

APPENDIX I - MINUTES OF THE 4th PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (DRAFT)
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Minutes of Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting
VIA ZOOM
May 6-7, 2022

SESSION 1: Friday, May 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm

REMEMBERING

OPENING

Diane Dwarka, co-chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive welcomed one and all to this meeting. She called the meeting to order at 7:00pm for a time of worship, study, companionship and business. Emma Seamone, chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee invited the approximately 160 participants on Zoom to join in the opening worship.

OPENING WORSHIP

Brenda Shodin, of Knox United Church in Kenora Ontario, lead the worship, opening with an acknowledgement of land treaties within the Prairie to Pine Regional Council and those who are not signatories to any treaty.

**PROCEDURAL/
ENABLING MOTIONS**

Diane Dwarka and Pat Bird, Co-chairs of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, along with Shannon McCarthy lead in the opening of the business portion of the evening.

001-2022

Moved: Shannon McCarthy

Seconded: Emma Seamone

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the 4th 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 member 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 3rd 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.

CARRIED

INTRODUCTIONS

Jamie Miller, Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee reviewed the Whole People of God Covenant from page 4 of the 2022 Regional Meeting Workbook Vol.1 to create a safe space for learning and sharing to create as respectful place as possible. She then announced the Chaplains for this meeting – Deborah Vitt and Susie McPherson Derendy and their contact information. Diane Dwarka, then introduced the special guests to this meeting: Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada; UCC Bookstore/UCRD Rep. Rebecka Hornburg; Stewardship Animator, Vicki Nelson; Office of Vocation Minister, Karen Medland; and Sarah Lough from Music United.

TABLE GROUP TIME

The gathered then went into breakout rooms for about 30 minutes to discuss: How has the feeling of loss manifested for your Community of Faith? What have you found to be essential about church? and What learning or innovations have happened during this time? Participants were asked to appoint a recorder and add responses from their breakout room onto a Google document for sharing later. After about 25 minutes of discussion time, Emma Seamone, chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee welcomed folks back to the larger group.

M&S FUNDRAISER

It was then time for the famous Prairie to Pine M&S fundraiser – the Masked Singer, led by cohosts Lesley Harrison and Julia Antonyshyn. Lesley then acknowledged the technical team helping out – Jillia Meggison, Julie Hutton and Matt Kenyon. Lesley then explained how the Masked Singer worked: each performer would be represented by a puppet and delegates would have a chance to make a pledge and

guess at the identity of each 'masked singer'. Three clues would be shared throughout the video and following the final clue, the artist(s) would be revealed.

HONOURING RETIREES

As we neared the end of the evening, Diane Dwarka called the delegate to a time of honouring our two retirees: Lynda Trono and Laird Russell-Yearwood. Each shared a 5 minute video.

Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair of the Regional Council Executive thanked the retirees for their service and offered good wishes for their retirement.

Brenda Shodin offered a short prayer before the ministerial anniversaries were read. Ministers celebrating significant anniversaries of their admission, ordination, commissioning or recognition this year are: 5 years – Joshua Ward (DM); 10 years – Melanie Kauppila (OM), Agnes Spence (OM), and Rolanda Taylor (OM); 15 years - Peggy Mason (R-DLM) and Barbara Roberts (OM); 20 years – Patricia Baker (DM), Noelle Bowles (OM), Leslie Clark (OM) and Karen Lumley (DM); 25 years – George Feenstra (RO), Frances Flook (OM), Scott MacAuley (OM), Shannon McCarthy (OM), and Melody McKellar (DM); 30 years – Elizabeth Brown (OM), Brent Denham (RO), Cole Grambo (OM), Sherri McConnell (DM) and Solomon Meekis (OM), 35 years – David Fielder (OM), Lesley Fox (OM), Meg Illman-White (OM), and Grant Queskekapow (OM); 40 years – Robert Johannson (RO) and Robert Stark (RO); 45 years - Marilyn Anderson Corkum (RD), Don McIntyre (RO), Margaret Scott (RD), Beverly Simpson (RO) and Laurence Simpson (RO); 55 years – Peter Douglas (RO); 60 years – Joe Redpath (RO), Eleanor Geib (RO) and Atze Veldhuis (RO) and 75 years – Gordon Toombs (RO).

(Key: DM – Diaconal Minister, OM – Ordained Minister, R-DLM – Retired Designated Lay Minister, RO – Retired Ordained Minister and RD - Retired Diaconal Minister).

CLOSING

The gathered were then reminded that the Zoom room will open at 8:30am tomorrow and the meeting will begin at 9:00am.

SESSION 2: Saturday, May 7, 2023, at 9:00 am

RECONNECTING

WELCOME

Pat Bird, co-chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive welcomed everyone to the morning session of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual Meeting for 2022.

MODERATOR WELCOME

The video message from Rt Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of The United Church of Canada was shown. He talked about how much is going on - COVID, economic hardship, war, climate disaster, and acknowledged it is not easy to understand or live out our faith in such times, but we are doing that, with God, in our neighbourhoods and in the world. This is his last opportunity for him to bring greetings, and he wanted to thank folks for being who they are. He offered Christ's peace to all. (see the full transcript of his presentation) Julia thanked Richard for his work.

