

**Minutes of Prairie to Pine Regional Council  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
June 1-4, 2023**

**Thursday June 1, 2023**

**OPENING** Pat Bird declared the meeting open at 7:00 pm. She introduced the head table and went over some general announcements.

Special guests from the General Council offer were introduced:  
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.

**AGENDA REVIEW** Shannon McCarthy went through the changes that have been made to the agenda. She also explained the Networking and Clustering time that will be provided on Friday and how to sign up.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF TREATY  
TERRITORY** Erica Wittevrongel read our Land Acknowledgement:

“Prairie to Pine Regional Council is located on lands covered by Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9. These are the traditional and ancestral lands of many Indigenous peoples, including Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe/Saulteaux), Nehethowuk (Rocky Cree), Ininiwak (Swampy Cree), Nehiyawak (Plains Cree), Anishinewak (Ojibwe-Cree), Dakota, Dene; and the homeland of the Red River Métis.

Treaties created relationships between Treaty partners and the agreements that they made were intended to be mutually beneficial. The Treaties are living documents that include all of us and so we are all Treaty People. We acknowledge that five Dakota communities in Manitoba are not signatory to any treaty with Canada.

As Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who call this land home, we know that the mistakes which are part of our history of colonization have caused deep and lasting harm.

We affirm that the Sovereignty and distinct Nationhood of Indigenous Peoples needs to be upheld and that the sustaining connection to traditional and ancestral lands must support in practical ways this Sovereignty and Nationhood.

We commit ourselves to the truth-telling that needs to continue to happen as we seek reconciliation and healing and as we work toward a better future.“

**PROCEDURAL/  
ENABLING MOTIONS  
001-2023/2024**

**It was approved by consensus:  
That Prairie to Pine Regional Council accept the following Enabling Motions #1-10  
for this Regional Council meeting:**

- 1. Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Council meeting be: i. the members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and  
ii. Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council  
iii. lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by communities of faith. (Manual 2023, C.1.2)  
iv. members-at-large, lay members within the Regional Council who have been appointed members as necessary for the work of the Regional Council by the Regional Council Executive and who have not been elected by their community of faith.
- 2. Corresponding Members:** that all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this regional council meeting, with voice but not vote.
- 3. The Bounds of the Council:** that the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.
- 4. Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:** that the regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose. (Manual 2023; C.4.3)
- 5. Limits to Debate:** that without the permission of the Council, no member shall speak more than once on any proposal or amendment; and that speeches be limited to two minutes per person on each proposal, except at the discretion of the President.
- 6. Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this Regional Council meeting be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian.

**7. Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2023 (pages 191-195); and that any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.

**8. Unfinished Business:** that unfinished business be referred to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive.

**9. Minutes:** that the Minutes of the 4th Annual Meeting of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council be approved as distributed in the online workbook.

**10. Reports:** that the verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.

**Moved** by Shannon McCarthy

**Seconded** by Emma Seamone

**CARRIED**

**TABLE GROUP TIME**

Introduce yourselves. What are you excited about?

**REPORTS**

**Executive Minister**

Shannon McCarthy reported. Her full written report is on page 39 in the workbook.

Shannon acknowledged that covid has been hard. Trying to figure out a new way to be community has been difficult. We lost loved ones, got sick, etc. Even though we want to celebrate together, we will take a moment to remember this. There was a huge learning curve to learning all of the new technology.

We are almost 5 years old and we are trying to run. However, we were just learning to crawl in 2019 and then all of a sudden covid hit. We need to slow down and be patient with ourselves, and moderate our expectations.

One thing that we are missing from Presbytery's is being engaged in ministries and committees. There is a lot of work that needs to be done and we need people!

Shannon introduced staff:

Erin Acland, Twila McNair, Julie Graham, Heather Dootoff, Judy Hare, Chantal Winslow and Cherry Abad.

**Executive Chair**

Pat Bird reported on behalf of herself and Erica Wittevrongel

Pat has loved being co-chair of the Executive. Sharing the responsibility has been great. Her time on the Executive will be done at the end of this meeting.

Her fill report is available in the workbook.

Pat has been working hard on putting together a regional structure document. It is underway and we should see pieces of this come together next year.

Erica Wittevrongel added that it was a busy year. Thank you to staff, and Pat and the Executive. It has been a year of learning and connecting. She is excited for the future of the region. Favorite thing was connecting with the other regions under Shannon's umbrella.

