

ANNUAL MEETING WORKBOOK

OCTOBER 10 AND 17 (ONLINE)

2024



**PRAIRIE TO PINE
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

60 MARYLAND ST., WINNIPEG, MB R3G 1K7



<https://prairietopinerc.ca/>
prairietopine@united-church.ca

204-233-8911

IN MEMORIAM . . . *those who have served as ministry personnel*

Rev. Paul Campbell

July 5, 2023

Rev. Carol Unruh

August 14, 2023

Lois Creith

(President of the former Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario
and General Council 39 Commissioner)

November 10, 2023

Rev. Richard (Dick) Dearing

January 16, 2024

Dorothy Marie Fawcett

(Lay Pastoral Minister)

February 12, 2024

Rev. Karl Surber

February 17, 2024

Rev. Robert (Bob) Stark

February 25, 2024

Rev. Margaret Rose (Marg) Scott

February 26, 2024

Rev. Donald (Don) Roy Ross

April 19, 2024

Rev. Robert (Bob) Bruce Werry

May 8, 2024

Rev. Robert (Bob) Galston

September 9, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. In Memoriam	inside front cover
2. Land Recognition	3
3. 6 th Annual Meeting Enabling Motions	4
4. Covenant	5-6
5. Meeting Procedures	7-9
6. Basic Rules for Debate and Proposals	9-10
7. Moderator's message and Report of General Council Executive	11-14
8. Report of the Regional Council Executive Past Chair	15-16
9. Report of the Office of Vocation Minister	16-18
10. Report of the Growth Animator	18-19
11. Report of the Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff	20-21
12. Profiles: Retirees	
• Elizabeth Brown	22
• Kathleen (Kathy) Platt	23
• Lori Stewart	24-25
• Deborah Vitt	25-26
13. Profiles: Candidates	
• Ilene Dowd (Ordination)	27-29
• Maureen McCartney (Commissioning)	29-30
14. Reports: Tri-Regional and Regional Council Program Staff	
• Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives	31-32
• Julie Graham, Regional Minister: Justice and Communications	32-37
• Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister	37-41
• Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister	42-43
15. Report: Treasurer Jennifer Pakula	44
16. Report: Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive Consensus Decisions 2023/2024	45-60
17. Report: Standing Committees of the Region	
• Nominations	61
• Pastoral Relations Commission	62-63
• Committee on Community of Faith Support	63-64
• Committee on Lay Leadership/Lay Ministry Support	65-66
• Committee on Ministry Personnel Support	66-67
• Property Commission	67-68
• Equity and Diversity Committee	68-70
• UCW Network (including Bursary)	70-71
• Youth and Young Adults (YAAY)	71-72
18. Reports: Other	
• United Church Rural ministry Network	73-74
• Jubilee Fund	74-75
• Manitoba Multifaith Council	75-76
• United Church Halfway Homes	76-77
• Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)	78

19. Reports: Theological Schools and Educational Centres	
• Atlantic School of Theology.....	79
• Centre for Christian Studies (CCS)	80
• Emmanuel College.....	81-83
• St. Andrew's College	83-84
20. Anniversaries	85-86
21. Appendix I: 2023 Regional Council Meeting Minutes (approved on October 10, 2024)	87-92
22. Appendix II: Nominating Committee	
• Regional Slate	93-97
23. Appendix III: General Council 45 Commissioners and Alternates.....	98-102
24. Appendix IV: Non-Consolidated Financial Statements (for the year ended Dec. 31, 2023)	103-121
25. Agenda	inside back cover



Land recognition text for Prairie to Pine Regional Council of The United Church of Canada

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.

6th ANNUAL PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ENABLING MOTIONS

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the 6th 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 2024, C.1.1 and 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 2024; 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 2024 (pages 189-193); 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 5th 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.
11. **Proposals:** that proposals that are received and edited prior to the Docket deadline with be included in the Docket. Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Docket deadline will be referred to the Executive for decision making.
12. **Budget Implications:** All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (defined as \$2000 or over) shall be considered “in principle only” and, if adopted, be referred to the Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.

A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

We promise to relate to one another with

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

In our Christian love for one another we will

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

Today this pilgrimage will lead us to becoming a whole people. With God's help, I will leave behind what I must to make this journey. Thanks be to God.

HOLY MANNERS

The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
 - each speak for ourselves;
 - speak for a purpose;
 - separate people from problems;
 - allow for full and equitable participation;
 - attend to others carefully without interruption;
 - welcome the conflict of ideas;
 - take a future orientation;
 - demonstrate appreciation;
 - honour the decisions of the body;
 - commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
 - keep the discussion at the table;
 - be mindful of our body language;
 - check in about good use of time;
 - allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
 - sincerely say what we really feel.
-

MEETING PROCEDURES

*(Numbering in this section is from the 2024 Manual Appendix pg. 189-193
and only includes sections relevant to this meeting)*

3.1 The Chair

The chair keeps a meeting of the council on track and may make rulings on procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

All members must be able to participate fully and comfortably.

Every voting member makes decisions on the basis of their own understanding of scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the council.

Any member of the council may bring to the attention of the chair any concerns about how a motion is being dealt with.

When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the council decides otherwise by a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The chair does not participate in the discussion or vote except in the case of a tie. If the chair wants to express an opinion, then they move aside from the role and ask another member to chair until the matter is disposed of.

3.2 How to Conduct a Meeting

3.2.1 Process

A council may set its own process for conducting business. If the council has not set its own process, it follows the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules).

3.2.2 Motions

A council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of a higher council.

A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.

3.2.3 Challenging Rulings

A voting member may challenge a ruling of the chair at the time the ruling is made. The chair restates the ruling and may give reasons. The secretary then calls the vote without any discussion on whether the chair's ruling is sustained.

3.3 How to Amend a Motion

When a motion has been made and is open for discussion, any motion to amend must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.

When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the council may deal with the final form of the original motion.

Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.

A motion to amend fails if there is no seconder.

A motion to amend may not change the intention of the original motion.

