

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes  
September 12, 2023 via Zoom**

- EXECUTIVE PRESENT** Ken Delisle, Tricia Gerhard, Erica Wittevrongel (Co-chair), Pat Bird (Co-chair), Jennifer Pakula, Lynne Sanderson, Meghan Chorney, Craig Miller
- A quorum was present.
- REGRETS** Mary Best
- CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT** Betty Kelly
- STAFF PRESENT** Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister), Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator),
- CALL TO ORDER** Erica Wittevrongel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. We checked in and Erica led us in our land acknowledgment, reflection & prayer.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** We reviewed and approved the agenda.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES 001-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of May 2, 2023 as distributed.**
- BUSINESS ARISING**
- Feedback on proposal 2** We took a look at the original proposal that was brought forward at the annual meeting. We will discuss it, along with the feedback later in the meeting.
- CORRESPONDENCE Western Intercultural Ministry Network** We received a letter from Western Intercultural Ministry Network with a request for \$4000 for their gathering in October. They are moving forward with the event with or without us, but would love the money from us to help support their gathering. A lot of the ministers that attend may come from rural communities and wouldn't have the finances to support travel. This would help support them. Heather let us know that there is room in our budget.
- 002-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Executive approve supporting the Western Intercultural Ministry Network with a financial donation of \$4000.**
- If this will be an annual request, we should ask them to make that request as part of our budget process. We can indicate this in our response back to them.

**Right to Housing** A letter was received asking for support. We missed their deadline. However, in the past we have supported this.

**Mission & Service Letter re: giving** Prairie to Pine Regional Council has donated \$910,709 in 2022. We received this for information.

**FINANCE Financial Statement** Heather Dootoff reported. We are on target for projected revenue in governance. We will be over in our Archive costs. This is the cost of mountain storage. It continues to increase. The audit was over budget as well. There was a new procedure this year. Not sure if this will be an annual cost or not. Annual meeting was well under what we had budgeted. Which helped offset the deficit which is currently sitting at \$44,000. In August we finished the paperwork for an agreement with the Assiniboine presbytery (former treasurer) to pay back \$18,000 over 5 years. Budgeting process for 2024 will begin soon. Heather will send out previous years budgeted amount and ask committees to return what they are projecting for next year.

**CDI** Judy reminded us that in 2020, CDI approached the Executive asking that they fund a person to do the work that Linda Furman used to do for CDI. Then the pandemic happened and Gord just continued to do it. However, Gord is now done. They will be bringing forward an ask to fund that expense starting in 2024.

**Rising costs** Costs for meals and accommodations have been rising. Will there be any guidance on meal costs when committees are submitting proposed budgets for 2024? The costs that are in our policy right now are very outdated. Heather will bring some proposals to the next meeting regarding meals and costs. If Judy's committees want to submit a budget, Heather will factor in the increase in mileage and meal costs to those proposed budgets.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Co-chairs** Thank you to Pat for her service. Starting to prep for September.

**Community of Faith Support 003-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry (NUASM) revised ESM agreement dated Sept. 2022, and that the document be signed as requested, and filed for future reference.**

Pat has a document that needs to be signed and sent back.

Preparing to send out the next round of self assessments (41) to the Communities of Faith. Going to miss Heather Lea on the committee.

**Equity and Diversity**

Still trying to get themselves organized. Julie is connecting with them. We do not think that they have met yet this fall. Erica is going to connect with Julie to see if there is somebody specific that we need to be inviting.

**YAAAY**

ALF is coming up at St. Mary's Road United Church from October 20-22. Theme is Lost in Translation.

NEECHI camp at Sandy Saulteaux went really well and had great participation.

Couple of the indigenous youth that Twila has connected with went to the action from last week. One of them did interviews with people. There will be videos coming forward.

Nathaniel spoke on a panel about the realities of life living in his community at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering. He specifically mentioned that the youth program in our region has made an impact in his life. Shout out to Twila.

