

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes
December 6, 2022 via Zoom**

Present	Erica Wiebe (Co-chair), Diane Dwarka (Past Co-chair), Tammy Bleue, James de Beer, Jennifer Pakula, Lilja Best, M. Chorney.
Corresponding Members	Heather Lea (Community of Faith Support), Don Schau (Lay Leadership Support), Joey Dearborn (Nominating), Julia Antonyshyn (YAAY).
Regrets	Grant Queskepow, Craig Miller, Pat Bird
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister)
Call to Order	Erica Wiebe called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led us in our Land Acknowledgment. Lilja Best led our opening reflection and prayer.
Agenda	We reviewed the agenda as distributed.
Minutes	We will review the November and December minutes in January.
BUSINESS ARISING	None
Correspondence	<p>Letter from Red River Metis re: our land acknowledgement – forwarded to the Land Acknowledgement task group. They want to have a discussion regarding the wording and adding in a more direct statement about the Red River Metis. The task group is planning to meet next week.</p> <p>Phone call from Rock Lake Camp – Shannon shared a call she received from the Rock Lake board regarding a desperate need for board members and volunteers. If they don't find people to help with the work of the camp they will have to close. Referred to Nominations.</p> <p>Twila sent an email to Pat and Erica thanking the Executive for the extension and enlargement of her position. Thankful that we have given importance to her work with the youth of the region.</p>
Finances	<p>Heather Dootoff reported</p> <p>We discussed possibilities of where money from the sale of the Kildonan United Church that is designated as 10% for indigenous ministry.</p> <p>Important that we consult with members of National Indigenous Council and Keewatin Circle as to where money might go. We will set that money aside and engage in further conversation.</p> <p>We will need to make a motion in January to give Jennifer the power to approve financial stuff.</p>

Co-Chairs Report

Erica attended a national gathering of people who represent their regional councils – presidents, co-chairs etc. Moderator is planning flourishing and encouraging dreaming. Region/Indigenous visits beginning in 2023 Fall, on theme of Human Flourishing. Encouraging dreaming. Visits would include: clergy retreats, public workshop, public lecture, possible theological college visit, and preaching as possible.

Communities are welcome to invite her: moderator@United-church.ca for invitations, there is also a form.

Feedback on GC was given: very long but lots of good work was done. A discussion regarding online vs in person.

Updated on the Strategic Plan.

Next meeting in January.

Committee on Community of Faith Support

Whereas Kildonan United Church has ceased to be an active community of faith, have dispersed their assets, archived their records, transferred memberships as per Regional Council expectations, have plans in place for completing final CRA and UCC statistical reports, and now request to be disbanded as a United Church Community of Faith,

026-2022/2023

It was agreed by consensus:

Therefore, it is proposed that Prairie to Pine Regional Council disband Kildonan United Church Community of Faith effective December 31, 2022.

Lay Leadership Support

Having conducted an interview on Nov. 11th, 2022, and having received all documents, CLM/LLS recommends to the executive P2P Regional Council, Shirley Martin of Cadurcis United Church be licensed as a LLWL in P2P Region effective immediately for the period of 3 years.

Having conducted an interview on Nov. 11th, 2022, and having received all documents, CLM/LLS recommends to the executive P2P Regional Council, Rita Swan of St. Andrew's United Church River Heights be licensed as a LLWL in P2P Region effective immediately for the period of 3 years.

027-2022/2023

It was agreed by consensus:

That Shirley Martin of Cadurcis United Church be licensed as a LLWL in P2P Region effective immediately for a period of 3 years.

That Rita Swan of St. Andrew's United Church River Heights be licensed as a LLWL in P2P Region effective immediately for a period of 3 years.

Equity & Diversity Committee

Kathy Day is serving as the chair until May. We need to make sure she gets the invites to the Executive meetings.

Incorporated Ministries Nothing to report

Nominations Dawn Rolke to serve on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

028-2022/2023 **It was agreed by consensus:
That Dawn Rolke will serve on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.**

Teresa Melnychuk will be sending out letters to Chairs of Committees about terms and to follow up on the needs of committees in the new year.

YAAAY Zeebu will be held February 18-20, 2023 at Knox United in Brandon.

Executive Minister Went to Edmonton last week to meet with Chantal, new Executive Assistant and complete some onboarding.

P2P Staff will get together in January hopefully to celebrate Christmas.

Supervision time with Michael Blair and one discussion was about Con-Ed and Change Management was suggested. Shannon has registered for this course for January.