A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

3.5 Motions That Interrupt the Meeting

At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to

- a) close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- b) fix the time to adjourn;
- c) adjourn;
- d) take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- e) limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- f) postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- g) refer the motion to another body or commission;
- h) amend/change the motion; or
- i) postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specified time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

3.6 How to Reconsider a Motion

A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

Only a voting member who voted “yes” for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.

A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.

The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed.

A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

3.7 Additional Procedures

In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot’s Rules) will be followed.

OTHER:

- Divide a Motion (seriatim)** This is a request to vote on a motion in parts rather than in total. A seconder is required. If two persons ask, the chairperson must grant the request.
- Point of Information** Any person can go to a microphone, interrupt debate and ask for information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is speaking?".
- Point of Order** Any person can interrupt to challenge or question procedures. For example, "We didn't vote", or "President, we are debating this motion to table and we shouldn't be."
- Point of Privilege** Any person can interrupt debate to raise point of privilege. For example, "Our table group doesn't have copies of this motion" or "Could you please repeat the motion, I didn't hear it."

BASIC RULES for DEBATE on PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the Regional Council Meeting, proposals are received for information and consultation by the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. The Committee may make editorial suggestions to the proposing body to promote accurate understanding of the proposal by the people at the Regional Council Meeting. The Committee will communicate these suggestions to the proposing body and the proposing body may, or may not, take the suggestions.

Proposals that are received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be included in the Workbook (ROP Volume I). Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be provided in written form at the Regional Council Meeting.

The proposals will be available in a variety of ways: typed hard copy, via screen sharing, and read aloud at the time of decision-making.

Due to limitations of electronic online meetings any proposals received during the meeting or prior to the listening session one week prior to the meeting will be automatically referred to the Regional Council Executive.

2. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
 - i. The Convenor will indicate which proposal is being dealt with.
 - ii. A representative from the proposing body will be given 3 minutes to present the 'issue' described in the proposal and their proposed action to address the issue (Listening).
 - iii. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.
 - iv. All proposals will be 'Listened to' before discussion happens.

- v. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
- vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the Monday immediately prior to the constituted meeting of the Regional Council and a motion will be brought forth in the decision-making time based on the feedback and according to the following:

If the Regional Council is the Council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.

If the General Council is the court of action:

- a. The Regional Council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- b. *If it agrees*, it passes the proposal to the General Council.
- c. *If it does not agree*, it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.
- d. The Regional Council may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.

If the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to General Council only if there is a compelling reason. (2024 Manual, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d))



MESSAGE of THE MODERATOR and REPORT of THE GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator, The United Church of Canada



Rev. Michael Blair
General Secretary, The United Church of Canada

Moderator's Message:

Please click [here](#) to watch the message of The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne to the 2024 Prairie to Pine Regional Meeting.

Accountability Report to Regional Councils

Greetings as you convene for your annual meeting. We pray that it will be a meaningful time of gathering and work as you visualize what it means to be evolving communities characterized by deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. We recognize the challenges to our collective ministries as we imagine the sustainability of the ministries of The United Church of Canada and acknowledge the necessity as leaders to be harbingers of hope. We join you in the journey.

The Executive and staff leaders in the church have committed to find ways to enable the ministries of the Communities of Faith. This report highlights four initiatives that will significantly impact our communities.

UCC Protect United

This initiative is by far the largest financial commitment of the strategic plan, with a \$3 million loan funding a captive insurance program aimed at helping participating United Church ministries first reduce and then contain insurance costs. In addition to providing the start-up capital, the national church is also exposed to providing more capital in the event of particularly adverse claims results - especially if they happen in the early years.

The program was rushed into place for December 2022 to provide immediate premium relief, with a rollback of premium increases from 2020 and 2021. This meant premium reductions of 11-27% during a year when insurance premiums in the industry were going up by 15-30%. Even with a premium rate increase in December 2023, on an apples-to-apples basis, participants paid less for insurance than two years prior.

So far – repeat: so far – the program has been a success financially. Annualized premiums paid for 2021-2022 were \$10.1 million versus \$8.1 million for the first year of the program – a saving of almost \$2 million when adjusted for new business and closures/amalgamations. The interest on the start-up loan is being paid annually. Claims experience has been well within target levels, and with each additional year of reasonable claims experience, the captive insurance arrangement becomes more self-sufficient and the start-up loan potentially repayable.

Despite the very encouraging initial financial results, the customer service and administration has been very poor and caused much frustration for participants. Much of this was attributable to rushing the launch of the program to deliver the financial benefit, but our partner's existing systems and staff proved inadequate for the volume of queries that arose. Church-side decisions to deliver more savings also proved challenging administratively. There has been much remedial activity underway, and we expect to achieve proper service capacity by the second quarter of 2024. We will launch greater coverage flexibility and improved communications at the same time.

Everyone is reminded that this initiative will need to run just like a traditional insurance company, with claims administered accordingly. The difference is that we are all in it together to try to reduce risk and claims – and therefore premiums. This captive insurance arrangement exists solely to benefit participants.

Strategic Operational Plan Initiative - Growth

All the Growth Animators are now in place, working actively with regions on their strategies for renewing and creating communities and inviting strong participation in The United Church of Canada. In January and February alone, Growth Animators met with:

- 71 Ministry Personnel
- 37 Governing Bodies (by phone, online or in person)
- 16 Communities of Faiths, and facilitated
- 31 conversations about Growth to some form of regional body.

The focus of these meetings has been visioning; collaboration with other Communities of Faith; exploration of neighbourhood profiles; creation of renewal or growth strategies, and exploring practices of discipleship and invitation. Staff continue to explore and develop possibilities in 40 possible sites for new Communities of Faith amongst migrant, diasporic and Francophone communities; close to 10 of these are sufficiently developed to have leadership contracts to support their continued progress.

Collaborative Ministry Models

There are many different models of collaborative ministries that already exist in the United Church. Work is underway to develop and offer training programs for lay leaders and ministry personnel in collaborative ministries, and those who might be interested, including candidates for ministry.

Faithful Footprints

To date, we have invested almost \$3M in this initiative to assist Communities of Faith in upgrading and renovating their heating/cooling systems and addressing issues of environmental sustainability and cost savings.

