



**Prairie to Pine
Regional Council Meeting 2023
The United Church of Canada**



**June 1-4, 2023
The United Church of Meadowood
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Annual Meeting Workbook

<https://prairietopinerc.ca>



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

Rev. Robert James (Bob) Burton

May 24, 2022

Mary Elizabeth Rance

(Chair of the former Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario)

June 18, 2022

Rev. William (Bill) Alexander Blaikie

September 24, 2022

Rev. Donald (Don) Robert Lawrence

September 25, 2022

Dianne Cooper

(Executive Secretary of the former Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario)

October 5, 2022

Rev. Gordon Livingstone Toombs

November 8, 2022

Rev. Henk Booy

January 29, 2023

Rev. George Feenstra

February 1, 2023

Rev. Jack Ballantine-Dickson

February 5, 2023

Rev. Allan Sinclair

March 31, 2023

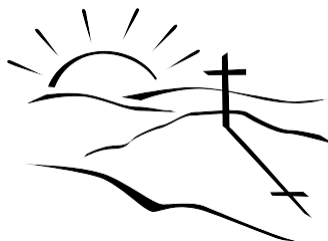


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. In Memoriam	inside front cover
2. 5 th Annual Meeting Enabling Motions	4
3. Covenant	5-6
4. Meeting Procedures	7-9
5. Basic Rules for Debate and Proposals	9-10
6. Reports: Moderator and General Secretary	11-13
7. Report of General Council Office Representative	13-14
8. Report of the Regional Council Executive Co-Chairs.....	14-17
9. Report of the Office of Vocation Minister	17-18
10. Profiles: Retirees	
• Jamie Bradshaw.....	19
• Jeff Cook.....	20
• Carol Fletcher	21
• Karen Kuzek.....	22
• Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd.....	22-23
• Shirley McLaren.....	24
• Teresa Moysey	25
11. Profiles: Candidates	
• Damber Khadka (Ordination)	26
• Patricia Chabluk (Commissioning).....	27
• Noel Suministrado (Admission).....	28
12. Reports: Tri-Regional and Regional Council Program Staff	
• Welcome to Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant	29
• Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives	29-31
• Julie Graham, Regional Minister: Justice and Communications.....	31-35
• Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister	36-38
• Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister	39-40
• Twila MacNair	40-41
13. Report: Treasurer Jennifer Pakula	42
14. Report: Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive Consensus Decisions 2020/2021	43-56
15. Report: Standing Committees of the Region	
• Nominations	57
• Pastoral Relations Commission	57-58
• Committee on Community of Faith Support.....	58-59
• Committee on Lay Leadership/Lay Ministry Support	60
• Committee on Ministry Personnel Support	61
• Property Commission	62
• Equity and Diversity Committee	62-63
• UCW Network (including Bursary)	64
• Youth and Young Adults (YAAY)	65
16. Reports: Other	
• Community of Faith Stewardship: Vicki Nelson	66-67
• Jubilee Fund	67-68
• Manitoba Multifaith Council	68-69
• United Church Halfway Homes	69-70
• Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC).....	70-71

• Interfaith Council on Hydropower Inc. (ICH)	71-72
• Music For Life (M4L)	73
• Kairos Region N.W. Ontario and Manitoba	74
17. Reports: Theological Schools and Educational Centres	
• Atlantic School of Theology	75-76
• Centre for Christian Studies (CCS)	76-77
• Emmanuel College	78-79
• St. Andrew's College	80-81
18. Anniversaries	82-84
19. Appendix I: 2022 Regional Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)	85-91
20. Appendix II: Nominating Committee	
• Regional Slate	92-96
21. Appendix III: Remit 1-Study Guide for Category 3 Remit	
Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization	97-103
22. Appendix IV: Proposal: Faith Communities to Divest from Fossil Fuels	104-106
23. Appendix V: Non-Consolidated Financial Statements (for the year ended Dec. 31, 2022)	107-124
24. Agenda	inside back cover

We would like to thank Rev. Emma Seamone of Carberry United Church for this year's Theme logo and Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant to Shannon McCarthy, for creating the Prairie to Pine Regional Council logo.

5th 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 5th 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 2023, 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 2023; 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 2023 (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 4th 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 2023 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."

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.

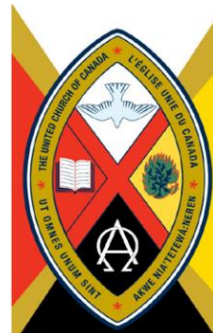
- v. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
- vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the Monday immediately prior to the constituted meeting of the Regional Council and a motion will be brought forth in the decision-making time 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. (2023 Manual, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d)



REPORT of THE MODERATOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator, The United Church of Canada



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

From: The Moderator & General Secretary

2 Corinthians 3:12 "This wonderful hope makes us feel like speaking freely." (CEV)

Members of the Regional Council:

As you gather in this post-resurrection season of our common faith may you find encouragement and hope. We are reminded that the resurrection is both a sign of hope and an invitation to embrace new possibilities and imagine new realities. The post-resurrection stories in the gospels – Thomas' doubt and faith, Mary hanging unto the robes of the resurrected Jesus, the various appearances of the resurrected Jesus and the disappointment and disillusionment of the disciples are reminders of the invitation to embrace a new way in the world. May it be so.

Greetings from the Office of Moderator and General Secretary and also on behalf of the staff team at the General Council Office. It is a privilege to offer you this update on some of our common work.

Moderator's Initiative - ASPIRE Events

The Moderator has identified the opportunity to engaging in some strategic changemaking conversations as part of her focus for the triennium. In order to facilitate this opportunity, the Moderator will be hosting a series of events across the country for the next two and a half years. These events to take place starting Fall 2023-Spring 2025 will include:

- **Public Workshop:** A weekday workshop with the primary audience being corporate sector, to engage in future design thinking to inspire actions that promote human prosperity in a flourishing web of life.
- **Public Lecture:** A public lecture (not live streamed) in the 12 locations where the public workshops will take place, tailored to the context and open to the public (church and non-church)
- **Theological Symposia** – in partnership with theological schools
- **Church Workshop:** Weekend workshop (Saturday) in the region where the Public Workshop will be held; same content as the Public Workshop, but with theological and biblical rationale/reflections and focused on imagining flourishing ministries and communities of faith; can also be a stand-alone day-long event during other travel.
- **National Book Club** (including 4 events in 2024/2025 that are "Centennial Editions" by invitation of the Centennial Committee). A type of "UCC Reads" event, hosted by the ChurchX platform, where the Moderator shares her love of books with the wider church, and engage in conversations about what Canadian prosperity in a flourishing web of life might look like.

- **Leadership School** which is being developed – focusing on strengthening excellence in leadership for the 21st

Look for forthcoming information about these events in your region.

Remit 1 Update: The process began on March 15, 2023, and will be completed on March 31, 2024. [Information about the remit](#)—which includes a study guide, background materials, as well as voting cards can be found at the link.

Strategic Plan: The Call and Vision continue to move across the church, with significant engagement by regions and communities of faith in worship, visioning, governance, and education. Linked to the overall Strategic Plan, we have reached the milestone of first quarter reporting on the Operational Plan for 2023. This is a key achievement not only in strengthening the results orientation and strategic alignment to the work but also addressing how we work, aiding in both transparency and accountability. We have also worked to align the activities to the 2023 budget. We continue to focus on increasing capacity through training managers and staff, developing tools for addressing work overload, and streamlining access to internal office supports. Consistent in our plan development goals is a focus on alignment with the strategic objectives, collection of data to inform decision-making, clear lines of accountability, and efficiency and improvement in systems.

Grants Review: As part of the strategic operational planning process and the budget process for 2023-24, we are engaging in an internal review of all the General Council Office grants and funding programs. The review is intended to enable us to align our funding priorities with the Call and Vision as such it will be a broad and in-depth research project, to collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative information and data to ensure a thorough and context-sensitive analysis of the grants and funding programs. It is expected that a quantitative and financial analysis will provide a clear understanding of the distribution and magnitude of our current grants. As part of the review, external research and best practices are being engaged to ensure that grants and funding programs are in line with industry standards and institutional best practices.

The Bringing the Children Home program continues to respond to the ongoing work of locating and identifying unmarked burial sites on the grounds of former residential institutions in a way that affected communities deem appropriate. We are engaging with communities impacted by the finding of the burial sites on their terms.

Captive Insurance: The new insurance plan was launched on schedule effective December 1, 2022. The implementation was very rushed in order to deliver the target premium savings as early as possible. This required considerably more staff time than expected and there have been considerable delays in renewal activity – primarily related to connecting with the right person locally. New entrants are now being processed as well, and there is considerable interest. Commercial insurance rates continue to increase markedly due to inflation and industry-wide trends. The program will inevitably need to pass on some of these costs but is projected to deliver the promised \$1+ million savings to congregations. A number of enhancements will be introduced in time for the first renewal in December 2023.

Centennial Planning: The Centennial Committee continues to fulfill its mandate of curating events for the celebration of the centennial in 2025. They have developed some guiding principles for the various activities ([Guiding Principles for Centennial Commemorations](#)). The United Church of Canada institutions that are planning events can submit the following ([Form](#)).

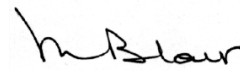
Office Move: The General Council Office move is planned for the first quarter of 2026. The office will be located at 300 Bloor Street as part of Bloor Street's redevelopment. The office will be part of an ecumenical partnership shared by the national offices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Anglican Church in Canada. All three national archives will also be located on the site

Future of work: The General Council Office continues to operate as a fully hybrid workspace. Moving to remote working has enabled the General Council office to recruit from a broader base of potential employees. We are grateful for the opportunity, even as we think about the future of work.

"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."



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator



Rev. Michael Blair
General Secretary General Council

REPORT – GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE



Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball
Executive Minister, Theological Leadership

Jennifer is currently the Executive Minister, Theological Leadership at the General Council Office (GCO). Jennifer is an ordained minister in the United Church and earned her Ph.D. in Christian social ethics through Emmanuel College and the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology. She is originally from the Prairies and currently lives in Saskatoon.

Jennifer was settled in New Brunswick and served three years in the Blackville pastoral charge in New Brunswick.

After settlement, Jennifer moved to Toronto for doctoral studies. Throughout her doctoral studies, she worked part-time with various organizations, including the Student Christian Movement of Canada, United Church congregations, and in the General Council Office, as well as teaching at

Emmanuel College and Queen's School of Religion. Upon completion of her doctoral studies, Jennifer became the director of the Designated Lay Ministry Program (Calling Lakes Centre and then St. Andrew's College). She served as director for almost 10 years. Jennifer was most recently the Program Coordinator, Ministry Vocation at the GCO, with responsibility for Candidacy Pathway policies and for supporting the work of Candidacy Boards and Office of Vocation ministers throughout the country.

She is passionate about eco-theological ethics and the climate crisis. In her spare time, she likes to garden, knit, bird-watch, and most recently, play pickleball. During the long prairie winters, Jennifer and her partner like to build snow forts and create ice art, as a way to practice gratitude for the seasons and the gifts of the earth throughout the year.

REPORT – REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE CO-CHAIRS

Patricia Bird
Chair



Erica Wittevrongel
Chair



Greetings all,

This is very exciting, writing this report and knowing that we will be gathered together for the Annual Meeting.

I have enjoyed my two years as Co-chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. My term as co-chair with Erica Wittevrongel has gone by so quickly. We carved out our style of working together very early and chose to alternate organizing and leading our monthly Executive meetings. This has allowed each of us to stay informed of the business of the Regional Council but also put our energies into other areas of need. Erica and I had some shared experiences which will overlap in our reports but we also had chances to represent the Regional Council individually.

The year started with Erica and I presiding at the Celebration of Ministry on June 26 in Kenora at Knox United Church. There we celebrated the Ordination of Susan Girard and the Admission of Rev. Carrie Martens, Rev. Chewie Mulenga, and Rev. Schalk Naude into the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada.

We both participated in GC44 as Commissioners and celebrated the Installation of our new Moderator Rev Carmen Lansdowne on August 7.

Heather Lea and I attended and participated in a Service of Celebration for Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry (NUASM) on October 16 in Neepawa for the recognition of two years together.

The Annual Meeting Planning Team was called together in September. After spending the last three years developing skills at providing online events, it is now a challenge to remember all the details of meeting in person.

Diane Dwarka and I attended and participated in the service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. An Ecumenical Service in Winnipeg hosted by St. John XXIII Church on Jan 22.

I participated in a media event panel on February 16 at Broadway Disciples Church to share solidarity and support for those who have been and could be affected by Freedom Convoy participants. While occupation of the streets by the Legislature did not happen on Feb 17, the importance of coming together and voicing concern was important.

Shannon McCarthy, Tricia Gerhardt and I attended the Annual Meeting of Rock Lake Church Camp on April 16 in Crystal City at Rock Lake United Church to look for ways the Regional Council can support the camp.

Work continues on the Structure Document Task group with Teresa Melnychuk, Diane Dwarka, Shannon McCarthy, and Julie Graham. We have completed a standardized document that outlines the purpose and structure of each area of the Regional Council Executive. Special thank you to Teresa for her work in organizing this information into such an easily usable form. Work will continue on a more detailed document defining roles and responsibilities.

Thank you Erica, it has been great Co-Chairing with you. Thank you to all who have worked so hard for our Regional Council. To all those in staff positions, we could not function without your dedicated work. To all who volunteer to lead and participate in committees and projects of the Regional Council, we could not function without your dedicated work. Thank you to the planning team who worked hard to make our Annual Meeting a time of learning and fun on top of the business of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

This is a journey. We are all pilgrims on this journey of growth and cooperation. Fellow travelers on the road. We are here to help each other. Walk the mile and share the load.

Patricia Bird

Co-Chair

Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive

This past year has been a time of learning and growth. As my first year in an active role as Co-Chair, it was a chance for me to become better acquainted with the areas of work being done across our region.

The Regional Executive continued to meet on a monthly basis. Pat and I took turns leading the meetings. Our meetings always start with a short check-in or worship which was facilitated by a member of the Executive. I appreciated the opportunity to hear the variety of interpretations that these times of togetherness included. Although prayer was often included, facilitators also included thoughts and

questions that encouraged the Executive to creatively interact with the Creator outside of Sunday worship.

There were several events throughout the year that I was able to attend as a representative of the region:

Celebration of Ministry Service: On June 26, 2022, Pat Bird, myself, and the staff of Prairie to Pine Regional Council officiated the service celebrating the admittance of Rev. Carrie Martens, Rev. Chewe Mulenga, and Rev. Schalk Naude, and the ordination of Susan Girard. The service took place at Knox United Church in Kenora, ON. The congregation of Knox went above and beyond to ensure that the space, technology, and food needs were met for this service.

General Council 44: Over the summer I was one of 14 commissioners representing our region who attended the virtual gathering of the General Council. The longest meeting in history, beginning in February 2022 and ending in August 2022, this meeting encompassed important issues that the commissioner groups were able to address in their times of conversation.

We Are All Treaty People Celebration (WAATP): On September 18, 2022, Diane Dwarka attended the WAATP celebration at The Forks National Historic Site where Indigenous People, Settlers, and Newcomers shared what Being Treaty meant to them.

Service of Remembrance for Queen Elizabeth II: On September 19, 2022, Diane Dwarka and I attended the service of remembrance that took place in the Anglican Cathedral in Winnipeg. The service incorporated elements from different faiths and included acknowledgments from political figures. Peguis First Nation Chief Glenn Hudson was asked to speak and reflected on the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous peoples. One of the highlights of the service was the music. The service included familiar hymns sung by the choir, sung elements shared from the Jewish tradition, and drumming shared by members of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

National Gathering of Presiding Officers: On November 30, 2023, I attended a gathering that included General Council staff, and presiding officers and/or representatives from regions across the country. During that meeting the Moderator shared her plans for the coming year, focusing on the terms: flourishing, encouraging, and dreaming. This meeting was also an opportunity for the regional representatives to share highlights and wishes from their regions.

Tri-Region Gathering: On February 16, 2023 staff and representatives from Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit gathered to discuss the needs of their regions, and share ideas. It was agreed that these types of meetings should continue to occur throughout the year. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2023 and will be a chance for introductions to new representatives, and the continued sharing of ideas.

My move to Saskatchewan in October 2022 meant that I wasn't as able to attend important events in Manitoba. I'd like to thank Pat Bird, Diane Dwarka, and the Prairie to Pine Staff for being flexible and taking on those responsibilities. I would also like to thank all of the members of the Regional Executive

and corresponding members for their work over this past year as we continue to live into our commitments as representatives for those who call Prairie to Pine home.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erica Wittevrongel
Co-Chair
Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive*

REPORT of the OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER



Rev. Laura Fohse
Office of Vocation Minister
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and
Prairie to Pine Regions

I stepped into the role of Vocational Minister in August of 2023. There has been a very steep learning curve and I am grateful for the patience extended as I learn the ropes.

I am also grateful for the many opportunities I have had to become acquainted with ministry personnel across my three regions. It is a privilege to be invited into discerning conversations with respect to sabbaticals, retirement, and vocational clarity. I have been able to join the Zoom ministry gatherings in Northern Spirit and Living Skies (Prairie to Pine still to come). I have also enjoyed seeing many of you at the professional boundaries refresher workshops – both in-person and online. I was able to facilitate in-person workshops in Saskatoon, Regina, and Winnipeg. Last fall I participated in a clergy retreat offered by Living Skies Pastoral Relations Minister, Tracy Murton and this April I was invited, by the Prairie to Pine Committee for Ministry Personnel Support, to offer a similar retreat in that region. It is my hope to also offer a retreat, in conjunction with an in-person professional boundaries refresher in Northern Spirit Regional Council next fall.

Prairie Candidacy Board

The Prairie Candidacy Board has been hard at work supporting 29 candidates on their journey through the Candidacy Pathway. We have an amazing and diverse board consisting of Chair, Rob Smith; Aurora Espenant, Brenda Curtis, Chewie Mulenga, Doreen Hewitson, Mary Annan, Mokwadi Basele, Salesi Takau, Shirley Goodrich, SunDo Hyun, Taeil Yang, and Wayne Youngward.

Of the 29 candidates, 9 are from Prairie to Pine, 12 from Living Skies, 7 from Northern Spirit, and 1 from another region. We have 4 in the Designated Lay Ministry stream, 8 in the Diaconal stream, and 17 in the Ordained stream. We have 12 candidates in Supervised Ministry Education (SME). 8 candidates are

completing the pathway in 2023 - 2 will be commissioned, 2 recognized, and 4 ordained.

Oversight and Discipline of Ministry Personnel

Over the past year, there has been a focus on deliberately consulting with regional councils through an increased number of case conferences, during the informal phases of oversight and discipline proceedings.

As the response committee continues its work there is recognition of the need for more trained investigators, reviewers, and consultants, as some people have stepped away from the work, for a variety of reasons.

The Office of Vocation takes seriously its responsibilities with respect to ensuring standards for accreditation are being met. These include annual declaration of criminal charges and mandatory training. The Standards Committee reviewed the Ethical Standards for Ministry Personnel and the Board of Vocation approved changes to better include guidelines for social media and digital technology.

Admissions Committee

(Admission work is now staffed by Sarah Bruer in the Office of Vocation, this is her summary)

If you go to the United Church of Canada website and search for admissions, you'll find that the admission process is currently not accepting new applications. This pause does not mean that our work with admission ministers is paused. It is merely allowing us to focus our energy on supporting the 194 ministers who are already at various stages within the admission process.

In 2022, the Admission Board conducted 36 interviews; and another 12 have already been conducted in 2023. Meanwhile, the Matching Commission is piloting a new program that we hope will make it easier for Admission Ministers to find the appointments they need to complete the admission process, with five ministers looking forward to joining us this year. Having come through such interviews and appointments, this spring we are collectively celebrating with 11 ministers who have completed the admission process and will be admitted to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada.

