

Greetings, good people of Prairie to Pine Regional Council!

I am delighted to be joining your Annual Meeting this year as your Growth Animator. I started in this role in November 2023. Since then, I have met with clergy and lay folks from communities of faith across Prairie to Pine. I have been in conversations and workshops with many of you, in-person or online, and spoken with several of you by phone.

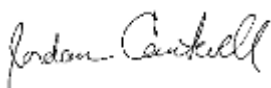
As your Growth Animator, my role is to support communities of faith who want to strengthen their invitation, deepen their discipleship, and grow their ministries. I partner with regional staff to address regional priorities and identify potential areas for growth and cooperation. I also respond directly to invitations from communities of faith who want to explore how they can partner with others and become more effective at welcoming, attracting, retaining, transforming, and sending disciples into the world.

The Growth Department is partially funded through a special bequest to the United Church of Canada, from someone who believed that the United Church has a future. That belief is at the heart of the whole growth initiative. We believe that God is calling the United Church to deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice for the sake of the world God loves. This call is an invitation to all of us to imagine a future for the church that is vibrant, brave, humble, connected to our neighbours, rooted in Spirit, and transformational... and then to live into that vision God has given us.

Through a combination of deep conversation, workshops, practical tips and tools, and resources from the wider church, I can work with your community of faith to help you clarify God's purpose for your ministry and make a plan to pursue it. As you put your vision into action, I will accompany you and share resources to help you meet your objectives. I will pray with you and for you, and continually remind you that you are not alone in your struggles and hopes.

It has been an incredible privilege to work with so many of you and to hear about what God is already doing through you and the dreams you have for growing the impact of your ministry. As we continue to journey together, I hope that God will expand the number of communities of faith engaged in this work of renewal and growth. I look forward to hearing your stories, learning about your ministries, the joys and struggles you are experiencing, the opportunities and challenges facing your community of faith, and where the Spirit is calling you to a future of deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

In faith, hope and love,



Jordan Cantwell

Growth Animator – Prairie Regions

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