

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