Pastoral Relations Minister [Report of the Pastoral Relations Minister to the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, December 06,2022](#)

Things remain busy in Prairie to Pine Regional Council with the Committees/Commissions that I act as staff resources and in the pieces of work that I carry out on independently as the Pastoral Relations Minister on behalf of the Regional Council. To keep the Executive up to date on a few matters I would offer the following:

The Pastoral Relations Commission and Pastoral Relations Liaison have a full plate working with Communities of Faith in either their profile process or their Search and Selection process. Trainings at the two points in the process are being done collectively through ZOOM mostly to conserve the time so that the 12 Liaisons can focus on documents review, dealing with complex situations i.e. collaborative ministry arrangements and requisite attendance at meetings where pastoral relations matters are dealt with. There are some anxious communities of faith as they look to transitions and tight timelines. The Pastoral Relations Commission is in the process or working with the Community Capacity Development Coordinator Rey Anderson to sort out appropriate adjustments to the processing of Renewals of Appointments for Indigenous Ministers to meet the needs expressed by the Indigenous Ministers and Community of Faith representatives as they move toward ways of fulfilling bureaucratic requirements (both UCC and Labour Standards) that honour their cultural expression.

The **Committee on Lay Ministry Lay Leadership Support** *are presenting two motions for initial licensing of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders*. They have circulated documents to those requiring re-licensing for submission in early 2023. They are also planning to circulate a survey to Licensed Lay Worship Leaders about the need for or desire for gathering online or in person in 2023.

Representatives from the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support will have some conversation with the Pastoral Relations Commission at its meeting on December 13, 2022 about the protocols within this Regional Council around the supervision, support and hiring criteria for Congregational Designated Ministers based on changes made at GC44 and the most recent GCE.

- The **Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** after having polled both “active” ministry personnel and “retired” ministry personnel are planning gatherings for the spring of 2023. The Coordinator of the MP2MP (Ministry Personnel to Ministry Personnel) Connectors program is currently surveying those who have been acting as connectors and those who have been receiving support from the program about continuing on with the program. News forthcoming in the new year about that. The Committee received a request from a Minister from Living Skies Regional Council about the consideration of expanding the formal association policy of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to allow for him and others to exercise the functions of ministry within Communities of Faith that they may have some association with or occasion to visit. I would introduce the following related to that:

The Committee on Community of Faith Support (often represented at the meetings of the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council) are in the process of receiving back the first round of self-assessment documents circulated to one third of the non-Indigenous Communities of Faith within Prairie to Pine Regional Council. The Committee and its members are involved with many communities of faith /pastoral charges in various stages of discerning their future. To date it has been mostly discerning between amalgamation or disbanding or in a few cases, considering an Ecumenical Shared Ministry. We are just beginning some conversations between **Pastoral Relations Commission** and the Committee on Community of Faith Support around the role of each committee and other resources (EDGE, Kindred Works) in conversations that might be classified as collaborative/cooperative ministry arrangements involving several United Churches, ecumenical partners or community based partners. *They will bring two motions related to their work to the meeting of the Executive tonight.*

As Pastoral Relations Minister I just assisted with the development of a resolution with a Community of Faith who were processing a complaint under the **Workplace Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Response Policy** and have spoken to another Community of Faith related to the possibility of another complaint coming forward. Those complaints are initially received by the Executive Minister. There are a few Ministry Personnel and their communities of faith/pastoral charges requiring support in navigating either the **Restorative Care or Long Term disability systems**.

From November 13- 15 the **Regional Council Ministers that do pastoral relations work** gathered together in Montreal for the first time since 2019 to focus discussion and education on the Admission processes in the United Church of Canada and supports for Ministry Personnel and Communities of Faith involved in those processes. A point of information : of the around 260 Ministry Personnel listed as available for Call or Appointment on Church Hub, 60 + of those are Ministers hoping to enter the Admission process. The Office of Vocations Ministers and General

Council staff joined us for Wednesday and Thursday and we did some reflection on and evaluation of the split episcopal system that has been part of the UCC structure since January, 2019, had a presentation by Janet Gear on her work on different theological perspectives that she calls “the Theological Banquet” and discussed the current situation related to pension and benefits and impending changes in Cost of Living Group assignments. It was a rich time and an opportunity to meet many staff for the first time in person.

I am hopeful that after the meeting of the Pastoral Relations Commission next week there will be time to do some time to simply reach out and make a few connections, to plan for the various training sessions scheduled for early 2023 and to do some “visioning” of possibilities .

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Judy Hare
Pastoral Relations Minister

029-2022/2023

That the executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve the following additions to the Policy on Formal Association within Prairie to Pine Regional Council:

Policy on Formal Association

POLICY ON FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITHIN PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
In accordance with section 1.2.5.3 (The Manual 2022), which states that

“Ministry Personnel who are not called or appointment to a community of faith, may carry out the functions of ministry in the United Church only if:

- a) They have a formal association with a community of faith, are acting on behalf of that community of faith, and have the approval of the community of faith’s governing body;”

Ministry Personnel who are members of Prairie to Pine Regional Council who are required to demonstrate a formal association with a community of faith in order to be eligible to exercise any of the functions of ministry including performing marriages under the authority of a License requested through Prairie to Pine Regional Council, will do so by:

· A letter from the governing body of a community of faith including a motion responding to a request from the Ministry Personnel to be in a formal association with that community of faith and acknowledging that they understand the accountability relationship associated with that request.

A Minister can have only one formal association relationship at any one time. A minister in formal association can exercise the functions of ministry for any community of faith within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, and is not limited to only doing so for the community of faith with which they are in formal association. A Minister in a formal association relationship within another regional council of the United Church of Canada is eligible to perform the functions of ministry within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council :

- i. after having submitted to the Pastoral Relations Minister of Prairie to Pine Regional Council a letter confirming the Community of Faith and the

- Regional Council that it is located in with which they are currently in formal association.
- ii. with the understanding that that the Ministry Personnel is accounting to that community of faith at least annually for any/all occasions that they exercised the functions of ministry within or outside the Regional Council where the community of faith that they are in formal association relationship with is located.

Procedure

In order to comply with the above policy, ministry personnel within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council can request to be in a “formal association” with a community of faith by writing to the governing body of the community of faith outlining the functions of ministry that they intend to make themselves available for throughout the Regional Council area and/or a portion of it (worship leadership, pastoral care, funerals, weddings). The governing body of the community of faith will be asked to indicate their support of the request through a motion. That motion indicating the support of the community of faith and the support of any incumbent ministry personnel would then be communicated in writing to the Pastoral Relations Minister of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Judy Hare. The initial request or an indication that formal association request is in process should be received no later than December 1, 2019. This formal association is required for ministers to place their names on the Pulpit Supply List, maintain a License to Officiate at Weddings or for some categories of ministers to celebrate the sacraments.

Policy and procedures initially approved by Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive on September 18, 2019 and amended on December 06, 2022

Communications and Justice

Norway House Listening Circle

Over a year ago, the Region received an invitation and gentle challenge from Rev Grant Queskepow 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 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 was 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 held 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 couple of conversations in November.

YAAY events

Many thanks to Elizabeth Kenyon and Twila Macnair for all the amazing YAAY 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 in the most secure way possible. A special announcement will be sent out once the directory is live, sometime in December, with a full launch in January. 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 this [link 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.

COVID 19

We discussed what the possibilities are regarding mandating masking at Regional Council gatherings.

Do we need to make a statement encouraging masking as churches get busier in the season of Advent. We cannot mandate individual congregations to require masks. Pat, Erica, and Julie to work on a letter to go out before next Wednesday.


Would it be helpful to include a statement that as a regional council wearing masks will be considered the norm at events planned by the Regional Council?

Essentials: Conversations on vaccinations and protecting our community's health workshop happening tomorrow. Heather Lea and Diane Dwarka will register and see what the Faith community is doing.

Adjournment

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

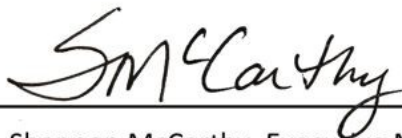
Next meeting is January 3, 2023



Patricia Bird, Co-Chair



Erica Wiebe, Co-Chair



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Financial Report Oct 31, 2022

