

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes  
February 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm CST via Zoom**

- EXECUTIVE PRESENT** Pat Bird (Co-chair), Erica Wiebe (Co-chair), Jennifer Pakula, Julia Autonyshyn, Tricia Gerhard, Meghan Chorney
- A quorum was present.
- REGRETS** Diane Dwarka, Tammy Bleue, James DeBeer, Lilja Best
- CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT** Joey Dearborn, Mary Best, Ken Thomas, Marissa Smirl, Heather Lea, Don Schau
- STAFF PRESENT** Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary)
- CALL TO ORDER** Erica called the meeting to order.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** We reviewed the agenda. We moved Nominations right to the beginning.
- Nominations 034-2022/2023** **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.**
- LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Erica read the Land Acknowledgement.
- Note: Cherri will update the Land Acknowledgement on the website to include the Red River Metis.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES 035-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of January 3, 2023 as amended.**
- BUSINESS ARISING**
- Funds from sale of Kildonon United** Heather Dootoff has put the funds in the restricted fund so that once it is decided where these will be allocated, it can be done.  
Shannon McCarthy had a brief meeting with Murray Pruden on Friday. She will be following up with him again in the next few weeks.
- Right Relations Structure** To be carried to when Julie Graham is back from her Sabbatical.

**Support for communities of faith**

Reported on later.

**Winnipeg Free Press Faith Project**

The original request was \$250/year. Heather Dootoff will send that amount and if they want more then they can be in touch.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Executive Minister**

Twila McNair is moving into the office to help with work life balance. Shannon McCarthy has been busy cleaning the space for Twila. Lots of document shredding from 2015 and earlier.

On site meeting for the Annual Meeting Planning is coming up.

Heather Lea, Ken and Shannon McCarthy have been talking about the Religious Societies Act.

Chantal Winslow has set up meetings with all of the staff for all 3 regions for supervision time.

General Council is meeting this weekend.

**Pastoral Relations Minister**

**Report of the Pastoral Relations Minister to the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council**

I am sending my regrets to the meeting as I have a personal matter to which I would like to attend.

The past month has been a busy one. There are now four non-indigenous Ministry Personnel and one Indigenous Ministry Personnel on Medical Absence at various stages and support is being offered to their pastoral charges. We have had some ministry personnel requesting bereavement leave and we have experienced the deaths of three retired Ministry Personnel in the past week.

The **Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** met on January 19, 2023 and began detailed planning for two clergy gatherings: April 26, 2023 the active Ministry Personnel will be invited to a gathering at Crestview United Church for the day and on June 1, 2023 retired Ministry Personnel will be invited to a gathering over lunch before the opening of the Annual Meeting later that day at a location in Winnipeg yet to be determined. In association with the April gathering, Laura Fohse will be offering an in-person version of the Boundaries Refresher: social media on the afternoon of April 25 ,2023 so that some Ministry Personnel could make one trip into Winnipeg worth the travel.

The **Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support** will be meeting on February 08, 2024 to process applications for re-licensing for **17 Licenced Lay Worship Leaders** within Prairie to Pine Regional Council. This is the first re-licensing session since the restructuring into a Regional Council in January 2019. Motions should be coming to the March meeting of the Executive.

Related to Annual Meeting Planning, we have encountered some unanticipated variations in the timelines within the Designated Lay Ministry Training Program that **may result in the recognition of Designated Lay Minister** happening in the fall 2023 rather than as part of the Celebration of Ministry Service planned for the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council.

The happening of the **Committee on Community of Faith Support** is reported to the Executive by the Chairperson Heather Lea.

It is a busy time of year for the **Pastoral Relations Commission** in their support of Pastoral Charges experiencing changes in pastoral relations in the development of their Community of Faith profiles, their posting of profiles on Church Hub, their search processes and processing of relevant motions and documents. We currently have approximately forty non-Indigenous Communities of Faith involved at some point in a pastoral relations process and 9 active Liaisons working with them. Training for processes (profile and then search) continue to be done collectively on ZOOM by the Pastoral Relations Minister with the assistance of some Liaisons. Thanks to Cherry Abad, Regional Council Admin for working on Saturday mornings when these trainings happen to provide technical support. We are still working in cooperation with Rey Anderson, Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Keewatin Circle to get the 2023 Appointments for some of the Indigenous Ministries completed.