**Incorporated Ministries  
004-2022/2023**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following:**

**a) Wellman Lake United Church Camp**

**...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wellman Lake United Church Camp 2023-2024 Board of Directors**

**Joyce Bateman**

**Caleb Harris**

**Lanaya Harris**

**Blair Mullin**

**Lucile Neufeld**

**Kendal Stechyshyn**

**Candace Wenzel**

*This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.*

Neither camp in our region were able to get staff this summer in order to run. Shannon has an email from Rock Lake Camp regarding renting out their camp. This is in process but Shannon has indicated we may need to make a decision around that in the future.

**Nominations**

Betty Kelly attending on behalf of Joey. The committee is not meeting until next week. Reminder about recommendations that were made on their May report.

**Other**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Executive Minister**

General council has hired, based on the strategic plan, a director of growth. This position has been filled by Cam Fraser. Each grouping of regional councils have also hired a growth animator. This will be Jordan Cantwell. Her position will start November 1. Part of her role will be connecting with Executives to determine where we need this energy/focus.

The moderator was in Winnipeg last week for the action at Camp Morgan to give some focus on the Search the Landfill campaign. It was a good turn out.

The moderator will be coming back on September 29 doing a flourishing event. There are 30 people registered so far. Encourage more to register. Link is in the newsletter and on the webpage. The business leaders event has been cancelled and possibly rescheduled for later.

Shannon is doing Con Ed again. The second course for the Change Management certification. She is blocking off Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays to do the work. This will continue into November.

Staff gathering across the tri-region in Saskatoon in November. We will meet in Saskatoon. We will need to change the date of our November Executive meeting.

**Pastoral Relations  
Minister**

**Report of the Pastoral Relations Minister to Prairie to Pine Regional Council  
Executive  
September 12, 2023**

Just a quick check in after a busy time since our last Executive meeting in May, 2023 and the report submitted for the Workbook related to our meeting of Prairie to Pine Regional Council in June, 2023.

The things on the agendas of the Committees and Commission that I related to and on my agenda have included:

- Committee on Community of Faith Support- working with several communities of faith/pastoral charges that are at various stages in the process if disbanding; a couple that are in the process of amalgamating. Getting ready to circulate round two of self-assessment to the next 1/3 of the Pastoral Charges ( 1/3 done in 2022) . Receiving some changes to governance documents.
- Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support- interviews for a few people who have completed the Lay Worship Leader course online
- Committee on Ministry Personnel Support- meeting in person on September 20, 2023 in Winnipeg to plan the year ahead
- Pastoral Relations Commission and Liaisons:

Some of my time in late June is spent processing requests for licensing and re-licensing of **Sacraments Elders**, most of which fit neatly within the current policy and procedures that the Prairie to Pine Regional Council has in place. The few that do not, I will consult with the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support .for

2023- 2024 Pastoral Year we roughly people licensed to function as Sacraments Elders.

This summer we have had 12-15 pastoral charges experience **changes in their pastoral relationships**. As a result we have nine Covenanting Services scheduled thus far for this fall beginning on September 17, 2023. The changes also mean that the Pastoral Relations Commission, Liaisons and I have been busy **with collective ZOOM training sessions for profile teams and search and selection committees**, reading related documents and forms and motions. We have around **twenty** Pastoral Charges/Communities of Faith actively engaged in either profile development or search process. There are **another thirty to thirty-five Communities of Faith relying on local leadership or rotational pulpit supply**. We are still sorting through some matters related to **places who may be choosing to be lay-led** that will eventually be incorporated into a policy that will be brought to the Executive for consideration. there are approximately a dozen Communities of Faith/Pastoral Charges involved in **collaborative ministry conversations** (with neighbours included a couple locations who are involved in conversations with ecumenical partners).

One major challenge is **recruitment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors**. We just received reports from Pastoral Charge Supervisors for 2022-2023 – almost 60 in place. We are not alone in this challenge of this type of support for pastoral charges. The Pastoral Relations Commission at it meeting this morning began some discussions considering some of the reasons behind this situation and some of the ways this challenge is being addressed by other Regional Councils. Eventually a policy will be brought to the Executive on possible ways to address these matters as well.

My Pastoral Relations Minister colleagues and I began September with some webinars on Benefits matters and disability processes (Restorative Care and Longterm Disability) with the change over to in provider to Telushealth. Our initial ZOOM meeting of Pastoral Relations Ministers tomorrow has items on the agenda related to proposals coming to the General Council executive (September 21 - 22,2023 and/or the Genera Council recall meeting October 21 -22) related to Designated Lay Ministers, changes to The Manual for a few things and the Salary and Allowances Schedule for Ministry Personnel for 2024.

The Regional Council has been notified by the Director of the Designated Lay Ministry Programs and the Board of Vocations that TANIS PODOBNI has completed all academic requirements and conditional upon approval of a pastoral relationship for her going forward, the Prairie to Pine Regional Council can hold a service celebrating her recognition as a Designated Lay Minister. The Pastoral Relations Commission anticipates that the final motions related to her appointment/s will be approved on September 19, 2023. Plans are in place for a combined Service of Recognition and Covenanting at Oak Lake United Church on September 24, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. Lynne Sanderson will be representing Prairie to Pine Regional Council as a member of the Executive in the liturgy and Chewe Mulenga will be representing the Office of Vocation as a member of the Prairie Candidacy Board. This is a Regional Council Service so we hope that those from nearby pastoral charges will be able to attend. It may be recorded and shared later or accessible by ZOOM on that date.

We are following with interest any changes in the way of doing and being with Indigenous Ministries especially those eighteen pastoral charges within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

I am looking forward to some holidays in early October to travel to the east coast to visit family and hopefully see the autumn colours in all their glory!

Respectfully submitted  
Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister

## **OTHER**

### **Proposal 2**

We are not going to be able to make everybody happy.

Need to make it clear that there will be an increased cost and this will need to be reflected in our response.

When is the earliest that we can hold a meeting? Ordination or recognition cannot be done until May because they just aren't ready.

Is this a gathering or an Annual Meeting? We can have as many gatherings as we want and can do anything we want at those gatherings. However, there would not be the same amount of staff support. Shannon cannot attend with business processes etc. except for every three years. The staff capacity isn't there. The volunteers aren't there. Financial implications.

We had a similar conversation at the conference level. Nominal amount of money from the conference. Registration paid for the rest. The registration fee was akin to a con-ed event. We can do another event, however, the who is planning, what is happening, and cost, will be very different.

Is this one of the points that Jordan could help us work through?

There are small networks and clusters happening and starting to have organized events and meetings. Those are all opportunities for people to gather outside of the official annual meeting.

What will bring people out? They want the gathering, not the business!

Another part of the proposal indicated that there was a lack of communication. Maybe there needs to be a "gathering" to discuss this as a wider community. People want to feel involved.

Maybe work on terminology – "meeting" once every 3 years, "gather" anytime

Provide a price tag for all of the options. If you want this, this is what it is going to cost.

First step will be to host a meeting prior to our budget setting for 2024. Calling those who want to be involved in the conversation. Brainstorm possible solutions. Needs to happen in October.

Somebody from another regional council to facilitate? Jordan? Julie to get some advertising out. Need to set parameters on how that agenda is framed. Erica, Shannon and staff will take care of that.

We have decided that we want to:

- Have this gathering in the next two months if possible. However, we could meet in January.
- Have Jordan or somebody else to facilitate.
- Shannon, Erica and staff will set parameters.
- Respond to the proposal and let them know that we recognize the proposal and we care, but we are working on the best way to address it. Erica and Shannon will write that.

**Fall Partner gathering**

This event is currently planned for October. However, Aisha Frances from KAIROS has resigned. And the other person from KAIROS is unavailable. Julie is waiting to hear back from Patti Talbot from General Council to see if this will happen.

**NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be October 3, 2023.

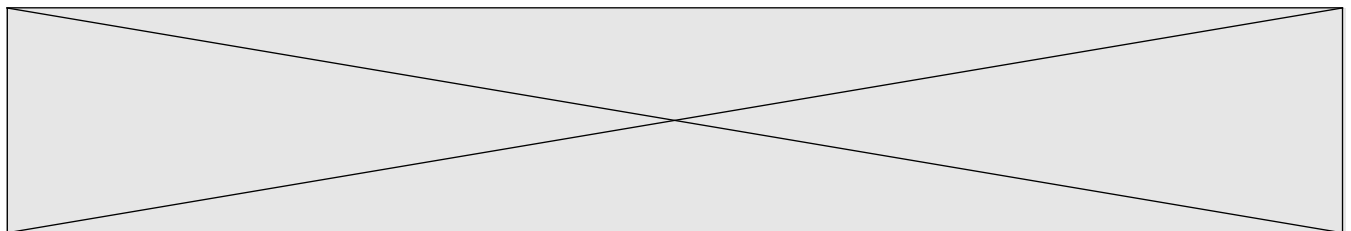
We will add the following items to the October meeting:

- Remit
- Fall partner gathering
- Visioning
- Land Acknowledgement
- Structure document

**ADJOURNMENT**

  
Erica Wittevrongel, Chair

  
Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister



PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Financial Report July 31, 2023

	Actual 2021 31-Dec	2022 Budget	Actual 2022 31-Dec	2023 Budget	Actual to July 31 2023	Projected 2023	
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>							
<b>Grants:</b>							
Governance and shared services (from assessments)	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	191,976	325,000	to July 31
GC Ex Minister and Asst Salary Grant	76,375	67,000	101,475	67,000	39,083	67,000	to July 31
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>401,375</b>	<b>392,000</b>	<b>426,475</b>	<b>392,000</b>	<b>231,059</b>	<b>392,000</b>	
Other income Governance	58,797	15,000	31,441	50,000	32,922	50,000	
<b>TOTAL GOVERNANCE INCOME</b>	<b>460,172</b>	<b>407,000</b>	<b>457,916</b>	<b>442,000</b>	<b>263,981</b>	<b>442,000</b>	
<b>Expenses: Governance</b>							
<b>Office Expenses</b>							
Office rent/maintenance	43,158	25,000	30,000	30,960	18,095	31,020	
Caretaker	12,783	-	-	-	-	-	
Office costs (insurance, supplies, phone, wifi etc.)	12,816	8,000	5,881	8,000	5,141	8,813	
Shared services General Council	9,120	10,000	9,742	9,500	7,326	10,000	
Website	1,046	1,050	1,054	1,050	1,132	1,132	to July 31
Archive Costs	6,770	9,000	9,630	9,000	10,289	14,289	price increases
Audit	10,893	12,000	13,848	13,000	18,202	18,202	price increases
	96,586	65,050	70,155	71,510	60,185	83,456	
<b>Shared staff costs</b>							
Shared EM, Asst and Finance Staff	90,462	92,000	93,296	108,500	60,930	104,451	to July 31
Shared staff office (office space, other office costs)	11,485	3,500	949	2,000	800	2,000	
Shared staff travel	1,210	7,000	2,386	7,000	6,690	9,000	
	103,157	102,500	96,631	117,500	68,420	115,451	
<b>Staffing</b>							
Regional staff - Governance	161,987	167,000	207,794	213,946	130,248	214,309	to July 31
Staffing related costs	2,448	12,000	8,655	12,000	1,279	12,000	
	164,435	179,000	216,449	225,946	131,527	226,309	
<b>Governance: committee and structure</b>							
Regional gathering	6,990	10,000	5,293	75,000	45,057	45,057	
All other Governance costs	5,028	37,300	2,438	37,300	3,090	37,300	
	12,018	47,300	7,731	112,300	48,147	82,357	
<b>TOTAL GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>376,195</b>	<b>393,850</b>	<b>390,966</b>	<b>527,256</b>	<b>308,279</b>	<b>507,574</b>	
Amortization (not recorded monthly)	18,854	-	406	-	-	-	
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>65,123</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>66,544</b>	<b>(85,256)</b>	<b>(44,298)</b>	<b>(65,574)</b>	
<b>MISSION AND MINISTRY</b>							
<b>Grants</b>							
Other income Mission and Ministry (mostly grants/donations)	240,000	239,000	240,000	240,000	229,665	240,000	to July 31
	54,680	8,000	471,097	10,000	50,761	50,761	2022 mostly Central
<b>TOTAL MISSION AND MINISTRY INCOME</b>	<b>294,680</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>711,097</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>280,426</b>	<b>290,761</b>	
<b>Expenses Mission and Ministry</b>							
Salaries and benefits	133,972	136,000	143,875	165,792	100,665	171,069	to July 31
Mission support grants/grant to Qualified Donees	126,000	126,000	359,288	129,000	156,432	156,432	2022 includes Central UC gifts
Clusters and events	4,234	20,000	11,660	20,000	17,309	20,000	
Mission and Ministry committee costs	3,348	6,000	1,725	6,000	2,769	6,000	
<b>TOTAL MISSION AND MINISTRY COSTS</b>	<b>267,554</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>516,548</b>	<b>320,792</b>	<b>277,175</b>	<b>353,501</b>	
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) MISSION AND MINISTRY</b>	<b>27,126</b>	<b>(41,000)</b>	<b>194,549</b>	<b>(70,792)</b>	<b>3,251</b>	<b>(62,740)</b>	
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>							
Restricted Fund Income	31,174	-	178,671	-	10,574	10,574	
Restricted Fund Expenses, Bursaries	11,587	-	2,500	-	6,805	6,805	
<b>NET INCOME RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>19,587</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>176,171</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>3,769</b>	
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>111,836</b>	<b>(27,850)</b>	<b>437,264</b>	<b>(156,048)</b>	<b>(37,278)</b>	<b>(124,545)</b>	
Grant to CDI	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	
	(288,164)	-	-	-	-	-	

