

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes
November 1, 2022 via Zoom**

Present	Pat Bird (Co-chair), Erica Wiebe (Co-chair), Diane Dwarka (Past Co-chair), Tammy Bleue, Julia Antonyshyn (YAAY); James de Beer
Corresponding Members	Heather Lea (Community of Faith Support), Don Schau (Lay Leadership Support), Joey Dearborn (Nominating), Lilja Best (YAAY).
Regrets	Grant Queskekapow, Craig Miller, M Chorney.
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Julie Graham (Communications & Justice Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister)
Call to Order	Pat Bird called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm and led us in our Land Acknowledgment. Don Schau led our opening reflection and prayer he read the book "Why We Remember" by Grade 1 class of Graysville school.
Agenda	We reviewed the agenda as distributed.
Minutes 018– 2022/2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the October 4, 2022 minutes as corrected.
BUSINESS ARISING	
Treasurer	We will deal with this under the Nominations report.
CORRESPONDENCE	
YAAY staffing	We received a request from the YAAY committee on the need for staffing to be increased to 0.5 FTE instead of 0.33 FTE. We agree to hold this decision until after the financial discussion.
Rural Ministry Network	We received correspondence requesting funding for this network.
Financial Report	Heather Dootoff reported:
Staffing Increase 019-2022/2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve the increase of the Youth and Young adult ministry position to be a \$0.5 FTE effective January 1, 2023.
020-2022/2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve \$250 for the United Church Rural Ministry Network from the Networks and Clusters budget.

- Budget**
021-2022/2023 **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the adjusted Regional Council budget with the increase of staff time approved in motion 019-2022/2023.
- Co-Chairs Report** Pat Bird reported:
- Pat Bird attended the special service at Neepawa Shared Ministry with Heather Lea on behalf of the Regional Council.
- Erica will attend the presiding officers gathering at the end of November.
- Pat presented the Structure Document diagram for discussion. We made some suggested changes.
- Pat will take that back to the group working on that.
- Nominations** Nominations is recommending Jennifer Pakula as Treasurer.
- 022-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Jennifer Pakula be appointed as treasurer of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.
- 023-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:**
That the following be named to the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee
Jeff Cook
Elizabeth Brown
Karen Tjaden
- Community of Faith Support** Whereas Central United Church in Brandon has ceased to be an active community of faith, have dispersed their assets, archived their records, and transferred memberships as per Regional Council expectations and now request to be disbanded as a United Church Community of Faith,
- Therefore, it is proposed that Prairie to Pine Regional Council disband (Brandon) Central United Church Community of Faith effective December 15, 2022.
- 024-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:**
Prairie to Pine Regional Council disband (Brandon) Central United Church Community of Faith effective December 15, 2022.
- YAAY** Alf happened in Carmen. Covid protocols with masking and rapid testing went off without a hitch. It wasn't a super large group, but it was a good group and it was great to gather together.
- Property** Commission has been very busy this fall. Cleaning up rural properties
- Incorporated Ministry**
025-2022/2023 **It was agreed by consensus:**

That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive take the following action(s):

a) Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. 2022-2023 Board of Directors

**Dennis Butcher
Stuart Fletcher-Cook
Gordon Goossen
Lisa Lix
Dwight Rutherford
Del Sexsmith
Betty Young**

This is based on the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 8, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

b) Prairie View Lodge

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge 2022 Board of Directors

**Linda Cavers
Pat Cesmystruk
Susanne Fortin
Yvette Glenn
Bev Leadbeater
Jack McKay
Barb McLaren
Elaine McLennan
Alan Melvin
Janice Olfert**

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve By-Law No. 1/21 as approved by the members on June 15, 2021 of the incorporated ministry known as Prairie View Lodge.