**Rev. Susan McIlveen**

A few complex and extraordinary pastoral relations matters have developed over the past few months one of which involved Reverend Susan McIlveen .

**Decision required:**

A request for a change in pastoral relations between Reverend Susan McIlveen and Prairie Spirit United Church (Winnipeg) by mutual agreement, was approved by the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, with last day worked being September 11, 2022 and pay in lieu of service provided by Prairie Spirit United Church until the ending date of January 31, 2023, with provisions for an earlier ending (Motion 2022-2023 #7 – September 13, 2022).

An application for Medical Absence was filed by Susan McIlveen mid-December, 2022.

The Pastoral Relations Minister of Prairie to Pine Regional Council was notified by Pastoral Relations Minister of Antler River Watershed Regional Council of the acceptance, on November 8, 2022, of a new Call to a Pastoral Charge within that Regional Council by Susan McIlveen, effective January 1, 2023; Follow-up conversation with General Council Office staff and legal counsel, clarified which pastoral

Charge payroll Susan McIlveen would be on and which pastoral charge would be would be directly impacted by Medical Absence ( the new one).

Communication has happened this past week between Reverend Cheryl Stadelbauer-Sampa , Executive Minister of Antler River Watershed and Reverend Shannon McCarthy , Prairie to Pine Regional Council related to a proposed gesture of support toward the new pastoral charge on whose payroll Reverend McIlveen has been since January 1, 2023 without service or a clear sense of when Rev. McIlveen will be able to return to work. As I understand it this is not directly related to the financial need of the receiving pastoral charge but in support of the circumstances. The gesture amounts to the equal sharing by Antler River Watershed Regional Council and Prairie to Pine Regional Council of the payroll costs related to Reverend Susan McIlveen that are not reimbursed to the Pastoral Charge through the Restorative Care Plan (Restorative Care reimburses 85% of salary on a month-by-month basis for up to 180 days- 6 months maximum after which time ministers still on Medical Absence convert to long-term disability). The employer is responsible for 15 % of comprehensive salary and all other employer costs (employer share of CPP, EI, UCC Benefits and UCC pension)

Because of the perceived time sensitive nature of the request, this has not received input from the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council but has been discussed between the Executive Ministers of the two Regional Councils and between the Executive Minister and Pastoral Relations Minister of Prairie to Pine Regional Council on February 06, 2023.

The details of the amount of funds and where those funds will be expensed to within the Prairie to Pine assets will be provided at the Executive meeting on February 07,2023 by Shannon McCarthy and a decision outlining the agreement should be acted upon by the Executive.

Respectfully submitted by Reverend Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Shannon provided additional information:

We believe the amount should be around \$7000 total which would amount to our region being responsible for \$3500-4000.

There is no obligation for us to pay.

We discussed:

Mary Best had a concern on behalf of pastoral relations. The previous pastoral charge has been responsible for 4 months of pay already. If the money is supposed to show some support for the pastoral charge, where is the support for the previous pastoral charge who has already paid? This sets a dangerous precedent.

The Executive showed some concerns. Should it be our responsibility to support another region's pastoral charge? They are not in financial distress as far as we know. This is an unusual decision. It doesn't happen often.

It is important to note that the Regional Council is making the request, not the congregation. If we say no, the congregation will just continue to pay.

Mary believes there will be resistance from her committee when they meet on February 14.

### 036-2022/2023

**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.**

### CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Lynda Trono joined our meeting.

Open letter from a group called Sustainable Building Winnipeg. It has been signed by a number of organizations (91 at the time). It is asking that climate change be a priority for the City of Winnipeg. The letter is requesting 3 things:

1. Currently the Office of Sustainability is reporting to Water and Waste. They are requesting that this group receives a higher profile
2. As well as an increased personnel and budget.
3. The creation of a Community Advisory Council to keep the city on track in terms of becoming sustainable and responding to the climate crisis.

Lynda is asking that Prairie to Pine add our name to the letter.

