

2023 Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting Summary

Day 1

The Prairie to Pine Regional Council (P2PRC) Annual Meeting began on June 1. Our hybrid meeting had 200 people in attendance at The United Church in Meadowood and many folks joining us via zoom. Members of P2PRC were pleased to have special guests from the General Council Office of UCC: The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, Reverend Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership, Reverend Laura Fohse, Office of Vocation Minister to our tri-region, Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support. Co-chairs Pat Bird and Erica Wittevrongel served as co-conveyors for the gathering. After the welcome and land acknowledgment, folks were invited to introduce themselves in their table groups while the online participants got to know one another in breakout rooms. The online participants voiced their appreciation for the ability to connect online while recognizing that it lacked the same atmosphere as getting together in person. Shannon McCarthy presented the Executive Minister Report and called all the Regional Council staff forward to be recognized. Their work is greatly appreciated. Erica and Pat presented the Co-Chair reports. We met Vicki Nelson and heard more from her during the Who You Gonna Call segment. The M&S Fundraiser, led by Lesley Harrison and the wonderful members of the Young Adults and Youth (YAAY) committee started off with music from the 40's and 50's. Once we identified the songs we were treated to a karaoke version sung by one of our staff leadership. Shannon McCarthy was first up. We heard from the Nominations committee, encouraging us to Believe in this United Church of ours and the power of stepping forward to serve. The Memorial Worship, led by planning committee chair Emma Seamone, was very moving. It was also enhanced by the St. Mary's Road United Journey Band who provided music to the gathering over Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Day 2

We began the morning with singing and worship. Worship was led by Alcris Limongi and Scott Douglas of the Centre of Christian Studies with Connie Budd, Sandy Saulteux Alumni giving the message. We heard presentations from the Theological Colleges: Sandy Saulteux Spiritual Center, Centre for Christian Studies and St. Andrew's College. We heard the Nominations committee tell us that there are many positions open on several committees and encouraged folks to put their names forward. At this time, we are without a chair-elect. Who You Gonna Call had a chat with Erin Acland, our Archivist. We moved into Listening and Discussion time for the Category 3 Remit. During the business portions of the day the online participants engaged in the meeting by asking questions related to the business at hand. The M&S group got us to identify some wonderful hymns from Voices United....naming the Title and Number. No pressure! Jennifer Janzen-Ball and Laura Fohse were the karaoke performers. Who You Gonna Call had a chat with Twila McNair and M Chorney to give us more details on the leadership of youth in our church. We broke for lunch, delicious wraps catered by Pita Pit. During this extended time, there were several conversation groups that allowed people to join in a Cluster group conversation or opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new ones. The afternoon started with M&S fundraiser #3 and we identified music from the 80's and 90's. Our

karaoke singers were Phil and Julian Read. Every performer dressed in crazy costumes, just to add to the fun. Our theme speaker for Together Through the Wilderness was Moderator Carmen Lansdowne. During the Moderator's presentation, the online participants shared inventive answers to the table group questions, one of which was about shoes that grow with children. After the Moderator's theme, Who You Gonna Call had a chat with Judy Hare about Pastoral Relations work. We heard from the Candidates who will be celebrated at the Sunday worship service. After a delicious dinner, catered by The Feast, we gathered back for singing and worship. Evening worship was led by Don Schau and others from Rural Connect. We had a Listening and Discussion time for a Proposal asking for Regional Council action to be taken in addressing Climate Change supported by large bank investment in fossil fuels.

Day 3

The morning began with singing and worship. Worship was led by Hyerim Park of Korean Rainbow United. The weather has been holding at 30 degrees but with cross winds through the church, fans, lots of water and some spray bottles, we were doing well. We broke for workshops in several off-site locations that provided opportunities to meet new people again. We gathered for a lovely lunch catered by Pita Pit and then had our last M&S Fundraiser with hymns from More Voices. Title and hymn number, which folks identified quickly followed by karaoke performances by Moderator Carmen, Don Schau and Jennifer Pakula, our P2PRC treasurer. We had a chance to hear from Laura Fohse, Office of Vocation Minister, at the last Who You Gonna Call. We were encouraged to pick up the phone and call and get answers to any and all questions you may have. We had a Decision Session time for the Remit and Proposal. Both were passed by the majority of those present in person and via Zoom. We took in more workshops for an afternoon session. Online participants took part in three different workshops. The first, Rural Connect, allowed participants to learn more about this new way of worshipping. Being that this workshop involved participants who were attending remotely it was interesting to explore the differences between Zoom and a system like Rural Connect. The second workshop, Pathways for Property, explored how Kindred Works is supporting communities of faith in repurposing their buildings to address the housing crisis. The final workshop was a viewing party of a book launch for Bob Haverluck's latest work, 'Take Heart' which was originally recorded in 2022. We gathered to have closing worship led by our Young Adult and Youth (YAAY) committee. The meeting was adjourned by Pat Bird. We enjoyed a wonderful time at the Retiree Banquet, catered by the Feast. The retirees were presented with a gift, card and newly created P2PRC pin.

Sunday Service

The church was filled with folks, both in person and on live stream, to attend the Celebrations of Ministry Service. The church and many folks were decorated in the colors of the rainbow to support Pride Week. We celebrated the Commissioning of Patricia Chabluk, the Ordination of Damber Khadka, and the Admission to the UCC of Noël Suministrado. Communion was presided over by Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and Co-Chair Pat Bird and served by the Celebrants and Retirees. Liturgist for the service was Emmanuel Menyereye. Music was provided by Meadowood United's music team, enhanced by our joint regional choir.

A reception provided by The United Church in Meadowood and supported by the dozens and dozens of cookies supplied for this weekend was held afterward. The funds raised for Mission and Service were:

*at last count, M&S fundraiser \$7760.00

*Service of praise donations \$2829.30

We did our final clean-up and left just as a thunderstorm started. A job well done by the planning team, staff and volunteers.

Thank you to all who participated.

Workshops

The workshops that were offered on June 3, 2023, included:

- Church in the Wild. Henteleff Park
 - Led by Karen Tjaden, Peter Douglas, David Kaminski and Lori-Ann Kaminski
- Camino Manitoba. (4.5 km hike along the Seine River).
 - Led by Dave Berg and Dennis Butcher
- Bread Making (for Sunday Communion service) including Spiritual Reflections on Bread. St. Mary's Road United
 - Led by Deb Riel and Florence Misurka
- Walking the Labyrinth.
 - Led by Cheryl Kinney-Matheson
- Intergenerational Trauma
 - Presenter: Logan Nadeau, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- The Common Good: Affirming Ministries
 - Led by Regional Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Rural Connect (Hybrid)
 - Led by Don Schau, Atlantic Garden City United and Glenboro United
- Being an Intercultural Church: Living it Out
 - Panel: Alain Lai, Hyerim Park, Damber Khadka, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator: Jeff Cook
- Rural Ministries Town Hall
 - Led by Alexandra Belaskie, EDGE
- Ukulele Strum and Sing Along
 - Led by John McNairnay and the men of Churchill Park United
- Pathways to Property (Online)
 - Led by Miriam Bowlby, Kindred Works
- Come, Let us Sing!
 - Led by Helen Bergen, Fort Garry UC, accompanied by Arlene Baschak, Music Director Churchill Park United Church
- Circles of Reconciliation
 - Trinity United Church-Winnipeg, and friends
- Bible Study "Through the Wilderness"
 - Led by Janet Ross, Centre for Christian Studies

- Elder Care: Indigenous and Zambian, rural and northern perspectives
 - Led by Chewe Mulenga and Connie Budd
- Faithful Footprints
 - Led by Kalen Taylor, Purpose Construction
- Growing Generosity and Gratitude in Your Community of Faith
 - Led by Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support, Prairie to Pine Region
- Archives for Reconciliation
 - Led by Erin Acland, Prairie-to-Pine Regional Archivist
- Sewing Ribbon Skirts: A Reconciliation Project
 - Led by Angela Roulette
- KAIROS
 - Led by Debby Dandy
- Take Heart: Encouragement for Earth's Weary Lovers (recording of Book Launch)
 - Book Launch Recording with Bob Haverluck and Kathleen Dean Moore (Online)