Other Updates:

Addressing Structural Opportunities: These initiatives are a critical part of the ministry of the leadership team consisting of the Executive and staff leaders. We invite your continued engagement in these areas of work. There are several other initiatives to address some structural opportunities, and responses to emerging issues. We have established working groups to provide additional critical information as we address the challenges of sustainability. We established a Total Compensation Task Group to look at the issues relating to the church's compensation challenges. In keeping with the commitment to evaluating the 2019 structural changes in the church, a Steering Committee has been established to work alongside Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, the staff lead for the project. Both groups will be reporting to the 45th General Council in 2025.

In keeping with *The Manual* requirement (D.4.1.6), the Executive has established a working group to review the role of the Moderator. Additionally, the Executive agreed to also include the role of the General Secretary in this review.

The Ministry of Justice: As we continue to live into the commitment to becoming an antiracist denomination, we have introduced a new initiative, *Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Oppression Education for Committees*.

To date, most committees have completed, or will soon be completing, their education sessions. From the feedback so far, we hope to offer similar programs more broadly to other leadership groups in the church. Together with the Indigenous Church, an *Indigenous and racialized youth gathering* is now into its second year. This now-annual gathering is firmly lodged as an emerging youth-oriented community of faith. It focuses on building understanding through mutual learning on experiences of racism and creative responses to antiracism in the United Church.

Finding ways to invite a deeper and a broader engagement in advocacy continues to be a challenge, especially when the church is not of one mind and often is unable to speak together in respectful ways across our differences. There have been two new hires in the General Council Office, a *Government Relations Officer* to help to build our capacity to engage with government as we deepen our advocacy efforts, and a *Program Coordinator, Global Advocacy 2SLGBTQ1A+*. In addition, we have developed a new advocacy tool to enable sign-on as part of any advocacy campaign. The Justice Principles adopted by the 2023 annual meeting of the 44th General Council has provided a framework for our advocacy particularity with the war in Gaza.

Together with the Indigenous Church, the work on justice and reconciliation continues as we attempt to address both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People.

Communities of Faith are invited to witness for justice in this area; this includes the Moose Hide Campaign and our own [#SearchTheLandfill](#) social media campaign regarding the Brady and Prairie Green landfills in Winnipeg.

The Executive invited the *Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee* (TICIF) in collaboration with the *Indigenous Church* and the *Anti-Racism Common Table* to examine the use of the word “mission,” given the colonial history of the word and to bring recommendations; these were adopted in November 2023. (The proposal [GS 63 Recommendations re: Mission](#) is found on the [United Church Commons](#).) Following the request of the 44th General Council, a working group was established to engage the church in learning about and countering antisemitism, particularly within our interpretations of Scripture, in worship, and in Christian education. More information and resources can be found on the [Countering Antisemitism page](#) on the United Church website.

Centennial Celebration: Planning for the United Church centennial is underway. There will be three streams:

1. Commemoration
2. External-focused communication and action plan
3. Fundraising/capital campaign.

June 9, 2024, will be the launch of the centennial year (online and in person) with a worship service at Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, a site close to the inaugural gathering at the former Mutual Street Arena. Every month, from June 2024 to June 2025, a key moment will be highlighted on social media to mark and share our history. The date for the Centennial service itself has been set for June 8, 2025. This will be the celebration to which we invite international guests.

The goal of an external-focused campaign is twofold: to introduce the distinctiveness of the United Church to those who have only a broad umbrella definition of “church,” and to reconnect with those who claim United Church identity but have lost connection. The Executive asked The United Church of Canada Foundation to lead a legacy campaign.

Mission and Service: Good news! We are grateful for your continuing support of the collective ministries of the Church. There is good news to report regarding the 2023 Mission and Service results: contributions by congregations, United Church Women (UCW), and special donations all exceeded budget. The totals for these three areas, sitting at \$17,090,056, were slightly over the 2022 actuals of \$17,062,694.

The total for Mission and Service from all areas was \$20,831,564. This compares favourably to the total budget of \$20,225,000, and is close to the 2022 actual amount raised of \$21,132,213. These are preliminary results, and you can expect a final tally and the Mission and Service Accountability Report in June.

Information and updates about the work of the Executive can be found on the [General Council 44 webpage](#)

REPORT – REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE PAST CHAIR

Erica Wittevrongel
Past Chair

The Regional Executive continued to meet on a monthly basis. Our meeting began with a short check-in or worship facilitated by a member of the Executive. I appreciated the opportunity to hear the variety of interpretations that these times of togetherness included. Although prayer was often included, facilitators also shared thoughts and questions that encouraged the Executive to interact with the Creator in unique methods and mediums outside of Sunday worship.

In 2023 and 2024, I was fortunate enough to attend the convocation for St. Andrews College and its affiliate institutions in Saskatoon. Representing Prairie to Pine at that event was such a privilege. Witnessing the graduation of students from several different denominations filled me with hope for the future of the church. I was also aware of the positive presence that we can hold in a world that is too often enveloped in divisiveness and pain. One of my favorite aspects of the event was the honorary degrees bestowed upon those who have supported the church and its members in significant ways throughout their faith journeys. Hearing the stories of those individuals and the events that shaped their ministry, whether ordered or lay, provided another element to the overall inspiration and hope that graduation services often hold.

One of the proposals to come out of the previous Regional meeting concerned the method and frequency with which we meet. This also brought forth concerns related to a loss of connection. To address those concerns, the Executive with the assistance of Regional staff, planned a virtual town hall during which members of Prairie to Pine could share areas of hope, and areas of concern, and begin to construct feasible steps through which connection could be maintained while recognizing that the type of connection may look new or different compared to the past. Creating this opportunity to share enabled participants to find similarities in their experiences of frustration and grief regarding the loss of the ways in which the church used to function. It allowed people to share elements of their ministries that were working well, and upcoming aspects of their work that were exciting and life-giving. Out of that event we heard that participants would be open to attending similar opportunities. This may be something that occurs this fall/winter as we continue to practice connecting in different ways, making use of the methods of connection already in place, and addressing the needs of those within our region.

On June 23, 2024, I joined the staff of Prairie to Pine Regional Council in officiating the service celebrating the commissioning of Maureen McCartney and the ordination of Ilene Dowd. The service took place at First United Church in Dauphin, MB. The congregation of First United went above and beyond to ensure that the space, technology, and food needs were successfully met resulting in a service that was meaningful to all in attendance.

During this period, Patricia Bird completed her term as co-chair. She did incredible work with the Executive and provided a calm, approachable space in which we could plan and meet. Her determination to complete the structure document is a testament to her spirit and willingness to share her gifts with the Region. It was a pleasure to work with Patricia as she provided a model of chairing that I could live into as I finished my term as solo-chair.

My move to Saskatchewan in October 2022 meant that I wasn't able to attend important events in Manitoba. I would like to thank the Prairie to Pine staff and all those who offered their time and talents attending events and ensuring appropriate representation of the Prairie to Pine Region. I would also like to thank all of the members of the Regional Executive and corresponding members for their work over this past year. Although I am moving on from the Regional Executive, I know that the Region is in good hands with the new and current members who will represent those who call Prairie to Pine home.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Wittevrongel

Past Chair

Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive

REPORT of the OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER



Rev. Laura Fohse
Office of Vocation Minister
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and
Prairie to Pine Regions

Prairie Candidacy Board

The Prairie Candidacy Board has been hard at work supporting 27 individuals on their journey through the Candidacy Pathway. We have an amazing and diverse board consisting of: Chair Rob Smith; Vice-Chair Doreen Hewitson, Aurora Espenant, Chewe Mulenga, Mary Annan, Mokwadi Basele, Salesi Takau, Shirley Goodrich, SunDo Hyun, Wayne Youngward, Hugh MacGregor, Keith Hall, and Rick Burton.

Of the 27 engaged with the Candidacy Pathway: 5 are from Prairie to Pine, 8 from Living Skies, 9 from Northern Spirit and 5 are from other regions. We have 1 in the Designated Lay Ministry stream, 6 in the Diaconal stream, and 20 in the Ordained stream. We have 5 candidates in Supervised Ministry Education (SME). 4 candidates are completing the pathway in 2023, 3 will be ordained in Living Skies Regional and 1 will be ordained in Northern Spirit Regional Council.

The Prairie Candidacy Board has engaged in equity, diversity and anti-oppression training as mandated for all General Council committee members. They are committed to take into account a diversity of realities and experience among interviewees. These include cultural, language, physical, visual, auditory, and neurodivergent considerations. They will continue to learn, adapting and adjusting our practices in the process.

Admissions Committee

(below are excerpts from the Office of Vocation Accountability Report prepared by the Rev. Norm Seli, chair of the Board of Vocation, and the Rev. Marlene Britton, Director of Policy and Programs for Ministry Personnel)

The number of ministers in the Admission process reached 200 people in 2022. This led to a shortage of accompaniers meaning that ministers expressing interest in admission were told there were dozens of ministers ahead of them waiting to speak with someone about applying for the Admission process. For those who reached the entrance or final interview stage, there was a queue of approximately three months before an interview slot was available. Most significantly, the Admission Board noted an alarming reality: when it came time to seek an admission appointment, the process was not functioning equitably for racialized ministers. Consequently, we entered 2023 with the Admission process paused. Throughout 2023, the focus of admission work has been on addressing these bottlenecks and inequities.

As of December 2023, there were 126 ministers in the admissions process – 53 of which were seeking appointments. There were 15 ministers admitted in 2023.

Below is a list of other committees of the Office of Vocation and a brief description of what they do. Information taken from [Office of Vocation: Structure and Responsibilities May 2023](#):

Board of Vocation is the elected member body accountable for the work of the Office of Vocation to the General Council.

Standards for Accreditation Committee implements the policies set by the General Council by recommending standards to the Board of Vocation. These standards are to contribute to the effectiveness of ministry personnel in their leadership in communities of faith and beyond, responding to God's call.

Credentialing Committee responds to applications from ministry personnel for intentional interim ministry, educational supervisors, readmission, ministry partners, military chaplains and other chaplains as required.

Response Committee is responsible for receiving and addressing concerns and determining the most appropriate process or committee to address eligible concerns.

Remedial Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance by ministry personnel; assessing and deciding whether to accept an investigator's findings in relation to allegations of misconduct; assessing and deciding whether to accept a reviewer's report findings with respect to the effectiveness of a ministry personnel; determining the appropriate disposition of substantiated concerns.

My Highlights

As Vocational Minister I am provided with many opportunities to connect with ministry personnel and candidates for ministry. These interactions are a highlight for me. Whether I'm sharing resources with someone seeking information on things like retirement and sabbatical or listening to someone share

about struggles in their pastoral relationship, I feel immense gratitude for the commitment, compassion, and faithfulness of our ministers. Theirs is not an easy vocation and I appreciate any opportunity to support them along the way (even if its just to problem solve a ChurchHub fail).

I am responsible for facilitating many of the mandatory boundaries trainings. I'm aware this isn't everyone's favourite learning opportunity but I appreciate those who show up, engage, and share their experience, strength and wisdom with each other. We are working at updating the trainings to ensure they are relevant and interesting to the participants.

In 2023 I began offering monthly Zoom gatherings to ministry candidates. Some months we are joined by a guest with some expertise and other months we just show up and check in with each other. This is an opportunity for them to share their celebrations and frustrations on the Candidacy Pathway with each other and offer encouragement.

I most frequently encounter God through interactions. Connecting with others grounds me and reminds me by whom and to what I have been called.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Laura Fohse
Office of Vocation Minister for Northern Spirit,
Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions*

GROWTH ANIMATOR



Rev. Jordan Cantwell
Growth Animator
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and
Prairie to Pine Regions

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.