Again, thank you for your patience and support as I adjust to this ministry. I welcome every and all opportunities to connect with ministry personnel in Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit Regional Councils. My contact information can be found on each of the regions' websites. If you see me at the regional council gathering, please flag me down and introduce yourself.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Laura Fohse
Office of Vocation Minister for Northern Spirit,
Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions*

PROFILE- RETIREES**Jamie Bradshaw**

*Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore,
looking neither for wealthy or wise ones.
You only ask me to follow humbly.¹*

When I was a teenager, I spent my summers working at a church camp. It didn't pay much, but every year my friends and I went back. The opportunity to spend two whole months with my Christian friends, friends I didn't see for the rest of the year, was a large part of the draw. It was there I experienced the glory of God...on a sandy beach on the southwest shore of Lake Winnipeg.

It was the day between – a group of campers had left at noon and the next group was expected the following day just before lunch. We had walked into Winnipeg Beach for supper. When we returned to camp, it was much too early to turn in for the night – so we built a campfire on the beach, basking in the soft light and warmth, reveling in our friendship and sharing all our hopes and dreams for the future.

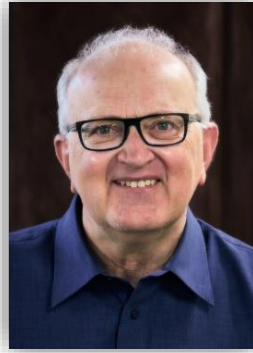
I don't know how much time passed, or when the light started to grow, but suddenly the night sky was ablaze with light. For what seemed an eternity, the northern lights danced and pranced above the calm waters, changing from blue to green and pink and orange, a more colourful, magnificent, and awesome display than I had ever before seen, or have seen since. All of us were drawn to our feet as we watched what we believed was a revelation of God's glory...in fact, we had no doubt at all that just a tiny bit of God's glory was being revealed to us in that time and place. We sang and we prayed together as we basked in the magnificent light of God. That was the night that I knew, deep down, God was calling me to ministry...but my response at that time was much like Jeremiah...I'm too young, God, I don't know my own mind. I'd like to think about it for awhile so I did, almost 40 years! Ultimately, I surrendered.

There are so many people who have encouraged and supported me along the way. The staff and faculty at the Centre for Christian Studies and the University of Winnipeg provided guidance, challenge, affirmation, and encouragement. I am so grateful to the good folks at Westminster United Church in Shoal Lake for welcoming me first as a student, then continuing, together with Strathclair United Church, as their minister for the past nine years. It has also been my privilege to serve the wider church...locally, regionally, and nationally. I have been welcomed into holy spaces to share both laughter and tears and I am grateful for friendships made along the way.

I find myself on the lakeshore once more... wondering where this journey will take me next. For now, it is time for a rest.

Respectfully submitted
Jamie Bradshaw

¹ *Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore*, words Cesareo Gabarain, trans. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood



Jeff Cook

I was ordained by Hamilton Conference. I was settled in Saskatchewan Conference. After four years, I came to the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, and now I retire from the Prairie to Pine Region.

Ontario to Manitoba...Conferences to Regions...different places, different structures, but always the church - this diverse, dedicated, frustrating, challenging, blessing, stumbling, dancing, laughing, crying, celebrating, grieving, hopeful, hesitant community of those who choose to be companions of Jesus in God's world.

I have been blessed to share 39 years of ministry with some of Jesus' companions in the faith communities of Transcona Memorial United Church in Winnipeg and the Cutarm Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan.

I am thankful for the faith, the creativity, the hopes, the vulnerabilities, and the shared ministry of all these faith communities. I am also thankful for the opportunities I've had to participate in Presbyteries, Conferences, and General Council.

I have always served in team ministry, all but two of those years in ministry with Carol Fletcher, whose creativity and enthusiasm, and joyous faith have been a blessing to the faith communities in which we have served and lived.

I have been blessed by family – my parents, Howard and Joan Cook, my siblings Richard and Liz and their families – and I have been especially blessed by our sons, Andrew and Stuart – blessed by their encouragement, humor, and humanity.

I have been blessed by the companionship of friends, mentors, and colleagues – some personally known and some known through their writings, poetry, and music.

Through the heights and depths of life experiences, I have trusted that God was up to something in my life and in this world. In retirement, I anticipate continuing to be surprised and blessed by whatever God is up to!

*Blessings and thanks,
Jeff Cook*

**Carol Fletcher**

In our moments of turning, God calls us to look in all directions – to look behind us, around us, and ahead.

I grew up in Winnipeg and was a candidate from Westworth, where I was deeply inspired by faithful and faith-filled leadership. After studying at the University of Manitoba and Queen's, I interned with Walter Farquharson which, like my experience at Westworth, gave me inspiration and lifelong family friendship.

Jeff and I were married in 1985 and our life partnership turned to embrace our partnership in ordered ministry, which has taken us from Saskatchewan to Transcona Memorial. I particularly appreciate Jeff's compassion and commitment, as well as his humour, humanity, and holiness. I cannot imagine this shared ministry in any other way!

Serving Transcona Memorial in Winnipeg with Jeff since 1988, I know that TMUC is an exciting and enlivening congregation, with a genuine place in the community; and a faithful and faith-filled sense of God's presence. My deepest thanks to the TMUC community for sharing this vision and living love with us for these 35 years.

TMUC embraced our family, our now adult children Andrew and Stuart, and our whole household as it grew to include my Mom in the years before her death and our friend and family Sylvia and now Stuart's partner Kailyn.

The path of ministry has brought many interesting twists and turns. In commitment to the wider church, I took a turn in Presbytery leadership. And then celebrating TMUC's partnership with the community I shared leadership with the Transcona Council for Seniors, the Transcona Community Network, the Healthy Together Now Committee, the Transcona Food Security Network, and more.

With TMUC we have lived a ministry where 'All are Welcome'. This has included opportunities for creativity and fun: everything from the flash mob dance of 1HopeWinnipeg – now 1JustCity to Messy Church and the Pandemic puppetry voice of Esther in our Esther and Emmett videos.

I embraced the wisdom of Julian of Norwich that 'All shall be well...' as TMUC undertook a call to a major accessibility renovation of the building with all the meetings and grant writing and fund finding that work entailed. Now it is 'greening' projects on the horizon for TMUC just as I am turning a new page. I am confident that this faith community will continue to share the light of Christ in all they say and do.

Undoubtedly, there will continue to be moments of turning on the path ahead. I am grateful for the people, the experiences, and the stories that have become a canopy of stars to light the way.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fletcher*

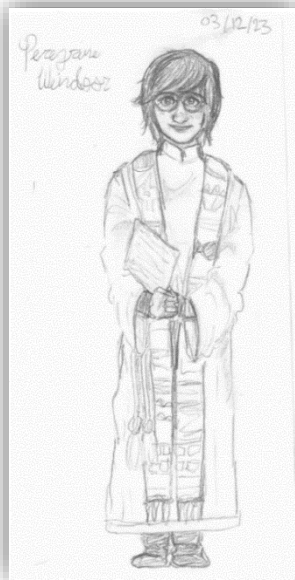


Karen Kuzek

I came to this vocation as a well-seasoned soul and have been truly blessed. I was given the opportunity to provide leadership in two communities throughout my ministry calling. It was somewhat of an adventure as one is never, really, quite sure what to expect when you get to plant your feet in a new community. The highs and lows, the stories one hears, the heartaches one shares, the joys that one gets to participate in, all have helped to shape me into a more accepting, compassionate, welcoming individual.

I am very grateful to have spent my time in the communities of St. Paul's UC in Gilbert Plains and Grandview UC. These folks will forever remain in my heart and my prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Kuzek



Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

(Sketch of Loraine was made by Peregrine Windsor,
grandchild of Dorcas Windsor and a youth member at
Westworth United Church)

I have had the privilege of walking with congregants in rural and urban United Churches in Manitoba (Westworth and Augustine in Winnipeg, Oakville, and Stonewall), Ontario (Thornccliffe Park and Toronto Korean in Toronto; Little Britain) and Saskatchewan (Semans, Raymore, and Punnichy). As my call has been bi-vocational to congregational ministry and teaching, I have also had the privilege of walking with students at the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, the University of Winnipeg, and the United Theological College in Montréal.

What have I learned during all of this walking? Sensible footwear is a must. But seriously, the first thing that comes to mind is humility. I am very aware of my many faux pas and near disasters, some of which I'll be relating in my reflections at the retirement banquet.

The second is how tremendously dedicated so many lay people are to the welfare of the church. Their tireless commitment and countless volunteer hours inspired me to do my absolute best.

Third, in my cross-Canada sabbatical tour of thriving United Churches, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there are many more than I had time to visit. Don't believe the pundits announcing the imminent death of the United Church! The key to success for these thriving churches was relationships—to God, to one another, and to the wider community. It goes hand-in-hand with the new call and vision of The United Church of Canada: deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

This leads to my fourth learning—that the development of relationships with Indigenous communities, as well as ecumenical and interfaith leaders, is crucial for the relevance of the United Church and its contribution to the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*—the mending of the world.

In my work with the World Council of Churches, I learned the Lund Principle, which urges us to do separately only what we cannot do together. As our moderator Carmen Lansdown says, "We are better together."

And this leads me to the last learning that I have space to name (an entire book would not be large enough to contain all that I have learned!): justice work is messy and complicated. Rarely can issues of justice be simplified as a clear-cut right and wrong. When we do this, we inevitably create us-them divides, do not do justice to the full complexity of the issue and only entrench opposing sides. But we should never despair of trying to find a third way through the divide—which seems to be the loving-enemy way of Jesus. This is a more lonely, longer path to take, but I believe that it will lead us to lasting peace and justice for the marginalized and colonized.

I am deeply grateful to all of those who have walked with me on this journey. Within this region, I give thanks to Westworth, Augustine, Oakville, and Stonewall, each of whom taught me the meaning of beloved community. I am most indebted to the sacrificial, unwavering support of my beloved partner of 36 years, Nancy Pinnell.

Respectfully submitted,
Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd



Shirley McLaren

REMEMBERING...

If you want something, go get it!
Change takes courage.
Work hard for each other.
It's always good to be early.
You have to earn trust.
Inspiration is all around us.
Fate has a way of putting certain people in your path.
Everyone has a story you know nothing about.
Don't fear difficult moments – learn from them.
Embrace the storms because it is the rain that makes things grow.
God always sends the sun after a storm.
Everyone makes mistakes but most are worth a second chance.
Sometimes you have to sit with the hard things.
People get so caught up in looking to the future that they miss the here and now.
Life is full of moments when you have a choice – to smile or not to smile.
The road goes both directions.
When one door closes, God opens another door or window.
Remember the past but live in the present.
If someone needs help, help them.
The choices we make set our path in life.
We should leave places better than we found them.
Don't be so busy making a living that you forget to make a life.
There's more to life than working.
Don't put off being happy.
Be true to yourself and walk with God.
Sometimes you have to choose between career and family.
One of the hardest things you'll ever have to say is good-bye.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley McLaren*



Teresa Moysey

“My cup runneth over ...”

What more is there to say? I have been richly blessed – in life and in ministry.

From a very young age, I understood that life is a gift and that the world and the universe are filled with wonder and mystery. For that and so much more, I am deeply grateful.

Though unaware of it in my earliest years, I grew up in Treaty 6 and Treaty 4 territory. Later I lived in the territory covered by Treaty 2 and there began to learn about the history of the Birdtail Sioux, who are not part of any treaty with the Crown. I have now long resided on land included in Treaty 1. Learning the history of our land, our nation, and our relationships continues to be a significant and important journey.

To the communities of faith in Dauphin, Birtle-Miniota-Isabella, Elginburg-Odessa, Regents Park, and Harrow – what an extraordinary privilege to learn with you and from you, to be invited into the most sacred moments of your lives. Thank you. And thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God ...

For family and community who nurtured me in the ways of faith and hope, adventure and curiosity
For mentors in life and in faith, opening my mind and heart, my eyes and ears to new revelations and wisdom, to love and joy and hope, to walking the path of justice and reconciliation

For my colleagues, my friends, the faith-filled and faithful, the curious and the questioning

For the gift of music

For companions and partners in ministry – Jack, Bruce, Eleanor, Paul, Norman, Dennis, and all those with whom I have served in congregational ministry, community engagement, national and regional bodies of governance

For family – grandparents, parents, siblings, Bruce, husband and partner in life, our daughter, Trish, son, Paul, daughters-in-law Caralynn and Jamie, for grandchildren, Nora, Georgia, and Bennett, for the richness, beauty, depth, and delight you bring to every day

For all the ways I have been marked by encounters with you, with God, with strangers, encounters with love and hope, fear and joy, thanks be to God.

“My cup runneth over ...” I conclude my years of active ministry with deep gratitude, with energy, and hope, looking forward to more time for outdoor adventures, family, and friends, and continuing to explore the questions and challenges of living in right relationships with all.

*Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Moysey*

PROFILES – ORDINAND, COMMISSIONAND and ADMITTAND

**Damber Khadka
(Ordinand)**

It's a great honor to share a few words with my beloved church today, and I want to thank God for allowing me to make these special remarks during this auspicious occasion.

I was born and grew up in a small Himalayan country, Bhutan. After living as a refugee for two decades in Eastern Nepal, my family and I came to Winnipeg in 2009 under a third-country resettlement process. Since then, Knox United in Winnipeg has become my home church. Even though I was an ordained minister within the Baptist denomination in 2003, it didn't take me long to emerge into the UCC community. Though there were apparent differences within each member, I could still feel connected and belonging. During my discerning years, I was actively involved in the church's life and shared lay ministry whenever required. The pathway to ministry seemed very complicated then, especially for the immigrants whose institutions might not have credentials with Canadian universities. In 2018, I attended the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, Nova Scotia, for my Master of Divinity degree. This was my first exposure to formal theological education in Canada. Rev. Bill Millar accompanied me throughout my admission process.

My passion for serving in the United Church of Canada was primarily driven by its broader vision of expanding ministry through its liberation theology which is also my fundamental perspective in my ministry. As the church is constantly evolving and reforming itself with both theory and praxis to be inclusive and affirming while pursuing justice and proclamation of word and sacraments, the church is also striving to listen to the voices of each one from the diversity of life those who are committed to God's work. I am convinced that ministry in a post-modern world has both joys and challenges; a few of many would deal with diverse cultures and secularism. Nonetheless, we will continue to pray for reconciliation and reformation.

My special indebtedness to those who stood with me is wider in scale. Firstly, I want to thank Knox United Church, Winnipeg, the congregation, and the governing body for their prayerful support in being my learning site and allowing me to walk with you and learn great wisdom from you. Knox United and its members made a tremendous impact on my faith journey. My sincere thanks go to my ministry partners and mentors: Rev. Bill Millar, Rev. Lesley Harrison, Rev. Caryn Douglas, Rev. Patrick Woodbeck, and Rev. Ken DeLisle; thank you for your continued spiritual support and guidance. The Lay Supervision Team has given their time and ideas generously. I am grateful to Joyce Allen for chairing the team for the whole session during my candidacy journey.

Special thanks go to the entire body of the Atlantic School of Theology, including professors, colleagues, and other staff, for seeing in me and encouraging me to be better. Your support means more to me than I can express. I am grateful for the community at Valley Pastoral Charge. This three-point charge community has seen in me their priest, shepherd, and fellow traveler in their journey of faith, as I have been fortunate to serve these communities since 2022. Thanks to all for being there for me when I needed you the most.



**Patricia Chabluk
(Commissionand)**

I was born in Winnipeg Manitoba on March 30, 1959. I am one of five siblings. We moved out to the area northeast of Oakbank MB when I was 12 years old, and I've lived within 2 miles of my parents' home ever since. We grew up in a family environment where my mother lived with MS and during my younger years, my dad's job had him travelling during the week. The result was the five of us learned how important family was to help you through both good and hard times.

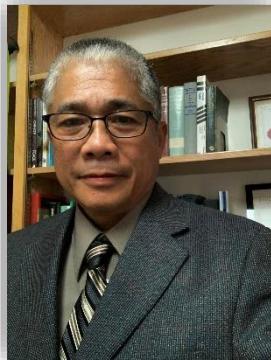
I have been married to my childhood sweetheart, Tony, for 44 years this July. We have been blessed with our son David and his partner Leslie, and in October we will welcome our first grandchild, Boston. They are my support system and I thank God every day for them.

My mother was very open to the idea of finding the religion that spoke to you. As a result of this over my early years I was able to experience different denominations such as Christian Science, Anglican, Ukrainian Greek Orthodox, and the United Church. I choose the United Church in my late teens and have been involved ever since. As a young adult living in the country, I began attending Oakbank United Church. I was married here and baptized. I became involved in the choir, Fellowship Committee, Christian Education Committee (chairperson), Unified Board, and Youth Minister Hiring Committee.

I began volunteering at the Presbytery level in 2005 working with the youth at various retreats as chaplain and on planning committees. I then became the Co-Adult Advisor for the YAA (Young Adults and Youth) Committee for Conference and worked with our Youth delegates at the Conference's Annual meetings. It was during this time working with the youth that I became the Staff Associate Youth Minister for Oakbank United in the spring of 2006, and one year as Youth Minister for the Selkirk Presbytery. I remained with Oakbank until 2011 when I moved to being the youth minister at Trinity United in Winnipeg where I was already working part-time as the Administrative Assistant. In 2011 I was blessed to travel to Toronto with a group of young adults from Selkirk Presbytery to attend Rendezvous, a Canada-wide gathering of UC youth. Then in 2014 I was part of the planning committee and participated in the 2nd Rendezvous which was held in Winnipeg.

In 2014 I began my studies at Centre of Christian Study in diaconal ministry. As a result of the workload, I gave up my position as Youth minister to concentrate on my studies. In the fall of 2016, I was approved to apply for a ministerial position and began working with the people of St Andrews UC in Keewatin, Ontario, and Lake of the Woods Chapel in Sioux Narrows, Ontario. I have remained with them throughout my years as a student and having now graduated plan to stay with them for at least a couple of more years. The people of these congregations and of Oakbank UC have supported me through my journey and I know they will continue to support me as it continues.

I have been blessed to have been supported by God, Jesus, the Spirit, numerous ministers, lay people, members of my church family, communities, friends, and my own family. In my current position, I have been able to become much more involved in social issues facing people, housing, food, health, climate, or one of the many other issues facing our world today. At the root of all these issues is the need to recognize that all people are God's children, no one is ever abandoned by God, and everyone is loved. Especially important is to remember that God loves us, that we need to love ourselves, and that we must share our love and the love of God with every person, every creature, and all of Creation.



**Noel Suministrado
(Admittand)**

Noel A. Suministrado was born in Tayabas, Quezon, Philippines. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and took his theological studies at Union Theological Seminary, Philippines, and the Master of Ecumenical Studies at Bossey Ecumenical Institute and the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Before he came to Canada, he taught Ecumenical Theology at Union Theological Seminary and was the first minister to be assigned to the Mutual Recognition of Ministry Personnel Agreement program of the UCC. He served Broadway Disciples United Church in Winnipeg for four years and Hamiota United Church, which is his present pastoral charge.

Among his involvements were: the UCC -Roman Catholic Dialogue, the International Dialogue of the Disciples of Christ -Roman Catholic Church, the Commission of Faith and Witness of the Canadian Council of Churches, and is currently a member of Theology Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TICIF) of the United Church of Canada.

He is married to his high school classmate Veronica, blessed with three children, and now a grandfather to six-year-old Liam.

An avid fly fisherman, he loves the call of the outdoors when time permits.

REPORTS –PROGRAM STAFF***Welcome to our New Tri-Regional Staff Chantal Winslow***

Chantal Winslow
Executive Assistant to
Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy
Northern Spirit, Prairie to Pine and
Living Skies Regional Councils

I joined Shannon McCarthy's team in November 2022, however, I have worked within the United Church for the last 7 years.

I grew up in London, ON and originally went to school to be a legal assistant. I worked in personal injury law for 5 years. After I moved to Alberta, I found myself seeking something completely different to put my time and energy into. That is when I stumbled upon St. David's United Church.

I fell in love at my interview and the congregation, staff and community became family to me. Working at St. David's allowed me to grow and learn so much. The United Church has been so welcoming and I am thrilled to continue my journey with Shannon, doing work for three regions.

I work remotely from Crossfield, AB where I live with my husband of 6 years and our fur babies: The Pasta Cats (Spaghetti, Fettucine and Penne) and our one-year-old puppy, Meatball.

In my spare time, I love to spend time with my family and friends. My passions are event planning, organization and facilitating connections within my community. I have founded and run a group in my small town based on forming friendships and connections. I also love to be creative. I am usually dabbling in a few different arts and crafts. Currently, I have really been enjoying acrylic painting and ceramics. As well as reigniting my love for reading.



Erin Acland
Keeper of the Archives



Every year is a busy year in the Archives. Every year reference requests arrive in a near-constant stream, as do boxes of records that I have to contemplate where exactly to put, but 2022 did stand out in a number of ways.

Reconciliation and a commitment to doing concrete work in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action has been a significant part of my vocation since I became Keeper of the Archives in 2014. This year, however, more time than ever was devoted to partnerships and building relationships with Indigenous Communities and Knowledge Keepers and their allies, and doing archival work that meaningfully contributed to living in right relations.

The second stand out of 2022, is the return to in-person researchers and group visits to the Archives, which was wonderful to see after a long dry spell due to Covid. While Covid protocols and access restrictions to the University of Winnipeg (where the Archives are held) were in place until September, it did not deter many researchers who were eager to access the records in-person and conduct long-delayed research.

One of the silver linings of the pandemic was leaning into technology, such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, that allowed me to better communicate with my colleagues despite geographic distances. I've always worked away from the other regional staff, but I now feel more connected to the other staff as well as my United Church archival colleagues from across the country. Chatting over MS Teams is a regular part of my work day now, and collaborating with colleagues is significantly easier than in the past.

Reference and Archival Accessions

In 2022, I received 385 archival requests. 314 requests were for reference assistance, and 71 requests were for records management help or discussions about donations and transfers of records to the Archives. In addition, this year 47 in-person researchers visited the Archives, I presented to 8 groups/classes, and 2 media outlets filmed stories in the Archives.

For the last few years, because of Covid, transfers and gifts of archival records were discouraged. However, this year, a substantial number of records were transferred to the Archives. A University of Manitoba Archival Studies MA intern has been hired for 11 weeks, during the summer of 2023, to accession all of the archival records that have arrived over the last few years, and to help us gain better physical and intellectual control over the records.

Grants

The Archives received \$8,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage: Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations under the Museums Assistance Program.

\$3,791.68 was received from the Make Room for Women Fund for me to attend the Diakonia of the United Church of Canada's (DUCC) National Gathering in Tatamagouche, NS to discuss archives and the ongoing development of the DUCC Archives located at the Prairie to Pine Regional Archives.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation and decolonization is not a task list or a box to tick, but an ongoing commitment to do all of my work through a new lens. This work is very much ongoing. Every year I field well over one hundred reference requests from Indigenous folks who are often looking for assistance in proving their genealogy

as part of obtaining Metis or Indian status; in searching for the records of their loved ones who attended Residential or Day Schools; or who want access to Home Mission records about their communities.

In addition to these types of reference requests, this year I also hosted two tours of the archival space and records for 20 Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders; presented and led a discussion for a U of W class on Residential Schools; hosted a Global News documentary film crew at the Archives (<https://globalnews.ca/news/9216470/residential-school-ungraved-graves-canada/>); and partnered with the Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis History Project (<https://indigenoustbhistory.ca/>) to help families find the burial locations of their loved ones.

One ongoing project that is being headed by the General Council Archives is the repatriation of “Knowledge Bundles” back to communities. Indigenous communities are very welcome to reach out to the GC Archives and work with them to receive digital copies of every Residential School record the United Church has that is connected to their community. So far 18 communities have received these bundles, which they have control over.

GC Archives and regional archives are also at the very beginning of the work on digitizing all of our records of Colonizing Institutions, such as Home Missions. As part of Bringing the Children Home (<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/bringing-children-home>), for a few months in the fall and winter, I hosted and helped researchers at the Archives to identify which records should be digitized as part of the initial phase of this project.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives
Prairie to Pine Regional Council*



Julie Graham
Regional Minister:
Justice and Communications

Communications

Regional Council Directory

Thanks to Cherry, in collaboration with Judy and myself, we launched the brand-new directory in January 2023. YES! The process took a long while, requiring discussions about privacy, security, safe access, and resolving data discrepancies from multiple sources. The directory is 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. We know many have waited a long time for this, and hope it will be a good resource for

relationships and re-connecting. Constructive feedback is welcome, especially if you have thoughts on other contacts or information that could be appropriately included.

Structures document for the Region

I've been working with Teresa Melnychuk, Pat Bird, and Diane Dwarka on thinking through writing, editing, and purpose. Teresa in particular 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, and create an accessible and clear document that outlines how the Region work, who makes it work, and how, and how people can get involved. The "bird's eye view" summary of the Regional Council was finished in January 2023; part 3, the "job descriptions" for members of committees, commissions, and task groups, is a lot of detailed work that we hope will serve as both a handy reference and an open invitation.

Newsletter development

The newsletter remains one of our most important communication tools, and Cherry wrangles an enormous amount of detail every week. Based on 2021 survey feedback, we now alternate Events and News each week. Fine-tuning continues, Specifically, in consultation with colleagues in other Regions, Cherry and I confirmed 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 the length and too wide a range of content in the newsletter are very real, and increasing. A related initiative for the second half of 2023 will be the creation of a Facebook group that would allow people to share these announcements.

Events

We continue to navigate a lot of online events, and at times the flow is hard to manage. In early 2023 I had initial training on and experience with the new national platform, Church X, which could open up some good options for ongoing Regional courses. I have prioritised working with the newsletters team (Bev, Cherry, Kathy, and Chloe) 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 government policies that worsen poverty. Generally, we priority-promote first Regional, and then General Council, ecumenical, and national/ regional KAIROS events. Please remember that the community of faith events has a [dedicated calendar](#) and [event posting form](#). [Regional events are here](#).

Website: Troubleshooting and development are always ongoing. Keeping the site up to date is a priority for Cherry and me, and we hope it remains a useful home base for news, key documents, events, and more at www.prairietopinerc.ca **YAAY events online:** When our new website was created, part of the goal was to allow sharing of events and news across many groups, with shared posting responsibility. 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](#).

Winnipeg Free Press faith project: Thank you to Teresa Moysey for representing the Regional Council at the Faith Council, and bringing her perspective to possible stories- not only for the United Church but for people of many faith traditions.

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 and January.

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

June 19, Indigenous Day of Prayer, and Indigenous Peoples Day June 21, Orange Shirt Day, and May 5 and October 4 for honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people: these are all priorities every year. People are offered resources and encouragement to participate and highlight, through the newsletter and website.

Letter to Winnipeg Police Chief and city and provincial authorities: Thank you to Erica, Pat, and Shannon for the letter the Region sent regarding the urgent need to commit to searching the Prairie Green landfill for the bodies of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran, along with Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, whose whereabouts are unknown. [The letter is here](#). [A call to action is here](#).

On December 21, I received a call from Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham, who wanted to update the United Church on his efforts and commitments, and the joint provincial and city committee that was working closely with elected Indigenous leadership. I took the chance to ask him how grassroots community members living most closely with continued violence were being included and heard. I think it's important that communities of faith continue to make their voices heard here because clearly, some in power are feeling some pressure. I hope we can show up whenever we can to remind elected leaders of commitments we all share under the TRC and MMIWG2S Inquiry and its calls for action.

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 a difficult journey, as is the proposed learning circle, for survivors and the whole community. We have about a dozen people from Prairie to Pine in the circle. The group met with Grant, and Elder Ida Mackay, on October 27, and will continue the conversation in 2023.

Work 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

Across Canada, confronting the magnitude of the climate crisis has become harder and harder in our communities and with government, even as the impacts of climate change become more and more obvious. What risks does God call us to in this moment? [How do we join voices with multifaith partners?](#)

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, which have participation from several Prairie to Pine CoFs at the moment.

Vigils November 11-13: In November 2022 we encouraged communities of faith 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). A number of congregations held vigils or participated.

A 2023 Lenten action on climate justice and Royal Bank's role in financing oil and gas took place, with leadership from Lynda Trono, Karen Tjaden, and Caryn Douglas. A related proposal will come before the 2023 regional meeting.

Anti-racism

Western Intercultural Ministries Network

Damber Khadka and Bill Millar are our reps to this network, which held its AGM on 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.

Wait Is This Racist? book and practice workshop, Tri-Region June 2022 series: 29 registrants, with representation from Prairie to Pine from Dryden and Portage.

Equity and Diversity have had five people step up to help the committee and Region develop a plan for learning and acting in a contextual way on racism. This too could also help the Region find its way towards living into a denomination-wide commitment in a way that lines up with our contexts.

2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming work

First, congratulations and gratitude to the new Affirming ministries in Prairie to Pine in 2022 and the first half of 2023! They are Bird's Hill United Church in Winnipeg, John Black Memorial United Church in Winnipeg, and Westminster United Church in The Pas.

Thank you to Twila Macnair for a [June 2022 feature on Winnipeg churches celebrating Pride](#). June is Pride Month, and every year we prioritise sharing resources and encouraging communities of faith to be public, intentional, and explicit in their commitment to a full and loving community.

Action against racism, hate, and extremism

Anti-trans and anti-drag targeted harassment affiliated with "Freedom Convoy" supporters and their social media groups continue across the country. Some of these have targeted schools and libraries, and some have been vicious and very persistent, including targeting Pembina Parish in Morden. February 15 United in Learning, Affirm United, and Affirming Connections co-hosted an education, awareness, and engagement workshop about the anti-drag / pro Convoy movement and how United Church communities can respond. I had the privilege of moderating the panel, and we were grateful for the 230 registrants. We were reminded that in the face of harassment, hate, and deeply demeaning slurs directed

"Freedom Convoy" in Winnipeg Feb 2023: Concerns were received from Bill Millar re the safety of BIPOC people in the area of the Legislature, including at Broadway Disciples if this gathering went ahead (it did, but outside the city, following community activism against its plans). Prairie to Pine joined a coalition against racism and extremism, and a press conference was held at Broadway Disciples in Winnipeg. This included signing a community organisation statement against hate and extremism: [click here to read this statement](#) (scroll down).

Click [here for a thorough media report](#), and [click here for the coalition website](#).

A reminder that the national [church released a 2022 statement of concern about the Freedom Convoy and racism](#), as did [Indigenous Minister Tony Snow in Chinook Winds](#).

It is a privilege to support the people and communities of the Regional Council in this way. I welcome talking, planning, and conspiring toward God's love and justice with you at any time!

Respectfully submitted,

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

jgraham@united-church.ca

Judy Hare
Pastoral Relations Minister



As I write this report, the World Health Organization is announcing that COVID-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency (its highest level of alert). This declaration marks a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic acknowledging both the devastation to the economies worldwide and the loss of seven million people worldwide. At the same time, the WHO predicts the impact the virus will continue to have on so much in our world today.

The Communities of Faith in Prairie to Pine Regional Council, their volunteer leadership and Ministry Personnel, and the Committees and Commissions of the Regional Council are just beginning to bounce back from the pandemic years and assess what the “new reality” post-pandemic looks like.

As the report from the Committee on Community of Faith Support indicates some Communities of Faith have made the decision to explore the option of selling properties and/or disbanding. For other Communities of Faith, formal amalgamations with others within reasonable distance offer an opportunity to create more vital Communities of Faith with hope for longevity.

General Council 44 which was held virtually in the spring/summer of 2022 made some decisions that Prairie to Pine Regional Council hopes will open up some options for the future of the church in our part of Canada. A decision to amend the section of The Manual related to “congregational designated ministers” to allow for Regional Councils to determine the oversight and support needed for ministries where “Congregational Designated Ministers” exist rather than confining them to locations that have Called or Appointment Ministry Personnel on-site, allows for flexibility in some locations. The Pastoral Relations Commission is hoping to have a proposal to bring to the Executive in the coming months to test something in this regard.

Conversations with staff colleagues across this United Church of Ours reveal that the needs of the church in various contexts differ somewhat and our polity and priorities developed nationally need to allow for such variance.

A proposal before GC44 passed allowing for, even encouraging, exploration or experimentation with new models of ministry such as collaborative or cooperative Ministry and new ways of doing things. Prairie to Pine Regional Council was already and will continue to embrace these opportunities and perhaps expand on them. It is the hope that these new incarnations of existing Communities of Faith may result in more vital and engaged ministries. We might look ahead to finding some efficiencies in the way we do some things like pastoral charge supervision.

While we celebrate people whose training and orientation for ordered ministry are now complete especially those staying among us to engage in ministry, there are more position postings on CHURCH HUB than ministers looking for positions. A primary source of ministry personnel for the United Church of Canada at this stage in our history is Ministry Personnel from other denominations, many international, seeking to enter the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada through the admissions program. Our messaging of becoming a more diverse and intercultural church has attracted a substantial number of applicants whose credentials have been cleared and who are seeking an initial appointment as part of the process. Sadly, not many of these applicants are successful at being short-listed, interviewed, and/or appointed. An attempt by the Admissions Board to assist with this through an Admission Matching Pilot Project this spring is awaiting pastoral charges willing to participate. Timelines may need to be reworked. If you are interested in knowing more about this project, please ask me!

Paving new paths or developing new ways of being and doing often means things need to be tailored to context. That work often requires time and patience and may require focused assistance from staff and trained volunteers. To that end, we are actively seeking people to be trained and mentored to function as Regional Council Liaisons (Pastoral Relations) joining the twelve Liaisons that we have functioning at the present time. Larger numbers could allow some Liaisons to specialize in a particular aspect of the work such as processes related to collaborative ministries. Some of the Support Committees as well could benefit from additional people to accomplish the work they do on behalf of the Regional Council.

We are also excited at the restructuring at General Council this past year that has transitioned what was known as EDGE into the Organizational Development and Strategy Unit with its new Director of Growth and Ministry Development and plans to hire a “growth animator” for each of the tri-region areas. Perhaps for us, this may not have the primary focus on growing “new” communities of faith but on assisting with the realignment, redevelopment, and revitalization of existing communities of faith.

Some of the administrative matters undertaken this past year by the General Council have had an impact on the Communities of Faith within Prairie to Pine. The review of the Cost of Living Group assignment by an external company that is a regional compensation specialist, Mercer, resulted in a total of 121 Pastoral Charges of our 141 Pastoral Charges included in the listing experiencing an increase in Cost of Living Group assignment (86 %) 39 from COL 1 to 2; 30 from COL 2 to 3 and 52 from COL 3 to 4. 20 Pastoral Charges, mostly in Northern Ontario, will remain in the current Cost of Living Group (14%) and one Pastoral Charge will experience a decrease in Cost of Living Group assignment.

In the past six months, the committees and commissions that I work as with as staff resource and many communities of faith have begun to meet in person again at least occasionally. Such gatherings bring energy and a sense of caring, unity, and purpose that ZOOM meetings rarely do! But we have discovered that there are some things that we can do more frequently and economically if we do them collectively online using ZOOM (trainings for profile teams and search committees; sacraments elders and Ministry and Personnel Committees) so we may continue doing so for the immediate future. It WILL be good to see many of you in person at the Regional Council meeting in June since our next in-person Regional Council meeting will not be held until 2026.

It is both a challenging and exciting time to be part of the mission and ministry of the United Church of Canada. Much is happening and I hope that you are keeping aware of it by reading the Prairie to Pine

Weekly News, and the postings and the minutes of the Executive and Commissions available on the Regional Council website. There is MUCH to be hopeful about in the shifting sands. I am so very grateful for the many people who voluntarily share their skills and time in various committees, commissions, boards, and councils locally, regionally, and nationally. I am grateful for colleagues who bring different skills and perspectives to the work that we share.

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

A few statistics from the 2022-2023 Pastoral Year (more or less accurate):

3 New Collaborative Ministry arrangements were approved and/or filled in this past year involving 6 Communities of Faith (MacGregor/Trinity, Portage; Altona/Roland; United in Spirit (Steinbach/Niverville)

2 Former Collaborative Ministry arrangements have ended/shifted to other things (one Community of Faith in the process of disbanding; one collaborative arrangement moving toward amalgamation)

10-12 Communities of Faith that are now exploring or actively engaged in collaborative ministry conversations

Approximately 50 Pastoral Charges have been involved in a pastoral relations process within the past year (profile and/or search and/or change in ministry time); some completed; some are still in process.

73 Pastoral Charges/ 83 Communities of Faith received Pastoral Charge Supervision with 14 lay people and 39 ministry personnel assuming the role of Pastoral Charge Supervisor (6 of those Pastoral Charges have Candidates; 1 Minister in the Admission Process)

45 Ministry Personnel in full-time ministry employment during this pastoral year among those 3 from other denominations serving Ecumenical Shared Ministries; 6 in Collaborative arrangements making FTE; 1 in the Admission process; 1 Candidate; 2 Retired Supply)

36 Ministry Personnel in part-time employment including 4 Candidates; 19 Retired Supply; 18 were in halftime employment; 8 were more than halftime and 7 were less than halftime; 4 were in collaborative arrangements/more than one pastoral charge; 6 in Calls and the balance in appointments)

9 BIPOC Ministry Personnel serving in non-Indigenous Ministry settings





Shannon McCarthy
Executive Minister

I want to welcome everyone, and especially those who have never been to an in-person Prairie to Pine meeting before – for the new ministers we have welcomed since our last gathering, the new representations from communities of faith.

It is good to be together in person!

We have done amazingly well online as communities of faith and as a regional council. There is something nice about gathering in a space together that feels like community – a community that can talk about our joys, our sorrows, can work through difficult things with care, respect, love and humility. It is important that we are together in a good way. I want to acknowledge the trauma that the Covid 19 pandemic has caused in our lives and in our church communities, I don't think we even now understand the impact it has had in our world. I especially want to acknowledge our Ministry Personnel who have gone above and beyond, working incredibly hard to keep their Communities of Faith connected.

Despite all that hard work and the dedication of volunteers, the realities of our world and our church – declining rural population, aging memberships, new rules/old rules, lack of finances, can make us feel like we are doing something wrong. WE ARE NOT! We are all doing the best that we can, and it is amazing how we pulled through a worldwide pandemic with new technology and new rules for gathering. Even though we haven't done anything wrong we do need to find ways to do things in a new way. I encourage you to look at the General Council website and to read about our Call and Vision if you haven't already done so. We are called to embrace Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, Deep Spirituality in all the ways that we are church in our communities.

We have incredible stories to tell about being bold disciples, to stepping forward and offering daring justice, and doing all of it out of our deep spirituality. Tell those stories boldly!

As a Regional Council, we rely on volunteers to do the work that we are required to do – this is your Regional Council, and the work of the Church is ours together. We cannot do it without volunteers. I want to thank all of the committee, commission, and task group members that have contributed to the work of the Regional Council over the last year. I especially want to thank the Regional Council Executive and the Co-Convenors Pat Bird and Erica Wittevrongel.

I also want to thank our incredibly dedicated staff who work for the Regional Council who bring and do their best every day: Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister; Cherry Abad, Office Administrator; Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives; Heather Dootoff, Finance Administrator; Julie Graham, Justice & Communications Minister; Twila MacNair, Young Adults, and Youth Minister; and Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant.

Thank you for all of the work you do and have done!

As we move forward from this space at the end of our time together, I invite you to embrace Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, Deep Spirituality and find new ways to live it out in your communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

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

Twila MacNair
Coordinator, Young Adult
and Youth Ministries



Once again in 2022, I have had the pleasure of working with the Young Adult and Youth (YAAY) Committee, whose mandate it is to organize events for the young people in the Prairie to Pine Region.

Although Zeebu retreat happened online, we were excited to be able to offer other events in person again in 2022. It was wonderful to see new and returning youth connecting again face to face, making friends across communities; playing, worshipping, singing, and discovering their faith together. It was good to see young people learning and practicing leadership skills as they stepped in as Home Group Leaders, or moved onto Retreat Planning Teams, or tried out a coordinator role. It was great to see young people mentoring one another in leadership. It is hopeful to see national, regional, and local church committees and boards finding ways to welcome young people into leadership in this church. Let's be open to their visions of how to be the church going forward!