THEME TIME

The second theme time of Reconnecting was stories from around the church. We heard stories from Michael Blair, the United Church's Executive Secretary; Emma Seamone, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee; and Gay Boese.

Julia then introduced the questions for consideration in the breakout rooms – What about these stories resonated with you? What new perspective did they give you? How do we reconnect as a church in a way that includes everyone? Breakout groups considered these questions for about 15 minutes with group recorders being asked to put responses in the google doc, like yesterday.

Julia Antonysyn welcome folks back to the main session and introduced Silas Lee of the Winnipeg: Chinese United Church. A video from Knox United Church in Brandon was shown.

Julia thanked the folks at Knox in Brandon for their presentation and sent everyone back into breakout rooms to discuss and reflect on these to videos. After about 10 minutes, Julia welcomed everyone back to the main Zoom room to continue.

The next video was from 1 Just City.

UCRD

Emma Seamone invited William Simmons from UCRD / United Church Bookroom to share some information about new products. The first book William talked about was My Daily Discoverment – 40 Days of Vocational Discernment for Young Adults by Andrew Hyde. The second was For the Sake of the Common Good, Essays in Honour of Lois Wilson. And coming in June is Building God's Beloved Community.

PHILANTHROPY

Vicki Nelson, of the Philanthropy Unit was welcomed by Emma Seamone. After introducing herself as the Community of Faith Stewardship Support person for the west, Vicki talked about the ripple effect of generosity and that small things can have a big impact. Encourage generosity, but remember to respond with gratitude. Just like a drop of water into a larger body, our impulses of generosity often lead to other experiences – like joining a board or committee. And although talking about giving can be hard, there is help. The workshop, Called to Be the Church – The Journey is a great resource. In it you learn about stewardship best practices and get some help with a stewardship campaign for your community of faith, including reports, next steps and some coaching from others who have been through it. Vicki explained she is also a rep to the United Church Foundation. One of their services includes grants to United Church Ministries, including congregations. They also offer resources for future planning. Vicki summed up by asking folks to join with others to make a better world, through providing COVID vaccines to under served communities, or support people through the crisis in Ukraine. Your generosity ripples out of your community, to the region, to the nation, and to the world. She then provided her email address and phone number so people can contact her.

REPORTS

Diane Dwarka and Pat Bird, Co-Chairs of the Regional Executive; Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister and Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada were all called upon to offer their reports. Diane pointed out that their printed reports can be found [in the workbook](#).

Diane shared that the revision of the Prairie to Pine Land Acknowledgement was a highlight of hers, for the past year.

Shannon added updates to her written report: the audit is not yet ready as they are still working on it; it was a very busy year, with the regional council office moving to the Centre for Christian Studies building and the reorganizing how we work – to include some working from home. Policies continue to be updated as well as the way things are

done. Newsletters and event lists are ways we are trying to provide information and always appreciate feedback. She asked delegates to “remember, we have only been doing this for three years”. It is hoped that soon links will be available for grants and funding that are available to communities of faith.

Shannon thanked Co-chairs, Diane for her service for the last two years and Pat for her one year and looks forward to working with her for another year. She thanked

Nominations who are always looking for people. She reminded delegates to think about what they can offer and how they can contribute to this community. Shannon then thanked the staff of Prairie to Pine for their work over the last year. In response to a question, she expressed hope that a directory will be available this summer.

Shannon then introduced Michael Blair, General Secretary.

Michael relayed that a perk of COVID has been the ability to be in multiple places in a very short amount of time. He began by expressing his appreciation for Shannon’s leadership. He then offered updates to General Council #44, that is happening this year. It is historic in several ways: This will be the first time in 96 years that General Council will be virtual (thanks COVID). It will also be the longest in the history of the church – 7 months. It will be the first General Council in the new structure and the new way of doing things. There are a limited number of proposals – only 56, the smallest number ever dealt with, but challenging none the less. Michael voiced appreciation to the commissioners who have risen to the challenge. They are participating in 3 parts – learning sessions, discussion sessions, and then decision sessions. In the past, proposals came, were vote on and everyone moved on. But in the new way, the learning sessions are about hearing what the problem is and what is being discussed. What we see in the initial proposal, might not be what we eventually vote on. A benefit of these sessions being held over 9 weeks, is that there isn’t a 300-page document that has to be read in a short sitting; it has been broken down into smaller pieces. Priorities will craft the proposals and recommendations for the decisions. Also, on August 7th, 2 weeks after the final decision session, we will install our new Moderator. Throughout, we will have lots of global, ecumenical and other Inter-faith guests.

He offered some upcoming highlights: on May 11, the Indigenous Church has invited the wider church to an online event to listen to the proposal about where they want to be. On May 12, Global, Ecumenical and Inter-faith folks will again meet online to discuss the climate crisis. And on June 1, the Church, with its Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners, will host an online event to discuss urgent issues of increasing inequities, injustice and deepening polarizations.