**NOMINATIONS** The nominations committee encouraged us to believe in the United Church and the power of stepping forward to serve.

**MEMORIAL WORSHIP** The Memorial Worship was led by Emma Seamone and music was provided by the St. Mary's Road United Journey Band.

## **Friday June 2, 2023**

**WORSHIP** Morning worship was led by Alcris Limongi and Scott Douglas of the Centre of Christian Studies with Connie Budd, Sandy Saulteaux Alumni giving the message.

**THEOLOGICAL COLLENGES UPDATE** We heard presentations from the Theological Colleges: Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Center, Centre for Christian Studies and St. Andrew's College.

**NOMINATIONS** The Nominations committee reminded 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.

**LISTEN & DISCUSS REMIT** Shannon McCarthy discussed the remit process and the remits that were passed in 2017 to restructure. The indigenous church wasn't ready at that time. This remit is going to allow them to make the decisions about who they want to be without asking permission from us. If you don't vote, it will be a no.

Introduced Cheryl Jourdain to speak about the Remit.

Remit video

Table group time was provided and a time for questions and answers was given.

## **GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT**

<b>THEME</b>	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.
<b>CANDIDATES</b>	The candidates who will be celebrated at the Sunday Worship service: Damber Khadka (ordinand), Patricia Chabluk (commisionand), Noel Suministrado (admittand) were given the opportunity to speak.
<b>CLUSTER &amp; NETWORKING</b>	Time was given for attendees to gather in networks and clusters as they wished.
<b>WORSHIP</b>	Evening worship was led by Don Schau and others from Rural Connect.
<b>LISTEN &amp; DISCUSS PROPOSAL</b>	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.

## **Saturday June 3, 2023**

<b>WORSHIP</b>	Worship was led by Hyerim Park of Korean Rainbow United.
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	Attendees were invited to attend workshops spread out across a few different locations.
<b>DECIDE Proposal #1 002-2023/2024</b>	<p><b>It was approved by consensus</b></p> <p><b>That Prairie to Pine Regional Council will:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Instruct the Regional Council Executive to review the Regional Council’s investment policies, investments, and the practices of its financial institutions, using the United Church in Canada’s “Responsible Investing Guiding Principles”, with a particular focus on climate justice and encouraging the transition from a carbon economy toward becoming leaders in a green economy.</b></li><li><b>2. Create an educational process to assist communities of faith and other ministries, their membership and supporters to:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>• communicate with their financial institutions with regard to any policies and practices that fall short of a transition to a green economy, particularly continuing investments in fossil fuel expansion projects.</b></li><li><b>• Consider other actions such as switching to a more climate-conscious institution, divesting from less ethical investments, and transferring investments to ethical funds.</b></li></ul></li><li><b>3. Support and promote a Network within the Regional Council to assist its membership in living out the above commitments, and to study Committed to Climate Action: The 2021-2022 Sustainability Report   The United Church</b></li></ol>

**of Canada (united-church.ca) and study and act on recommendations found in the 44th General Council proposal GS08 Climate Justice Commitment.**

**Moved by Emma Seamone**

**Seconded by Karen Tjaden**

**CARRIED**

**Proposal #2**

A second proposal was presented to the court:

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

Discussion time was provided but ultimately, the proposal, along with feedback was passed along to the executive. This proposal will be posted to the website for further discussion and review. Feedback can be passed along to Shannon McCarthy or directly to the Executive.

**Remit**

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- A) That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils, and a Denominational Council\*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
- B) That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union\*\*; and
- C) The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

**CARRIED**

**WORKSHOPS**

Attendees were invited to attend workshops spread out across a few different locations.

**COURTESIES**

**CLOSING WORSHIP**

We gathered to have closing worship led by our Young Adult and Youth (YAAY) committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pat Bird adjourned the meeting.

**RETIREES BANQUET**

A delicious meal celebrating the retirees took place on Saturday evening. We celebrated the following retirees:

- Jamie Bradshaw
- Jeff Cook
- Carol Fletcher
- Karen Kuzek
- Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd
- Shirley McLaren
- Teresa Moysey

**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY**

A Celebration of Ministry Service was held both in person and on live stream. 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

  
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Patricia Bird, Co-Chair

  
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Erica Wiebe, Co-Chair

  
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Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

