

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

June 2023 – June 2024

The Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) continues its work through monthly meetings held by ZOOM. The dedicated persons appointed to this Commission are supported in our work by Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister as well as those who are appointed as Liaisons to work with Communities of Faith throughout the current pastoral relations process.

Much of our work follows a similar pattern:

- We provide training and support to those serving as Liaison throughout the pastoral relations process.
- We appoint Pastoral Charge Supervisors and receive and review their Annual Reports.
- We receive requests from ministry personnel who are requesting a change in pastoral relations or seeking to begin a sabbatical.
- We receive requests for support from Communities of Faith when they are seeking to increase or decrease ministry time and when they are about to begin the process to search for a new minister.
- We receive and review ministry profiles from communities of faith when they are beginning the search process, and provide support as they upload the material to Church Hub.
- We receive and review calls and appointments resulting from the search process or renewal of current appointments.
- We provide personnel to attend meetings of governing bodies and communities of faith when pastoral relations matters are being discussed and/or when Liaisons are unavailable to attend.
- Along with the Pastoral Relations Minister and/or Pastoral Relations Liaisons, we provide assistance to Communities of Faith as they explore and prepare for collaborative ministry arrangements.

The [status update of current pastoral relationships](#) within Prairie to Pine Regional Council, including some of the actions noted above are available in a separate report.

While much of our work seems to be routine, it is not without its challenges. We continue to work with communities of faith who struggle with access to Church Hub and to the websites that continue the most current handbooks related to our work. We recognize that there continues to be unequal access to the internet throughout our region.

We continue to work with communities of faith who find it challenging to attract applicants to part-time ministry. We now require such communities of faith to engage in

conversations with their neighbours which might lead to new opportunities of collaboration and the creation of full-time ministry positions.

In recent pastoral years, several communities of faith have been able to engage in ministry with clergy from overseas. While the immigration process can be long and involved, those communities of faith have been actively engaged in the process. And, with the assistance of Judy Hare, there have been conversations in those places about the challenges of new immigrants and the need for cultural awareness.

At the June meeting of the Pastoral Relations Commission, both Elsie Douglas and I came to the end of our long relationship with the commission. With Elsie as Secretary and myself as Chair, this commission has evolved many times over the years. While there have been challenges, and sometimes what seemed like steps in another direction. I have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement of all members of the Commission and the leadership and guidance of Judy Hare, Regional Pastoral Relations Minister.

The work of the PRC continues to be a collaborative process. I appreciate the support of the Liaisons: Linda Buchanan, Mona Denton, Lorraine Kakegamic, Harold Kenyon, Sherri McConnell, Aileen Urquhart, Kathy Platt, Patrick Woodbeck, Paul Duval and those who also serve as members of the PRC from June 2023-June 2024 (Linda Buchanan, Lorraine Kakegamic, Harold Kenyon, Sherri McConnell and Aileen Urquhart). We are thankful for the work of Elizabeth Brown, Virginia Coleman and Kathy Platt who completed their time as Liaisons during this past year. Together we pool our gifts and our enthusiasm as we share in this work.

The work of the Pastoral Relations Commission continues and I am delighted to hand the tasks of the Chair to Patrick Woodbeck. Cherry Abad, Administrative Support for Prairie to Pine Regional Council will assume the duties of the secretary. Simbarashe Mazhara and Paul Duval have also joined the membership of the Pastoral Relations Commission as of July 01, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Best