The City of Winnipeg commissioned in 2020 a document called "Community Energy Investment Roadmap". It is a comprehensive study and a plan to get the city to net zero by 2050. They have adopted this roadmap but implementing it is a different thing. It has a budget of \$83 billion. Lynda is asking that the Executive consider encouraging individual congregations to study the report and meet with their city councillors to encourage implementing this.

Shannon McCarthy suggested that the report can be attached to, and talked about in the newsletter. We are not able to mandate the congregations to do anything. Lynda might have better traction reaching out to individual congregations in the city. We can also remind congregations that as a region we continue to support environmental initiatives.

If we are making the decision to sign the letter, then we need to physically go to the website and sign on. We will need a logo.

**037-2022/2023**

**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.**

We will ask Lynda to write something concise to add to the Newsletter. Chantal Winslow will connect Lynda and Cherry Abad.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from Rock Lake UC Camp**

A letter was received inviting us to Rock Lake UC Camp annual meeting. Shannon McCarthy has sent this on to YAAY as they also have a rep and hopefully somebody can attend.

**Ecole Seven Oaks**

A thank you note and cheque was received for the donation of hand bells from Kildonan UC to the school.

**Letter from Minister of Municipal Relations**

Letter received in response to our letter regarding the search for the indigenous women. It was a form letter response.

**Email from Diwa Marcelino**

Email from Diwa Marcelino regarding Community Solidarity Manitoba. Wondering if somebody from the United Church would like to join them for meetings regarding the anti-trucking freedom convoy.

Next meeting is Friday February 10. Meghan Chorney has volunteered to attend and report back.

**FINANCE**

No new documents.

CDI sent a cheque for just under \$12,000 some of which goes to pay for insurance, audit and incorporating fees. So, we net about \$5000.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Co-chairs**

The structure document is coming along. Good format for level 2 document. Descriptions of committees. Plan to bring to the March meeting to explain and ask for feedback from people. The diagram was looked at in November and they are hoping to incorporate that.

Pat Bird attended the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Pat and Diane helped with part of the service. They were encouraged to wear Church representative items. Shannon McCarthy mentioned that Linda actually made two rainbow stoles with the affirm united logo on them and they will add the UCC crests. These can be used in the future.

James Christie from multi faith asked for a chat regarding how Regional Council structure works.

**Community of Faith Support**

Last meeting discussed the role of Lay Reps to the Regional Council. They are recommending that Lay Reps be considered members or corresponding members of the community of Faith governing body. It is also important that they have the opportunity to report to the governing body or congregations. Lastly it is recommended that they participate in the life and the work of the Regional Council. Pat will bring this to the task group. It will be incorporated into their structure document at the 3<sup>rd</sup> level.

What do we expect of Ministry Personnel?

Committee is busy reviewing the self assessments that have been received. 27 received. 8 not received yet.

The committee is involved with 15 different pastoral charges which is keeping them pretty busy.

Reviewed three governance documents.

Before Christmas we were asked if there was any help available for congregations regarding where they are going in the future. A Zoom gathering was hosted for people who were wanting to get together and discuss that kind of stuff. 27 people from 14 different congregations attended.

**Equity and Diversity**

Nothing

**YAAAY**

Zebu is coming up very quickly. It will be the long weekend in Brandon.

**Incorporated Ministries**

Nothing

**Property**

Great group of people on the commission and things are moving along.

**Other**

Nothing

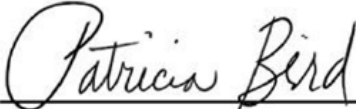
**ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING**

There is an onsite meeting planned at Meadowood on February 25. They will be able to better visualize how they can use the space.  
Invite Emma Seamone to the next Executive Meeting to discuss further.  
The Moderator will be joining us for the annual meeting.  
Letter has been sent to all communities of faith requesting volunteers and offers for billeting, etc.  
Catering is being worked out.

**NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be March 7, 2023.

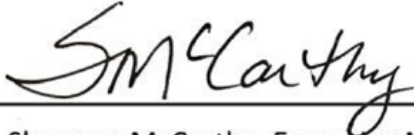
**ADJOURNMENT**



Patricia Bird, Co-Chair



Erica Wiebe, Co-Chair



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister