

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes  
February 3, 2022 via Zoom**

- Present** Pat Bird (Co-chair), Diane Dwarka (Co-chair), Erica Wiebe (Co-chair Elect), Julia Antonyshyn (YAAAY), Marissa Smirl (YAAAY), Joey Dearborn, James DeBeer, M Chorney, Craig Miller.
- A quorum was present.
- Corresponding Members** Heather Lea (Committee on Community of Faith Support), Donald Schau (Committee on Lay Ministry Support).
- Regrets** Valerie Beckingham (Treasurer), Grant Queskekapow.
- Staff Present** Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
- Call to Order** Diane Dwarka opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.
- Following the Land Acknowledgement, Pat Bird will chair the rest of the meeting.
- Land Acknowledgement** As we change in our work and understanding of justice and being in right relations, Diane Dwarka read the following Treaty Land Acknowledgement:
- “Prairie to Pine Regional Council is located on lands covered by Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9. These are the traditional and ancestral lands of many Indigenous peoples including Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe/Saulteaux), Nehethowuk (Rocky Cree), Ininiwak (Swampy Cree), Nehiyawak (Plains Cree), Anishinewak (Ojibwe-Cree), Dakota, Dene, and the homelands of the Metis Nation.*
- Treaties created relationships between Treaty partners and the agreements that they made were intended to be mutually beneficial. The Treaties are living documents that include all of us and so we are all Treaty People.*
- As Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who call this land home, we know that the mistakes which are part of our history of colonization have caused deep and lasting harm.*
- We affirm that they Sovereignty and distinct Nationhood of Indigenous Peoples needs to be upheld and that the sustaining connection to traditional and ancestral lands must support in practical ways this Sovereignty and Nationhood.*
- We commit ourselves to the truth-telling that needs to continue to happen as we seek reconciliation and healing and as we work toward a better future.”*
- Opening Worship** Marissa Smirl read excerpts from two Broadview articles.

**Check-In** We checked in by saying our names and pronouns, and by sharing a time when we've noticed the value of representation.

**Agenda** We reviewed the agenda.

**40 – 2021/2022** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the agenda as amended.**

**Approval of Minutes** We reviewed the minutes of November 4, 2021, December 2, 2021, and January 6, 2022.

**41 – 2021/2022** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the minutes from  
November 4, 2021 and December 2, 2021, as distributed.**

**42 – 2021/2022** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the minutes from January  
6, 2022, as amended.**

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

**Correspondence** There was no correspondence.

## **REPORTS**

**Finance** The financial report ending December 31, 2021 (Appendix A) and equity statement to December 31, 2021 (Appendix B) were provided for information.

There was no verbal report. Questions regarding these reports can be sent to Heather Dootoff.

**Nominating  
Committee** Joey Dearborn brought forward three proposals for acceptance.

**43 – 2021/2022** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation of the  
Nominating Committee that SUSAN MCILVEEN be approved to the Fred Douglas  
Society Board of Directors for a two-year term.**

**- SUSAN MCILVEEN**

Susan McIlveen is the minister at Prairie Spirit United Church.

**44 – 2021/2022** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts 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.**

**- ANNE DUNCAN  
- JOAN NEUMAN**

45 – 2021/2022

It was agreed by consensus:

**That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following be named to the 2022 Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual Meeting Planning Team:**

- Diane Dwarka
- Pat Bird
- Emma Seamone
- Noel Suministrado
- Julia Antonyshyn
- Brenda Shodin
- Damber Khadka

The Nominating Committee is asking individuals whose terms are up but could seek another term, to please let them know.

The committee is working on a targeted information piece about vacancies which will be sent out in March. They will be recommending that members would be expected to serve a full two-year term, with the choice to stay on for two additional terms.

*Nominations and the Annual Meeting*

We had an honest discussion about the frustration, burnout, and exhaustion universally felt by everyone.

Some of the points of discussion were:

- The main thing we've heard is that people are burned out and exhausted.
- It's clear that people want to gather, in-person or at the very least online, but there are few who want to be part of the planning.
- The planning piece of an online meeting is not life-giving.
- It's been a difficult transition because the amount of work has remained the same but there are far fewer people to do it.
- We tend to ask the same people over and over.

We keep asking ourselves:

- How can we find new people?
- What ways have we not tried?
- What do we want to accomplish with an annual meeting this year?

**Annual Meeting**

We had a discussion on cancelling the 2022 Regional Council Meeting.

Some reasons to cancel were:

- There is no business that needs to be done.
- We can't submit proposals since the deadline is long past.
- We have already elected our General Council Commissioners.
- There is no business to be done that the requires the whole of the regional council.

The discussion ended on a positive note:

- We have already set a date and have a planning team in place.

- What if we did something different?
- Even if we don't have business to do, we can make this annual meeting a life-giving event.
- We look forward to and enjoy being with each other.
- There are many things to celebrate.

Pat Bird, Diane Dwarka, and Shannon McCarthy will call a meeting of this year's planning team and bring this discussion to that meeting.

**Equity & Diversity Committee**

M Chorney reported.

**Executive Minister's Report**

Shannon McCarthy reported.

*GC44 Commissioners*

The first session of GC44 is February 13, 2022. Listening sessions are in March, April, and May, discussion sessions will be in June, and voting happens in July. There will be time to gather commissioners for discussion around specific topics.

General Council is using a new virtual meeting system for GC44 called Pheedloop. To be efficient, training will be provided for all three regional councils at the same time.

*Linda Gray*

We are very happy to announce that Linda Gray is back for Incorporated Ministries.

*Newsletter reformat*

The newsletter is going through a reformat to make it shorter and easier to read. We want to send a different edition each week with snippets of information that link to the regional council website. Changes are set to happen in the next few weeks.

**Incorporated Ministries**

There was nothing from incorporated ministries.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS**

**Pastoral Relations Minister**

Judy Hare submitted a Pastoral Relations report for information.

*Collaborative Ministry Workshop*

Much time was devoted to the planning and carrying out of a regional council-wide conversation on collaborative ministry.

There is a lot of interest in seeing the collaborative ministry workshop run again.

*Borrowing funds – Kildonan United Church*

Donald Schau reported that Kildonan United Church has received their fund transfer and has started the process of completing the remainder of the requirements in Consensus Decision #038 – 2021/2022.

**Committee on  
Community of Faith  
Support**

Heather Lea reported.

The Committee on Community of Faith Support is beginning to consider the following:

- How best to support and provide resources to support communities of faith to complete their self-assessments.
- What is expected of the Committee once the self-assessment reports are submitted to the regional council?
- What is the purpose of the self-assessments?

Future resources will be developed based on the agreed understanding of the purpose of the self-assessments.

**Justice and  
Communications**

Julie Graham will submit an update on Justice and Communications at a future meeting.

**Right Relations**

Irene Greenwood, Pat Bird, Diane Dwarka, and Julie Graham have met to discuss the possible next steps in putting together a listening circle around residential schools and reconciliation.

*Intentional Listening  
Circle*

The hope is to keep drawing our circle wider and get more Indigenous voices in place as we continue to think about how to learn, listen, and educate ourselves.

**Land  
Acknowledgement  
Statement**

The land acknowledgement statement is a living document, and we keep it in our minds as we live and work.

**Structure document**

The task group has scheduled a meeting to further discuss what is still outstanding.

**Next Meeting(s)**

The Executive agreed to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM with the next meeting dates:

- March 3, 2022

**Closing Prayer**

Julia Antonyshyn said a prayer to close the meeting.

**Adjournment**

Pat Bird adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

---

Patricia Bird, Co-Chair

---

Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair

---

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister