• Bonnie Robbins</li> <li>• Jan Martens</li> </ul>
004	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021	5	It was agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.

<b>MOTION #</b>		<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Page #</b>	
005	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021</b>	6	It was agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the minutes from May 6, 2021 and June 3, 2021, as amended.
006	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021</b>	6	It was agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive will contribute \$250 for the 2021 budget year to support the Religion in the News Project at the Winnipeg Free Press and add this item to the budget to be reviewed annually.
007	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021</b>	6	It was agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the following financial statements, as distributed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Report January 1 to June 20, (Second quarter) 2021</li> <li>• Prairie to Pine Balance Sheet at June 30, 2021</li> <li>• Governance Committee and Structure Details – 2022 Budget</li> </ul>
008	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021</b>	6	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the 2022 Mission Support Budget amount of \$126,000.
009	2020/2021	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2201</b>	6-7	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive, at the discretion of the Prairie to Pine Pastoral Relations Minister in consultation with the Executive Secretary and Financial Administrator, approves the establishment of a Discretionary Fund of \$20,000 to support ministry personnel in emergency circumstances; and, at such time that the funds are used up, a request for another allotment could be put forward for consideration to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive.

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
010	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021	10	<p>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, at a date yet to be decided, the completed Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Communities of Faith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hillsview Pastoral Charge</li> <li>• Strathclair Pastoral Charge</li> <li>• Broadway Disciples United Church</li> <li>• Prairie Vision Pastoral Charge</li> </ul>
011	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021	10	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive disbands Coultervale United Church, part of the Cornerstone Pastoral Charge, effective immediately.</p>
012	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021	11	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive appoints SILAS LEE to the Committee on Community of Faith Support, effective immediately.</p>
013	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021	11	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive appoints CAMERON ADAMS to the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents Student for a one-year appointment.</p>
014	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021	11	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive establish a short-term Office Relocation Task Group, effective immediately.</p>

<b>MOTION #</b>		<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Page #</b>	
015	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes September 2, 2021</b>	11	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive appoint the following to the Office Relocation Task Group, effective immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Dwarka</li> <li>• Barb Brown</li> <li>• James deBeer</li> </ul>
016	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes October 7, 2021</b>	13	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.</p>
017	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes October 7, 2021</b>	14	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes from September 2, 2021, as amended.</p>
018	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes October 7, 2021</b>	14	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council of The United Church of Canada (formerly called the United Church of Canada Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario) authorizes Shannon McCarthy to act as sole signer, for the purposes of closing TD #0730-0303608.</p>
019	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes October 7, 2021</b>	15	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GRANT CHRISTENSEN be appointed to the University of Winnipeg Board for a regular United Church three-year appointment, and</li> <li>• EVAN PODAIMA be appointment to the University of Winnipeg Board for a one-year student appointment.</li> </ul>

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
020	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes October 7, 2021	16-18	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive take the following action:</p> <p>a) <u>United Church Halfway Homes of Winnipeg Inc.</u>  ...approve United Church Halfway Homes of Winnipeg Inc. 2021 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duncan Michie</li> <li>• Rev. Dr. Paul Campbell</li> <li>• Carlos Clark</li> <li>• Kendra Kinley</li> <li>• James Dixonz</li> <li>• Dr. Edward Johnson</li> <li>• Anne Walker</li> <li>• Crystal Adams</li> </ul> <p><i>This is based on the Annual General Meeting dated December 3, 2020, board member approval form dated January 6, 2021, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</i></p> <p>b) <u>Prairie View Lodge</u>  ...approve Prairie View Lodge 2021 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bev Leadbeater</li> <li>• Susanne Fortin</li> <li>• Jack McKay</li> <li>• Judy MacKinnon</li> <li>• Crystal Adams</li> <li>• Pat Cesmystruk</li> <li>• Janice Olfert</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alan Melvin</li> <li>• Linda Cavers</li> <li>• Yvette Glenn</li> <li>• Alison Fijala</li> <li>• Penny Follis</li> </ul> <p><i>This is based on the Annual General Meeting dated June 15, 2021, board member approval form dated June 16, 2021, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</i></p> <p>c) <u>Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.</u>  ...approve Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. 2021 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewart Fletcher-Cook</li> <li>• Dennis Butcher</li> <li>• Gordon Goosen</li> <li>• Lisa Lix</li> <li>• Sheron Miller</li> <li>• Teresa Moysey</li> <li>• Dwight Rutherford</li> <li>• Del Sexsmith</li> <li>• Warren Thompson</li> <li>• Kirk Windsor</li> <li>• Betty Young</li> </ul> <p><i>This is based on the Annual General Meeting dated June 15, 2021, board member approval form dated June 15, 2021, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</i></p> <p>d) <u>Wellman Lake United Church Camp</u>  ...approve Wellman Lake United Church Camp 2021 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candace Wenzel</li> <li>• Lanaya Harris</li> </ul>
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MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kendal Stechyshyn</li> <li>• Joyce Bateman</li> <li>• Max Polon</li> <li>• Blair Mullin</li> <li>• Breana How</li> <li>• Lucile Neufeld</li> </ul> <p><i>This is based on the Annual General Meeting dated April 26, 2021, board member approval form dated April 26, 2021, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</i></p>
021	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes October 7, 2021	20	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the recommendation of the Committee on Community of Faith Support to receive, accept, and prepare to celebrate, at a date yet to be decided, the completed Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Communities of Faith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holland</li> <li>• Boissevain</li> <li>• Newdale</li> <li>• Cardale and the Newdale-Cardale Pastoral Charge</li> <li>• Tilston (Deloraine-Melita-Tilston Pastoral Charge)</li> </ul>
022	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes November 4, 2021	23	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.</p>
023	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes November 4, 2021	23	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the <i>Prairie to Pine Regional Council 2022 Draft Budget (Appendix B)</i>, as presented.</p>

<b>MOTION #</b>		<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Page #</b>	
024	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes November 4, 2021</b>	24	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive agree that the Fred Douglas Foundation be dissolved, and the funds held be dispersed to Fred Douglas Society Inc. to be restricted for use as directed by the donors.
025	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes November 4, 2021</b>	25	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the recommendation from the Committee on Community of Faith Support that Prairie to Pine Regional Council receive, accept, and prepare to celebrate at a date yet to be determined, the complete Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Communities of Faith: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic-Garden City United Church</li> <li>• Kenton-Shiloh Pastoral Charge</li> <li>• Oak River United Church</li> <li>• Pine Falls United Church</li> <li>• St. Mary's Road United Church</li> <li>• Stony Mountain United Church (Stony Mountain-Lilyfield Pastoral Charge)</li> <li>• Lilyfield United Church (Stony Mountain-Lilyfield Pastoral Charge)</li> </ul>
026	2021/2022	<b>Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes November 4, 2021</b>	25	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the Licensed Lay Worship Leader / Pulpit Supply Policy as submitted by the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support.



MOTION #		Meeting	Page #													
027	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes November 4, 2021	26	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the following recommendations of the Grants Committee for 2022 Mission Support Grant amounts:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Recommendation</td></tr><tr><td>1Just City</td><td>\$ 103,500</td></tr><tr><td>Counselling Centre</td><td>\$ 8,500</td></tr><tr><td>Rock Lake United Church Camp</td><td>\$ 10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Wellman Lake United Church Camp</td><td>\$ 4,000</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$ 126,000</td></tr></table>		Recommendation	1Just City	\$ 103,500	Counselling Centre	\$ 8,500	Rock Lake United Church Camp	\$ 10,000	Wellman Lake United Church Camp	\$ 4,000	TOTAL	\$ 126,000
	Recommendation															
1Just City	\$ 103,500															
Counselling Centre	\$ 8,500															
Rock Lake United Church Camp	\$ 10,000															
Wellman Lake United Church Camp	\$ 4,000															
TOTAL	\$ 126,000															
028	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	28	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.</p>												
029	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	28	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes from October 7, 2021 as amended.</p>												
030	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	29	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that TERESA MOYSEY be appointed as the Prairie to Pine representative to the Winnipeg Free Press Faith Page Advisory Committee.</p>												
031	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	30	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the recommendation of the Committee on Community of Faith Support to receive, accept, and prepare to celebrate, at a date yet to be determined, the completed Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with WALLACE PASTORAL CHARGE.</p>												

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
032	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	30	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive, whereas Ochre River United Church has ceased to be an active community of faith and have dispersed their assets, archived their records, and transferred membership as per regional council expectations, approve to disband the OCHRRE RIVER UNITED CHURCH community of faith, effective December 31, 2021.
033	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	30-31	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive, whereas a request has been received from TRANSCONA MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH and discussed by the Committee on Community of Faith Support on Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup> , and whereas Committee concerns were addressed to Shannon McCarthy and responded to by Cynthia Gunn on Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> , and whereas the congregation would like to act on their request at their annual meeting which may be prior to the next meeting of the Committee on Community of Faith Support, approve Transcona Memorial United Church to take the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To test, between now and the time of their next self-assessment report to the Regional Council, or until their 2022 Annual Meeting held in early 2023 (whichever is later), some alternative governance practices related to the filling of vacancies on their governing body; and</li> <li>• That, as part of the experiment, there be provision made to address the concerns raised by the Committee on Community of Faith Support in an email to Jeff Cook on November 30, and by Cynthia Gunn in a December 1 email to Shannon McCarthy; and</li> <li>• That a revised governance document be submitted to Regional Council for approval following the testing period.</li> </ul>
034	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	31	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the proposal, <i>Love Your Neighbour</i> , an ice art competition project to build and hold community.

