

Ministry Personnel Support Committee Report - Fall, 2024
Prairie to Pine Region

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee held their meetings as required, via Zoom, on the first Thursday of each month. We also held one in-person gathering in the fall. Committee members are David Howell (Chair), Cathy Maxwell (Secretary), Susan Tilleman, Chris Davis, Beth Rutherford (on medical leave), Joan Jarvis (liaison to P2P Executive), and Judy Hare (staff).

The purpose of our Committee is "to seek to provide care and support to ministry personnel toward the goal of health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice especially through times of challenge and change." Responsibilities include support for ministry personnel and retired ministry personnel. We publicize and promote in a variety of ways, educational and leadership opportunities for ministry personnel.

Highlights of the work we were engaged in this past year include....

- Planning a gathering for ministry personnel engaged in active ministry and those in formal association. This event was held on May 15, 2024, at Crestview United Church with a noon luncheon and snacks provided by Crestview United Church. There were 41 ministry personnel in attendance. We appreciated the leadership of Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator assigned to our Region, and Tricia Gerhard, participant in the Moderators' Leadership Project. Our theme was "Renewing Self, Relationships, Church." Response to this event was very positive. During the lunch break at the gathering, there was an opportunity for those ministry personnel who have come to this United Church of ours from international destinations, most of whom are in /or have completed the Admissions process to meet one another and discuss ways Prairie to Pine Regional Council could be supportive of non-Indigenous minority ministers going forward. As of September 01, 2024, Prairie to Pine Regional Council has ten Ministry Personnel with this background.
- Offered to provide Local Arrangements for this year's Retiree's Banquet on the evening of May 15, 2024, at Crestview United Church. Thanks to the help of volunteers, following the Minister's Retreat Day, Crestview United was transformed into a Banquet Hall. Thanks to St. Paul's United Church, Beausejour for the use of their lovely table centrepieces. Feast Restaurant catered the evening meal. There were approximately 50 people in attendance to celebrate and give thanks for the ministries of Elizabeth Brown, Kathy Platt, Lori Stewart, and Deborah Vitt. Dawn Rolke and Tricia Gerhard hosted the evening's program on behalf of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.
- A Pensioner's Luncheon was held at Westworth United Church on June 10th for retired Ministry Personnel. Harrow United Church catered the noon luncheon. This event had almost 70 people in attendance. In order to accommodate spouses and other guests, costs were subsidized by utilizing a donation basket. There was a short program focused on the upcoming 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives, provided an engaging program that generated much discussion. We also had the opportunity to acknowledge those present celebrating milestone anniversaries of their admission to the Order of Ministry in the United Church of Canada, commissioning to diaconal ministry, ordination or recognition as Designated Lay Ministers.

Over the year, our work has also included future planning, communications, budgeting, keeping informed and updated about the work of other Committees and what is happening in our Region.

We offer our deep appreciation to Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister. Judy offers her guidance, wisdom, and humour as we seek to fulfill our Committee's mandate within the Prairie to Pine Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Jarvis, on behalf of the Committee