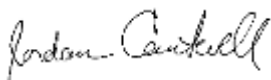
As your Growth Animator, my role is to support communities of faith who want to strengthen their invitation, deepen their discipleship, and grow their ministries. I partner with regional staff to address regional priorities and identify potential areas for growth and cooperation. I also respond directly 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

jcantwell@united-church.ca

COMMUNITY OF FAITH STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT STAFF

Vicki Nelson
Community of Faith Support Staff
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and
Prairie to Pine Regional Councils

I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, the United Church Foundation, and Mission and Service to the good people of Prairie to Pine.

This QR code will take you to a digital filing cabinet of [stewardship resources](#)



Over the past couple of years I have had the honour of meeting with many of you, whether as participants in a *Called to be the Church: The Journey* program, through a town hall, or simply because we connected via email or over the phone. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission and Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way I would love to connect in 2024 and beyond is through the learning programs, *Called to be the Church: The Journey*. We currently have 4 course offerings that provide training and support for different parts of the stewardship journey. Whether you want to learn some stewardship-first principles, get resources to run a congregational Giving Program, or are hoping to set up a Legacy Giving Program in your community of faith, we have training options for you!! One participant provided this program feedback, "Fear no more! Your stewardship questions answered! Deep insight AND solid skill building! A must for ministries of every description!." [You can learn more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission and Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you 2023 saw \$20.8 million raised, including Mission and Service givings totalling \$17 million and bequests, Foundation and other planned gifts totaling \$3.7 million.

Locally, Mission and Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Prairie to Pine. Camping ministry at Wellman Lake and Rock Lake, Sandy Saulteaux Centre, and the life shaping work happening at 1 Just City to name a few of the transformative programs supported with your Mission and Service donations. Thank you!

Setting giving goals and sharing inspiring stories about Mission and Service are effective ways to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage deeper generosity in your community of faith. New Stories of our Mission are [posted monthly](#). If you want to bring more conversations about stewardship, gratitude, generosity and Mission and Service into your community of faith, consider signing up for the monthly newsletter [God's Mission, Our Gifts](#).

Finally, I want to share some of the exciting work of the United Church Foundation. Among the regular work of the Foundation (like providing grants to programs at St. Mary's Road United Church, Altona United Church, and the Centre for Christian Studies), 2023 saw some exciting new developments. There are now twice-monthly webinars to share stories and build skills. The Foundation also hit the milestone of \$100 million invested. Going into 2024 there is also a special granting program to support communities of faith with their centennial events.

Thank you, Prairie to Pine Region friends. I am so grateful for your spirit, creativity, generosity, and thoughtfulness. I look forward to learning together in 2024.

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson,
Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff
for Prairie to Pine Region
VNelson@united-church.ca *1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045



PROFILE- RETIREES

(A banquet celebrating the 2024 Retirees was held at Crestview United Church, Winnipeg on May 15, 2024)



Elizabeth Brown

From the first moment I stepped into Wilmot United Church in Fredericton, NB, back in 1985ish I have always felt warmly welcomed and included; that the United Church was a place to call home and that God's amazing spirit was here. As I explored my call to ordained ministry from Maritime Conference, and chose to go to McGill University and United Theological College in Montreal, I discovered the wider church community. Internships at First United in Ottawa and Stanley Pastoral Charge in NB (along with a CPE unit at Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton), taught me more about multipoint (5 points!) rural church folk, hospital chaplaincy, and downtown city ministries. Settled in Massey – a three-point rural pastoral charge – in northern Ontario, Manitou Conference, and given a manse to live in was a blessing for me as a single parent and my family. We thought the settlement committee had given us the very best gift ever! After a call to overseas ministry didn't work out, I found a new call to First United in Lethbridge, AB and discovered opportunities to learn new skills and develop gifts and talents. Answering a call from Trinity United in Winnipeg was another learning opportunity and a discovery that this ministry was indeed another blessing and gift for my ministry and life. Making the decision to retire back to northern Ontario to the "home" of my partner Tom is the right and good next step on my journey. Each step has taught me so much; each step reminded me of that amazing spirit of God; each step a new and exciting time with wonderful people along the way. Although all the things I mentioned from my faith and life journey seem all good, there were always learning and growing challenges along the way. These make up our faith stories!

Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Brown



Kathleen (Kathy) Platt

Kathy with 3-month-old grandchild, Mia.

I studied at the Centre for Christian Studies from 1995 to 2000. In 1999 we traveled to Nicaragua for our Global Perspectives experience. It was my first major trip out of the country, and it was profoundly moving. While there, I tried to call home to touch base with Art and our three sons, but much to my frustration I couldn't get through to them. In those years we had a clunky desktop computer and the only way to connect to the internet was through dial-up, which tied up the only phone line we had; cell phones were not yet a reality for most of us. Clearly the boys were enjoying a LOT of computer time while I was away since I could rarely get through on the phone! Fast forward to 2020, when the only way to gather for worship was through Zoom. Many of our elders used their iPads or laptops to connect, and I found myself teaching them how to mute their mics and change their view...I became the technical expert for our on-line worship – ye Gods!! As one person described it so aptly: many of us who were once small-town, country preachers found ourselves becoming tele-evangelists!

Yes, there have indeed been many changes both in the world, and in our church. I feel very privileged that amid all those twists & turns, I've had a job that fed my soul and liberated my imagination. I'm deeply grateful for the education I received from CCS – I was given the inspiration and the insight needed to carry pastoral care, education and social justice into every facet of my ministry and to better enable me to navigate our ever-changing world. I was invited into people's hearts & homes at some of the most vulnerable times in their lives. I will carry their stories with me, holding them with the love and the honor they deserve.

Many thanks to the communities of faith that have made me laugh, made me cry and taught me much about life and about love. I began in Minnedosa and will retire from Minnedosa. In between I was at Kelwood, McCreary, Alonsa; then to Regina (Sunset United); then to Portage La Prairie (McKenzie United). Now, I have new adventures ahead. Hopefully, our grandchildren will get to know a Nanna who is not quite so tired out!

Carrie Newcomer's Song is a good message to end with:

I will sing a new song – the old one carried me this far and for so long

But it's time to walk on, lifting up heart and voice with a new song.

I don't know how – no I don't know how – I've never done this before – at least until now. But I will sing – I will sing a new song.