While advertising YAAAY events over the past year, I heard from several ministers and congregational youth allies that they needed more time to rediscover (post-pandemic shut-down) who and where the youth were in their communities of faith (CoFs) and re-engage the children locally before they would have some youth to send to regional events. If this is your struggle, please know that you're not alone, but even if you have a single youth, let's work together to try to connect them with the other lively and enthusiastic young people in the Prairie to Pine Region, so they will know they are not alone. Also if your CoF wants to offer some youth programming (such as confirmation, youth group, a retreat, an event...), but you feel either you don't have the numbers of youth on your own to make it worth the effort, or you feel that what you're doing could be of benefit to other youth, please reach out to me, and together we can try to promote it to youth beyond your CoF. There is no need to duplicate our efforts, if instead, we can share our resources. Why do something alone, if we can be even better together?!

I very much appreciate the work of the YAAAY Committee, and am happy to be able to support them in the fine work that they do for our region! For information on what they were up to in 2022, see the YAAAY report that has been submitted by the YAAAY Convenors, Julia Antonyshyn, and Lilja Best.

Respectfully submitted

Twila MacNair

Coordinator, Young Adult and Youth Ministries

Prairie to Pine Regional Council



REPORT –REGIONAL COUNCIL TREASURER

Jennifer Pakula
Treasurer

Firstly, I would like to thank the Prairie to Pine Region for the trust placed in me as your treasurer. I am a mining engineer and have moved in and out of our Region as I have moved around for work. Currently, I attend the Snow Lake Anglican United Church in Snow Lake, Manitoba but have also attended First United Church in Dryden, Ontario back in the mid 90's. I also wish to acknowledge Heather Dootoff, our Region's Financial Administrator, for the support and guidance she has provided since I took over the role of Treasurer last December. Thank-you Heather!

On review of the Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for 2022, I am pleased to report that although the Region had budgeted for a deficit of \$27,850 in 2022, there was actually \$437,262 in surplus. The primary reason for the revenue increase was the receipt of funds from closing communities of faith. A portion of the unbudgeted \$587,152 that was received due to closures was already designated to different programs allowing this budget item to be overspent by \$226,586. Other differences from the budget included:

- Additional income from Donations, Investments, and Event fees of \$12,410
- 2022 Annual meeting expenses were 35% less than budgeted (\$3,465)
- Staffing costs were \$42,007 higher than budgeted due to post-budget changes made at the General Council level and grant work completed by our Keeper of the Archives.
- General fund expenditures were underspent by \$37,362 as many meetings continued to be held online rather than in person

Looking at 2022 without the influx of funds from the closing communities of faith and resulting additional program expenditures, our expenses were slightly under budget. Thank you to our staff for the excellent management of our finances.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Pakula, Treasurer
Prairie to Pine Regional Council

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
Consensus Decisions 2022/2023

MOTION #		MEETING	
01	2022/2023	May 25, 2022	It was agreed by the consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve the Prairie to Pine 2021 audited financial statement (https://prairietopinerc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/20211231-Final-FS-Prairie-to-Pine-Regional-Council.pdf) as presented.
02	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the April 7, 2022 minutes as distributed.
03	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Executive add Darrell Reine as a signer to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council's account at the Conexus Credit Union. Darrell Reine is authorized to sign cheques and approve e-transfers and on-line payments. Tricia Gerhard should be removed as a signer. Signers on the account will therefore be Valerie Beckingham, Shannon McCarthy, Heather Dootoff and Darrell Reine.
04	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive reappoint the following to the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shanna Sterling (3 year term) Rohith Mascarenhas (3 year term) Michelle Pereira (3 year term) Cameron Adams (student rep, 1 year term) Evan Podaima (3 year term)

MOTION #		MEETING	
05	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council executive approve that effective September 1, 2022 the congregations of (Rainy River) Knox United Church and Stratton United Church be amalgamated according to the terms in the Rainy River - Stratton Amalgamation Agreement dated May 30, 2022; and</p> <p>That a revised 2022 Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support between (Rainy River) Knox and Prairie to Pine Regional Council be accepted to replace the previous covenant; and</p> <p>That the above two documents be filed in the Regional Council Office.</p>
06	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive arrange for the ordination of Susan Girard at a Celebration of Ministry Service at Knox United Church, Kenora, Ontario on June 26, 2022.</p>
07	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive arrange to pronounce Rev. Carrie Martens to be a member of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada at a Celebration of Ministry Service at Knox United Church, Kenora, Ontario on June 26, 2022</p>
08	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council arrange to pronounce Rev. Chewe Mulenga to be a member of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada at a Celebration of Ministry Service at Knox United Church, Kenora, Ontario on June 26, 2022.</p>
09	2022/2023	June 16, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council arrange to pronounce Rev. Schalk Naude to be a member of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada at a Celebration of Ministry Service at Knox United Church, Kenora, Ontario on June 26, 2022</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
10	2022/2023	September 6, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the February 3, 2022 minutes as distributed.
11	2022/2023	September 6, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the May 25, 2022 minutes as distributed.
12	2022/2023	September 6, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the June 16, 2022 minutes as amended.
13	2022/2023	September 6, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive appoint Tammy Bleue to the Prairie to Pine Executive for a two-year term effective immediately.
14	2022/2023	September 6, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: that Prairie to Pine Regional Council recognize that West Broadway Community Ministry has been dissolved by action of their governing body as per their minutes Feb. 2, 2021, and that the continuing work now comes under the oversight of the incorporated body known as 1Just City in accord with by-law changes approved at the 1Just City Annual General Meeting on June 03, 2021.
15	2022/2023	October 4, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the September 6, 2022 minutes as distributed.
16	2022/2023	October 4, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve that the Mission Support amount for 2023 be \$129, 000.

MOTION #		MEETING	
17	2022/2023	October 4, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the Mission Support grants as follows:</p> <p>Rock Lake Camp \$ 5,500 Wellman Lake Camp \$ 4,000 The Counselling Centre \$ 8,000 Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre \$ 1,500 1Just City \$110,000</p>
18	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the October 4, 2022 minutes as corrected.</p>
19	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>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.</p>
20	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>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.</p>
21	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>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.</p>
22	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Jennifer Pakula be appointed as treasurer of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.</p>
23	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That the following be named to the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee</p> <p>Jeff Cook Elizabeth Brown Karen Tjaden</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
24	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: Prairie to Pine Regional Council disband (Brandon) Central United Church Community of Faith effective December 15, 2022.
25	2022/2023	November 1, 2022	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive take the following action(s):</p> <p><u>a) 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. 2022-2023 Board of Directors</p> <p>Dennis Butcher Stuart Fletcher-Cook Gordon Goossen Lisa Lix Dwight Rutherford Del Sexsmith Betty Young</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><u>b) Prairie View Lodge</u> ... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge 2022 Board of Directors</p> <p>Linda Cavers Pat Cesmystruk Susanne Fortin Yvette Glenn Bev Leadbeater Jack McKay Barb McLaren Elaine McLennan Alan Melvin Janice Olfert</p>

MOTION #	MEETING	
		<p>...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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge 2023 Board of Directors</p> <p>Linda Cavers Pat Cesmystruk Susanne Fortin Yvette Glenn Jack McKay Barbara McLaren Elaine McLennan Alan Melvin Janice Olfert</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><u>c) Prairie View Lodge Foundation</u></p> <p>... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge Foundation 2022 Board of Directors</p> <p>Val Choquette Audrey Cockerline Carole Harkness Nancy Holman Cheryl McKitrick Alan Melvin</p>

MOTION #	MEETING	
		<p>Irene Onuch Elaine Trefiak</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge Foundation 2023 Board of Directors</p> <p>Val Choquette Audrey Cockerline Carole Harkness Nancy Holman Cheryl McKitrick Alan Melvin Irene Onuch Elaine Trefiak Curtis Weeks</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><u>d) 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. 2022-2023 Board of Directors</p> <p>Cathy Ballantine Michelle Funk David Manning Jan Martens Valerie Mikolasek Bonnie Robbins Elaine Trefiak</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><u>e) Wellman Lake United Church Camp</u> ...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</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
26	2022/2023	December 6, 2022	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.
27	2022/2023	December 6, 2022	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.
28	2022/2023	December 6, 2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Dawn Rolke will serve on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.
29	2022/2023	December 6, 2022	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:

MOTION #	MEETING	
		<p><u>Policy on Formal Association POLICY ON FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITHIN PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL</u></p> <p>In accordance with section I.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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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;” <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>where the community of faith that they are in formal association relationship with is located.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Policy and procedures initially approved by Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive on September 18, 2019 and amended on December 06, 2022</p>
30	2022/2023	January 3, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the November 1, 2022 minutes as corrected.</p>
31	2022/2023	January 3, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the December 6, 2022 minutes as corrected.</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
32	2022/2023	January 3, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Jennifer Pakula be named as a signing authority with on-line access on the Prairie to Pine Regional Council account at the Conexus Credit Union. Valerie Beckingham should be removed. Authorized signers would then be Jennifer Pakula, Shannon McCarthy, Heather Dootoff and Darrell Reine, any two to sign.
33	2022/2023	January 3, 2023	It was agreed by consensus. That Prairie to Pine Regional Council disband Rossendale United Church Community of Faith effective December 31, 2022.
34	2022/2023	February 7, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive move to add Tricia Gerhard to the Prairie to Pine Executive with a term ending in 2024.
35	2022/2023	February 7, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of January 3, 2023 as amended.
36	2022/2023	February 7, 2023	It has been agreed by consensus: That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive will not approve the shared costs for Rev. Susan Mcilveen's top up requested by Antler River Watershed Regional Council.
37	2022/2023	February 7, 2023	It was agreed by consensus that: The Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive will sign in support of the climate action plan letter presented by Lynda Trono. Something will be prepared for the newsletter to support this initiative as well.
38	2022/2023	March 7, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of February 7, 2023 as distributed.
39	2022/2023	March 7, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive will name Janice White-Christie (Jan Christie) as a United Church of Canada representative to the Manitoba Interfaith

MOTION #		MEETING	
			Immigration Council. Jan Christie's appointment to the MIIC board will be dependent upon acceptance by the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Executive.
40	2022/2023	March 7, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus:</p> <p>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the following recommendations:</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that LINDA BUCHANAN of Westminster United Church, The Pas be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that BARBARA ANN CRAIK of Langruth United Church, be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that be WENDY DENBOW of Knox United Church, Plumas be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that JULIE DZEOBA of Vermillion Bay United Church be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that PATRICIA KOPP of Langruth United Church, be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that WILMA SHIRRIFF of Mckenzie United Church, Portage La Prairie be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that JIM WARBURTON of Meadow Lea United Church be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that NORMA WINDLE of McCreary United Church be re-licensed as a Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p>
41	2022/2023	March 7, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the new logo for the Region.</p>
42	2022/2023	April 4, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of March 7, 2023 as corrected.</p>
43	2022/2023	April 4, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive take the following action(s): a) United Church Halfway Homes Inc.</p> <p>... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the United Church Halfway Homes Inc. 2020-2021 Board of Directors Crystal Lynn Adams Paul Campbell J. Carlos Clark James Dixon Edward Johnson Kendra Kinley</p>

MOTION #	MEETING	
		<p data-bbox="1035 245 1213 305">Duncan Michie Anne Walker</p> <p data-bbox="879 350 1923 483">This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of December 3, 2020, the 2020 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</p> <p data-bbox="879 529 1839 594">... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the United Church Halfway Homes Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors</p> <p data-bbox="1035 602 1268 873">Crystal Lynn Adams Paul Campbell J. Carlos Clark James Dixon Edward Johnson Kendra Kinley Duncan Michie Anne Walker</p> <p data-bbox="879 919 1923 1052">This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of December 16, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</p> <p data-bbox="879 1097 1944 1341">**NB. Due to illness and death of bookkeeper this corporation did not have The United Church of Canada named as additional insured for the 2021 and 2022 insurance years. This has since been corrected with the new bookkeeper and Executive Director. At recent annual meetings the 2 boards were not actually elected, but the work was done to confirm the members and the T3010 has been submitted to CRA and copy on file. The intent was there to approve the board members. Staff are working with this IM to correct at its next members meeting.</p>

REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES of the REGION

NOMINATIONS

First off, I want to start by saying a big THANK YOU to all of those who have served this past year on one of our many regional council committees. We are so lucky to have so many of you answer the call to serve, often in multiple roles, and we understand the time commitment that is required for all your work.

The full nominating slate is available in the Appendix of the workbook. Our slate is continually updated as new members step into new work, and throughout the year we add folks to committees with the approval of the regional council executive. We will continue to share new opportunities throughout the year on the website and through the weekly news, so keep your eyes peeled for work that may interest you and that you may find life-giving.

We continue to face headwinds when it comes to recruiting volunteers to serve all the roles that we have available. Part of this challenge has been the pandemic and the inability to reach people face to face at meetings such as we are having this weekend, but we are also cognizant that we have fewer hands doing more work these days. We continue to look for new ways to reach out and engage folks, but we also rely on you and the membership of the regional council to help light the way as we seek to reach new people. You all play a vital role in this work, and we welcome your feedback and wisdom.

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.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joey Dearborn, on behalf of P2P Nominating Committee*

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

In some ways, the work of the Pastoral Relations Commission during this past year has been quite similar to our work in previous years. In our monthly meetings held by conference call or Zoom:

- we received reports from those working with Communities of Faith as Liaison volunteers and provided ongoing training
- we reviewed Ministry Profile documents for those places in transition, sometimes because of the request of Ministry Personnel for a change or because of a need to evaluate financial resources and ministry time
- we provided training for Communities of Faith as they began creating a new Ministry Profile document and again as they prepared to search for new ministry staff
- we supported Communities of Faith as they engaged with Church Hub at various stages in the pastoral relations process

- we responded to requests for assistance in times of conflict within a Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith
- we reviewed and approved call/appointment forms when completed through Church Hub for non-Indigenous Communities of Faith and paper documents related to Indigenous Ministries.
- we received the news of changes in the Cost of Living categories from the UCC and answered questions from Communities of Faith
- we received, reviewed, and approved re-appointments when documents were received from Communities of Faith
- we encouraged Communities of Faith to seek options for Collaborative Ministry in order to create more full-time equivalent ministry positions which have more options for Ministry Personnel including Admissions applicants

I am grateful for the work of the members of this Commission: Elsie Douglas who ensures we have accurate minutes, Harold Kenyon, Linda Buchanan, Sherri McConnell, Aileen Urquhart, and Lorraine Kakegamic, each of whom contributes wisdom to our work and their skills also as Liaison volunteers.

In addition, this group of dedicated volunteers enhances the work of our Commission through their work as Liaison volunteers: Kathy Platt, Elizabeth Brown, Mona Denton, Patrick Woodbeck, Paul DuVal, and Virginia Coleman.

Finally, while it is our role to support the work of Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, we are grateful for her support in all of our work. Together, our team is stronger!

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Best, Chair
Pastoral Relations Commission*

**COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY OF FAITH SUPPORT
(aka CCFS)**

Do you have those Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability, and Support finally done? Yes! Well, except for one pastoral charge that consists mostly of summer cottagers whose covenant work is still in process.

A neighbouring congregation did some sort of self-assessment report last year. Will we have to do one too? If so, when? All communities of faith are now expected to do regular self-assessments. This is instead of presbytery oversight visits. In P2P “regular” is being interpreted as every three years. In 2022 nearly a third of our pastoral charges were asked to complete a self-assessment report. Committee members have read and responded to each of them, and the reports are filed in the Regional Council office. The plan is to do about a third each year, so yes, you will be asked to do one! If not this year, then maybe next year . . . unless you are busy with writing your ministry profile, or actively engaged in a search process, or working toward an amalgamation, etc. The CCFS has revised the Self-Assessment Resource based on feedback from last year’s experience. It will be sent out in early September to about 45 pastoral charges.

Are there many places working on an amalgamation? No, just two groups at present. In the past year, Rainy River & Stratton were the only ones to celebrate an amalgamation. But there are several others that may be considering it as an option if collaborative arrangements or other plans aren’t feasible. The committee has written a resource for those who are “just wondering” about amalgamation and another for those who are actively working on an amalgamation agreement. Please ask for it if you might be thinking of amalgamation!

What about disbanding? Oh, yes, disbanding! We could say a lot about that! Our committee members are presently supporting six congregations that have made the decision to move toward disbanding and are in various stages of disposing of their property, dealing with memberships, gathering records for the archives, and other details. It usually takes 12-18 months for the process to be completed. There are a handful of others considering disbanding as an option. Since our last annual meeting in 2022, the Regional Council has disbanded three communities of faith: Central (Brandon), Kildonan (Winnipeg), and Rossendale. If your congregation is wondering if they should be thinking of disbanding, please contact the Regional Council office so the Committee on Community of Faith Support can provide information and support that may help your discussion and decisions.

I read something about a United Church that seemed to have an Anglican priest – how does that work?

I expect it was an Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM). We have several ESMs, with both Anglican and Lutheran congregations, and another with about four denominations. ESMs are developed when local congregations believe they could do better together than apart, and the judicatory bodies give approval. Our Committee works closely with the group developing the agreement, which likely takes 6 – 12 months to develop. As this report is being written we have one United Church congregation considering this option. It is important to contact Judy Hare if you are thinking of an ESM because she must make the initial contact with the other denominational officials.

What else do you do?

We normally meet monthly by ZOOM for three hours in the morning, as well as meetings (in person or telephone or ZOOM) as needed with the community of faith members. There is also some reading and writing of letters or reports. Sometimes lots of it!

We help communities of faith to revise or review their governance documents (which some still call a constitution). Any governance structure that is not a simple church Board or Council (or the older model of Session, Stewards, and Official Board) must be approved by the Regional Council. CCFS does the reviewing, commenting, and recommending. We worked on two or three governance documents last year. This is time-consuming, detailed work.

We also support communities of faith wondering how to manage various situations that arise within their congregations. Often it involves working closely with the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Property Commission, with Cherry Abad (administrative support) and of course, Judy Hare.

Occasionally it is necessary for our committee to help a pastoral charge complete and submit its annual statistical report. We also receive and file electronic and print copies of Community of Faith Annual Reports, so they are available for reference if necessary during the year. **You could help, by making sure your congregation's Annual Report has been sent!**

Sometimes we recommend particular webinars on CHURCHx or United in Learning when a community of faith is looking at a specific issue. (<https://churchx.ca/login/index.php>) We may invite a special guest to join us for part of a meeting – recently Vicki Nelson told us about the work she does in support of stewardship in communities of faith.

In other words, we do our best to support communities of faith in ways required by our mandate and as needed by congregations and their leaders. In the process, we grow in faith and wisdom and in appreciation for the good & faithful work being done in our Regional Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Lea (Acting Chair), Cheryl McKittrick (Note Keeper),
Pat Bird, Silas Lee, Heather Sandilands, Irene Chabluk,
Bill Millar and Judy Hare (Staff Support)

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

This year we have licensed two new LLWLs, Shirley Martin (Cadurcis) and Rita Swan (St. Andrew's -River Heights United Church, Winnipeg). We anticipate more requests for licensing soon as we are made aware of others who have completed the training program and are seeking licensing.

The process of relicensing LLWLs has begun. We have identified 18 individuals who are eligible for and have requested relicensing in the first year of a three-year cycle. Motions approving the relicensing of nine of those have been made by the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council and nine need to complete a boundaries refresher or add their names to the pulpit supply list before being relicensed. We currently have seventeen LLWLs available for pulpit supply throughout various areas within Prairie to Pine Regional Council: [LLWL-Pulpit-Supply-List-February-14-2023.pdf \(prairietopinerc.ca\)](#)

The Committee has plans for a gathering of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders in the fall of 2023 (September 23 or October 14).

Many thanks to Rev. Jeff Cook for serving as our chaplain this year during our interview sessions. With Jeff retiring, we are currently looking for someone to serve in this capacity.

In this Pastoral Year on October 29, 2022, and April 29, 2023 training was held via ZOOM for those seeking to become sacraments elders and as a refresher for those whose previous training was received through former presbyteries sometime in the past. Licensing is done annually based on the Pastoral Year, so licensing and relicensing are underway. There were forty-two sacraments elders providing sacraments to the twenty-five communities of faith where their membership is held at various points in time the 2022-2023 Pastoral Year.

Many communities of faith face the reality of being without called or appointed ministry personnel. Others have ministry personnel less than full-time. This leaves a hole that lay leadership tries to fill. One of the challenges we have is trying to fill the need while respecting the rules we live with. Some of these rules are set by the Church and others by the Canada Revenue Agency. Some of the rules related to LLWLs and Congregational Designated Ministers (CDMs) and those sections in The Manual have recently been changed allowing for greater flexibility in some cases depending on the needs of the Regional Council. The committee is awaiting some details so we can best help communities of faith to meet their needs. We hope to have information for you in the near future.

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

(Jim Warburton, Hope Mattus, Doug Neufeld,

Marg Scott, Dianne Kowalchuk, and Judy Hare (Staff Support)

**COMMITTEE ON
MINISTRY PERSONNEL
SUPPORT**

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support is comprised of the following people: David Howell, Beth Rutherford, Chris Davis, Susan Tilleman, Cathy Maxwell, Joan Jarvis, and Judy Hare (staff). We were very happy to finally hold a face-to-face meeting in September 2022. Due to the pandemic, meetings had been via Zoom. We determined we would budget for one in-person meeting each year and the others would continue via Zoom.

Our Committee mandate is to offer support to those in active ministry, as well as retired folk. We have a responsibility to help facilitate "health, joy, and excellence" in ministry.

A common concern that we have heard from our Region is the loss of mechanisms to provide collegial connection and support to one another. Covid lockdowns have challenged this as well. In the past, Presbyteries provided the opportunity to be together. We do recognize that in some geographic areas, on their own initiative, ministry personnel are choosing to gather together.

In order to address this desire for connection, we surveyed both Retired Ministry Personnel and those in active ministry, seeking their input on whether they had a preference to gather in person or by Zoom in 2023. Following a positive response to gather in person, we began to budget and plan for such events. At the time of the writing of this report, we are looking forward to a day-long event to be held in Winnipeg on April 26th for those personnel in active ministry. We are happy to note that Laura Fohse, Minister of Vocations for our Region accepted our invitation to provide leadership on this day. Our overall theme will be re-connecting with one another and focusing on the impact Covid has had on ministry both then and now.

We are also hosting an opportunity for retired ministry personnel to gather for a luncheon on June 1st prior to the start of the Prairie to Pine Annual Meeting. This gathering will be a social time and an opportunity for retirees to reconnect with one another.

Our MP2MP (Ministry Personnel to Ministry Personnel) Connectors continue their work. This program was begun in the midst of Covid as a way of offering support for ministry personnel who wished to have support and regular contact with a Retired Ministry Personnel Connector. Navigating in the midst of Covid and its aftermath provided unique challenges to those in paid accountable leadership. Our Committee will soon be assessing what is next with regard to this program of support.

Our Committee is tasked with the responsibility of finding someone to facilitate the Retiree Celebration portion of each Annual Meeting. We are pleased that Cheryl Kinney Matheson and Irene Greenwood agreed to co-facilitate at this year's Annual Meeting.

Our Committee offers thanks to Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister for the strong leadership and guidance she provides as staff support to this Committee. We appreciate all that she does to keep us on track and to update us on the work that is happening within our Region and the wider church. We also offer our thanks to Cherry Abad for her organizational and administrative skills. The administrative support provided by Cherry is much appreciated by our Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
David Howell, Cathy Maxwell, Beth Rutherford, Chris Davis,
Susan Tilleman, 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, and we are cleaning up old files never properly completed

The commission meets at the call of the chair by conference call in order to respond quickly to requests. From March 31, 2022, our last report, to March 31, 2023, the commission met eight times and passed fifteen motions regarding church property in the Region. These included the sale of three church buildings, and four parcels of land of varying sizes, mostly to the municipalities. There were four requests to list property, and four others dealt with the approval of major renovations. Three of the land sales were cleaning up transactions originally approved by the appropriate Presbytery and never fully completed, one going back to 2004. This has resulted in several requests for searches in the archives and we thank our archivist, Erin Acland for her assistance.

We also responded to numerous property-related questions. We currently have four new items pending.

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.

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**

As a standing committee of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, part of our Action Plan commits to:

- Encourage all Communities of Faith, Outreach Ministries, and other Regional members to celebrate diversity and the intercultural membership of our Region by involvement in such areas as truth and reconciliation, racial justice, abilities, and mental health. Assist Communities of Faith and other church bodies within the Region to obtain and maintain Affirming Ministry status. Assist the Prairie to Pine Regional Council in its worship, work, and decision-making to use an intercultural lens to include diverse orientations, genders, races, cultures, and other communities that need to be integrated into our lives.
- Conduct two Regional educational events on inclusion topics

After what we felt, as a committee, was a very successful 2021 – our committee structure faltered in 2022 somewhat and as we lost members and some focus – we are still trying to bolster our committee capacity with great HOPES for new recruitment.

- Most committee members participated in the online Prairie to Pine Region Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 6 & 7, 2022.
- We were invited by Affirm United to provide content to the Kitchen Sink Series which was tabled.
- We shared information for the Service of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia, May 17 -[video link here](#):
- Jamie initiated a committee to look at Racial Justice Training 3 & 4 within Prairie to Pine which has paused. Committee members were encouraged to participate in Racial Justice training sessions 1&2 the first weekend of October if needing a refresher.
- A letter of support was sent to Rev. Lee Dong-hwan, the Korean Methodist Minister that was disciplined for giving a blessing at a pride gathering in Korea which was also highlighted in the Regional newsletter.
- Information included in the Prairie to Pine Newsletter varied from month to month - we included some infographics, dates, and information for various workshops and information sessions throughout the year. We encouraged all congregations to send in information about their Pride Sundays and PIE events. Some sharings (many AFFIRM United events) included:
 - [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#) dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.
 - The Black Clergy network of the United Church of Canada shared information about a panel discussion and worship to Celebrate and Observe Emancipation Day 2022 – July 31 & Aug 1
 - United Against Hate: faithfully responding to anti-2SLGBTQ+ actions
 - The anti-racism network of the United Church
 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
 - new project - Pastoral Relationships Equity Research Project
- Although we did provide financial support to a few projects from the Equity and Diversity Committee in 2021 – no funding was provided in 2022 due to a lack of identified opportunities. The committee declined to support the movie 1946 for several reasons including its heavily weighted American content, length, production timing, etc.

The committee encouraged:

- *all Communities of Faith to hold a service for Pride Sunday - 1st Sunday in June, (if unable to do so, then any other Sunday in June).*
- *all Communities of Faith and the Regional Council to send a representative to local Pride Day celebrations*
- *all Regional Council, Regional Council Executive, and Regional Standing and Ad Hoc Committee meetings use an intercultural lens in preparing and conducting meetings*
- The committee supports gathering with Affirming Ministries via Zoom and Communities of Faith in our Region to implement an Affirming Network.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Miller, Alan Gershuny, Hope Mattus, Cathey Day,
Kyle Kellar, Linda Rodgers, Meghan Chorney, and
Julie Graham, Staff Support)*

UCW - 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 2022, 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 2022 we were pleased to award three applicants a total of \$4,000 in Prairie to Pine Regional Bursaries:

Damber Khadka	\$500.00	Master of Divinity program at AST
Tanis Podobni	\$2,000.00	Designated Lay Ministry; 1 st year at STU Saskatoon Theological Union

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 50th 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 Laura Fohse, 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, Convener

Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary Committee

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YAAY)

Although the YAAY Committee had begun a cautious return to in-person programming in 2021, with a surge of COVID-19 cases in early 2022, Zeebu, in February, was held online as a games night rather than a full weekend retreat. 41 young people joined Zoom for a fun night of connecting over some virtual games.

In May, 40 young people went bowling in conjunction with our YAAY Youth Leadership Recruitment Event. The recruitment event, held at Churchill Park United Church, drew a group of 25 youth grade 9+ to develop leadership skills, encouraging them to provide leadership at youth retreats and other events.

In Sept 2022 we held our first in-person YAAY meeting in three years graciously hosted by Rosser United Church. This was a combined YAAY meeting and Planning Team meeting for ALF 2022. It was great to bring some new members into the committee, as well as celebrate the leadership that had been offered by members who are moving on to new adventures.

The YAAY Committee was thrilled that ALF 2022 in October was able to be a full weekend retreat. We are grateful to Carman United Church for hosting 29 participants and 18 young leaders exploring the theme “We All Dream Big”. It was so exciting to have our community of youth and young adults back under one roof to learn, worship, and have fun together. By implementing a policy of COVID-19 testing before entry to the event and mandatory masks, we were able to successfully ensure that everyone left ALF just as healthy as they were when they arrived... but maybe a little more tired!

Travelling Youth Group (Friday evening events planned and hosted by Communities of Faith, but open to youth from the wider church) met in April 2022 at the United Church in Meadowood to explore some activities around Holy Week and then again in October, hosted by Rosser United Church to play gym games and create skits based on parables.

Other activities this year included “Walking with the Thunderbirdz”, where youth and young adults joined an existing group offering sandwiches to unhoused folks in Winnipeg. Members of YAAY also collaborated with Knox United in Winnipeg to offer “Sharing Across Cultures: Food, Fun, and Faith”, which was a special event for youth who self-identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) to explore the diversity that exists within the United Church community. Our young adults’ group, YARG, met several times in 2022 for activities including skating at the Forks and a bonfire!

Since April 2021, a group of 8 young people have been working on projects supported by the Winnipeg Foundation “Walking Together” Grant which supports youth-led Truth and Reconciliation projects in Winnipeg. This group was awarded a \$10,000 grant to fund three proposed projects: a healing garden, a mural, and activities to build connections with the [Thunderbirdz](#) group and those experiencing houselessness in Winnipeg. In 2022, the team continued collaborating with Knox & Harrow United Churches in Winnipeg as partners on the garden and mural projects. The Winnipeg Foundation granted an extension as well as a redistribution of funds to cover only the walks and a much greater than estimated cost of the mural. The group then began to seek other funding for the healing garden. We hope to see these projects continue to flourish and build community in the coming year.

The YAAY Committee would like to thank all of our volunteers for the work they do, as well as Regional Staff Twila MacNair for her ongoing support. If you have youth or young adults in your community of faith who are looking to connect with other United Church youth, please direct them our way!

For more information about YAAY’s activities, see the YAAY page on the Prairie to Pine website:

<https://prairietopiner.ca/programs/young-adults-and-youth/>

Wishing our Prairie to Pine community all the best in 2023!

Julia Antonyshyn and Lilja Best

YAAY Co-Convenors

OTHER REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT, GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



This QR code will take you to a digital filing cabinet of [stewardship resources](#)



I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, Mission & Service, and the United Church Foundation to the good people of Prairie to Pine.

Over the past year, I have had the honour of meeting with many of you, whether as participants in a *Called to be the Church: The Journey* program, through a phone conversation, or online at the last annual meeting. 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 I would love to connect in 2023 and beyond is through the learning program, *Called to be the Church: The Journey*. We currently have 4-course offerings that provide training and support for different parts of the stewardship journey. Whether you want to learn some stewardship-first principles, get resources to run a congregational Giving Program, or are hoping to set up a Legacy Giving Program in your community of faith, we have training options for you!! One participant provided this program feedback, *"I appreciate the leadership, the enthusiasm, the knowledge, and the support of the leaders of this course. It was a lot of information and was presented in a way that was not overwhelming. The recommendations are practical and doable."* You can 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 2022 saw \$24.5 million raised, including Mission & Service givings totalling \$21.1 million, bequests and other planned gifts totaling \$1.8 million, and over \$1.5 million for the people of Ukraine.

Locally, Mission & Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Prairie to Pine. Anti-poverty work happening with 1 Just City, camping ministries like Rock Lake and Wellman Lake, and important education happening at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre are some of the transformative programs supported with your Mission & Service donations. Thank you!

Setting giving goals and sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service are effective ways to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage deeper generosity in your community of faith. New Stories of our Mission are [posted monthly](#). 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 conversations about stewardship, gratitude, generosity, and Mission & Service into your community of faith, consider signing up for the monthly newsletter [God's Mission, Our Gifts](#).

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the important work being done by the United Church Foundation. In 2022 the Foundation established [four priority areas](#): Anti-Racism, Reconciliation with Indigenous People, Climate Justice, and Communities of Faith. If your community faith has program ideas or is engaged in work that falls into one of these areas, there may be grants available. Additionally, the United Church Foundation is there to help you invest in the ministries you care about.

Thank you, Prairie to Pine Region friends. I am so grateful for your spirit, creativity, generosity, and thoughtfulness. I look forward to learning together in 2023.

In gratitude,

*Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff
for Prairie to Pine Regional Council*

VNelson@united-church.ca * 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045

JUBILEE FUND



“As responsible investors, we in the church seek to honour the vast wonders and riches of this world and the good life that it offers all living creatures as we exercise our responsibilities as trustees, board members, and people of faith.”¹

The above is one of the lines that stand out for me in The United Church of Canada’s Responsible Investing Guiding Principles. **Jubilee Fund** (<https://www.jubileefund.ca/>) is a social impact investment fund that will use your money for the Common Good. Prairie to Pine is a founding member and has been involved since the turn of the century. The Fund itself grew out of a vision for Building a Moral Economy. This was a particular emphasis of the Very Rev. Bill Phipps when he was Moderator of the United Church from 1997-1999.

Jubilee Fund is Manitoba’s only charitable social impact investment fund that offers financial help for local non-profits and social enterprises working to reduce the impact of poverty. It currently has \$3.15 million in assets and is 90% leveraged with the money going to valuable programs that reduce poverty in Manitoba. In 2022, they also launched Canada’s first Rent Guarantee Program working to co-sign on rental lease agreements for marginalized community members.

Over the past year, the emphasis has been on supporting housing projects. Safe affordable and accessible housing has the greatest power to impact a person’s life, reducing the risk of addiction and providing the foundation for good mental and physical well-being.

In 2022, Jubilee Fund working with Assiniboine Credit Union has supported the following:

- Financial support for the Rainbow Resource Centre’s first affordable housing project for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors.
- A loan guarantee for Raising the Roof’s Reside project - developing property in Winnipeg’s core into a safe, secure, three-apartment complex for families and youth transitioning out of care.

¹ <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/local-administration/congregational-finance/responsible-investment>

- A loan guarantee to Purpose Construction's new siding and eaves trough division allowing them to offer further skills training and employment to those with barriers to employment.
- Offering a Rent Guarantee Program to women at risk, guaranteeing rent for 1 year for women leaving abusive situations and who do not have the financial history to sign a lease on their own. To date, over 20 individuals have been housed.

If your congregation is interested in making a difference with a portion of their funds, we would be happy to do a presentation for trustees, leadership teams, or other groups. We are also available to speak during worship services.

For more information, contact Lynda Trono at lyndatrono@gmail.com. Also, come and visit us at our display table at the Annual Meeting.

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: After COVID, The Manitoba Multifaith Council has continued to meet regularly via technology, especially using Zoom.

Some highlights from the year:

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



Her Honour the Honourable Anita R. Neville hosted a ceremony on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Government House to honour Mr. Bill L. Weissmann who was the 2022 recipient of this award. Bill was recognized for serving as a bridge-builder and goodwill ambassador for 25 years at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, where he led high school students on synagogue tours, explained Judaism to university students, and welcomed visitors to services, ensuring they had a place to sit and understood how to follow the Hebrew prayer book. Weissman, son of Holocaust survivors, also conceived the idea of opening the annual reading of the Holocaust scroll to people from the community, a move that has involved more than a hundred people over the years. Congratulations Bill on this well-deserved award.

Multifaith Leadership Breakfast



After 3 years, the 8th annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast with guest speaker, Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham was welcomed back with its event theme "For the Sake of the City", on Tuesday, Feb. 28th at RBC Convention Centre. The theme focuses on engaging and inspiring community leaders and members to work both individually and collaboratively to address current issues to build a better Winnipeg.

At the breakfast, Mayor Gillingham announced the creation of a new faith and cultural liaison committee which will help the city pull together to deal with problems as they arise. The committee will address issues of a rise in Islamophobia, antisemitism, and other discrimination related to someone's faith or their culture.

He also hopes the committee will help with issues related to getting newcomers settled in the city, and address problems like homelessness.

Spiritual Health Care

A full-day in-person workshop, Trauma-Informed Care: Building a Culture of Strength was held on November 3, 2022. Some of the topics included trauma's ripple effect, building a trauma-informed culture, understanding trauma, post-traumatic growth and resilience, and steps for implementing principles.

Multifaith Calendars 2023

We continue to promote and sell this calendar which is published annually by the Multifaith Action Society (MAS) of British Columbia. It is a unique educational resource that facilitates and promotes understanding of religious observances, occasions, and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities.



Respectfully submitted,

Diane Dwarka

Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member

UNITED CHURCH HALFWAY HOMES



March 24, 2023

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- Over the past year Covid 19 restrictions have come to a halt. United Church Halfway Homes have been afforded the convenience of attending meetings in the lower hall. We have resumed several in-person meetings, slowly decreasing virtual utilization. This year we will be continuing with a combination of In Person and Virtual Meetings. We utilize two main spaces in Harrow's facilities, both on the lower level. The Parlour room is generally used for staff meetings. The Main Hall is used for larger meetings that require the use of the big screen TV provided in the space. This has been convenient for displaying power point presentations or Virtual Meetings.

Training: The main hall has been used for training this past year as opposed to the previous two years. Training was held online. UCHH projects an increase in, In Person training.

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, handmade knitted items such as blankets, scarves, and other assortment of gifts are provided, and children of our residents are also included. Christmas time can be stressful and trigger unpleasant memories for our residents. This goodwill Christmas gesture assists to shine a bright light during the holiday season. This year the house was provided with home-knitted items and an assortment of gifts in the same fashion as the previous years. Our residents were happy to receive these thoughtful gifts.

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

Events- This past summer UCHH was able to Host an Organizational BBQ for our staff due to lightening of Covid 19 restrictions. UCHH also hosted our Annual General Meeting virtually utilizing the Big Screen TV in the lower hall. Christmas Parties were hosted for staff and residents in individual homes. Residents have attended a Moose game, Movies, Indigenous sweets this past year.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Dennis, Executive Director*

**MANITOBA COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MCIC)**
(www.mcic.ca)



A coalition of Manitoba-based organizations involved in international development, global citizenship, a just world, promoting sustainability and fair trade.

MCIC collaborates with interfaith groups, educators, youth, not for profit groups. It also has numerous events throughout the year, which are worth attending.

MCIC distributes matching grants from the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, with the funds from a member organization, in good standing.

There are 3 funding avenues: Global Development Fund, Theme Fund, and Relief Rehabilitation Fund. And there is 1 funding avenue available for non-members called Community Solidarity Fund for developing projects overseas.

In order for UCC to apply for matching grants there needs to be one official representative who lives in the province. As the official rep, I attend the annual general meeting on behalf of UCC, along with events of MCIC.

Through UCC Mission & Service contributions we are able to apply for projects.

For 2022-2023 the UCC project receiving development fund matching grant is the ADES agroecology project - <https://united-church.ca/stories/dora-alicia-sorto-school-farm-and-agroecology-project> . It is the third and final year of the MCIC grant.

Our partner in Tanzania, The Morogoro Women's Training Centre, just completed activities for the Theme Fund from 2021-2022

<https://united-church.ca/stories/capacity-building-and-empowerment-adolescent-mothers-tanzania>

Thi Van Hoang liaisons with global partners and together develop projects which are submitted to MCIC for matching grants. Each province has an international council for cooperation in which other projects are applied for by the UCC.

Thi Van Hoang, Program Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response:
thoang@united-church.ca 416-231-7680 x2758, 1-800-268-3781 x2758

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wood
1929dfwoo@gmail.com

INTERFAITH COUNCIL ON HYDROPOWER INC. (ICH)

Formerly known as
Interchurch Council on Hydropower

<https://hydrojustice.org>

Facebook.com>ICH Manitoba

Email: hydrojustice@gmail.com

The Interfaith Council on Hydropower (ICH) has been involved in policy analysis and public engagement on hydropower issues in Mb. We work to be in relationship with and carry forward the stories of hydro-impacted First Nation's people & communities. ICH's involvement in these themes dates back to the mid-1970s. Our members include official representatives from Mennonite Central Committee, Winnipeg Quakers, Anglican, Catholic,

Lutheran, and United Church conference bodies. Interfaith groups have joined the council. Member churches provide funds for our work. We also apply for grants. Our Prairie to Pine region hasn't made a contribution in recent years. Elder Ellen Cook, Co-Chairperson of ICH writes "hydro development has been the cause of significant loss to land, water, and livelihoods, causing massive destruction and desolation to everyone and everything that lives in the shadow of the dams. Over 50 years of hydro development have left our communities in incredible pain. She continues: 'As keepers of the water, we women must find a way to heal from the devastation of the waterways which surround us, and are now being 'rented out 'to Mb Hydro, by the feeling of helplessness to confront the problems and find meaningful ways forward. "

Summary of some activities of the Interfaith Council on Hydro Power:

As a council we keep in mind unofficial guideposts: 'What's at the other end of the line'; Cree Elders's assertion is they have a responsibility as stewards of Mother Earth which is in direct conflict with settler colonial legislation & regulatory agencies. The laws & legal traditions within First Nations are rooted in each First Nation society & are therefore distinct from one another. First Nations legal traditions are completely distinct from settler colonial legal traditions both in form & function.

- A few members wrote a song entitled “**Dam Shame**” about the Churchill River Diversion. (CRD) Go to [YOUTUBE.Com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...), and look for the “**Dam Shame**” Lyric Video We sing this resource when making presentations.
- We joined with several other organizations to form a ‘**Coalition for Public Utilities Board Independence**’ (PUB). Our goal was to protect the PUB & the interests of Manitobans & First Nations peoples. Bill # 36 – Mb PUB Amendment Act was passed with amendments in 2022. Rate application hearings will now be held every 3 years rather than annually. Members of the council made presentations.
- We are facilitating a second ‘**Healing Kohkom’s Circle**’, summer of 2023. We facilitated a gathering of grandmothers & youth in 2019. The Kohkom’s & youth will gather from hydro-impacted communities. Misipawistik Cree Nation is hosting the circle. (Grand Rapids). Elder Ellen Cook, co-chairperson of ICH, writes: ‘Water is a human right, not a commodity. Kohkom’s from hydro-impacted communities will meet with each other & with the youth to share what can be done within our Nation’s communities to assist young people find their way to that life that made our people resilient & strong.’
- We’re developing a campaign & resource ‘**Let’s Work Together**’ inviting Mb churches and others to learn, understand & be in solidarity for a hydro justice strategy in working towards reconciliation between consumers of hydropower & hydro-impacted First Nations.
- We are actively working on a ‘**Sturgeon Marking Project**’. (stenciling) The sturgeon fish populate the rivers damned by Mb Hydro, and their numbers are greatly being reduced. This is an awareness campaign intended to bring attention to hydrogeneration. We consider that stenciling the image of a sturgeon on hydro poles in Mb will serve as a reminder that we are interconnected with what we consume, and what we destroy. (Go to hydrojustice.com for stencil design & instructions)
- We continue to partner with First Nation’s peoples on the Churchill River Diversion (CRD), Lake Wpg Regulation (LWR) & the Augmented Flow Program (AFP). Mb Hydro is requesting a final license with no renewal, the deadline is 2024. O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation has asked the province to not renew the license because of the continued impact on their Nation & the environment which is devastating their land, water, river/lake erosion, and the loss of the 3rd largest fishery in North America. (South Indian Lake)

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wood
1929dfwoo@gmail.com

MUSIC FOR LIFE (M4L)

We are a small working group who are actively engaged in action towards reconciliation with First Nations peoples in Mb & NW Ontario.

The purpose of the project is to enhance the safety & well-being of Indigenous children & youth, especially in remote, under-served communities, as well as inner-city neighbours. Specifically, it is understood as a suicide, gang involvement & substance abuse prevention strategy that promotes resilience among at-risk youth.

Music for Life provides Indigenous & Newcomer youth & children with musical instruments (at no cost) to local community groups who want to plan a music program within their community or neighborhoods. The local community groups /neighborhoods plan and develop their own music program, as well as recruit local musicians as teachers. Music for Life provides the musical instruments requested, as well as funds for a small honorarium to instructors, funds for snacks, and music books. The local group determines what ages, instruments, and kinds of music to teach. In other words, the local community group is in charge of their project.

The unique characteristic of Music for Life is we don't plan a course of action for community groups. We provide musical instruments at no cost. Musical instruments provided include ukuleles, guitars, violins, an accordion, and material for drums with guidance from Elders. We have provided musical instruments for an after-school program and/or summer camps at a number of places and people:

Mukisew after school program, Pimicikamk Cree Nation. (Cross Lake, Mb).

Wapanohk Community School after school program, Wapanohk Cree Nation. (Thompson, Mb)

Indigenous Family Centre, summer camp, Winnipeg, Mb.

Spence Neighborhood Association, funds for DJ Training program, Winnipeg, Mb

St. Thomas Weston Anglican Church, summer camps in 2024, Winnipeg, Mb.

Kenora Fellowship Centre, drop-in program, Kenora, Ontario.

Our working group includes representatives from the Winnipeg Quaker Meeting, Robert Miller Kairos regional group of NW Ontario & Mb., Ellen Wood, Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church, Vince Solomon, Prairie to Pine UCC regional council, Ellen Wood, and the Spence Neighborhood Association, Apid Gurung.

We rely on developing relationships & connections with community groups & organizations, such as churches, health services, newcomer groups, recreation clubs, schools, and individuals. We are a sub-committee of the Interfaith Council Hydropower. As the Kairos & Prairie to Pine rep, I am always looking for connections with Indigenous and newcomer individuals & organizations who may be interested. I have limited connections within the region, and rely on others to assist me.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wood

1929dfwoo@gmail.com

KAIROS REGION
N.W. ONTARIO & MANITOBA
kairoscanada.org

The Kairos regional group (NWOnt&Mb) is an ecumenical group made up of 12 people from different denominations. We have Elder Ellen Cook and knowledge keeper Yvonne Bearbull as well as member Brigitte Lubaka Wabiwa. We meet as a coordinating group once a month for 2 hours. We study resources to educate ourselves before we recommend them to congregations & interest groups. In 2022 we studied land acknowledgements & Treaty and land taken, the doctrine of discovery & terra-nullius (DOD& TN) & how our doctrine of belief intersect with the DOD&TN). We have reps from Thunder Bay, Brandon, Kenora, and Wpg. There are 4 Kairos community groups, Brandon, NEJP (northeastern Wpg), West Wpg, and central Wpg. Different reps bring forward issues their denomination is working on. Although it has been challenging for us to connect directly with church communities, largely due to our capacity.

In 2022, we held a Spring Gathering and a Fall Gathering (speakers included Natalie Copps 'The Legalities of Treaties & Hydro Development, & Water Rights; and Janice Bone, 'Water, Dreams & Treaties: Agnes Ross' Memekwesiwak Stories & Treaty 5'. The theme for both was Sacred Water.

Bob Haverluck, who donated his book 'Court Case of the Creatures' to Kairos Cd, we sold 50 copies as a fundraiser.

We have participated & developed relationships with partners: calling on Cd to pass corporate accountability legislation; Migrant justice – temporary foreign agricultural workers; TRC calls to action, MMIGW2S as well as MMI boys & men; fossil fuel & Indigenous land & practices; Music for Life group; Interfaith Council Hydropower; Kairos 'for the love of creation' campaign; legacy of Residential Schools & unmarked graves of children; member of the City of Wpg Indigenous Accord. Our work is very fluid, as an issue comes forward, we respond.

Our most requested resource is the Kairos Blanket Exercise. Contact Carin Crowe (oday20@mymts.net) (204-475-5237). We don't do KBE in the summer & early fall, or during Dec!

Although I've written this report, I am no longer the Chairperson of the coordinating committee, stepping aside after 7 years. I have found our group & the people we've met & partnered with to be life-giving and gratitude, with thanks from Ellen Wood.

Consider joining the coordinating committee, a community group, or developing a community group. You don't have to live in Wpg, we encourage group development throughout the Kairos region.

Our new chairperson is Debby Coombs Dandy from Brandon. She is our contact person, kairosdebby@outlook.com (204-726-008).

Bob Haverluck art & quote 'Duck re-inflating a deflated activist' (taken from Take Heart by Kathleen Dean Moore, art by Bob Haverluck, pg. 140).

Respectfully submitted,
 Ellen Wood
1929dfwoo@gmail.com

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS and EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

ATLANTIC SCHOOL of THEOLOGY

www.astheology.ns.ca



Greetings and grace to you as you convene for your Regional Council meeting. May that time nourish and sustain you, as you build up the church and enjoy the goodness of *being* the church.

I am pleased to report that AST has experienced several interesting events and changes in the last year. Here are a few of them.

In the summer of 2022, and for the first time since 2019, we were able to have our summer MDiv students take their courses in person and occupy rooms at the campus residence. I had several opportunities to meet with students both as a group and individually. They were pleased to meet faculty and fellow students in person and to share worship, meals, and recreation with their colleagues.

As the Fall 2022 term began, our courses were offered remotely or in hybrid (both virtually and in-person) form. As none of our own students applied for residence, all our rooms were rented to international students from other institutions in the Halifax area. However, we maintain a policy of preferential availability for AST students. In the meantime, we are remaining true to the fundamental values and mission of AST by reaching out to those who would have to pay much more for accommodations or would be unable to study in Halifax because of a lack of rental spaces.

In other good news, the Province of Nova Scotia has provided AST with a grant of \$3M to renovate and upgrade our residence facilities, work that is long overdue. The funds will allow us to repair brickwork, install new plumbing, make wi-fi system updates, and upgrade shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.

At the May 2023 Convocation, the first cohort of students in the Diploma in Missional Leadership (DML), all of whom are affiliated with the United Church, will graduate from this new program. The next cohort of the DML will begin in early 2024. This learning opportunity will be available to persons from all denominational backgrounds as we build a new complement of ecumenical partners in mission. AST is currently in the last stages of the formal application processes to launch a Bachelor of Theology degree program. The key purpose of the Bachelor of Theology degree is to increase accessibility to higher education in theological subjects. Those who desire postsecondary education specifically in the theological disciplines

but lack an undergraduate degree will benefit from this new degree. A direct-entry undergraduate degree option will assist them in their vocational and educational goals.

A key element of the Strategic Plan adopted by the AST Board in February 2022 is collaboration with Saint Mary's University (Halifax) as part of the now twenty-year old Memorandum of Understanding between our two independent institutions. In the past year, we have integrated our student information infrastructure into the Banner system at SMU. That project, funded by the Nova Scotia government through the NS Council of University Presidents, is almost complete. The initiative has provided significant benefits to our students, faculty, and staff. It has allowed AST to move from paper-based to IT-based processes for handling many things, from course registration to student records and course changes. We will see some significant leadership changes at AST over the next several months. The Presidential Search Committee (even as this is being written) is nearing the end of its work to find a candidate to

propose to the Board as AST's new President. As well, a second search committee is in the process of seeking a new Academic Dean to succeed Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell who has served in that role since 2017. His outstanding contributions to the university have earned him a well-deserved sabbatical which will begin this summer. Finally, Rev. Dr. Linda Yates succeeds Dr. Peter Secord as Chair of AST's Board of Governors.

We would like to express deep gratitude to our partners in The United Church of Canada—the General Council, the Regional Councils, the Board of Governors of Pine Hill Divinity Hall, and the local churches, leaders, and ministers—who support AST's work in a variety of ways. Financial support from the General Council and Pine Hill Divinity Hall are critical to our capacity to function as a university focused on theological education for ordered ministry candidates and lay leaders. The local churches support AST through discernment processes for potential ministry candidates, by encouraging lay people to continue their lifelong faith learning, by calling and supervising our graduates who serve your congregations, and by your vital and deeply valued financial support. If your Community of Faith has not yet made a gift to AST this year, I ask you to consider doing so in the next month or two.

AST continues to seek to be responsive to the emerging needs of the church and society as we serve together in God's world. In this, we are grateful to be your partners.

*In Christ,
Dr. Tim O'Neil
Interim President, Atlantic School of Theology*

www.astheology.ns.ca

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES



CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES – 2022 **A Year of Anticipation and Adjustment**

Students in Prairie to Pine

Pat Chabuk and Hyerim Park

2022 for The Centre for Christian Studies was a year full of preparation, anticipation, and adjustment. It began with the departure of David Lappano (former program staff) and Michelle Owens (former principal). It set the stage for two search teams to look for new staff. Meanwhile, Ken Delisle served as the interim principal for most of the year until the arrival of the new principal. Through several months of internal preparation, discussion, and searching, CCS now has new Program Staff Alcris Limongi and Alan Lai; the new principal. They both started in the month of October.

Alcris Limongi came to CCS from Parkdale United Church in Ottawa, where she served as the Minister of Pastoral Care. Alan came from Vancouver, where he was the minister serving South Arm United Church in Richmond. Alcris originally came from Venezuela, and Alan, Hong Kong. Together, they bring intercultural perspectives and years of leading anti-racism and intercultural learning to the CCS community. Covenanting service for Alcris and Alan were conducted on November 23rd, at Westworth United Church in Winnipeg.

With the assemble of the new team complete, the staff spent the last few months of the year building new relationships and sharing ideas and practices. The spirit of exploration and relationship-building was high. With Alan's photographic and video production skills, CCS has begun to post more updates and videos on the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

While the searches were going on most of the year, CCS's programs and operation continued smoothly with dedicated staff and volunteers. CCS continues to offer courses online and in-person, which included: Power and Privilege, Ages and Stages, Ministry as Community-building, Health, Pain, & Trauma. CCS Fridays is a series of free, one-hour online workshops and discussions offered mostly once a month to connect friends and the wider community. On April 3rd, during the Annual Service of Celebration, Aileen Urquhart was awarded the Companion of the Centre Award.

Financially, CCS continues to rely on the commitment of the denomination and generous donors who believe in the mission of the school. Lori Stewart, our Development Coordinator, has done a fantastic job connecting with donors and applying for grants and funding. While denomination funding is decreasing, and Endowment portfolio is not as promising as before, we are committed to working towards financial sustainability. We are thankful that many of our donors remain committed to diaconal education and bless us with extraordinary generosity in 2022. CCS is anticipating major Endowment fundraising campaign in the coming years.

There is no doubt the pandemic has challenged the school on many fronts, including programming, student enrolment, marketing, and so on. It disrupted more than just in-person gathering, but also concepts of theological education, teaching, learning, and service in the world. However, the process of rebuilding has begun.

We are blessed with collaborative, generous 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 Yearbook, Financial Statements, and Annual Report may be found at:

<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-Year-Book.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Alan Lai

Principal, Centre for Christian Studies

EMMANUEL COLLEGE**EMMANUEL COLLEGE**
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Spring 2023

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring season. I pray that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. **My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg and it is my privilege to bring you greetings as Emmanuel's Principal.** I come to this role as the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching and an ordained member of the United Church of Canada. My term began July 1, 2022. I hope to see you in person in the near future and share good news of Emmanuel College with you and hear good news of this region's wonderful ministry.

Faculty Compliment and Faculty on the Road

Some good news from Emmanuel College is that **we have embarked on three new faculty searches.** One in United Church of Canada studies (tenure track) another in Spiritual Care and Practical Theology (tenure track), and the other in Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counselling (teaching stream). These searches are complete and by the time of your meeting should be announced. These faculty complements will enable us to cultivate students to become conscious and compassionate scholars and equip them to become competent and committed leaders in the United Church and beyond.

The current faculty is keen to go out into different communities of faith, promote Emmanuel and share their scholarship and wisdom. Andrew Aitchison as Admissions Counsellor and Recruitment Coordinator will be a liaison connecting faculty with communities. Please let him know if your communities want to invite our Christian, Muslim or Buddhist faculty. That would be so wonderful.

Back in Person: Buzzing with Joy and in Gratitude

Emmanuel College was back in person after two long and challenging pandemic years online. We had a heart-warming in person orientation with close to 100 new and "returning" students who had never been to the college. We held a special fall graduation celebration for those who convoked online in 2020 and 2021.

Spiritual and religious practices on Wednesday are alive and well and were offered Monday through Thursday with the leadership of Spiritual and Community Life Coordinator, Beth Ann Fisher, through the leadership of our first ever Interfaith student Spiritual Life team who is taking a year-long course "worship and ritual leadership practicum" with instructor, the Rev. Dr. David Kim-Cragg.

Hybrid Master of Divinity Program

Building on our experience of remote delivery throughout the pandemic, our Master of Divinity program has been approved by the University of Toronto to be offered in a hybrid mode of delivery. This means that up to two thirds of the degree can be done online. We are excited as we hope this will reach more prospective students outside of the Greater Toronto Area.

All Members of EM Re-Connected and Networking

One of my priorities as principal is to re-connect all members of the College as we emerge from many years apart. We are anticipating many wonderful anniversary celebrations and reunions with the UCC's 100th anniversary in 2025 and EM's 100th anniversary in 2028, so keep an eye out for our various events to celebrate these historical milestones.

Gardening Project

Another goal I am focusing on as principal is the land on which we are located. Concurring with Victoria University's strategic framework on sustainability, and commitment to right relations with Indigenous communities which is laid out in the EM strategic plan, I am seeking to create a garden with the participation of the Indigenous community and to remove the lawn grass from our courtyards. This idea has generating some excitement and we received a starting grant from the United Church Foundation's Seeds of Hope to get us started! So please stay tuned and feel free to share your ideas and spread the news. it is my hope that the courtyard where the crucified woman statue is standing will be dug up next spring!

Financial Support

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. program 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.** For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programs, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison, 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 (CRIC). This coming academic year will feature again "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. 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 please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: 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. HyeRan Kim-Cragg

*Principal, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching
Emmanuel College*

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE



To our beloved friends in Christ: greetings from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon!

As we journey into 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and encouragement of our Regional Councils. The past few years have been challenging, and we are mindful of the pain and loss that we and the world have experienced. We are also excited by the new opportunities that lie ahead, and we are humbled by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst at St. Andrew's College.

One of the most significant reminders we rediscovered, during the pandemic, is the importance of community. We are now sharing our building with the other two schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union, (Lutheran Theological Seminary and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad) and we have entered into a Covenant of Commitment, which marks a profound level of cooperation between us. This renewed relationship enables us to support one another, so that each partner's unique denominational gifts contribute to our collective ability to do more than we could on our own. We hope that our ecumenical boldness will inspire faith communities in every denomination to explore creative and courageous ecumenical partnerships as well.

We are thrilled to announce that we are finalizing the development of our renewed **Master of Divinity** and **Master of Theological Studies** degree programmes. Both programmes will be available in an intensive format, and St. Andrew's students can complete the entire learning journey from their own contexts without having to relocate. Our programmes are deeply ecumenical, shared across all three schools, and involve the collaboration of faculty from different denominational traditions and theological disciplines. We look forward to welcoming our first cohort of students for these innovative programmes, beginning in the fall of this year.

We are also pleased to report that we have recommitted to offering our **Doctor of Ministry** program, and we have already received applications for the fall cohort. Additionally, we continue to enjoy hosting the **Designated Lay Ministry** programme at the College, while we await further word from General Council about its future.

There's so much happening at our College right now, but we wouldn't want to miss talking about the **Lifelong Learning Pathway** we've been developing. It has been researched and developed over the past two years, and we're currently testing it with a pilot project of eager learners. This new programme opens the great privilege of theological and spiritual reflection to a wider community of learners beyond our traditional degree programmes. Whether you're exploring Christian discipleship through leadership in your faith community or in the wider society, or seeking paths of wisdom in other spiritual traditions, our certificate programmes (*Leadership in the Faith Community*, *Leadership in the World*, and *Spiritual Exploration*) create new possibilities of study.

Our new Lifelong Learning Pathway prioritises your own learning goals and pairs you with your own educational guide. We'll help you identify educational resources and opportunities, develop a personalised learning plan, and build a portfolio of reflective work. You will progress at your own pace toward the competencies described in your chosen certificate. This unique new programme is perfect for seasoned pastors seeking continuing education, lay leaders who want to engage in theological work to enhance their ministries and vocations, and the spiritually curious wisdom-seekers who will benefit from

a flexible and supportive framework of reflection. Regardless of your previous formal education, St. Andrew's Lifelong Learning Pathway opens up a treasure-trove of theological and spiritual exploration to anyone who desires it!

As you can see, we're at a very exciting place in our history. The challenges of the past few years have unleashed our imaginations and propelled us into God's future. We believe that there are opportunities waiting for us that are greater than we could ask or imagine, and we invite you to continue to support us, pray for us, and indeed join us as we take theological education that embodies compassion, hope, and justice into a new century of faithful discipleship.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions at all, at principal.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca. If you would like to know more about our academic or lifelong learning pathways, feel free to contact Shawn, the College Recruitment Officer, at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca. And we would be more than happy to receive your financial support! Contact our College Secretary at collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca for a list of development opportunities and ways to give.

As we walk together in ministry, may the Spirit continue to bless and guide you!

On behalf of the St. Andrew's Community,

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck
Recruitment Officer*

&

*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;
underlined-Indigenous Minister)

5 Years (2018):

Eleanor Monias (DLM)

Patrick Woodbeck (OM)

10 years (2013):

*Kwang Beom Cho (OM) Anniversary of Admission
from the People's Republic of Korea*

M. Delores Bouchie (DM)

Roy Bouchie (OM)

Ken Thomas (RO)

*Taeil Yang (OM) Anniversary of Admission
from the People's Republic of Korea*

15 years (2008):

Alice McDougall (RD)

20 Years (2003):

Esaias Beardy (RD)

Bonita Garrett (RO)

Lydia Glawson (RO)

Heather Robbins (RD)

Beverly Ward (RO)

25 Years (1998):

Lorraine Harkness (RO)

Yvonne Naismith (RD)

Irene Rainey (RD)

30 years (1993):

John Halcrow (RO)

Lesley Harrison (OM)

*Glen Horst (RO) Anniversary of Admission
from the Mennonite Church*

Catherine Maxwell (OM)

Irene Onuch (RO)

Dawn Rolke (OM)

Beth Rutherford (OM)

35 years (1988):

Leith Saunders (OM)

Lori Stewart (DM)

40 years (1983):

Paul DuVal (RO)

Nancy Sanders (RO)

Debra Schweyer (DM)

45 years (1978)

Robert Campbell (RO)

Harvey Hurren (RO)

Gordon Taylor (RO)

50 years (1973):

Dennis Butcher (RO)

Donald McKay (RO)

Clifford McMillan (RO)

Karl Suber (RO)

Norman Velnes (RO)

55 years (1968):

Elinor Johns (RD)

60 years (1963):

Robert Hamlin (RO)

Yoshimichi Masaki (RO)

Hugo Unruh (RO)

Atze Veldhuis (RO)

65 years (1958):

Jerry South (RO)

70 years (1953):

A. McKibbin Watts (RO)



APPENDIX I - MINUTES OF THE 4th PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (DRAFT)

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.

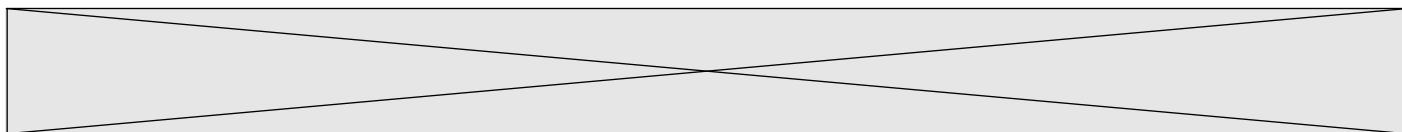
Jim Warburton from Warren Mead Lea Pastoral Charge and Nona Ward from Oakbank United Church. The covenant question was then asked of Regional Council members.

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

Appendix II - NOMINATIONS REPORT 2023

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	Erica Wiebe	Co-Chair	3-2025
2	Pat Bird	Past Chair	3-2025
3	Jennifer Pakula	Treasurer	2-2024
4	Grant Queskekapow		3-2024
5	M Chorney		2-2025
6	James deBeer		3-2025
7	Craig Miller		2-2025
8	Tammy Bleue		1-2024
9	Tricia Gerhard		1-2025
10	Ken DeLisle		1-2024
11	Lynne Sanderson		1-2025
12	Youth Representative (alternating)		

Officer of the Court

James deBeer
Lori Stewart

Property Commission

1	Ken Thomas	Chair	3-2025
2	Keith McFarlane		3-2025
3	Chuck Ross		3-2025
4	Wayne Sanderson		2-2024
5	vacant		

Trustees

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

Annual Meeting Planning Committee*Vacant/ appointed annually***Nominating Committee**

1	Joey Dearborn	Chair	2-2024
2	Betty Kelly	Past Chair	3-2025
3	Teresa Melnychuk		3-2024
4	Frances Flook		2-2025
5	<i>vacant</i>		
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		2-2025
6	Aileen Urquhart		3-2025
7	<i>vacant</i>		

Pastoral Relations Liaisons

1	Mary Best
2	Elizabeth Brown
3	Linda Buchanan
4	Mona Denton
5	Loraine Kakegamic
6	Paul DuVal
7	Harold Kenyon
8	Kathy Platt
9	Aileen Urquhart
10	Patrick Woodbeck
11	Sherri McConnell
12	Virginia Coleman
13	<i>vacant</i>
14	<i>vacant</i>
15	<i>vacant</i>
16	<i>vacant</i>
17	<i>vacant</i>
18	<i>vacant</i>
19	<i>vacant</i>
20	<i>vacant</i>

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

1	David Howell	2-2024
2	Joan Jarvis	2-2024
3	Christopher Davis	2-2005
4	Beth Rutherford	3-2025
5	Susan Tilleman	1-2024
6	Cathy Maxwell	1-2024

MP2MP Connectors*Program under review***Committee on Community of Faith Support**

1	Pat Bird	Chair	2-2024
2	Cheryl McKittrick	Secretary	2-2024
3	Heather Sandilands		2-2025
4	Silas Lee		2-2025
5	Irene Chabluk		1-2024
6	Bill Millar		1-2024
7	Susan Girard		1-2025
8	<i>vacant</i>		
9	<i>vacant</i>		
10	<i>vacant</i>		
11	<i>vacant</i>		
12	<i>vacant</i>		

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		3-2025
6	Jim Warburton		2-2025
7	<i>vacant</i>		
8	<i>vacant</i>		
	Jeff Cook	Chaplain	

Mission Support Grants Committee

1	Anna Stewart	3-2025
2	Anne Duncan	1-2024
3	Joan Neumann	1-2024

Young Adults and Youth Committee (YAAY)

	Emma Seamone	Adult Advisor	
1	Julia Antonyshyn	Co-Convenor	
2	Lilja Best	Co-Convenor	
3	Shavaughn Jochum	Secretary	
4	George Meggison	Co-Coordinating Coordinator /Executive Liaison	
5	Holly Typliski	Social Media Coordinator	
6	Elizabeth Kenyon	Website Coordinator	
7	Xander Miller	Nominations Manager	

8	M Chorney	Equity Monitor
9	Selina Santos	Equity Monitor
10	Ayla Hamilton	Reconciliation Rep
11	RJ Martinez	Rock Lake United Church Camp Rep
12	Sarah Meggison	Western Event Coordinator / Staff Assistant
13	Marissa Smirl	Walking Together Grant
14	Chelsea Sosiak	Traveling Youth Group Rep
15	Aidan McLeod	Google Drive Admin
16	vacant	
17	vacant	
18	vacant	
19	vacant	
20	vacant	

Equity and Diversity Committee

1	Linda Rodgers	2-2024
2	Alan Gershuny	3-2025
3	Carrie Martens	1-2025
4	vacant	
5	vacant	
6	vacant	
7	vacant	
8	vacant	
9	vacant	
10	vacant	
11	vacant	
12	vacant	

Board/Council Appointments of Region

Annual Meeting of Initiatives for Just Communities

- 1 Caryn Douglas

Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

1	Dwight Rutherford	1-2024
2	Dennis Butcher	1-2025
3	Del Sexsmith	2-2023
4	Betty Young	Secretary 2-2024
5	Stuart Fletcher-Cook	Chair 2-2025
6	Gordon Goossen	Treasurer 3-2024
7	Lisa Lix	Vice-Chair 3-2024
8	Teresa Moysey	member
9	Sheron Miller	member
10	Warren Thomson	member
11	Kirk Windsor	member

Fred Douglas Society*vacant***Jubilee Fund**

Lynda Trono

Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)

Ellen Wood

Manitoba Multifaith Council

Diane Dwarka

Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC)

Janice White-Christie

Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc.

Cathy Ballantine

Michelle Funk

David Manning

Jan Martens

Valerie Mikolasek

Bonnie Robbins

Elaine Trefiak

University of Winnipeg – Board of Regents

1	Grant Christensen	1-2024
2	Evan Podaima	1-2025
3	Mac Balacano	1-2026
4	Michelle Pereira	2-2025
5	Shanna Sterling	3-2025
6	Kathleen McCandless	2-2026
7	Greg Messer	2-2026
8	Richard Jones	2-2026
9	<i>vacant</i>	Student Rep 2024
10	<i>vacant</i>	Student Rep 2024

Wellman Lake United Church Camp Board of Directors

Joyce Bateman

Breana How

Blair Mullin

Lucile Neufeld

Max Polon

Kendal Stechyshyn

Candace Wenzel

Lanaya Harris

Winnipeg Free Press Advisory Board

Teresa Moysey

2-2025

Appendix III – REMIT 1: Study Guide for Category 3 Remit Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

As authorized by the 44th General Council, in 2022

Between March 15, 2023 and March 31, 2024, every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body will be asked to approve an amendment to the Basis of Union of *The Manual* establishing an autonomous Indigenous Church structure. An amendment to the Basis of Union requires a category 3 remit.

There is one question to be voted on, as follows.

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- a. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils, and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
- b. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
- c. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

* The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.

** The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of this document, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".

What is this remit about?

1. At General Council 44, the National Indigenous Circle asked for the removal of any structural barriers that would prevent the development and sustaining of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. When any requested change in church structure will alter the Basis of Union of *The Manual*, then a category 3 remit is required. This document is the study guide for this remit.
2. In 2019, General Council 43 approved the creation of a National Indigenous Organization, as a body equivalent to, and having the same power and responsibilities as, a regional council. This is currently reflected in *The Manual* in Section C-NIO.
3. This remit proposes that the already-existing National Indigenous Organization would become autonomous, within The United Church of Canada.

4. The creation of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada would be consistent with the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle's *Calls to the Church* and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Approval of this remit will enable the Indigenous Church to define its own structure and processes within The United Church of Canada. It acknowledges Indigenous peoples' rights to their own spiritual identities and to self-determination. This has the potential to create a new kind of relationship: in the words of the National Indigenous Council, moving "from 'missions to Indians' ... towards being 'partners in God's call to all the earth.'"

Background

The Idea of a Self-Determining Indigenous Church

5. The idea of a self-determining Indigenous Church has a very long history in The United Church of Canada, dating back to at least the 1960s. From that time until now, Indigenous peoples have been organizing to bring their vision of church to life, whether that was achieving the Apology in 1986 for the church's role in colonization; building Indigenous systems of governance and theological education; or asserting its long- standing call to the church to acknowledge and atone for its actions at residential institutions.
6. The United Church pledged to uphold (among others) the rights to spiritual identity and self-determination in 2016 when it adopted the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation as a response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The church stated at that time that it was "not sure [of] what lies ahead," but that it was committed to "a new identity, a new relationship, and a new way of being" with the Indigenous Church.

Apologies to Indigenous Peoples

7. With the establishment of residential institutions, health care facilities, and missions in the 19th and 20th centuries, and as named in the 1986 Apology, the United Church and its predecessors "confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ, [and] imposed [Western] civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel".
8. As named in the United Church's 1998 Apology, as the church continues its long and painful healing journey from its complicity in colonization, we are committed "to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority". This is an essential component of our intention to become not just a reconciling but also an actively anti-racist church.
9. The United Church's 1986 Apology, given only after Indigenous peoples called for it, was one way of atoning for the church's forced assimilation practices and the intentional destruction of Indigenous spiritualities, cultures, and languages. Another way forward came in 2015 with the statement acknowledging the value of Indigenous spiritualities, avowing that "holding both your spirituality and ours is possible through listening and learning with open hearts". The United Church has also committed to becoming an anti- racist denomination.

The Restructuring of the United Church in 2019

10. In 2019, the Comprehensive Review process was implemented throughout The United Church of Canada. This Comprehensive Review process resulted in substantive changes to the structure of the United Church, including the creation of a three-court model from a four-court model. As a result, the Aboriginal Ministries Council (AMC) began to explore how the Indigenous Church could structure itself within (or alongside) the three- court model of the church created by the Comprehensive Review.
11. The Aboriginal Ministries Council appointed and enabled the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Church to help define this direction, and they did so through a document entitled *Calls to the Church*. This document envisioned a self-determining Indigenous Church founded on Indigenous knowledge and teachings, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and “the desire to live into right relations with a repentant church and pursue the original Indigenous desire for friendship, peace and the strength that comes from respect”.

The Calls to the Church

12. The *Calls to the Church* were accepted at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering of the United Church in 2019, and by General Council 43 in its annual meeting that same year. Since then, a new Indigenous governance structure (the National Indigenous Council); the National Indigenous Elders Council; and the Indigenous Office of Vocation have been created alongside the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit at the General Council Office to shape and guide the work of self-determination.
13. In July 2022, the National Indigenous Council brought forward General Council 44 Proposal NIC-01, naming its vision of the two parts of the church (Indigenous and non- Indigenous) working side-by-side, and recommending the identification and removal of “all the structural barriers to developing and sustaining an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada”.

Decolonizing our Approach to Structural Changes

14. In our current process, and depending on the type of change that is needed to be made, the Indigenous Church would require a new remit for continued changes to its developing structure. This means that the Indigenous Church would be constantly seeking approval from the rest of the church to make those structural changes. This kind of dynamic—where the Indigenous Church would always be asking for consent from the non-Indigenous church—reflects continued colonial thinking and practices. As named in the United Church’s 1998 Apology, as the church continues its long and painful healing journey from its complicity in colonization, we are committed “to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority”. This is an essential component of our intention to become not just a reconciling but also an actively anti-racist church.
15. The General Secretary’s proposal to General Council 44, GS-10, is an attempt to begin a process of decolonizing our approach to structural change. It is asking for the church to give pre-emptive remit approval for whatever the Indigenous Church determines in the future as the place it will have in the United Church, guided by the *Calls to the Church*— and without the need for further remit approvals.

Frequently Asked Questions

What particular sections of The Manual are proposed to change?

The sections that are proposed to change are all in the Polity section of the Basis of Union. The proposed changes are under the headings of “The Church” (Section 4.2) and “The Denominational Council” (Section 7.4.1).

Current	Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.2: The United Church of Canada is organized as a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council, as follows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.2 of the Basis of Union will be amended and state: The United Church of Canada is organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Section 4.3 will be added to the Basis of Union and state: In its own time and through its own processes, the autonomous National Indigenous Organization will determine its structure and processes. Section 4.4 will be added to the Basis of Union and state: Once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union. Section 4.5 will be added to the Basis of Union and state: The final wording describing the structure and processes of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization will be recorded here.

Current	Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.4.1: changing the Basis of Union—the Basis of Union may only be changed through the remit process, which requires the approval of a majority of the Regional Councils and also, if the Denominational Council considers it advisable because the change is substantive or denomination-shaping, pastoral charges; ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union will be amended and state: changing of the Basis of Union—with the exception of section 4.4 (under section II “The Church”), the Basis of Union may only be changed through the remit process, which requires the approval of a majority of the Regional Councils and also, if the Denominational Council considers it advisable because the change is substantive or denomination-shaping, pastoral charges; ...

What might an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada mean?

The Indigenous Church is asking to develop and sustain an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.

The Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle’s *Calls to the Church* notes that:

“The Indigenous ministries of The United Church of Canada have been about the work of ministry since the beginning in 1925 with roots in the 19th Century work of Methodist and Presbyterian ministries. 2018 marks the 193rd Anniversary of the Grand River Methodist Mission.

“Indigenous people have met regularly over many decades and held deep and ongoing conversations about matters relating to our Indigenous work and our relationship with the United Church. We have been evolving, struggling, adapting, and growing since that time and even losing ground too. We do not want to lose the gains we have achieved through the years in any future developments.”

“The UN Declaration [on the Rights of Indigenous People] is about establishing and maintaining respectful relationship, Indigenous self-government, and Indigenous land rights in their traditional territories. This means the Indigenous faith community must exercise a truly Indigenous self-determination and possess a sustainable land-based support.”

The full statement is available on united-church.ca; search “Calls to the Church.”

Can we vote “yes” to some parts of the question in the remit and “no” to other parts?

No. It is not possible to vote for parts (a), (b), and (c) of the remit question separately. The remit is one overall question, broken up in three parts.

Who can I ask questions about this remit?

Please send any questions to remits@united-church.ca, or contact your Regional Council Executive Minister (contact information is available on united-church.ca; search for “Regional Council”).

What is a category 3 remit?

A category 3 remit is required for substantive, denomination-shaping changes to the Basis of Union (*The Manual*, s. F2). A category 3 remit also requires that information and study materials be prepared and sent out with the remit. The proposed change must be sent to the governing body of every pastoral charge and regional council for a vote.

The timeline for information sharing, study, and voting is 12 months.

The General Secretary and the Executive of the General Council are responsible for ensuring the final wording of any change to the Basis of Union is consistent with the by-laws of [The Manual](#).

Note: If a regional council or a pastoral charge does not register a vote, that it is considered a vote AGAINST the proposal.

Where can I access additional background information?

The proposals directly related to this remit that were brought to General Council 44 can be accessed through the United Church Commons (commons.united-church.ca), in the folder called “Nurture the Common Good”. Those two proposals are called:

- GS 10 Living into Reconciliation
- NIC 01 National Indigenous Circle – Restructuring of Indigenous Church

The following may also be helpful to reference.

Available in the “Indigenous Ministries” section on united-church.ca:

- The Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle’s *Calls to the Church* (on united-church.ca, Indigenous Ministries/Calls to the Church)

Available in the “Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice” section on united-church.ca:

- The United Church’s *Commitment to UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (on united-church.ca: Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice/UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- The United Church’s *Statement on UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the Framework for Reconciliation* (on united-church.ca: Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice/UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- *Affirming Other Spiritual Paths*, the United Church’s statement acknowledging the value of Indigenous spiritualities (on united-church.ca: Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice/The Apologies)
- The United Church of Canada’s Apologies to Indigenous Peoples (on united-church.ca: Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice/The Apologies)

Available on united-church.ca:

- Contact information for Regional Council Executive Ministers (search for “Regional Council”)
- *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada (under “Handbooks and Guidelines”)



Appendix IV – PROPOSAL

Proposal to: Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Proposal Name: Faith Communities to Divest from Fossil Fuels

Date: April 28, 2023

**From: Rev. Lynda Trono, Rev. Jeri Bjornson, and Diane Dwarka
(Members of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council)**

1. What is the issue?

We are in a climate crisis. This crisis is a tangled web, part of a global system that has many moving parts and is hard to untangle. It is a system that is destroying our planet. Future generations are at risk. One key part of the problem is that banking institutions worldwide continue to fund fossil fuel expansion. This includes Tar Sands, Mountain Top Removal, Fracking, Deepwater Drilling, Liquefied Natural Gas, and Coal Mining.

The five major Canadian Banks (RBC, TD, Scotiabank, BMO, and CIBC) are heavily invested in the Alberta Tar Sands, the Coastal GasLink Pipeline, the TransMountain Pipeline Expansion, and the doubling of Line 3 that goes through Manitoba and into the United States at Gretna. These projects have been executed without the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples of those areas.

Between 2016 and 2021, Canadian banks have funneled an alarming CA \$911 billion into coal, oil, gas, and tar sands. To put this number in perspective, between 2016 and 2020, the federal government invested \$60 billion in climate action and clean growth. Recent reports name RBC as the number one funder of fossil fuel extraction in the world. It is evident that banks are not going to decrease their funding without pressure from outside.

Scientists, world leaders, religious leaders, and Indigenous peoples around the world are calling for a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions if we are to have any hope of survival. Government, business, and financial institutions have been slow to respond.

Time is running out. We must act now.

2. Why is this issue important?

In the United Church Creed we are called to live with respect in Creation. Our love for Creation and our compassion for future generations demand that we come together to connect, grow, listen, inspire hope, and affect change.

The United Church of Canada, in its local communities of faith and its regional and national expressions, is entrusted with considerable financial resources. As stewards of the resources entrusted to us, we seek to be faithful to each other, to all our relations, and, indeed, to the earth itself. As investment bodies within The United Church of Canada nationally, regionally, and locally, we seek to invest responsibly and faithfully, mindful of the impact of our choices upon One Earth.

The integrity of our theological commitments to care and live in respectful relationship with creation requires bold, daring, and public action. We are called to collaborate deeply with Indigenous peoples, global partners, the ecumenical community, civil society, and governments in change strategies. We are invited to robustly reflect Indigenous self-determination, renewed eco-spirituality, youth engagement, and sustained advocacy.

For many years now The United Church of Canada has been advocating for government to regulate industry in order to lower greenhouse gas emissions. We have been involved ecumenically in numerous initiatives to address the climate crisis, most recently with Kairos's For the Love of Creation

Through *Faithful Footprints* the United Church has been successful in offering congregations, United Church camps, education centres, and community ministries, opportunities to improve their buildings' energy and carbon performance and dramatically reduce our carbon footprint.

The current climate catastrophe calls us to build on the work that we have already undertaken and more intentionally engage all levels of our church. In 2015 General Council 42 approved a carbon emissions goal consistent with the Paris Agreement and took bold investor action, divesting \$3.5 million. Today, we hold \$15 million in green transition/SDG funds. The Treasury Fund and Pension Plan are committed to multiple carbon reduction commitments.

The 44th General Council committed itself to "intensify our historic commitment to climate justice through stronger denominational advocacy and investor action. The climate catastrophe requires a bold, daring whole church commitment with an expedited timeline and strengthened effort. "

It is time for the whole church, nationwide, at all levels to engage our financial institutions on this issue.

3. How might the Regional Council respond to the issue?

A. The Regional Council will

1. Familiarize themselves with The United Church of Canada's statements, policies, and actions regarding Climate Justice including the recently published [Committed to Climate Action: The 2021-2022 Sustainability Report | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#).
2. Review their investment policies, investments, and the practices of its financial institutions using the United Church in Canada's "Responsible Investing Guiding Principles" with a particular focus on climate justice.
3. Review investment and banking policies to ensure that they encourage the transition from a carbon economy toward becoming leaders in a green economy.
4. Communicate with its financial institutions with regard to any policies and practices that fall short of a transition to a green economy particularly continuing investments in fossil fuel expansion projects.
5. Consider other actions such as switching to a more climate-conscious institution, divesting from less ethical investments, and transferring investments to ethical funds.

6. Make this a Region Wide initiative by challenging Communities of Faith and individual members and adherents to commit themselves to these recommendations.
- B. Initiate and promote a Network within the Region to study [Committed to Climate Action: The 2021-2022 Sustainability Report | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#) and study and act on recommendations found in the 44th General Council proposal GS08 Climate Justice Commitment (2).pdf).

4. What will be the impact? (Staff time and budget)

We envision a small information package going out to each faith community primarily by email. It will include The United Church of Canada Responsible Investing Guiding Principles, a letter from the Regional Council explaining the requested action, and a brief primer on how banks are contributing to the climate crisis. The information on banks will be put together by an ad hoc group that has been working on this issue over the past year.

Staff time will be needed for consultation, the writing of a letter, coordinating and sending out a package to faith communities.

Faith communities will be impacted as well by taking on the task of looking closely at their congregational investments and communicating with their financial institutions.

5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?

Communities that face the most discrimination due to race, class, age, and gender and orientation are already most impacted by the climate crisis. Those with less resources have less ability to recover from each climate disaster that takes place. When we work for climate justice we are living into all of our commitments on equity.

6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Regional Council:

Are there comments, affirmations, or suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?

The Earth is counting on you!



PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2022

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2022

	Contents
Independent Auditor's Report	2
Non-Consolidated Financial Statements	
Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	4
Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations	5
Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets	
Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements	8



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Opinion

We have audited the non-consolidated financial statements of Prairie to Pine Regional Council (the "Council"), which comprise the non-consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the non-consolidated statements of operations and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the non-consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 2022, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of non-consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the non-consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the non-consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the non-consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the non-consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the non-consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the non-consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Canada LLP

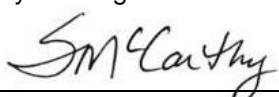
Chartered Professional Accountants


Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 11, 2023

Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2022	2021
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank	\$ 291,943	\$ 407,662
Short-term investments (Note 3)	754,892	421,118
Accounts receivable	6,407	4,374
Prepaid expenses	1,079	4,165
Due from related party (Note 4)	15,311	3,857
Due from Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. (Note 5)	11,966	9,059
	1,081,598	850,235
Long-term investments (Note 3)	210,906	1,268
Capital assets (Note 6)	406	812
	\$ 1,292,910	\$ 852,315
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 10,031	\$ 9,078
Due to related party (Note 4)	3,125	745
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	10,673	10,673
Designated funds (Note 8)	328,538	176,833
	352,367	197,329
Commitments (Note 9)		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	324,543	38,986
Internally restricted net assets (Note 11)		
Project Fund	400,000	400,000
Internal reserves	200,000	200,000
Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund	16,000	16,000
	940,543	654,986
	\$ 1,292,910	\$ 852,315

Approved by the Regional Council Executive:

 Executive Minister

 Treasurer

Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2022	2022	2021
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenue			
The United Church of Canada (Note 4)	\$ 631,000	\$ 666,475	\$ 641,375
Donations	18,000	510,702	68,851
Investment income	5,000	9,220	5,465
Miscellaneous income	-	6,411	-
Event fees	-	2,820	-
Sales of goods and services	-	350	175
Amortization of lease inducement	-	-	30,550
Rental income	-	-	16,023
	654,000	1,195,978	762,439
Expenses			
Allocations and payments to programs	146,000	372,586	144,451
Amortization	-	406	18,855
Annual meeting	10,000	6,535	6,990
General funds	72,650	35,288	31,166
Office and administration	39,200	39,599	69,867
Staffing costs	414,000	456,007	402,863
	681,850	910,421	674,192
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before grant	(27,850)	285,557	88,247
Grant to Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. (Note 5)	-	-	(400,000)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (27,850)	\$ 285,557	\$ (311,753)

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended December 31

2022

2021

	Internally Restricted (Note 11)					Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Project Fund	Internal Reserves	Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 38,986	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 16,000	\$	654,986	\$ 966,739
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	285,557	-	-	-	\$	285,557	(311,753)
Balance, end of year	\$ 324,543	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 16,000	\$	940,543	\$ 654,986

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2022	2021
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 285,557	\$ (311,753)
Adjustments for		
Amortization of capital assets	406	18,855
	<u>285,963</u>	<u>(292,898)</u>
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Accounts receivable	(2,033)	6,033
Prepaid expenses	3,086	1,256
Due from related party	(11,454)	(1,883)
Due to related party	2,380	(27,954)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	953	(539)
Designated funds	151,705	23,587
Deferred revenue	-	(35,552)
Due from Pine United Church Development Inc.	(2,907)	(4,077)
	<u>427,693</u>	<u>(332,027)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Redemption of investments	(543,412)	307,639
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(115,719)	(24,388)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	407,662	432,050
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 291,943	\$ 407,662

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

1. Nature of Operations

The Prairie to Pine Regional Council (the "Council") is composed of Communities of Faith of The United Church of Canada within the Province of Manitoba and those in the Central Time Zone of Northwestern Ontario (including Atikokan). The Regional Council of the United Church of Canada is a decision making body responsible to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight. The Council is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. It is exempt from income taxes under section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The purpose of the Council is:

- Provide support advice and services to Communities of Faith in the areas of human resources, property, archives, leadership training.
- Provide oversight of Communities of Faith and supporting them in their life and work and ensure compliance with the policies and polity of the United Church.
- To ordain and commission members of the order of ministry, recognize Designated Lay Minister, and celebrate admission and re-admissions into the order of ministry.
- To speak both pastorally and prophetically while providing education and advocacy on issues that affect the health of our communities.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These non-consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Council has elected to not consolidate Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

Revenue Recognition

The Council follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Grants - These revenues are recognized as revenue in the period for which the grant is made based on the approved budget of the Council.

Interest - Interest revenue is recognized as income when the Council becomes entitled to such earnings.

Deferred Contributions - Contributions restricted for particular purposes are deferred and recognized as revenue when the related expenses are incurred.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue Recognition (continued)

Donations - Donation revenue is recorded when received. Donation revenue received with no specific purposes is unrestricted and will be used at the discretion of the Council. The Council's practice is to allocate these funds as per the donor's request.

Sales and fee for service - These revenues are recognized as revenue in the period for which the services have been rendered or goods provided in the case of service charges and fees.

Volunteer Services

The Conference receives the benefit of the contribution of significant time by many volunteers. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of the time, volunteer services are not recognized in these non-consolidated financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in bank accounts and guaranteed investment certificates that mature within 3 months.

Capital Assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost.

Other capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis starting the year after acquisition over the following term:

Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	5 years

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in operations. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items remeasured at fair value at each statement of financial position date and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Post Retirement Benefit Plan

The employees of the Council participate in a defined benefit pension plan administered nationally by The United Church of Canada. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to this multi-employer contributory defined benefit.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the non-consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

3. Investments

	2022	2021
Conexus CU GIC - 3.65%, maturing November 2, 2023	\$ 200,000	\$ -
Conexus CU GIC - 3.24%, maturing August 18, 2023	152,107	151,275
Conexus CU GIC - 0.55%, maturing March 13, 2023	150,000	150,000
Conexus CU GIC - 4.05%, maturing December 22, 2023	150,000	-
Conexus CU GIC - 3.44%, maturing August 18, 2023	101,505	100,950
Conexus CU GIC - 1.25 maturing March 15, 2024	100,000	-
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.37%, maturing December 21, 2026	23,000	1,268
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.76%, maturing December 23, 2024	23,000	-
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.51%, maturing December 22, 2025	23,000	-
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.35%, maturing December 21, 2027	23,000	-
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.00%, maturing April 5, 2024	12,769	-
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.00%, maturing April 4, 2024	2,077	-
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.00%, maturing March 22, 2024	1,909	-
Assiniboine CU GIC - 1.00%, maturing September 26, 2023	1,280	-
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.10%, maturing March 13, 2025	725	718
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.50%, maturing May 9, 2025	721	716
Assiniboine CU GIC - 2.50%, maturing September 17, 2025	705	703
Cash balances on investment accounts	-	16,756
	965,798	422,386
Less due within one year	(754,892)	(421,118)
	\$ 210,906	\$ 1,268

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

4. Due from Related Parties

The following table summarizes the Council's related party transactions for the year:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Grants from the United Church of Canada	\$ 666,475	\$ 641,375

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange value, which is the amount agreed upon by the two parties.

The amounts due (to) from related parties at year end are as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Due from Northern Spirit Regional Council	\$ 5,501	\$ -
Due from Living Skies Regional Council	9,810	3,857
	<u>\$ 15,311</u>	<u>\$ 3,857</u>
Due to Northern Spirit Regional Council	-	(98)
Due to United Church of Canada	(3,125)	(647)
	<u>\$ (3,125)</u>	<u>\$ (745)</u>

Northern Spirit Regional Council and Living Skies Regional Council are also United Church Regional Councils with similar purposes, goals and policies. These regions share employees and accounting with the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

United Church of Canada is the governing body for all Regional Council's in Canada and they provide grants and assistance to each region.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

5. Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

The Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. was established to promote the welfare and good of the Council by receiving funds allocated for new church development, redevelopment and the support of other Regional Ministries. The Organization is incorporated under The Corporations Act of Manitoba and is a registered not-for-profit organization under the Income Tax Act and was originally called Winnipeg Presbytery Church Development Inc.

The Organization is managed by a Board of Directors appointed from the members of the Organization, and accountable to the Council. The Council has a significant economic interest in the Organization in that the resources of the Organization can be provided to the Council or used for its benefit. In addition, the Council has the authority to direct the Organization by virtue of a resolution at any time and the Council can approve the Organization's activities including the election of Directors or send a direction for any particular activity.

The balance due to the Organization has arisen from transactions in the normal course of operations between the organizations and has no security, repayment terms or interest charged.

The following summarizes the Council's related party transactions for the year:

	2022	2021
Grants received from the Organization	\$ 11,966	9,099
Grants made to the Organization	-	(400,000)

The Organization's financial statements have not been consolidated in the Council's non-consolidated financial statements. Financial statements of the Organization are available on request. Financial summaries of the Organization as at December 31, 2022 and 2021 and for the years then ended are as follows:

	2022	2021
Cash	\$ 30,514	\$ 64,248
Long-term investments	2,098,395	2,213,803
	\$ 2,128,909	\$ 2,278,051

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

5. Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. (continued)

	2022	2021
Grants payable	\$ 1,561	\$ 2,546
Due to related party	11,966	9,059
	13,527	11,605
Net Assets		
Externally restricted	2,115,382	2,266,446
	\$ 2,128,909	\$ 2,278,051
Revenues		
Investment income (loss)	\$ (84,333)	\$ 129,378
Grants from Prairie to Pine Regional Council	-	400,000
	(84,333)	529,378
Investment management fees	10,789	10,852
Other grants expended	43,936	80,257
	(139,058)	438,269
Grants expended to Prairie to Pine Regional Council	11,966	9,099
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ (151,024)	\$ 429,170

6. Capital Assets

	2022		2021	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Computer equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,548	\$ 3,548
Office equipment	2,099	1,693	2,099	1,287
	\$ 2,099	\$ 1,693	\$ 5,647	\$ 4,835
Net book value		\$ 406		\$ 812

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

7. Deferred Revenue

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
Revenue generation fund	\$ 10,673	\$	10,673

8. Designated Funds

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
Trusts			
Archives Sale of Property Fund	\$ 182,731	\$	65,495
Archives Project - Winnipeg Foundation	8,000		20,000
McArthur Estate	9,932		9,932
Neechi	3,250		3,250
Oral History Archive Trust	4,257		4,257
	208,170		102,934
Special Funds			
Archives Donation Fund	-		8,860
Archives Special Funds	863		863
BIRS	500		-
Bursary Fund	2,213		2,988
Education & Students 2015	1,000		1,000
Effective Leadership events 2013-2015	685		685
Keewatin	90,358		34,754
Ministry and Personnel - future projects	5,234		5,234
Overview & Visioning event 2014	2,500		2,500
Youth Events	14,695		14,695
Youth Leadership Development	2,320		2,320
	120,368		73,899
	\$ 328,538	\$	176,833

The Council administers funds for various projects and groups operating within the Region. Amounts received and expended on behalf of these projects and groups are recorded directly to these accounts.

The Council also administers funds for various projects and groups operating within the Prairie to Pine Region communities of faith. Amounts received and expended on behalf of these projects and groups are recorded directly to these accounts.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

9. Commitments

The Council has an operating lease for its building s ending December 31, 2026. The following are the future minimum lease payments:

2023	\$ 30,000
2024	30,000
2025	30,000
2026	30,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 120,000
	<hr/>

10. Pension Plan

Retirement benefits for employees of the Council are provided through the pension plan of The United Church of Canada (the "Plan"). The Plan is a multi-employer pension plan which provides pensions for members of the Ministry Personnel and lay employees of the Offices of the General Council, Regional Council, or Community of Faith of The United Church of Canada. The Plan is a contributory defined benefit pension plan which is financed by contributions from participating employers and employees, and by the investment earnings of the Plan. The Plan is registered under the Pension Benefits Act, (Ontario), Registration #0355230.

At the date of the last actuarial valuations and publicly available financial information, there were no unfunded liabilities related to either past service or to amendments to the Plan.

During the year, the Council made employer contributions to the plan of approximately \$29,755 (\$27,506 in 2021).

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

11. Internally Restricted Net Assets

The Executive Committee restricted net assets that can only be used for the following specific purposes:

Net assets restricted for Project Fund provide net assets to fund granting activities by the Council made to Communities of Faith within the Region.

Net assets restricted for short and long-term internal reserves provide net assets to fund operations in future years when the Council is experiencing fiscal challenges due to unanticipated revenue losses or unanticipated operating expenses.

Net assets restricted for Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund provide net assets to support ministry personnel in emergency circumstances.

During the year, the Executive Committee has not restricted additional net assets for the Project Fund (\$400,000 in 2021), internal reserves (\$200,000 in 2021), and Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund (\$20,000 in 2021).

12. Financial Instrument Risk

The Council is exposed to different types of risk in the normal course of operations. The Council's objective in risk management is to optimize the risk return trade-off, within set limits, by applying integrated risk management and control strategies, policies and procedures throughout the Council's activities.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument fails to discharge an obligation and causes financial loss to another party. Financial instruments which potentially subject the Council to credit risk consist principally of accounts receivable.

The Council is not exposed to significant credit risk as the receivable is spread among a broad client base and payment in full is typically collected when it is due. The Council establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts that represents its estimate of potential credit losses. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based on management's estimates and assumptions regarding current market conditions, customer analysis and historical payment trends. These factors are considered when determining whether past due accounts are allowed for or written off. The risk has not changed in the year.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

12. Financial Instrument Risk (continued)

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council is not exposed to significant market risk.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Council is not exposed to significant interest rate risk as its cash and cash equivalents are held in short-term investments or variable rate products. The risk has not changed in the year.

Foreign Currency Risk

The Council is not exposed to significant foreign currency risk as it does not have any financial instruments denominated in foreign currency and the number of transactions in foreign currency are minimal.

13. Comparative Figures

Certain of the comparative figures for the prior year have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Prairie to Pine Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

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AGENDA

Thursday, June 1, 2023 The United Church in Meadowood	
5:00 pm	Registration
6:45 pm	Singing
7:00 pm	Welcome / Announcements
7:15 pm	Table Group Time
7:30 pm	Executive Minister Report, Executive Chair Report
8:00 pm	Who you gonna call?
8:05 pm	M&S
8:15 pm	Memorial Worship
Friday, June 2, 2023 The United Church in Meadowood	
8:45 am	Singing
9:00 am	Worship
9:30 am	Theological Colleges Update
10:00 am	Active Moment
10:07 am	Who you gonna call?
10:10 am	Announcements
10:15 am	Business – Listening Session for Remit
11:45 am	M&S
11:55 am	Who you gonna call?
12:00 pm	LUNCH
1:30 pm	M&S
1:45 pm	Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, 44 th Moderator of The United Church of Canada
3:15 pm	Active Moment
3:22 pm	Who you gonna call?
3:27 pm	Announcements
3:30 pm	Candidates Speeches
4:00 pm	Networking
5:30 pm	DINNER BREAK
6:45 pm	Singing
7:00 pm	Worship
7:30 pm	Business – Discussion Session for Remit

Saturday, June 3, 2023 The United Church in Meadowood (workshops off-site at Faith Lutheran, College Jeanne-Sauve, or other location, check your workshop information)	
8:45 am	Singing
9:00 am	Worship
9:30 am	Workshop Session A
10:45 am	Workshop Session B
12:00 pm	LUNCH
1:30 pm	M&S
1:45 pm	Who you gonna call?
2:00 pm	Business – Decision Session for Remit
2:30 pm	Active Moment
2:37 pm	Who you gonna call?
2:42 pm	Announcements
2:45 pm	Workshop Session C
4:00 pm	Courtesies
4:15 pm	Closing Worship
4:45 pm	Adjournment
6:00 pm	Retirees Banquet
Sunday, June 4 The United Church in Meadowood	
10:30 am	Celebration of Ministries Service
12:00 pm	Reception