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
035	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes December 2, 2021	32	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive agree to use the Land Acknowledgement – Proposed Statement #2 (Appendix A) as its Land Acknowledgement Statement, noting that the statement remains a living document that can change and grow as we do.
036	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes January 6, 2022	33	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as distributed.
037	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes January 6, 2022	34	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that TESSA WHITECLOUD be named as a Prairie to Pine Regional Council Commissioner to General Council 44.
038	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes January 6, 2022	36	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive authorize the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the 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;</li> <li>• 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, 2021, and;</li> <li>• That prior to the release of further funds, Kildonan United Church will provide to Heather Lea on behalf of the Committee on Community of Faith Support and Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister on behalf of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council the following documentation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Minutes of a KUC Council meeting with a motion to request said loan,</li> <li>2) Independent Financial Review report for 2021,</li> <li>3) A detailed year-end financial report for 2020 and 2021,</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) Minutes of a KUC Council meeting with a motion to request said loan,</li> <li>5) Independent Financial Review report for 2021,</li> <li>6) A detailed year-end financial report for 2020 and 2021,</li> <li>7) Budget projections for January 2022 and for February to June 30, 2022,</li> <li>8) Accounting for the first \$10,000.00 and monthly financial statements before subsequent amounts are released, and</li> <li>9) Any further information or reports that may be requested by Prairie to Pine Regional Council.</li> </ul>
039	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes January 6, 2022	37	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept 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-WEIBE as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in Prairie to Pine Regional Council.</p>
040	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes February 3, 2022	40	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as amended.</p>
041	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes February 3, 2022	40	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes form November 4, 2021 and December 2, 2021, as distributed.</p>
042	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes February 3, 2022	40	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the minutes from January 6, 2022, as amended.</p>

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
043	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes February 3, 2022	40	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that SUSAN MCILVEEN be approved to the Fred Douglas Society Board of Directors for a two-year term.</p> <p>Susan McIlveen is the minister at Prairie Spirit United Church.</p>
044	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes February 3, 2022	40	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that ANNE DUNCAN (Winnipeg) and JOAN NEUMAN (Pierson), be approved to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Nominating Committee, each for a two-year term, effective immediately.</p>
045	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes February 3, 2022	41	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following be named to the 2022 Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual Meeting Planning Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Dwarka</li> <li>• Pat Bird</li> <li>• Emma Seamone</li> <li>• Noel Suministrado</li> <li>• Julia Antonyshyn</li> <li>• Brenda Shodin</li> <li>• Damber Khadka</li> </ul>
046	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes March 3, 2022	44	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Executive approve the agenda as distributed.</p>

047	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes March 3, 2022	45-46	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Executive take the following action(s):</p> <p>a) <u>Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.</u> ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart Fletcher-Cook</li> <li>• Gordon Goosen</li> <li>• Lisa Lix</li> <li>• Teresa Moysey</li> <li>• Dwight Rutherford</li> <li>• Del Sexsmith</li> <li>• Betty Young</li> </ul> <p><i>This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of June 15, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</i></p> <p>b) <u>Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc.</u> ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cathy Ballantine</li> <li>• Michelle Funk</li> <li>• David Manning</li> <li>• Jan Martens</li> <li>• Valerie Mikolasek</li> <li>• Bonnie Robbins</li> <li>• Elaine Trefiak</li> </ul> <p>...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the By-Laws as approved by the members on April 6, 2021 of the incorporated ministry known as Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc.</p>
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MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
				<p>These are based on the draft Annual Meeting minutes of April 6, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</p> <p>c) <u>Wellman Lake United Church Camp</u>  ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wellman Lake United ChurchCamp2021-2022 Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joyce Bateman</li> <li>• Lanaya Harris</li> <li>• Breana How</li> <li>• Blair Mullin</li> <li>• LucileNeufeld</li> <li>• MaxPolon</li> <li>• Kendal Stechyshyn</li> <li>• Candace Wenzel</li> </ul> <p><i>This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of April26, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.</i></p>
048	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes March 3, 2022	47	<p>It was agreed by consensus:  That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the addition to the policy and search policy and processes within Prairie to Pine Regional Council as presented by the Pastoral Relations Commission (MOTION 2021-2022 #19), effective immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That communities of faith in a Profile of Search process presently or in the future considering less than a full-time ministry position, be required to engage in conversations regarding possible collaborative ministry arrangements. These conversations could be with neighbouring United</li> </ul>

MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
				<b>Church of Canada communities of faith or with ecumenical partners, and they must take place prior to submitting Profiles or Records of Appointment or Call for any part-time ministry position to the Pastoral Relations Commission of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council of the United Church of Canada for approval.</b>
049	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive April 7, 2022	49	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the agenda as distributed.</b>
050	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive April 7, 2022	49	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the minutes of March 3, 2022, as distributed.</b>
051	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive April 7, 2022	51	<b>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 the regional council meeting on May 6-7, 2022, the complete Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the following Community of Faith: Emmanuel Church, Ignace – a shared Anglican and United Community of Faith.</b>
052	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive April 7, 2022	51	<b>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 celebrate on May 7<sup>th</sup> the Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with ANOLA PASTORAL CHARGE, subject to receipt of additional governance structure information by the Committee on Community of Faith prior to that date.</b>



MOTION #		Meeting	Page #	
053	2021/2022	Prairie to Pine Executive April 7, 2022	51	<b>It was agreed by consensus:</b> <b>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the grant application made by Knox United Church in Emo, Ontario, and agrees to cover any related overage expenses, if needed.</b>



## REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES of the REGION

### NOMINATIONS

**P2P Has Many Caring, Hard Working Volunteers:** P2P is blessed to have well over 150 members of Prairie to Pine serving on committees, boards, and task groups, doing work for the Region and the wider church. Added to that are 16 P2P Commissioners to GC 44, and over 65 Pastoral Charge Supervisors. The Nominating committee regularly speaks to people who are volunteering in more than one role to support the wider United Church. The rumor that people are not willing to step up and get involved is not true. YES, people are definitely “pandemic tired”, but many P2P members are still engaged and working hard. The YAAY Committee is especially active. Even though most of us don’t usually hear the details of who is doing what, there is a lot happening and we say a huge THANK YOU to all who are doing work on our collective behalf.

**See the Full Nominating Slate in the Appendix:** The P2P Nominating committee is pleased to share the 2022-23 complete slate of members of the Regional Boards, Committees and Task Groups with you. You will find it in the Appendix section of the workbook. The nominating slate is continually getting updated as new members step into the work. Throughout the year, the nominating committee takes the names of new volunteers to the P2P Executive meetings for consideration and approval.

**Still seeking more volunteers - and we need your help to find them:** No doubt you will notice that there are some empty spaces in this regional list. The Nominating Committee believes that it is important to find a good fit so that people are volunteering for work that they will find fulfilling and energizing. We try to not simply seek out warm bodies to fill the vacancies. But - we do not know all of you.

***We would like to know what interests you, what gifts and skills you have to offer, and what new skills you are wanting to develop.*** This year, as well as postings in the P2P Weekly News and on the P2P website, we have sent an individual email to all who attended the 2021 Annual meeting. We will continue to look for new ways to reach out to folks. But No Surprise, it is still the individual personal conversations that are most effective. All that to say, we rely on your help to know who we should be approaching. If you think that 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, please let us know.

**Watch for more opportunities:** New volunteer opportunities come up regularly and are usually posted in the newsletter and under the Governance/Nominations tabs on the P2P website. Volunteers tell us that they enjoy being involved and connecting with people from across the region. They also tell us that the workload is usually quite manageable, and that ZOOM is easier than travelling to meetings, esp. in the winter. From committees to short-term task groups, from finances to social justice, there is a spot, and a good fit waiting for you. To see current opportunities, [click here](#).

**Prairie to Pine Nominating Committee** consists of Teresa Melnychuk, Anna Stewart, Frances Flook, Joey Dearborn and Betty Kelly. We are also ably supported by Julie Graham, and Cherry Abad. We could not do our work without them and their technical expertise in the background. Julie’s input about what the nominating committees in other regions are doing is an added gift.

**The Nominating Committee would be delighted to talk with you** further and help you discern where you might comfortably volunteer. Contact us at [p2p.nominations@gmail.com](mailto:p2p.nominations@gmail.com).

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

### PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) continues its work through monthly meetings held by conference call. The dedicated persons appointed to this Commission are supported in our work by Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister and Elsie Douglas, Secretary of the PRC as well

as those who are appointed as Liaisons to work with Communities of Faith throughout the current pastoral relations process.

Much of our work follows a similar pattern:

- We provide training and support to those serving as Liaison throughout the pastoral relations process
- We appoint Pastoral Charge Supervisors and receive and review their Annual Reports
- We receive requests from ministry personnel who are requesting a change in pastoral relations or seeking to begin a sabbatical
- We receive requests for support from Communities of Faith when they are seeking to increase or decrease ministry time and when they are about to begin the process to search for a new minister
- We receive and review ministry profiles from communities of faith when they are beginning the search process, and provide support as they upload the material to Church Hub
- We receive and review calls and appointments resulting from the search process or renewal of current appointments
- We provide support for an alternate pastoral relations process to the eighteen Indigenous Communities of Faith in Prairie to Pine Regional Council through the dedication of two of our Liaisons (Aileen Urquhart and Lorraine Kakegamic)
- We provide personnel to attend meetings of governing bodies and communities of faith when pastoral relations matters are being discussed and/or when Liaisons are unavailable to attend

While much of our work seems to be routine, it is not without its challenges. We continue to work with communities of faith who struggle with access to Church Hub and to the websites which continue the most current handbooks related to our work. We recognize that there continues to be unequal access to the internet throughout our region.