	Actual 2021 31-Dec	2022 Budget	Actual 2022 31-Oct	Projected 2022 to Dec 31	
GOVERNANCE					
Grants:					
Governance and shared services (from assessments)	325,000	325,000	244,838	325,000	Actual to Sept 30
GC Ex Minister and Asst Salary Grant	76,375	67,000	69,075	76,000	Actual to Sept 30
Total grants	401,375	392,000	313,913	401,000	
Other income Governance	58,797	15,000	32,230	32,230	archive/7-11
TOTAL GOVERNANCE INCOME	460,172	407,000	346,143	433,230	
Expenses: Governance					
Office Expenses					
Office rent/maintenance	43,158	25,000	25,000	30,000	Budget set before rent figure available
Caretaker	12,783	-	-		
Office costs (insurance, supplies, phone, wifi etc.)	12,816	8,000	4,934	8,000	
Shared services General Council	9,120	10,000	7,082	9,443	Actual to Sept 30
Website	1,046	1,050	992	1,050	
Archive Costs	6,770	9,000	9,613	10,000	
Audit	10,893	12,000	13,808	13,808	
	96,586	65,050	61,429	72,301	
Shared staff costs					
Shared EM, Asst and Finance Staff	90,462	92,000	74,862	98,000	Actual to Sept 30*
Shared staff office (office space, other office costs)	11,485	3,500	664	2,000	
Shared staff travel	1,210	7,000	1,588	5,000	
	103,157	102,500	77,114	105,000	
Staffing					
Regional staff - Governance	161,987	167,000	155,436	200,700	Actual to Sept 30
Staffing related costs	2,448	12,000	6,115	12,000	
	164,435	179,000	161,551	212,700	
Governance: committee and structure					
Regional gathering	6,990	10,000	5,293	5,293	
All other Governance costs	5,028	37,300	2,304	6,000	
	12,018	47,300	7,597	11,293	
TOTAL GOVERNANCE COSTS	376,195	393,850	307,691	401,294	
Amortization (not recorded monthly)	18,854	-	-	812	
NET INCOME (LOSS) GOVERNANCE	65,123	13,150	38,452	31,124	
MISSION AND MINISTRY					
Grants					
Other income Mission and Ministry (mostly grants/donation)	240,000	239,000	234,576	239,000	To Sept 30 2022
	54,680	8,000	353,370	353,370	mostly Central UC
TOTAL MISSION AND MINISTRY INCOME	294,680	247,000	587,946	592,370	
Expenses Mission and Ministry					
Salaries and benefits	133,972	136,000	108,576	143,968	To Sept 30 2022
Mission support grants/grant to Qualified Donees	126,000	126,000	331,179	331,179	includes Central UC gifts
Clusters and events	4,234	20,000	10,037	20,000	
Mission and Ministry committee costs	3,348	6,000	1,747	6,000	
TOTAL MISSION AND MINISTRY COSTS	267,554	288,000	451,539	501,147	
NET INCOME (LOSS) MISSION AND MINISTRY	27,126	(41,000)	136,407	91,223	
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Restricted Fund Income	31,174		77074	77074	
Restricted Fund Expenses, Bursaries	(11,587)		-16835	-16835	
NET INCOME RESTRICTED FUNDS	19,587	-	60239	60239	
NET INCOME (LOSS) ALL FUNDS	111,836	(27,850)	235,098	182,586	
Grant to CDI	400,000				
	(288,164)				

* Archivist is has been working increased hours due to grants received

Trust and Special Funds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council	Opening Balance January 1, 2022	Receipts	Expense	Balance	Internal Transfers	Closing Balance November 30, 2022
	\$0.00	\$1,071,732.00	-\$790,019.93	\$281,712.07		281,712.07
Trust Funds						
1 Archive Sale of Property and Donation Fund	74,354.72	105,209.19		179,563.91	-1,168.20	178,395.71
Archive Project (Winnipeg Foundation)/Gov't of Canada	20,000.00	8,000.00		28,000.00	-18,515.70	9,484.30
2 Neechi (formerly Belair Camp)	3,250.48			3,250.48		3,250.48
3 McArthur Estate	9,932.00			9,932.00		9,932.00
4 Oral History Archive Trust	4,257.00			4,257.00		4,257.00
Special Funds						
1 Archive Donation Fund (combined with property sales)	0.00			0.00		0.00
2 Archive Special Fund	863.00			863.00		863.00
3 (UCW) Bursary Fund	2,987.80	1275.00	-2,500.00	1,762.80		1,762.80
4 Education and Students 2015	1,000.00			1,000.00		1,000.00
5 Effective Leadership events 2013-2015	685.00			685.00		685.00
6 Overview and Visioning Event 2014	2,500.00			2,500.00		2,500.00
7 Ministry and Personnel - future projects	5,234.00			5,234.00		5,234.00
9 Youth Events	14,694.63			14,694.63		14,694.63
10 Youth Leadership Development	2,320.00			2,320.00		2,320.00
				0.00		0.00
New/Temporary						
Keewatin (UCC grant)	34,754.39			34,754.39		34,754.39
Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund (009 - 2021/2022)	16,000.00			16,000.00		16,000.00
Totals	\$192,833.02 **	\$1,186,216.19	(\$792,519.93)	\$586,529.28	(\$19,683.90)	\$566,845.38
Conexus chequing	237,154.57	CU GIC's	503,612.24	Receipts	1,186,216.19	
Conexus savings	292,529.94	Scotiawealth	210,288.00	Less Expense	-792,519.93	
Petty Cash	50.50	Jubilee Fund	20,221.26	Income/Loss	393,696.26	
Cash on Hand				Beginning balance	192,833.02	
Capital Assets	812.57	Interest Rec	2,014.89	Ending balance	586,529.28	
Accounts Receivable	-40,655.24	Deposit/Prepaid	873.38	Liability	1,386.37	
			<u>\$1,226,902.11</u>		<u>\$587,915.65</u>	
				Retained earnings	638,986.46	
					<u>\$1,226,902.11</u>	

** Salaries and GC grant info to Sept 30