Blessed be...

Kathy Platt



Lori Stewart

Recently, I was asked to talk about the difference between Diaconal and Ordained ministry. When I described diaconal ministry, I found these words of Ted Dodd particularly apt, “The diaconal way of working is very community oriented, seeking to draw out the gifts of everyone, working in groups, and fostering partnerships. Diaconal ministers move with flexibility into areas where they are needed, where service is required.”

Ministry for me seems to have been characterized by working with groups and moving with flexibility. When I was commissioned, I started in a fairly typical position for diaconal ministers at that time: I was settled to Central United in St. Thomas where I was in a team ministry with an ordained minister. I participated in worship each week but I also was deeply involved in organizing the Christian Education program for children, youth, and adults, something I loved doing.

When a position for Stewardship Minister came up in the London Conference Office, a few people tapped me on the shoulder about applying. I hesitated because I didn’t know much about stewardship at the time, but was urged to try. What they really needed was someone with educational skills; the stewardship part could be learned. I ended up being offered the job and stayed for almost nine years. I particularly remember from those years the people who shared their own profoundly moving stewardship stories, my work with volunteers to create funny plays to entice churches to engage in stewardship, and how people’s giving was motivated by a deep love of God and the church.

It was during those years that I was part of the Committee on Diaconal Ministry at the General Council Office. It was a time when the church honoured diaconal ministry in an intentional way within its structures, not as a special interest group but as part of the church’s ministry that needed to be lifted up. I was privileged to meet with diaconal ministers from across the country twice a year to find ways to promote and advocate for this form of ministry.

In 2001, I went to Jamaica as a United Church Overseas Personnel. There was culture shock in those first years and a need for flexibility. I started out as the Office Administrator for the Regional Council while also working with the Institute for Training and Leadership Development, where I was the staff tutor for a group of theological students in ministry placements in the Region. I travelled around to hear their sermons and provide support with their studies. The greatest reward was in providing training for elders in the Region, some of whom then went on to do Lay Pastor’s training, and ended up in the ordained stream. With each success, they became more confident to take the next step. In Jamaica, I was called on to do all kinds of things that I didn’t feel I had skill in, but my “service was required”.

After six years in Jamaica, I ended up back in team ministry at Sturgeon Creek and then Fort Garry United. But now congregational ministry wasn't where I felt called to be, so when I was urged to apply for the position of Development Coordinator at the Centre for Christian Studies, I decided to give it a go. I didn't really know much about development when I started, but I was now experienced at moving with flexibility into areas where I was needed.

It seems that that's what I have been doing ever since I was commissioned in 1988.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Stewart



Deborah Vitt

You can't imagine how many times over the past 7 years, I have mentally composed this bio sketch. Some of my imaginings were witty and darn right hilarious and others were contemplative and full of sage wisdom and insight. And so you would think, when it was time to put ink to paper (or keyboard to computer), this task would be a no-brainer. I am thinking now, that I should have actually written down some of my thoughts and not stored them in my ever-shrinking cloud memory.

"Retiring? I thought you had retired years ago." Nope – on June 30, 2017, I just felt called to take a giant leap back from the daily rigors of ministry a little earlier than the prescribed age of 65. And I am forever grateful for the circumstances in my life that enabled me to actively listen to that early call of the retiring spirit.

I guess finding one's path or direction in life is very much about "call". Of course, that word has significant understanding in the world of ministry. I never felt however, that I could respond with both feet fully committed to the not so gentle nudgings or call, until I learned of the gift of diaconal ministry.

Many thanks to friends from the Western Field Based Program, who first listened to my wonderings and strongly suggested I enter the discernment process through Selkirk Presbytery. I had been an active lay person for many years in the church - serving on committees at the local, Presbytery, Conference, and National levels which introduced me to some amazing life/spirit-changing faith experiences. Those early formative years laid the groundwork of my faith.

- The Committee of Women's Ministries
- Free to be Friends

- O Creator
- The Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society
- Re-Imagining, Minneapolis
- Roots and Wings and all the women's gatherings too many to mention
- Affirm United

I believe it is so very important to name these early life events that helped shape my faith, my understanding of what it means to be an ally, a feminist, and my ongoing awareness of the need to make space for all to be welcome at the table. I am forever grateful.

After 5 years of ministry studies at the Centre for Christian Studies, which included field placements at Immanuel United (Sharon, Ian) and North End Stella Community Ministry, I was commissioned in May of 2000 in Portage la Prairie and settled into ministry with the fine folks at Stony Mountain and Lilyfield. What a wonderful experience that was to spend time in rural ministry with such dedicated people. Then it was back to work as volunteer support coordinator at North End Stella Community Ministry, where Karen, Verna, and Edna shared their wisdom and teachings.

In 2004, I was diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer. Yeah – that pretty much sucked. Many thanks to the steady support from Linda Murray during that time and of course all my friends and colleagues who found creative ways to walk with me on that journey. To Melody McKellar, your love in action provided spiritual grounding to our family during those early days.

In 2005, I accepted a call to Cloverdale and Selkirk United Churches (my home congregation) where I shared in team ministry with Ken Delisle (2005-2008) and Chris Yuzdepski. Over time, Cloverdale and Selkirk dissolved their pastoral relationship and I stayed on in fulltime ministry with Selkirk folks til 2017. Together we were able to re-imagine and literally build a welcoming worship space and accessible community/fellowship hall that continues to serve the needs of our community.

Never would I have imagined my life to include so many years of service and ministry in the church. I am grateful for all the connections I have made in this United Church of ours - to the congregations I served and the people I have privileged to know - this lapsed Menno kid from Austin, Manitoba has much to be thankful for.

To Randy, Adam, Camalee, Clare, Kathleen, and some pretty amazing grandkids Isaac, Felix, Benjamin, and Jude.....your support, love, laughter, and fun times are such a gift.

To my friends and colleagues.....your love in action has left an indelible imprint on my heart and I am forever grateful. Life has a way of moving on and I believe in my heart of hearts, God's love is constant.

"Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land: for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28:15

*Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Vitt*

PROFILES – ORDINAND and COMMISSIONAND

The Celebration of Ministry Service for Prairie to Pine Regional Council was held on June 23, 2024, at Dauphin: First United Church. During that service, two Ministry Personnel who have served the United Church for several years as Designated Lay Ministers/Lay Pastoral Ministers who have been recently granted “testamur” as a result of recent actions by GC44, were commissioned to diaconal ministry (Maureen McCartney, Oakbank) and ordained (Ilene Dowd, Dauphin). Click [here](#) to watch the service.



**Ilene Dowd
(Ordinand)**

Beginning at the beginning is a good place to start; so, I guess this profile needs to start *w a-a- a -y* back in a Vacation Bible School led by a Summer Intern and his wife in the little village of Graysville, 7 miles from Carman Manitoba. My memory of this event is no clearer than the memory of my baptism, in that small village church in the fall of the year I was born. However, family lore has it that my enthusiasm for VBS led my parents to take an active part in the other activities at St. Paul's. During my growing up years, the church and the community I encountered there, was my second home. Sunday School, Junior choir, Explorers, and later CGIT in Carman, plus summer camp at Rock Lake United Church camp all played a role in my faith formation.

After a couple of years at the University of Winnipeg, marriage and family soon followed. We settled down to farm for 5 years in the community where my husband Murray was born and raised - Glenboro Mb. Here our two sons, Russell and Stephen were born, and Murray suffered a farm-related accident that could have been, but was not fatal. We had just begun to get involved with the church in Glenboro, when circumstances took us on an adventure to the community of Ethelbert, north of Dauphin. In May of 1978, we set out with a caravan of trucks pulling trailers loaded with machinery, cars full of household goods and children, and a transfer carrying our cattle to move to what would become, and still is our home south of Ethelbert.

While establishing ourselves in the new community we became involved in the Ethelbert United Church. After a couple of years, two daughters, Erin and Allison were born to complete our family. Involvement in the local church increased as Ethelbert became part of a Joint Pastoral charge with Gilbert Plains. Life was as it was for farming communities of the late 1980's. God must have thought that our family needed an extra shake-up, for about that time there was a need, in what was then Northland Presbytery, for someone to do twice a month worship services at Pine River United Church. I volunteered to give it a try. I had taught Sunday School – how hard could leading worship and preaching be! I soon found out the difference. Thanks to the very patient people at Pine River, and with the support of the Presbytery and MNWO Conference, I became a Lay Supply Minister in 1989.

Things could have ended there, except that the University of Winnipeg had a distance education program for a Certificate in Theology available at the time. Rev. Dexter Van Dyke – minister at Dauphin First United, and Rev. Bill Richards, living part-time in the community of Dauphin, served as mentors for me as I embarked on this course. They also provided sacraments when required at Pine River. With their help, I was able to complete the required coursework, receiving my Certificate in Theology in 1993.

Thoughts of entering Lay Pastoral Ministry training became a reality when the Russell-Inglis-Silverton Pastoral Charge gave me the opportunity to train under the auspices of the then Assiniboine Presbytery. From January 1992 – June 1996, I travelled between home and Russell, sharing in a team ministry with Rev. Rick McCorrister, as well as engaging in direct supervision and study on a bi-weekly basis with Elgin Hall, minister in Minnedosa, at the time. It was also during these years that I attended the three-week intensive residential training periods each June as required by the then LPM program. My training was received in Saskatchewan, the first year at St. Andrews College, and the last two years at Calling Lakes in Fort Qu'Appelle.

After the tragic death of our son Stephen, in a 1995 New Year's Eve traffic accident, my interview for recognition was postponed, to be held later in the spring of 1996. I was recognized as a Lay Pastoral Minister at the June MNWO Conference meeting of 1996. Thus, began my journey in ministry, as I was appointed to the Gilbert-Plains-Ethelbert Pastoral Charge beginning July 1, 1996 - with a funeral.

The next ten years proved to be a time of testing, learning, and growing as I served these two communities where I was known and knew many of the congregation from earlier church involvement. During this period of time, I was also involved with the wider church serving on Presbytery and Conference Committees. As I look back on those days, they were too busy, with not enough time to recharge and refresh those parts of me that needed care. With some regret, I ended my relationship with the Gilbert Plains- Ethelbert pastoral charge in December of 1996.

However, it wasn't long before I was back preaching, this time as Sunday Supply at Winnipegosis United Church while working at a variety of part-time secular jobs during the week. Thanks to the community of faith in Winnipegosis, I was able to share five years with them before they closed. After that, the Presbyterian Church in Winnipegosis invited me to lead worship as a preaching supply. With the support of these two congregations, I was able to nurture and renew my focus in ministry, while exploring new avenues of service in education and social services.

With a new name of Designated Lay Minister, created by the National Church, I ventured back into full-time ministry in 2016, when I applied for an appointment for a full-time position with Dauphin First United Church. It felt like "coming home" to be accepted for the position as many in the congregation had already played a big part in my life and ministry. I was familiar with the building and the history of the congregation. The first few years of this relationship saw a lot of changes. The congregations sold the building - choosing to put time and energy into ministry, not property management. Then Covid- 19 hit, and the way of doing ministry effectively took a whole new path. Learning on the way, a lot of energy and time was spent in self- reflection on my part as well as the congregational leaders.

When the question of phasing out or doing away with the Designated Lay Ministry stream came up, I began to realize just how deeply I had come to understand myself as a minister called to a vocation. It was a painful time to think that the church I loved and had served for so long appeared not to value the gifts and talents I had shared over the years. I struggled to feel affirmed, but with the help of some very astute people around me, I was eventually able to hope that the idea of ordination for DLMs might someday come a reality. That it would become a reality so quickly. and I would be able to be a part of it was the most gratifying of surprises.

Ordination has been a long time coming - a goal I never expected to achieve, yet accept with gratitude. Thank you to those who have walked with me along the way. Thank you to my immediate family for their patience and grace. Thank you to those who have been mentors, teachers, and supporters throughout the years. Thank you to the seven classes of nursery school students who showed me we can all get along if we try. Thank you to the various communities of faith who have taught me so much - have worshiped with me, and shared with me as we have learned of God's love together.