We are also aware that there is a significant number of postings for part-time ministries within our regional council which fail to attract applicants. From this reality, came the workshop on Collaborative Ministry which was held in January. We are confident that these conversations will lead to opportunities for new ministry arrangements within our Region, and led to the development of a policy which was approved by the Regional Council Executive at its meeting of March 3, 2022. This policy will require communities of faith with part-time ministry to explore the possibility of collaborative ministry as part of the process of developing a new ministry profile when seeking a new minister.

Decision made by the Mission Support Grant Committee of the Indigenous Council resulted in increases to the Mission Support Grants for several Indigenous Communities of Faith within the Prairie to Pine Regional Council enabling them to pay fulltime ministry in their pastoral charges. We are also in the process of approving the first Ministry Sharing agreement between three Indigenous ministries enabling the appointment of a minister to serve fulltime.

The work of the PRC is a collaborative process. I appreciate the support of the Liaisons:

Linda Buchanan, Elizabeth Brown, Virginia Coleman, Mona Denton, Lorraine Kakegamic, Harold Kenyon, Sherri McConnell, Aileen Urquhart, Kathy Platt, Patrick Woodbeck and those who also serve as members of the PRC (Linda Buchanan, Lorraine Kakegamic, Harold Kenyon, Sherri McConnell and Aileen Urquhart). Our thanks to Mel Kauppila and Kristin Woodburke who completed their time as Liaisons during this past year. Together we pool our gifts and our enthusiasm as we share in this work.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Best, Chair*

*Pastoral Relations Commission*

### **COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY OF FAITH SUPPORT**

Some of the work of the Committee on Community of Faith Support (CCFS) is related to the mandates of The Manual, some tasks are assigned by the Regional Council, and some work is in response to questions from communities of faith.

One of the responsibilities relates to Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support between the Regional Council and each Community of Faith. Since the 2021 meeting of the full Regional Council there have been 15 Covenants of Mutual Commitment reviewed by our committee members and approved by the P2P Executive. These will be recognized and celebrated during the May 6 - 7 meeting, bringing the total to 132 covenanted communities of faith. Covenants with two non-Indigenous communities of faith remain outstanding or in progress. Nearly two dozen Indigenous Communities of Faith within P2P have not yet decided whether to covenant with Prairie to Pine Regional Council and / or the United Church Indigenous Ministries Council.

Another responsibility is to support communities of faith considering structural change. This involves working with two or more congregations or pastoral charges considering amalgamation or an ecumenical shared ministry. This is exciting work as people look at how they can do better together than either could do alone. At present, the amalgamation conversation with Rainy River & Stratton is nearing completion.

The decision to close (be disbanded) also involves the CCFS. Usually this means two or three meetings with the congregation and/or the governing body. Occasionally it requires more frequent meetings and support. Ochre River was disbanded in late 2021; Central, Kildonan, and Brandon Hills anticipate being disbanded later this year. Rossendale is also moving toward disbanding.

Congregations that are revising their governance structure (what some used to call constitutions) to a non-Board or Council model are required by the Manual to have their proposed plans approved by the Regional Council. The Committee reviews each document in detail and makes comments & recommendations. The same process is sometimes used by congregations just wanting to check out whether their written governance documents are adequate and clearly written.

For each of the above responsibilities, the CCFS has developed print resources designed to help congregations understand requirements, options, and possibilities.

When communities of faith have not submitted annual statistical reports or denominational assessments, the CCFS contacts the community of faith to offer support with the process.

Each committee member tries to maintain contact with an assigned group of communities of faith, checking in periodically to share information, or seek information, or just ask “How’s it going?” Some congregations contact the CCFS to help them sort out issues or explore options with an outside listener and reflector.

The CCFS has begun drafting a resource for communities of faith to use as they prepare their required “regular self-assessment” report. (“Regular” means every three years in our Regional Council). We anticipate the first group of pastoral charges will begin this work later this year for submission early in 2023. If you want to be among the first, please let us know!

The CCFS works closely with the Pastoral Relations Commission and with the Property Commission, sharing information, clarifying policies, sometimes collaborating on events. The Committee also has corresponding member status on the P2P Executive.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Heather Lea (acting chair)*

*on behalf of committee members Cheryl McKittrick,*

*Pat Bird, Silas Lee, and Judy Hare (staff resource)*

*(Heather Sandilands has taken a temporary leave of absence from the CCFS)*

**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://prairietopinercc.ca/about/governance/committees-on-support/clls/>.

This year we have licensed one LLWL, Allison Abbott-Wiebe. We are currently processing other applications and look forward with anticipation to receiving more.

We have completed our plans for relicensing LLWLs. We are working on creating a three year relicensing cycle and will begin that process before the end of 2022.

Recently we held training for sacraments elders. Licensing and relicensing is under way.

This year we came to the conclusion that having one person serve as a chaplain rather than continually seeking someone out for each interview session is the way to go. Many thanks to Rev. Jeff Cook for stepping up to take this on.

The pandemic has changed our understanding of what is possible when meeting remotely and when it is beneficial to meet in person. We anticipate that, as we slowly enter into the “new normal” that some online meetings will continue, but that in-person meetings will once again become part of our reality.

The nominating committee works hard every year to fill the vacancies on every committee. This past year circumstances led to some who stepped up being unable to continue. Many thanks also to Jamie Bradshaw, who stepped down this year. Therefore, we have room on the committee for you. If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact nominating. We thank them for their continued efforts on our behalf.

My thanks go out to our staff resource, Judy Hare, and to all the committee members who help to make lay ministry and lay leadership a reality in so many places where it is much needed.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Don Schau, Chair*

*on behalf of the committee*

*(Jamie Bradshaw, Hope Mattus, Doug Neufeld, Marg Scott and Judy Hare (staff resource))*

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**COMMITTEE ON  
MINISTRY PERSONNEL  
SUPPORT**

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee continued to meet regularly throughout the past year. Of course, all meetings have taken place via ZOOM.

Following the Annual Meeting in May 2021, our Committee decided to host a June meeting in order to welcome our new Committee member, Christopher St. George Davis, who was admitted to The United Church of Canada in 2021. We were happy to get to know one another and to offer Chris some background and reflections on the work of our Committee.

Our Committee was also pleased to note that our recommendation to the 2021 Annual Meeting Planning Committee to have Gloria Cook, Community Capacity Development Coordinator for the Indigenous Ministries and Justice unit to speak at the 2021 Annual Meeting had been accepted. Gloria offered an insightful and challenging presentation on the effects of colonization and the work of reconciliation which was well received. Subsequent to Gloria's presentation, many congregations indicated they would like to use the video of her presentation so that others too might learn from her. We are grateful that Gloria gave permission for this to be accessed subsequent to the meeting.

We responded to the request from The Prairie to Pine (P2P) Task Group and Nominating Committee to examine the Structure Document of the Region in order to determine whether the structure accurately reflected the work in which we had been involved. We spent considerable time discerning our response...we considered what work was happening....what might still need to be undertaken...things that are working well...challenges we were experiencing, etc.

The Ministry Personnel to Ministry Personnel (MP2MP) Connector program continues to be working well. This network of retired Ministry Personnel contact and connect with ministry personnel engaged in active ministry who wished to have such support and regular contact. This program offers care, compassion, support and a safe place for conversation as ministry personnel navigate leadership in these challenging times. We are grateful to have ten retired ministry personnel offering their gifts as Connectors with sixty-two participants in the program.

This was obviously a year for review, as we determined it was time to check in and receive feedback, suggestions and ideas for moving forward with the MP2MP project. A meeting for MP2MP Connectors was held in October, 2021 as well as follow-up contact with people receiving support. It became apparent that there was a clear appreciation from ministry personnel who are on the receiving end of this support. Connectors also found this volunteer commitment to be of meaningful value. People engage in conversation with one another through phone, email, ZOOM etc. The timing for any connection is determined by connector and participant. Sometimes it is simply helpful to know there is a someone available when requested. It was agreed that this program will continue with the knowledge some connectors and participants may choose to opt in or out.

We struggled with how we might support retired church personnel as due to privacy legislation, we are not able to access full and complete retirement lists with up-to-date contact information. Communication is therefore a huge issue. Covid has also prevented any face-to-face retirement gatherings. All ministry personnel are welcome to attend the regularly scheduled support time, hosted by Judy Hare on Zoom. This gathering is held bi-weekly and advertised through the Weekly News.

Since we do have contact information for retired ministry personnel who are in Formal Association with Pastoral Charges, we determined it would be helpful to invite such folk to a ZOOM meeting. It is our intention that such a gathering will help us determine whether ongoing support would be welcomed. The focus for our time together (to be held in April of this year) will be for information to be shared in order to update folk on what's happening in the church and to see whether they might want to meet again in the future.

***NOTE: If you are retired ministry personnel and are not under appointment or in formal association (where we have access to your contact information) you might want to consider sending your name, address email and phone number to our Regional office so that you might be added to the retired list.***

At each of our meetings, Judy Hare provides an update on the activities of the indigenous church. In the past year Gloria Cook left her position as Community Capacity Development Coordinator (CCDC) and Rick Hiebert returned to work with Keewatin Region in a half-time position. The name of a new CCDC will soon be announced. Keewatin Ministry Personnel and Elders gather regularly to worship together and to support one another. It was good news to hear that Mission and Service allotments were increased which has enabled percentage increases in ministry time - moving toward full-time ministry is the goal.

Our Committee offers thanks and gratitude to Cherry Abad for her cheerful response to the many tasks we place before her. We also offer our thanks to Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister for her wisdom, leadership and organizational skills. We appreciate Judy's presence at our meetings and her ability to help us move forward with the various tasks we undertake. As well, both Cherry and Judy's knowledge of the church's structure and our role within it are invaluable to the work of our Committee.

*Respectfully submitted,  
David Howell, Beth Rutherford, Joan Jarvis,  
Judy Hare (staff resource)*

#### 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 May 1, 2021, the date of our last report, until March 31, 2022, the commission met ten times and passed eleven motions regarding church property in the Region. These included approval of one major renovation, two renovations financing agreements, a major lease, four listings for sale, sale of two church buildings and the sale of property adjacent to a church.



We currently have two more transactions active involving old, rural churches with no congregation and require determination of title and the actions of the regional trustees. One is still registered to the Presbyterian Church of Canada. For this purpose, 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.

We also responded to numerous property related questions.

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 helped plan and present the Affirming Celebration of the Prairie to Pine Region Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, following a unanimous vote at the 2020 Annual meeting. "Our Place In The Rainbow" was our online worship of joy and celebration as Prairie to Pine Region became an

Affirming Ministry during the subsequent Annual Meeting. All the people of the Region (& beyond) were encouraged to join in Worship with Communion elements and PRIDE colours. The Celebration was continued with dessert and time for all to experience togetherness via Zoom.

Information included in the Prairie to Pine News Letter varied from month to month we have included some info graphics, dates and information for various workshops and information sessions throughout the year. We encouraged all congregations to send in the information about their Pride Sundays and PIE events.

Transgender Day of Remembrance information was included in the newsletter in November with the following organizations who provide services, resources and advocacy work to the Transgender community in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba:

**Trans Manitoba** (<https://www.transmanitoba.org/>) (and on Facebook), **Klinic** ([klinik.mb.ca](http://klinik.mb.ca)), **Rainbow Resource Centre** (<https://rainbowresourcecentre.org/>)

We have offered some financial Support from Equity and Diversity in 2021. \$350 was sent to Affirm United to support the Affirm Kitchen Sink series. Another \$350 was used to support FOUR Videos for Korean queer through Korean Rainbow United. (links below if you haven't see them!)

Video 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=sT3X1YYIDc0&t=231s>

Video 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAhgLHal0v4>

Video 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=80QUNScogG8&t=82s>

Video 4

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiCpE2\\_MzDI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiCpE2_MzDI)



We also facilitated a Gathering of Affirming Ministries via Zoom on Thursday, November 18th. This was the initial meeting of both Affirmed and In Process Communities of Faith in our Region. Members attending were vastly in favour of implementing an Affirming Network. Hopefully this was the first of many gatherings!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Miller, Chair of Equity and Diversity Committee*

*(Members include Alan Gershuny, Cathey Day, Don Schau,*

*Hope Mattus, Kyle Kellar, Linda Rodgers, Meghan Chorney,*

*Stewart Hill, Yeseullyn Lee with our amazing staff support person, Julie Graham)*

### 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 2021, 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 2021 we were pleased to award three applicants a total of \$4,000 in Prairie to Pine Regional Bursaries:

Pat Chabluk	\$1,000.00	Diaconal Ministry at CCS
Jen Carter-Morgan	\$1750.00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Diploma in Diaconal Ministry at CCS4 <sup>th</sup> year
Damber Khadka	\$1250.00	Master of Divinity program at AST

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Darlynne Smith*  
*Darlynne Smith, Convenor*  
*Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary Committee*

#### **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YAAY)**

The YAAY Committee was hard at work in 2021 finding opportunities for youth and young adults to connect during the ongoing pandemic. From ALF 2020, we carried the “learnings of doing events online” over to Zeebu 2021 in February. This year’s theme was “All Our Relations” and we were ecstatic to have Former Moderator Stan McKay join us for the two-day Zoom event to share stories, teachings, and the best bedtime story ever! This retreat focused on valuing the relationships in our lives and the importance of honouring promises and covenants we make with others.

While our retreats are typically for youth in grade 7-12, we opened Zeebu 2021 up to both youth and young adults. We had a great turnout of 31 participants, including some from out of province, who were led through the weekend by our amazing 13 young adult planning team members. We were especially proud to premiere our music video for the More Voices song “Go Make a Difference”, which features youth and young adults from across our region. Every online event teaches us more about what to do next time, and we are excited for what’s ahead!

For ALF 2021, we had our first in person retreat in a year and a half, in an adjusted format. We met as two groups, one at Carberry United Church and one at Knox United Church in Winnipeg. The theme for this retreat was Looking Out For One Another: Mental Health In Unusual Times. We spent the day singing, having interactive worship times, playing games and doing activities built around the theme.

This year, we created a template to help communities of faith plan and host Travelling Youth Group (TYG) events, with support as required by young adult leaders. We met online with church reps in the spring and again in the fall to be ready to go as soon as it felt safe to bring youth together in person. Finally in November, Westworth United Church felt the time had come. They hosted a fun evening of games, singing and painting mugs. In December, Spirit Path and St. Mary’s Road United Church hosted an Advent themed event with crafts, discussion and cookie decorating. In preparation for TYG, a group of Winnipeg youth came together to practice and provide music leadership for their peers at these events.

The team of YAAAY Committee members fundraising to help bring a refugee family to Winnipeg from Turkey held two fundraisers in 2021. The January Online Trivia Night was attended by over 50 people. The Trek to Turkey virtual journey held in June had participants work together to travel 900km over a week. Prizes were awarded for most kilometres travelled and most money raised. By the end of 2021, the team had raised \$5,063 of their \$8,000 goal.

In April of 2021, a group of 8 young people met virtually to apply for Winnipeg Foundation's Walking Together Grant which supports youth-led Truth and Reconciliation projects in Winnipeg. The team was excited to find out in June that they had been awarded a grant totalling \$10,000 to fund three proposed projects: a healing garden, a mural, and activities to build a connection with a group called [The Thunderbirdz](#), and in turn, with folks who live on the streets of Winnipeg. The team began work right away towards finding a community of faith willing to collaborate on building a healing garden. After meeting over the summer and fall with representatives of interested communities of faith, Knox United in Winnipeg agreed to work with the youth on this project. Ground will break in spring 2022. Twice in November they organized small groups of youth to join the Thunderbirdz on one of their bi-weekly walks in Winnipeg's inner city and north end. With the grant, they provided sandwiches, fruit, water, granola bars and socks to hand out to those they met on the street and in encampments. Youth who have attended seem eager to continue building this relationship. The team looks forward to involving additional youth in this activity and on the other two projects as well in 2022.

YARG, our young adults group, gathered five times in 2021. In January they had a Zoom meeting with Shaun Beck to discuss his experiences with living "off the grid". In February they met over Zoom to play games and catch up. In July, they met in person for the first time since the pandemic started, gathering for an evening of games at Crescentwood Park. For the fall event, they met at A Maze In Corn and had a fun time exploring the maze and eating hot dogs around the fire. The final event of 2021 was in November and was a joint event with some of the high school-age youth. They met for a board games night at St. Mary's Road United Church.

The past two years have been challenging for YAAAY, because the connections that happen among young people in-person are such an important part of our ministry. We've been challenged to think in different ways during this time, and those lessons will be carried forward beyond the pandemic. We're looking forward to continuing to learn and grow as a group in 2022 and we hope to attract some new members to the committee this year. If you know a young person who might enjoy contributing to the work we do, please reach out to us.

Wishing our Prairie to Pine community all the best this year!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marissa Smirl and Julia Antonyshyn  
Co-Convenors of the YAAAY Committee*

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**OTHER REPORTS**

**STEWARDSHIP ANIMATOR,  
GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE**



Greetings,

After one year in the role of Stewardship Animator I have had the pleasure to virtually meet and work with a number of generosity-keepers from the Prairie to Pine Region. Through phone calls, stewardship training programs, and at the virtual annual meeting last year, I have started to get to know the amazing, faith-filled people of this Region. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way we may have connected over the past year, or could in 2022, is through the learning program, **Called to be the Church: The Journey**. These trainings are designed for community of faith leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase giving and deepen connections within your community of faith. There are currently two different modules to help with this work. One Prairie to Pine participant provided this program feedback, *"The course inspires us to look ahead with fresh ideas."* You can register or learn [more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission & Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you, across the whole United Church, in 2021, \$240,000 in Mission & Service funding supported a number of ministries in Prairie to Pine. Your generosity through Mission & Service strengthened camps, chaplaincies, economic justice, theological training, and more.

Beyond our borders, Mission & Service also provided \$500,000 in Covid-19 emergency funding, plus \$250,000 towards Covid-19 vaccines. This is on top of support provided to our partners around the globe. And this continues to be a priority as Mission & Service is receiving [donations](#) for the crisis in Ukraine. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Prairie to Pine, and around the world. Thank you for your gifts.

Sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service is an effective way to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage generosity in your community of faith. The pandemic has changed many things, including the way Minutes for Mission are distributed and told, however they certainly have not gone away. New stories are frequently [posted](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos](#) that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you, the people of Prairie to Pine Region. I have been impressed by the dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness and joy of the people in Manitoba and western Ontario. You have found meaningful ways to faithfully create community during a challenging time. It is amazing and so are you.

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson, Stewardship Animator for Prairie to Pine Region

[VNelson@united-church.ca](mailto:VNelson@united-church.ca) \* 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045

**JUBILEE FUND**

### Making a Difference

I realize that the purpose of this report is to reflect on the work of the Jubilee Fund over this past year but I can't help looking at the past 24 years of this amazing initiative. The idea for the Jubilee Fund was sparked at an ecumenical gathering called Building a Moral Economy in 1997 during the time when the late Moderator Right Rev. Bill Phipps was pushing the Church to advocate for economic justice.

We began the work with a few randomly selected people with a passion for the idea of an ethical investment fund. Garry Loewen was instrumental in getting us through the first steps and connecting us with the right people. The Conference Communication Education and Justice Committee was involved. Over the years the United Church has been well represented by Jim Hercus, Linda Churchill, John Schwandt, Bill Gillis, and Anne Duncan.

Since 2000, the Jubilee Fund has supported affordable housing initiatives, subsidized day care facilities, local non-profits and local businesses such as Neechi Foods, Pollock's Hardware, Food for Thought Catering.

New initiatives in the past year have included:

1. A Rent Guarantee Program intended for women who are currently living in shelters or transitional housing units who have the capacity to make full rent payments but are facing the barrier of a lack of rental history. Jubilee Fund's role is to act as a guarantor for up to 40 women. With this program, women who may have been vulnerable to predatory landlords or returning to an unsafe living situation have an opportunity to build a positive rental history, build healthy community supports, and maintain their independence.
2. A \$550,000.00 direct loan to Harriet Street Seniors Housing to secure property for the development of much needed affordable housing in the heart of Winnipeg. The direct loan is the first step in a process that sees the Harriet Street project fundraise to bring a mix of 49 1 and 2-bedroom affordable multi-residential seniors' units to the heart of Winnipeg. The new seniors housing complex will be located within a short distance of healthcare and other amenities.
3. The Jubilee Fund has partnered with Assiniboine Credit Union and Raising the Roof to help finance Reside - a new housing initiative on Mountain Ave. that will re-purpose an abandoned nail salon. This will create three new units of affordable housing. Two units will be larger and made available to Indigenous families at risk of being separated without safe and available housing. The one smaller unit will be for a youth aging out of care.

Prairie to Pine Region currently has \$ 20,000 invested in the Jubilee Fund. A number of UC congregations and many individuals have also invested or donated. Please consider and encourage your church to consider an ethical investment with (or a donation to) the Jubilee Fund. We are making a difference together. For more information, go to <https://www.jubileefund.ca/>

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Lynda Trono*

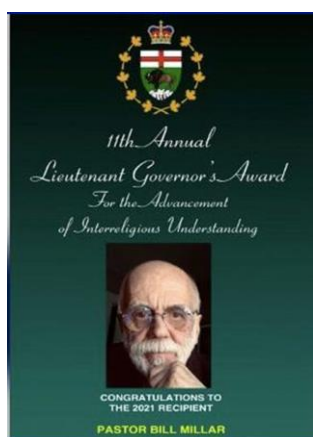
## MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL



**Manitoba Multifaith Council** continues its partnership with the wider United Church community, through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We embrace this opportunity to honour this relationship.

**Meetings:** The Manitoba Multifaith Council has continued to meet regularly during the COVID period. This was made possible using technology, especially using Zoom.

### **A few highlights from the year:**



#### **Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding**

The Manitoba Multifaith Council was pleased to honour Rev. Bill Millar as the 2021 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding. As with all worthy nominee submissions, Bill Millar has had a significant impact on the Winnipeg Community, but particularly with his leadership in the inner-city area with his lead role and interfaith outreach. Throughout his career Reverend Millar has been actively involved in interfaith work including involvement with the Interfaith Round Table for 10+ years

**Congratulations Bill.** This is so well deserved.

#### **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**

Sadly, one of our better known and attended events, the annual leadership breakfast was postponed because of COVID.

#### **Education**

The Education Committee, under the leadership of Ruth Ashrafi had been planning to present information evening programs on religions that are less well known but had to be cancelled because, however the first two evenings on the Baha'i and the Church of Latter Day Saints were very successful. They shared the history/origin of the faith, international engagement (where is this faith practiced), some basic beliefs, some, local community, a day in the life of... (what does a life lived according to this faith look like in Winnipeg), challenges (for instance persecution, mixed marriage), service (how does this religious community contribute to humanity), and, finally, also on how various religious traditions share a common humanity. The presenters were diverse, including men, women, young and old.

A Zoom event with Dr Elazar Ben-Lulu on the topic Digital Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Chances and Effects. Was attended by many of the members.

#### **Spiritual Health Care**

A workshop on "The Covid Lived Experience" was presented with four guest presenters: Doug Koop; Glen Horst; R. Allan Finkel; Dorit Kosman.

A letter of advocacy was sent to the new Health Minister, considering significant gaps in the provision of spiritual health care. The Committee heard back from Barbara Wasilewski almost immediately.



### Justice and Corrections Committee

A helpful meeting of Opening Doors was held on June 25, which confirmed the importance of connecting with inmates prior to release.

The annual Art contest went well, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese.  
Work continues with New Neighbours.

### Multifaith Calendars 2022



This calendar is published annually by the Multifaith Action Society, is a unique educational resource that facilitates understanding of religious observances, occasions and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities. Features 24 pieces of original art from visual artists across North America and Internationally.

In this 2022 Multifaith Calendar, we celebrate RESILIENCE and the hope that keeps us afloat, even during the most difficult times.

Manitoba Multifaith Council is the official distributor for the 2022 Multifaith Calendar throughout Manitoba.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Dwarka  
Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member*

**UNITED CHURCH HALFWAY HOMES**



April 2, 2022

**Submit to:** Harrow United Church

United Church Halfway Homes (UCHH) continues to occupy a space on the main floor of Harrow United Church. This serves as an office for the Executive Director. UCHH also rents space at Harrow for Meetings, Training and Events.

**Meetings-** This year amidst Covid 19 restrictions, United Church Halfway Homes have been afforded the convenience of attending meetings in the lower hall. We have seen an increase in space utilization. A combination of in house and zoom meetings have taken place. The space was used for some staff meetings, union business and interviews.

**Training:** The space has not been utilized for training this year. Our training for our staff has been held mostly "On line" and individual training off site.

**Accommodations:** Harrow United Church continues to accommodate UCHH whenever possible.

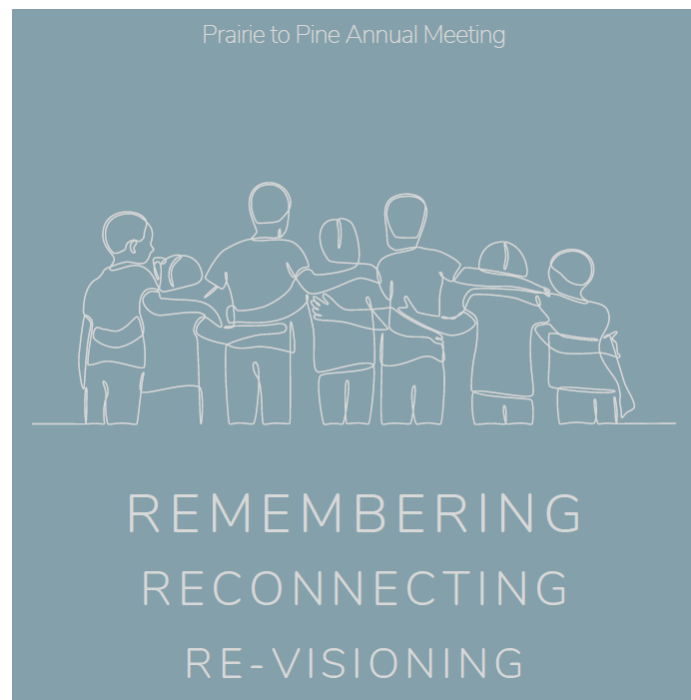
**McMillan Gift Baskets:** Every year during Christmas our ladies at McMillan are gifted Christmas presents, hand made knitted items such as blankets, scarf's and other assortment of gifts are provided, children of our residents are also included. Christmas time can be stressful and trigger unpleasant memories for our residents. This good will Christmas gesture, assist to shine a bright light during the holiday season. This year the house was given quilts to utilize on their beds, this provided added warmth for our residents.

UCHH would like to thank the ladies for their kind act of sharing and giving, sending a positive message to our residents.

**Events-** Due to the continued Covid 19 Restrictions this past year, UCHH has only hosted one event via zoom. We hosted our Annual General Meeting utilizing the Big Screen TV in the lower hall. This has proven to be an excellent alternative to in person meetings.

UCHH is fortunate to experience community partnership with Harrow United Church!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey Dennis, Executive Director*





**THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS and EDUCATIONAL CENTRES****ATLANTIC SCHOOL of THEOLOGY**[www.astheology.ns.ca](http://www.astheology.ns.ca)

Atlantic School of Theology continue to offer a full slate of courses and programs in the last year, adjusting constantly to COVID-19 protocols and norms, just as the churches have done. All courses were delivered online or in a hybrid format. We enjoyed a strong number of new applications, and our total enrollment hovers around the 180 person mark.

Three faculty members were called and appointed to tenure track positions: Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, Rev. Dr. Andy O'Neill, and Dr. Evangeline Kozitza Dean. We are delighted by the rich knowledge, experience, and skill that these scholars bring to our teaching team. 2021 brought a change in senior leadership, as Rev. Canon Neale Bennet retired as President. Dr. Tim O'Neill has been called as our Interim President, and we have commenced the search for a new long term president to serve from mid-2023 onward.

2021 saw the launch of our newest program, the Diploma in Missional Leadership. The first cohort is comprised of United Church persons serving in active ministry. The next cohort will launch in 2023. Our Continuing Education programs ranged from "Progressive Approaches to the Bible" to "Decolonizing Theology," and were all delivered online. AST's Camino Nova Scotia pilgrimage program took place in beautiful Cape Breton Island this year.

Deep gratitude goes out to our United Church of Canada partners, from the General Council to the Regions to the local churches and ministers where our students are serving and are supervised. We continue to seek to be responsive to the emerging needs of the church as we serve God's world together.

*In Christ,*  
*Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell*  
*Academic Dean*

[www.astheology.ns.ca](http://www.astheology.ns.ca)

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**CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES**



## Centre for Christian Studies - 2021

### A Year of Planning for the New

CCS Students in Prairie to Pine:

Jennifer Carter-Morgan, Hyerim Park

#### *Pandemic – It was certainly not going away...*

##### *Spring – New Rhythms*

By the spring of 2021 staff had found rhythms of working together while working from our homes. We became quite adept at meeting through Zoom for staff meetings, committee meetings, student and mentor and field orientations, and we also made sure to schedule meetings with each other just to chat like we would if we were in the office together. Students were also becoming more comfortable and resourceful with online learning and we have been impressed with the ways students have worked creatively with their field sites to meet their learning goals under ongoing health restrictions.

This year we also held our Annual Service of Celebration online which allowed friends and family of the graduates to participate from across Canada.

##### *Summer – New faces*

This summer we ran our first UCC Admission Orientation program for ministers entering the church from other denominations. People joined online from time zones in Canada, India, Korea, Kenya, Congo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This meant people were joining the learning circle from every part of the day – morning, afternoon, evening and late into the night. Our Learning on Purpose circle was held for the first time online in August. Donors to the Matching Gift Campaign supported the development and implementation of this new way of offering the LoP. We learned from student feedback how to create space during the intensive learning circles for time to work independently away from the screen while also offering students opportunities to meet informally so they could chat about all the non-school stuff that matters to them. And, importantly, staff enjoyed valuable vacation time. We took advantage of the easing of COVID restrictions to visit family and friends throughout July and August.

##### *Fall – Changes coming and other new things*

Our learning circles continued to be online, including: Integration Year, Culture and Identity, and Right Relations. The Right Relations learning circle was a joint circle with Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre and CCS. It was designed and led collaboratively with the staff from both schools. This collaboration allowed staff from both schools to learn from each other's teaching methods, but best of all was the opportunity to talk and laugh together. Right Relations was the first learning circle we ran in a hybrid format with sixteen people participating in person and sixteen people participating online. Some students proceeded with field placements, while others focused on external courses, which were widely available online.

In the fall Michelle and David both announced that they would be leaving CCS to pursue other ministry callings. Michelle returned to congregational ministry in London Ontario and David has begun the discernment process to enter ordained ministry in the Church of England. This set in motion the search process for two new additions to the CCS staff team and the announcement that Ken Delisle would serve as Interim Principal for the first half of 2022.

## Progress – Education

We continued to innovate online pedagogy – the UCC Admission Orientation and Right Relations circles are just two examples. We held 11 Learning Circles online, including four circles that had never been offered online: Culture and Identity, Right Relations, Grief and Loss, and Ministry as Community Building. We continued with free-of-charge public workshops with our CCS Fridays series, exploring topics including How to Host an Online AGM, The Pandemic of Racism, Profiles of Diakonia, Indigenous Testamur, Unanswered Questions about 9/11, and Transgressive Devotion. Members of our learning community presented and participated at conferences including Diakonia of the UCC and Anglican Deacons Canada gatherings (attended by Lori, Michelle, Janet, Marcie). Janet and Michelle attended an online conference on Asian Women's Theology. David attended an online conference with a diaconal network in the UK.

## Justice

Staff and students remain committed to ministry education that lives a theology of justice.

One aspect of this is our continued practice of revising assigned reading lists with an anti-racist, decolonial lens. Carrying on from last year, we are stringently assessing the whiteness of our assigned authors, and making changes, circle by circle. We do this with the understanding that auditing readings is not a box to be checked, but it is an ongoing practice we are committed to.

We understand that striving for anti-racist and decolonized education is not only about readings. When inviting chaplains, guest speakers, resource people, and education partners for learning circles we are prioritizing people of colour and Indigenous people.

## Connecting

Our partnership with the social media firm, Strategic Charm, enables us to stay connected with old friends and reach new folks through Instagram and Facebook.

Our online learning circles have provided an opportunity for people to try a CCS learning circle who might not have otherwise made the journey to Winnipeg. This includes continuing studies students from the US, but it also includes continuing studies students from across Canada. The same is true for our CCS Fridays – in the past these were only available to those who make it to Woodsworth house at noon on a Friday. Now we regularly see people from across the country and occasionally we are visited by someone in the US or further abroad.

## Community

The CCS community includes a vast group of generous donors and engaged alumni. As an example of our community engagement we saw a 48% response rate to the donor survey – most organizations don't receive more than 20% response rate. This year donor generosity supported the project to put the LoP online. The fact that they gave almost the same amount in 2021 as 2020 shows an outstanding outpouring of generosity when we were expecting to have some financial losses.

Students are persisting in their ministry formation during this protracted experience of distancing and Covid health precautions. They support each other as they support their local communities. It has been a tiring and challenging year – that is undeniable. But students remain engaged, inspired, and motivated to keep transforming themselves and the world around them.

We are blessed with collaborative, generative partners, including:

Anglican and United Churches  
Diakonia of the United Church of Canada  
Anglican Deacons  
Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean  
Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members,  
Council and Committee volunteers  
St Andrew's College  
St Stephen's College  
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre  
Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Year Book, Financial Statements and Annual Report may be found at: <http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-Year-Book.pdf>

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Ken DeLisle*  
*Acting Principal, Centre for Christian Studies*

EMMANUEL COLLEGE



EMMANUEL COLLEGE  
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Spring 2022

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring. It is my hope and prayer that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. As Interim Principal, I write to share news of various aspects of life at Emmanuel College.

**The search process for Emmanuel's new Principal is in its final stages.** My term will close at the end of June and the College's new Principal will begin July 1, 2022.

**2021-22 has been our second full academic year offered through pandemic-related remote delivery.**

After a brief taste of in-person gatherings and community life at the beautiful Victoria University campus in fall 2021, we had high hopes of returning to in-person learning this past January. Regrettably, due to the rise of the Omicron variant we were forced to remain online for the winter term and will have our summer course offerings online as well. Emmanuel staff and faculty have adapted well and continued to offer excellent pedagogical, community & spiritual life & student service experiences throughout the pandemic in this online format. We are exploring ways to incorporate the best of the online experience as we move forward into predominately in-person experiences in fall 2022.

**Emmanuel College's accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools has been renewed for another 10 years.** Emmanuel received a very positive report from the ATS, commending us on the hard work of interreligious theological education in a triply-embedded school. Emmanuel College is blessed and challenged by the three significant relationships we share with Victoria University, Toronto School of Theology, and University of Toronto.

These relationships made the re-accreditation process particularly arduous, but under the fine leadership of Nevin Reda, it was successful and we were well prepared for the ATS Team visit in September. They were very impressed with our self-study and complimented those responsible for it. In doing this work at Emmanuel College, we have become aware of areas where we need to make changes. We think these changes will strengthen the College and enhance its work as an educational institution preparing individuals for various forms of ministry and service.

**Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students.** Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. programme and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada's candidacy pathway process. All incoming domestic full-time students are eligible for our **Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first year courses.** The application deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programmes, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison ([emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca](mailto:emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca))

**Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online.** These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and its Contexts. This past academic year featured The "Things They Didn't Teach Me in Seminary" Seminar Series, which was developed to bridge the gap between academy and church. M.Div. students could take this series for credit, while engaging with continuing education participants who were ministers in the field. The Centre will host its second Annual symposium entitled "Re-thinking Preaching," in April. It will also host the third annual "Christian Left Conference" with a focus on Creation, Land and Indigeneity in August. A list of upcoming offerings are found on the Emmanuel College web site at <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/> For further information about these events and about applying, please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: [ec.events@utoronto.ca](mailto:ec.events@utoronto.ca).

