

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL POLICY
LAY-LED COMMUNITIES OF FAITH WITH CONGREGATIONAL DESIGNATED MINISTERS

Background:

In 2023, General Council 44 passed some motions related to Congregational Designated Ministers (CDM) allowing Regional Councils to move towards having lay-led communities of faith (The Manual I.1.11.4)

Congregational Designated Ministers is a baptized layperson employed by a community of faith in a **specified ministry position** designated by the regional council as accountable to the governing body of the community of faith. An individual whose work encompasses one or more specific areas of the community of faith's ministry/ mission—e.g., youth worker, parish nurse, adult educator— and whose position responsibilities do not extend to the wider church. (page 11 CDM Handbook, 2020)

Communities of Faith or Pastoral Charges, which are without a paid accountable minister in a call or appointment and are not exploring options to have a paid accountable minister work with them are able to approve a motion, which would allow them to request approval from the Regional Council or its executive to become:

- A lay-led community of faith with or without Congregational Designated Ministers in the short term while participating in conversations toward the development of collaborative ministry agreements with neighbours to meet long-term ministry needs or
- A lay-led community of faith with one or more Congregational Designated Ministers for the long term, or for as long as polity and existing conditions exist.

Policy:

Within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Lay-led Communities of Faith must be able to demonstrate:

- That they have a functioning governing body (Board, Council, or Leadership Team)
- That the minutes of a meeting of the governing body include motions related to requesting the Regional Council or its Executive to become a Lay-led Community of Faith, whether short-term or long term and that such minutes be forwarded to the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support
- That they have elected or appointed members to the Regional Council (in accordance with section C.1.2a of The Manual (2023) as required by the Regional Council of Prairie to Pine
- That they are willing to work with a Pastoral Charge Supervisor who will so far as possible be a member of the Order of Ministry or Designated Lay Minister Recognized, appointed by the Pastoral Relations Commission of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council and to schedule meetings in consultation with the Pastoral Charge Supervisor

- That they, as per the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Policy on Pastoral Charge Supervision, are willing to pay travel costs at the current General Council rate as well as to pay any other costs related to meetings with Pastoral Charge Supervisor (such as telephone costs or meals)
- That they are willing to share the minutes of any meetings of governing bodies and Communities of Faith with the Pastoral Charge Supervisor
- That each Community of Faith have one or more trained Sacraments Elders
- That Communities of Faith requesting this designation in the short term without any Congregational Designated Ministers be encouraged to have someone seek training as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader.
- That Communities of Faith seeking a long-term designation as lay-led community of faith with Congregational Designated Ministers have submitted to the Pastoral Relations Commission the required form Community of Faith Request for Categorization of Lay Ministry Position (united-church.ca) with attachment of the position's description, completed categorization guidelines currently located in the Congregational Designated Ministers (March 2020) (united-church.ca) pages 12-17 for approval and inclusion in any request to the Regional Council for designation as lay-led community of faith with congregational designated ministers.
- That they will support the participation of any or all Congregational Designated Ministers employed within their Communities of Faith or Pastoral Charges especially those designated as "Worship Leaders" in regularly scheduled gatherings of "association" or groupings of CDMs doing similar work. These sessions would be facilitated by a volunteer/volunteers or paid individual with appropriate experience and training. These people would be appointed by the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leaders Support to facilitate these gatherings which would be mandatory in the absence of onsite ministry colleagues with whom to "associate."

Accountability to the Regional Council from these Communities of Faith/Pastoral Charges comes through the representatives of the Regional Council and the Pastoral Charge Supervisors. This policy does not apply to those pastoral charges designated as Indigenous Ministries.

PROCESS NOTE: Initial draft from Mary Best and Sherri McConnell on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Commission, February 27, 2024. Initial discussion with Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support in February 2024. Final DRAFT considered by both bodies in March 2024, and approved by the Regional Council Executive on April 2, 2024.