SESSION 3: Saturday, May 7, 2023, at 1:00 pm**RE-VISION**

- OPENING WORSHIP** Emma Seamone, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, welcomed folks back after lunch. She thanked those who are participating in this afternoon's worship service.
- TABLE GROUP TIME** Emma Seamone, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, then introduced the questions for consideration in the breakout rooms: How could the region better support your community of faith? Once again, recorders were asked to add the comments to the google doc for sharing later.
- THEN LET US SING!** Sara Lough introduced a video of Lydia Smith talking about Then Let us Sing! This new online hymnal and music resource from United Church Publishing House and GIA Publications will contain most of the pieces you've come to love from Voices United, More Voices, and Nos voix unies, plus a growing collection of NEW music. This digital platform will provide copyright cleared music to all available hymns for print, projection and streaming. In 2023 a sampler will be out for feedback, in 2024, the Then Let Us Sing digital platform will be ready and in 2025, in time for the church's 100 Anniversary, a print book will be available. Emma thanked Sara for her presentation.
- THEME TIME** Emma then introduced the third theme word – Re-vision. She summarized that we have remember and reconnected, but now we need to seek a new vision, and remember who we are. She asked the gathered - What grounds you?? and What made you choose your object? The video of the Youth of Prairie to Pine singing Like a Rock was shown. Emma continued that it is tempting to fill time with words, but to seek a new vision, we need a time of silence. She read Psalm 85: 8, then posed the question; how often do we listen for God to talk to us? Do we have a time of silence to hear from God, to seek a new vision? She held for a few moments of silence, while inspirational quotes were shown on the screen.
- LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** After Emma invited folks back, she shared that the work the regional council had done on the Land Acknowledgement this past year, is the beginning of work for first people and settlers. She introduced Dr. Stewart Hill, who had participated in the crafting of Prairie to Pine's Land Acknowledgement. You can view Dr. Hill's presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb0uUSvEa94> at 2:36:00
- TABLE GROUP TIME** Emma then showed a picture of a boat and lighthouse as the object that grounds her. The boat is made from a piece of driftwood and is incorporated into a picture with a lighthouse that resembles the lighthouse from her home town. For years, that lighthouse has guided many boats to shore. Her time closed with the video of the YAAAY of Prairie to Pine singing My Lighthouse being shared with everyone.

Once again, participants were sent to breakout rooms to reflect upon two questions – what relationships in Prairie to Pine could be re-visioned? And, what do we dare to dream for our region's future? Once again, recorders were asked to put notes on the google document.

COURTESIES

Pat Bird Co-chair of Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive then offered the courtesies for the weekend: She started with Diane Dwarka for being her co-chair for the past year, then Andee Nikolaisen for creating the Logo for the meeting; Brenda Shodin for the worship service on Friday night, Jamie Miller from the Equity and Diversity Committee; the M&S team that provided us with The Masked Singer; the Chaplains; all the participants and attendees for the weekend, our special guests – Michael Blair, General Secretary; Dr. Stewart Hill, Michael Simmons, the UCRD representative; and Vicki Nelson, our Philanthropy Unit representative. Pat also thanked the people who created the videos for the youth, the In Memoriums, David Howell who did the retirees video, the Committee for Community of Faith Support for the Covenant video, and Don Schau and those participating in the upcoming LLWL video and each of the Prairie to Pine staff members for their work over the last year. She also thanked the members of the Regional Gathering Planning Team – Chair Emma Seamone, who was new to the regional council, but took on the job anyway and did a great job and Brenda Shodin, Julia Antonyshyn, Cherry Abad, Julie Graham, Graeme Leachman and Chelsea Zacharius.

CLOSING WORSHIP

During the closing worship, Emma presented the 6 names and locations of the Licenced Lay Worship Leaders that are being recognized as the result of actions by the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council since January 1, 2019: Allison Abbott-Wiebe from St. Paul's United Church in Graysville; Julie Hutton from Minnedosa United Church; Nora Laverty from St. Andrew's United Church at Sioux Lookout; Millie Lewis from Cloverdale United Church, Jamie Miller from Dryden: First United Church and Phyllis VerBeek from Winnipeg Beach UC. Then Don Schau, chair of the Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support Committee covenanted with the new Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Then the list of Licenced Lay Worship Leaders trained before the restructuring re-affirmed their covenant with the new Regional Council; Linda Buchanan from Westminster United Church in The Pas; Rita Friesen from Neepawa United Anglican Ecumenical Shared Ministry; Hope Mattus from the United Church in Meadowood in Winnipeg, Daniel Schwartz from Bird's Hill United Church; Wilma Shirriff from Mckenzie United Church in Portage la Prairie; Susan Spindler from Beausejour: St. Paul's United Church; Ila Swain from Roland United Church; Jim Warburton from Warren Meadow Lea Pastoral Charge and Nona Ward from Oakbank United Church. The covenant question was then asked of Regional Council members.

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INSTALLATION OF CO-CHAIRS

Before closing, Diane Dwarka lead the installation of the new Co-chairs, Pat Bird and Erica Wiebe, of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

ADJOURNMENT

As her last act, Diane Dwarka declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

SIGNATURES