**Please follow us on social media:**

Facebook:	@EmmanuelCollegeofVic
Twitter:	@EmmanuelColleg2
Instagram:	@emmanuelcollegetoronto
Youtube:	@EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

*Yours in Christ,*



*Rev. Dr. John H. Young  
Interim Principal*

**ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE**

Dear friends of the Living Skies Regional Council,  
Greetings in name of the Holy One,



*Chapel Rainbow Tapestry*

It has been quite year for all of us. I have had the honour to connect with alum, friends and students from across the country. In these conversations, both in-person and remote, there have been many paradoxes present. Hope has been visible even in the reality of the pandemic. Joy has been evident even in the challenges of the fentanyl crisis. There has been resilience even in the context of forces and voices that have served to challenge the common good and our social democracy.

It is in these places that St. Andrew's continues to journey with leaders who are called to bear Light and Good News. This is a faithful pursuit. It is an honour to bring this annual greeting to you as you gather to do the righteous work of our United Church.

When we spoke last year, the College had begun to address an existential financial crisis that led to both an acceleration of our 2020 Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> and to some extremely difficult restructuring decisions. Since then, much has unfolded. As in all paradox, there is indeed celebration in the midst of change, which is sometimes well received and at other times disruptive. I hope the following, therefore, imparts some of the significant work and changes for St. Andrew's.

In the last year, the College has engaged with our Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) partners to deepen our relationship in significant and substantive ways. This has included conversations that have ranged from our academic commitments to the realities of administration and governance alignment among St. Andrew's, the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

As I write to you, the Union has held a Covenanting Ceremony<sup>2</sup> and has just completed an academic retreat. Arising from these important milestones, we are now completing proposals for new integrated academic MDiv & MTS degrees. These new programmes place the context of the student at the centre of an ecumenical experience, which deeply enhances previous collaborations. In turn, we are finalising a framework for a shared STU Faculty, which will nurture a culture of scholarship and interdisciplinary educational opportunity for students. As these degrees receive approval from the appropriate bodies, beginning in May, the STU Faculty will finalise courses and syllabi for this intensive-based endeavour. Recruitment will begin in May for a soft launch in the winter of 2023. We look forward to being up to full steam beginning in fall 2023!

As St. Andrew's innovates with our STU partners in the Academic Pathway, I am just as excited to share the further work of the Academic Redesign Team (ART). ART has also been passionately, creatively and substantively developing a new Lifelong Learning Pathway. The Team includes United Church partners, alum, and an Educational Consultant from the University of Saskatchewan. ART has been developing learning opportunities for lay and ordered ministry. They are creating a learning ecosystem that ranges

<sup>1</sup> <https://standrews.ca/our-community/about/strategic-plan/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXz1Wrrioq4>

from condensed workshops to new certificates. At the centre of this new Pathway will be the learner and their context. I am confident that this new Pathway will allow the College to not only recruit and educate our traditional United Church family but will also include people from ecumenical and secular sectors who are hoping to connect their spiritual journey with their work and vocation.

At the moment, the timeline for the deployment of the Lifelong Learning Pathway is similar to the Academic. The first certificate – *Leadership in the Faith Community* – will be launched in the same timeline as the new Academic Pathway. It is further anticipated that the other two certificates (*Leadership in the World* and *Spiritual Exploration*) will be launched in 2024.

The three certificates being developed are listed below and are accompanied by initial draft descriptions. All three of these Certificates build in core competencies which will allow students to progress, if they so desire, into the graduate level degree programs of St. Andrew's College, such as the Master of Divinity or Master of Theological Studies.

- The *Leadership in the Faith Community* (LFC) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for all members of a faith community (lay or ordered) who are involved in Christian ministry. The LFC Certificate program supports lifelong learners to grow and deepen their skills in contextual theological reflection and the practice(s) of ministry, while assessing and documenting this growth through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.
- The *Leadership in the World* (LW) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for professionals, community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and social justice activists/advocates working for a better world. The LW Certificate program supports lifelong learners to explore their sense of vocation or “calling” and deepen their leadership skills, while assessing and documenting their development through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.
- The *Spiritual Exploration* (SE) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for all who identify as “spiritual but not religious” or spiritually curious/adventurous. The SE Certificate program supports lifelong learners to delve into a wide range of worldview conversations and spiritual practices, while assessing and documenting their exploration and growth through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.

There is indeed much to celebrate at St. Andrew's! The College is relying heavily on our Strategic Plan. Though the timelines have been accelerated by the pressures of the past year, we are intentionally pursuing a course upon which Spirit has invited us. To that end, we are happy to provide the Regional Council (and its Communities of Faith) opportunities to support the vital work which we do. Here are several concrete development programs we would like you to consider and share widely:

- The 2021 #NoGalaGala  
Last year's event featured our previous Registrar, Greg Torwalt. Greg is a successful recording artist and founding member of the band Too Soon Monsoon. This concert is still available online for exclusive viewing by ticketholders, and contains music, conversation, and guest appearances that include student reflections and an introductory meditation with our Pastor in Residence, Janet Clarke.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://standrews.ca/donate/donate-now/> and choose NoGalaGala



Stay tuned for news about the 2022 #NoGalaGala, which will feature the art and music of one of the College's most recent Honorary Doctorate recipients, Brenda Baker. Recording for the September 9<sup>th</sup> premiere will begin this summer

- Companions of the College

This initiative builds upon the College's ongoing commitment to develop deeper relationships with supporters and friends. College Companions are those who have committed to support the college, on an annual basis, at one of two initial tiers:

1. Cypress: \$500/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 10% annually; and,
2. Tamarack: \$1 000/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 5% annually.

This initiative invites new donors to give at these levels; existing supporters, at either of these two-tier levels, are invited to commit to the annual increase. Each tier will have access to ongoing new digital content, which the College has and will continue to create:

1. Cypress: This donor level will have access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library. This resource allows individuals and faith communities to download and/or stream full worship services developed by members of St. Andrew's. Currently there are 6 worship services, which range from thematic to stand-alone. The college will be adding at least 2–3-year new worship experiences per year; and,
2. Tamarack: At this donor tier, supporters will receive access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library and exclusive access to all previous and future #NoGalaGala events. Currently the college has hosted two online premieres and intends to have 1-2-year.

If you or your faith community want to know more about this exciting initiative and the digital resources which accompany the tiers, please contact Melanie Schwanbeck, College Secretary, [melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

- College Sunday Digital Library

St. Andrew's College has a long tradition of visiting communities of faith, large and small, to bring greetings, share the Gospel, and strengthen our bonds with the wider church. The covid era has invited us to consider innovative ways to continue that tradition, and so we are pleased to offer our new College Sunday digital resources. These include a growing digital library of full worship services, including sermons, hymns, liturgical notes, and conversation-starter questions. Current themes include leadership, stewardship, compassion, vocation, humility, and much more. For more information, contact Melanie Schwanbeck at the College office [melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

- Classroom Enhancement Initiative

As the college prepares for renewal over the coming years, we are also continuing to update our classrooms to offer hybrid learning. This will allow students to learn together whether onsite or remotely. Please consider giving to the College's *Second Century Fund*.

*In Christ,*  
*Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis*  
*Principal*



## ANNIVERSARIES

**CONGRATULATIONS to those celebrating significant anniversaries** of their admission to the Order of Ministry in the United Church, their commissioning to diaconal ministry, recognition AS Designated Lay Ministers or ordination:

(OM-Ordained Minister; DM- Diaconal Minister; LMR- Designated Lay Minister –Recognized;  
RO- Retired Ordained Minister; RD- Retired Diaconal Minister; R-DLM Retired Designated Lay Minister)

### **5 Years (2017):**

*Joshua Ward (DM)*

### **10 years (2012):**

*Melanie Kauppila (OM)*

*Agnes Spence (OM)*

*Rolanda Taylor (OM)*

### **15 years (2007):**

*Peggy Mason (R-DLM)*

*Barbara Roberts (OM)*

### **20 Years (2002):**

*Patricia Baker (DM)*

*Noelle Bowles (OM)*

*Leslie Clark (OM)*

*Karen Lumley (DM)*

**25 Years (1997):**

*George Feenstra (RO)*

*Frances Flook (OM)*

*Scott MacAuley (OM)*

*Shannon McCarthy (OM)*

*Melody McKellar (DM)*

**30 years (1992):**

*Elizabeth Brown (OM)*

*Brent Denham (RO)*

*Cole Grambo (OM)*

*Sherri McConnell (DM)*

*Solomon Meekis (OM)*

**35 years (1987):**

*David Fielder (OM)*

*Lesley Fox (OM)*

*Meg Illman-White (OM)*

*Grant Queskekapow (OM)*

**40 years (1982):**

*Robert Johansson (RO)*

*Robert Stark (RO)*

**45 years (1977)**

*Marilyn Anderson Corkum (RD)*

*Don McIntyre (RO)*

*Margaret Scott (RD)*

*Beverly Simpson (RO)*

*Laurence Simpson (RO)*

**55 years (1967):**

*Peter Douglas (RO)*

**60 years (1962):**

*Joe Redpath (RO)*

*Eleanor Geib (RO)*

*Atze Veldhuis (R)O)*

**75 years (1947):**

*Gordon Toombs (RO)*



## Appendix I - NOMINATIONS REPORT 2022

The Nominations Committee works throughout the year to find people from all over the Prairie to Pine region to fill vacancies on the Executive, Commissions, Committees and Task Groups. Nominations are presented to the Regional Council Executive for approval, and a yearly report is presented to each Annual Meeting. It is important to note that the Nominations Committee attempts to follow the diversity parameters established by The United Church of Canada, as well as the Calls to the Church by the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle. Therefore, to the best of our ability, we try to represent a diversity of identities, lenses and geography among nominees to Regional Council roles. A summary of the roles on the Executive, Commissions, Committees and Task Groups that currently carry out the mission and ministry of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council will be updated in the coming months, but the most recent version can be viewed or downloaded here <https://prairietopinerc.ca/about/governance/>.

The following is a list of the people involved in the work of the Regional Council. If you, or someone you know, is interested in getting involved as the Regional Council continues to develop its mission and ministry, please complete the online Expression of Interest and Nominations Form.

Nominations are considered and members added to committees throughout the year; your interest is encouraged, your willingness to volunteer is a gift to the church.

### **Prairie to Pine Executive**

1	Pat Bird	Co-chair	2-2023
2	Erica Wiebe	Co-chair	2-2023
3	Diane Dwarka	Past Co-chair	3-2023
4	Valerie Beckingham	Treasurer	2-2024
5	Grant Queskekapow		2-2024
6	M Chorney		3-2024
7	James deBeer		1-2023
8	Craig Miller		1-2023
9	<i>vacant</i>		2-2023
10	<i>vacant</i>		1-2023
11	Youth Representative (alternating)		1-2023

### **Officer of the Court**

James deBeer  
Lori Stewart

### **Property Commission**

1	Ken Thomas	Chair	2-2023
2	Keith McFarlane		2-2023
3	Chuck Ross		2-2023
4	Wayne Sanderson		2-2024
5	<i>vacant</i>		

**Trustees**

Bev Simpson		2-2024
Teresa Melnychuk	Secretary	2-2024
Al Franchuk	Chair	2-2024

**Annual Meeting Planning Committee**

1	Emma Seamone	1-2023
2	Patricia Baker	1-2023
3	Brenda Brand	1-2023
4	<i>vacant</i>	
5	<i>vacant</i>	
6	<i>vacant</i>	
7	<i>vacant</i>	
8	<i>vacant</i>	

**Nominating Committee**

1	Joey Dearborn	Chair	2-2024
2	Betty Kelly	Past Chair	2-2023
3	Teresa Melnychuk		3-2024
4	Anna Stewart		3-2023
5	Frances Flook		1-2023
6	<i>vacant</i>		

**Pastoral Relations Commission**

1	Mary Best	Chair	3-2024
2	Elsie Douglas	Secretary	3-2024
3	Harold Kenyon		3-2024
4	Sherri McConnell		2-2024
5	Linda Buchanan		1-2023
6	Loraine Kakegamic		1-2023
7	Aileen Urquhart		2-2023

**Pastoral Relations Liaisons**

1	Mary Best
2	Elizabeth Brown
3	Linda Buchanan
4	Mona Denton
5	Loraine Kakegamic
6	Mel Kaupilla
7	Harold Kenyon
8	Kathy Platt
9	Aileen Urquhart
10	Patrick Woodbeck
11	Kristen Woodburke
12	Sherri McConnell
13	Virginia Coleman

- 14 *vacant*
- 15 *vacant*
- 16 *vacant*
- 17 *vacant*
- 18 *vacant*
- 19 *vacant*

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

- |   |                    |        |
|---|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Pat Bird           | 2-2024 |
| 2 | Heather Lea        | 3-2023 |
| 3 | Cheryl McKittrick  | 2-2004 |
| 4 | Heather Sandilands | 1-2003 |
| 5 | Silas Lee          | 1-2023 |
| 6 | Irene Chabluk      | 1-2024 |
| 7 | Bill Millar        | 1-2024 |

#### **Committee on Ministry Personnel Support**

- |   |                   |        |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | David Howell      | 2-2024 |
| 2 | Joan Jarvis       | 2-2024 |
| 3 | Christopher Davis | 1-2023 |
| 4 | Beth Rutherford   | 2-2023 |
| 5 | Susan Tillman     | 1-2024 |
| 6 | Cathy Maxwell     | 1-2024 |

#### **Ministry Personnel Support Committee**

Deborah Murray	Cheryl Kinney Matheson
Deborah Vitt	Joan Jarvis
Jack Ballantine-Dickson	Nancy Sanders
Ken Delisle	Heather Robbins
Cathie Waldie	Irene Greenwood

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

- |   |                  |           |        |
|---|------------------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | Don Schau        | Chair     | 3-2024 |
| 2 | Doug Neufeld     | Secretary | 3-2024 |
| 3 | Margaret Scott   |           | 3-2024 |
| 4 | Dianne Kowalchuk |           | 1-2024 |
| 5 | Hope Mattus      |           | 2-2023 |
| 6 | Jim Warburton    |           | 1-2023 |
| 7 | <i>vacant</i>    |           |        |
| 8 | <i>vacant</i>    |           |        |
| * | Jeff Cook        | Chaplain  |        |

**Mission Support Grants Committee**

1	Pat Bird	2-2023
2	Anna Stewart	2-2023
3	Anne Duncan	1-2024
4	Joan Neuman	1-2024

**Young Adults and Youth Committee (YAAY)**

Ha Na Park (adult advisor)

1	Aidan McLeod	11	Lilja Best
2	Ayla Hamilton	12	M Chorney
3	Chelsea Sosiak	13	Marissa Smirl
4	Dylan Radcliffe	14	Selina Santos
5	Elizabeth Kenyon	15	Shavaughn Jochum
6	George Meggison	16	Sheena Henderson
7	Holly Typliski	17	William Miller
8	Jade Webber	18	Xander Miller
9	Jillia Meggison	19	<i>vacant</i>
10	Julia Antonyshyn	20	<i>vacant</i>

**Equity and Diversity Committee**

1	Jamie Miller	Chair	2-2024
2	Linda Rodgers		2-2024
3	M Chorney		1-2023
4	Cathey Day		2-2023
5	Alan Gershuny		2-2023
6	Kyle Kellar		1-2023
7	Yeseullyn Lee		1-2023
8	Hope Mattus		2-2023
9	<i>vacant</i>		
10	<i>vacant</i>		
11	<i>vacant</i>		
12	<i>vacant</i>		

**Board/Council Appointments of Region****Annual Meeting of Initiatives for Just Communities**

1	Caryn Douglas	2022
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**Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.**

1	Del Sexsmith
2	Teresa Moysey
3	Gordon Goossen
4	Lisa Lix
5	Stuart Fletcher-Cook
6	Betty Young
7	Dwight Rutherford

**Fred Douglas Society**

- 1 Susan McIveen
- 2 *vacant*

**Jubilee Fund**

Lynda Trono 1-2023

**Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)**

Ellen Wood 2-2023

**Manitoba Multifaith Council**

Diane Dwarka 2024

**Rock lake United Church Camp Inc.**

Cathy Ballantine	Valerie Mikolasek
Michelle Funk	Bonnie Robbins
David Manning	Elaine Trefiak
Jan Martens	

**University of Winnipeg - Board of Regents**

- |    |                     |                  |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 1  | Grant Christensen   | 2023             |
| 2  | Blair Evans         | 2021             |
| 3  | Rhith Mascarenhas   | 2022             |
| 4  | Michelle Pereira    | 2022             |
| 5  | Shanna Sterling     | 2022             |
| 6  | Kathleen McCandless | 2023             |
| 7  | Greg Messer         | 2023             |
| 8  | Richard Jones       | 2023             |
| 9  | Evan Podaima        | Student Rep 2021 |
| 10 | Madison Carver      | Student Rep 2021 |

**Wellman Lake United Church Camp Board of Directors**

Joyce Bateman	Max Polon
Breana How	Kendal Stechychyn
Blair Mullin	Candace Wenzel
Lucile Neufeld	Lanaya Harris

**Winnipeg Free Press Advisory Board**

Teresa Moysey 1-2023





## AGENDA

<b>Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>	
6:300 p.m.	Zoom Room Opens (those with technical challenges are encouraged to sign-in early for support)
7:10 p.m.	Opening worship - Land Acknowledgement
7:20 p.m.	Opening Motions
7:25 p.m.	Safe Space Covenants
7:35 p.m.	Introduction of Guests and Chaplains
7:40 p.m.	Small Group discussion
8:10 p.m.	M&S moment 1
8:20 p.m.	Acknowledgement of Retirees
8:30 p.m.	Litany of Acknowledgement & Gratitude
9:00 p.m.	Close
<b>Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Zoom Room Opens (those with technical challenges are encouraged to sign-in early for support)
9:00 a.m.	Opening Prayer / Announcements
9:05 a.m.	M&S moment 2
9:15 a.m.	Theme time - Reconnecting
10:25 a.m.	Connecting with others - 1JustCity, UCRD, and the Philanthropy Unit
10:40 a.m.	Executive Reports and Workbook Q&A
11:10 a.m.	Presentation: What does a Regional Delegate do?
11:30 a.m.	<b>LUNCH</b> (Zoom Room will remain open for those who want to eat together)
1:00 p.m.	Communities of Faith Covenanting Service
1:20 p.m.	M&S moment 3
1:30 p.m.	Small Group Discussion Time
1:50 p.m.	Music United Update
2:00 p.m.	Theme Time – Re-Visioning, feat. Dr. Stewart Hill
2:40 p.m.	Small Group Discussion Time
3:00 p.m.	M&S moment 4
3:05 pm.	Courtesies
3:10 p.m.	Closing Worship including recognition of LLWLs
3:30 p.m.	Close

PRAIRIE TO PINE ANNUAL MEETING