\* In 2022 archivist has been working increased hours due to grants received

\* 2023 budget includes approved increases to MS grants and regional staffing hours, adjustments to annual meeting budget and corrections to errors in the draft budget (lighter blocks)



Whereas

We, the Prairie to Pine Regional Council body are only just, in the moment of this weekend, emerging from an imposed, multiple year isolation that global pandemic has inflicted on our lives, the life of our Pastoral Charges and our only just established functioning as a newly created Regional Council, and;

Whereas

We are only just, in the moment of this weekend beginning to assess the collateral damage to our momentum as a church body, including having to remind ourselves of where we last left our decision-making work around who we define ourselves to be as Prairie to Pine Region and how we intend to function as a body of the larger church, and;

Whereas

With the dissolution of Presbyteries the Regional Council meeting is now the only opportunity to connect and network as the functioning representatives of the wider church in particular for those representing rural Pastoral Charges or operating in isolated geography, and;

Whereas

We are only just, in the moment of this weekend, experiencing the release of pandemic grip such that we can be reminded of the multiple levels of benefit that connecting with one another over our various ministry challenges provide us and our church's development, and;

Whereas

We have just been encouraged by the Regional Youth Minister and YAAY Ministry representative to consider the evidence of the essential contribution that participating with the meeting of the regional church council has in youth and young adults finding and taking their places in their own churches and the larger church, and;

Whereas

In the particular life of a teenager, a three year gap in the provision of a regional meeting can typically preclude them from having more than one experience of this kind, and;

Whereas

In the face of mounting challenges to be church, we are being encouraged to capitalize on and get actively involved in the work of creating new pathways of thinking on and creating what Christ's church can look and function like moving forward together, and;

Whereas

The expectation of the nationally deployed staff is to resource three regions and by necessity three annual general meetings over three provinces, in such a short frame risks placing unreasonable work expectations on them and their various ministries, and;

Whereas

The decision to hereafter move the annual general meeting of Prairie to Pine Regional Council to an every three year rotation was taken outside of consultation of the council body,

**We propose that:**

**The Prairie to Pine Regional Council three year meeting rotation be reconsidered in order that an alternate functioning model be explored and considered by the regional council body.**

Potential models may include:

A. The meetings of the three cooperating regions be held over expanded months (e.g. May, September, February) in a yearly rotating fashion between them, thereby reducing the undue expectation on resource staffing to reasonably facilitate meeting needs.

B. An every third meeting of each body be offered virtually in a rotating fashion

C. An every other year meeting model be adopted by all regions reducing the staff resourcing to two yearly meetings versus three.

D. An every other year business meeting model be adopted with alternate years provided as a retreat and resource event based gathering. Staff requirements to resource these gatherings to be necessarily considered per event as AGM planning team determines.

E. Any potential model of meeting rotation would take into account the business necessitated by a General Council Meeting year.

#### Implications

1. Regionally deployed National staff time commitment.
2. Cost of hosting up to two in person meetings in a three year rotation, instead of one.

Moved by: Frances Flook

Seconded by: Brenda Shodin