These are based on the Annual Area Board 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.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge 2023 Board of Directors

**Linda Cavers
Pat Cesmystruk
Susanne Fortin
Yvette Glenn
Jack McKay
Barbara McLaren
Elaine McLennan
Alan Melvin
Janice Olfert**

This is based on the Annual Area Board Meeting minutes of June 15, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

c) Prairie View Lodge Foundation

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge Foundation 2022 Board of Directors

**Val Choquette
Audrey Cockerline
Carole Harkness
Nancy Holman
Cheryl McKitrick
Alan Melvin
Irene Onuch
Elaine Trefiak**

This is based on the Annual Area Board 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.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge Foundation 2023 Board of Directors

**Val Choquette
Audrey Cockerline
Carole Harkness
Nancy Holman
Cheryl McKitrick
Alan Melvin
Irene Onuch
Elaine Trefiak
Curtis Weeks**

This is based on the Annual Area Board Meeting minutes of June 15, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

d) Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc.

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. 2022-2023 Board of Directors

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

This is based on the draft Annual Meeting minutes of March 22, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

e) Wellman Lake United Church Camp

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wellman Lake United Church Camp 2022-2023 Board of Directors

**Joyce Bateman
Blair Mullin
Lucile Neufeld
Kendal Stechyshyn
Candace Wenzel
Lanaya Zaretsky**

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

**Pastoral Relations
Minister**

Judy Hare reported:

Committee on Ministry personnel support is preparing to host gatherings for Active ministry personnel and

Time spent on our relationship with Indigenous Church and working with Rey Anderson as the Community Capacity Development Coordinator. Contracts are delayed because of lack of information regarding Mission Support grants from the Indigenous Church.

**Communication and
Justice**

Julie Graham reported:

Norway House Listening Circle

Over a year ago, the Region received an invitation and gentle challenge from Rev Grant Queskekapow regarding our intentions about and attention to survivors' experiences, and the TRC Calls to Action commitments. Diane Dwarka, Pat Bird, and Irene Greenwood took the lead on working with me to set up a group that was representative of the geography and diversity of the Region, with the proviso that these could not be people who are brand new to truth and reconciliation work, including listening circles. Progress has been slow and careful in both PtoP and at Norway House, where a community search for unmarked burials is now getting underway at the sites of the United and Catholic residential schools. This is difficult, as is the proposed learning circle, for survivors and the community. We have about a dozen people on the Prairie to Pine side. The group met with Grant, and elder Ida Mackay, on October 27. While I am willing to continue supporting this important work, the absence of a chair, and low turnout at the October meeting, is difficult to manage from a staff point of view. And within the bigger context, the absence of a right relations structure/ space anywhere in the Regional Council is a concern. Almost non-existent collaboration with the national church has also not helped, especially since jurisdiction/ responsibility for residential schools is often unclear, and needs to be sorted out as we go. I am feeling at a loss here. Feature story on unmarked burials

at Brandon Residential School Prairie to Pine Archivist Erin Acland worked with Global News on a documentary on unmarked burials at Brandon Residential School, run by the Methodist and then United Church from 1895-1969. Please see the story and the video here. Many thanks to Erin for her work with the Global team, including a lot of archival research. Archivists across Canada continue to carry much work associated with the search for burials, as well as equally important struggles to access records of family members forced to attend the schools. This work continues quietly in the background over the very long term.

Thank you as well to people in Brandon, including members of Knox United Church, who continue to hold this crucial work on behalf of the wider United Church. The search, as with all such searches, is very painful for the people of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, made worse by their inability to access private land long thought to house burials. I'm working on editing a public version of an update from the group. Climate justice vigils invitation coming up Nov 11-13 We've been encouraging CoFs to host or participate in a vigil. The ecumenical group For the Love of Creation invited groups across Canada to host candlelight vigils in their own communities on the weekend of November 11-13, 2022. This will be a time to reflect and share our love for our planet, our concern for our fellow human beings at risk from climate change, and our hopes for truly transformative action to happen through the governments gathering for the United Nations "Conference of the Parties" (COP). Knox in Brandon has already stepped up. I've been connecting with Karen Tjaden and others about how the Region can hold space for climate justice, in addition to the Faithful Footprints grants we've been promoting for three years now, and which have participation from several Prairie to Pine CoFs at the moment.

Western Intercultural Ministries Network

Damber Khadka and Bill Millar are our reps to this network, which is holding its AGM November 29. I assist with their newsletter, and continue to hope that we can work out how to better connect the Regional Council to their work. Networking models remain a challenge in the context of Regional participation.

Communications Communicators' group

This a hopefully soon to be tri Region informal group of people with strong experience in communications, including theology, technology, and connecting. We had a very good and lively first conversation November 1. YAAAY events Many thanks to Elizabeth Kenyon and Twila Macnair for all the amazing YAAAY events they've shared on the website. I'm so grateful for their posting team. Have a look at the newsfeed here. Newsletter decisions re local events and postings In consultation with colleagues in other Regions, Cherry and I decided (well, confirmed, really) that local events and local matters like job postings will not be included in the newsletter. Events have their own CoF calendar already; most locally-focused opportunities are not relevant to the entirety of the Region's membership; and concerns about length and too wide a range of content are very real, and increasing.

Directory

Cherry has been working away at this project, which is made more complicated by discrepancies between our data and Church Hub data. The directory will be available as a password protected PDF on the website, and the password will be sent directly to

our contacts. A special announcement will be sent out once the directory is live, sometime in the next month. We know this is an important connecting piece. Structures document I've been working with Teresa Melnychuk, Pat Bird, and Diane Dwarka on thinking through writing, editing, and purpose. Teresa has carried a lot of the writing and wrangling. It's been an interesting process as we work out how to identify a variety of needs and audiences.

FYI: Lawsuit against the UCC on maternity homes; and apology resources We've been making people aware that the United Church has been named in a lawsuit related to its role in running maternity homes, often known as "homes for unwed mothers". Please refer people to website for all resources related to the 2020 apology. Living into this apology is the work of the whole church, and all members of our United Church community are urged to read and reflect on these resources. This issue will be in front of the church for some time to come, especially if the planned class action suit is certified.

And finally, two questions: resuming COVID communications (and persuasion); masking policy Last spring I moved our faithful COVID newsfeed to a lower priority position, as it was no longer very active. That felt like a victory. Now we're seeing every rising numbers and hospitalizations, along with documented spread at church structure meetings. As we move into winter, and continue to hold some in person Regional events, I wonder if we need to resume communicating/ encouraging COVID measures; and if we need to consider a policy about masking at Regional Council events.

Adjournment

James closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next meeting is December 6, 2022



Patricia Bird, Co-Chair



Erica Wiebe, Co-Chair



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

Greetings to the Executive,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Prairie to Pine Young Adults and Youth (YAAY) Committee, to request that Twila MacNair's position be increased from one-third time to half-time.

Twila is central to the activities of YAAY, providing administrative support, advertising and facilitating events, and much more. Twila is actively involved in YAAY's regional youth retreats, ALF and Zeebu, and spends numerous hours dealing with registration and other administrative tasks, as well as coordinating with the local arrangements teams at host churches. Preparing for retreats typically puts Twila over her paid time before even considering how Twila attends these weekend-long events in their entirety. Twila has similar responsibilities regarding the youth programming at the Prairie to Pine Annual General Meeting.

Additionally, Twila is involved in numerous other innovative programs for youth and young adults. She dedicates time to the advertising and/or facilitation of Neechi Camp, Rendezvous, and the Explorer Project, while also working with YAAY to find financial support for interested participants. Twila has also spearheaded the Travelling Youth Group initiative to connect youth in Winnipeg and the surrounding area.

Twila has expressed to the YAAY Committee that she has been working extra hours increasingly since she was hired in this position. While some of Twila's responsibilities are seasonal in nature, on average her duties require more hours than the one-third time she is compensated for. The YAAY Committee has worked with Twila to transfer some of her tasks to our volunteer members and, while this has made a difference, Twila continues to exceed her allotted hours.

Since March, due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Twila has been able to catch up for some of the extra time she has been working. However, the YAAY Committee foresees that once it is safe for our activities to resume, Twila will once again be working more hours than she is compensated for. We recommend that the Prairie to Pine Region increase Twila's position from one-third time to half-time, both out of respect for Twila's diligent work to enhance youth and young adult programming in our region and to ensure that exciting initiatives do not disappear due to a lack of administrative support.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. The YAAY committee looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Julia Antonyshyn

On behalf of:

The Young Adults and Youth (YAAY) Committee of the
Prairie to Pine Region of the United Church of Canada