**Maureen McCartney
(Commissionand)**

Liverpool England was where I grew up, in a home with my Nana, Mum, and two brothers. My oldest brother Brian was crippled; this I believe is where my advocacy started. Although four years younger than him, I was very much his protector! Our lives literally revolved around County Road Methodist Church. 'County,' as it was affectionately called, was a hub of activity. Sunday School at 3 pm, Children's Evening Service at 6.30 pm, and Church Parade once a month on Sunday morning, with Girl Guides, Brownies, Boys Brigade, and Life Boys packing the pews.



Almost every night of the week was spent at this bustling, active church. From the time I was 8 years old, my brother Colin, (3 years older than me) and many church kids took the 'Scripture Exam.' We had classes after Sunday School and once or twice during the week for months before the exam. When the day arrived, we had learned by memory: a psalm, a passage from both a gospel and an epistle, and had studied a theme from both Old and New Testaments. We wrote a 'long hand' examination and our papers were sent to Methodist House in London for grading. We

anxiously waited for our results to arrive in the mail. On the Sunday School Anniversary, we were presented with a certificate (see insert) and a book. It was this yearly activity that engendered in me the love of the scriptures and reading (reading was also encouraged in my home by my Nana). I can still recite some of the passages I memorized in my youth (perhaps not as perfectly as I once could!). I have attached a photo of 2 of my certificates from 1953 & 4 when I was 10 and 11!

It was also at 'County,' I was introduced to 'Diaconal Ministry.' Most Methodist churches had an 'Ordained Minister' and a 'Deaconess.' The Deaconess' title was 'Sister;' her role was 'Education, Pastoral Care and Social Justice' (sound familiar?). These women were allowed to preach occasionally; they were celibates; (had to leave the order if they married); they wore a navy-blue uniform and mostly rode bicycles to deliver

pastoral care around town. During my childhood and teen years, along with my much-loved S.S. teachers, Deaconesses were my role models: Sister Phyllis Shafto, Sister Kathleen Share, and 3 favourite S.S. teachers: Mr. Milne, Miss Barbara Swain, and Miss Ivy Champion. Ivy Champion's faith shone from deep within her and I can still hear her delightful laugh ringing in my ears; she was known as 'Auntie Ivy' to the entire, very large, youth group! I am so grateful for these wonderful pillars of the church who led me to Christ by their rich example. It is little wonder that I still love church, even though sometimes it confounds me!

I came to Canada as a young, spirited Registered Nurse with the goal of having a two-year adventure! Apparently, the adventure continues to happen and Canada is my home and I am a proud Canadian. Once in Canada, I joined and was involved in committees, choirs, S.S., and youth work in the Baptist Church. Then early 1990s, I left the church completely for a while before trying out John Black Mem. U.C. Entering JBUC felt like I had somehow returned to my roots. The line in T.S. Elliot's poem, 'Little Gidding' speaks to me. *"We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."* The Church felt 'new' again and the fact I could ask difficult questions and not be judged for asking them was very appealing to me.

Introduced to Diaconal Ministry by Anne Duncan I had NO intention of becoming a minister! However, I believe God had a different idea. After speaking at the funeral of a dear friend, I was challenged by one of my daughters: 'Mum when will you stop messing around and go into ministry.' Like Sarah laughing at the visitor in scripture, I retorted, "I am too old!"

In 1999, Heather Robbins was introduced at John Black as a ministry student doing a year-long pastoral care placement (she had white hair, my curiosity was peaked!). I became part of her Lay Facilitation Team and the spark became a flame and low and behold I entered CCS in June 2000.

I took the 3-week LDM, Social Ministry year, Pastoral Care year, 2 reflection years and decided to leave to pursue my degree, eventually becoming a recognized DLM. Although I have served the church as a congregational minister, I have always regretted not becoming Diaconal. Diaconia is my calling, always was, and always will be. I am grateful to the G.C. for the opportunity to be granted Testamur.

I loved serving both Rosser and Grosse Isle Pastoral Charge, Oak Bank, and Dugald congregations, and thank them for the wonderful support I have received over the years.

Many people have encouraged me on my journey, too many to name, and in fear of leaving someone out, I will not name individuals. Thank you all for the love, encouragement, faith, and belief in me since I began this journey in 2000. I must mention the Rev Paul Campbell who became an important mentor, confidante, and encourager who truly believed in me. I miss him and will remember him always with gratitude.

Many blessings.

Maureen A. McCartney

REPORTS –PROGRAM STAFF



Erin Acland
Keeper of the Archives

I'm writing this report in August 2024, 10 years, to the month, since I became Keeper of the Archives. It feels impossible that ten years have passed- a lot of work has been accomplished, and much more work waits to be done. Archives, by their nature, are always growing. The work is evergreen in its reward and relentlessness.

Reference

In 2023, I received 381 archival requests. 325 requests were for reference assistance, and 56 requests were for records management help or discussions about donations and transfers of records to the Archives. In addition, 35 in-person researchers visited the Archives, I presented to 6 groups/ classes, and 1 media outlet filmed a story in the Archives. In total, there was 1,596 points of contact with researchers.

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation invited me to speak at their Healing the Generations Conference. I was honoured to talk to Survivors, their families, and Community members, about how archival research can help in the ongoing search for missing children and unmarked burials.

I hosted a workshop about decolonizing the archives at our Annual Regional Council Meeting in June 2023.

My contribution to the excellent Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis History Project (MITHP) continued in 2023. The MITHP is an Indigenous-led and community-engaged Indigenous health history research project, which aims to empower and educate community researchers who are looking for kin who died or went missing after being sent to TB sanatoriums. One way the MITHP is accomplishing this is to try to demystify Archives. I participated in a series of videos produced by Strongfront TV, where I introduced the Archives, and talked about our collections, policies, and what to expect. The videos can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQuAg_c6n2lQj87u0Q6PqlsxIJGCFa44V

The General Council Archives is increasingly taking the lead on researchers accessing records related to Residential Schools. The GC Archives has digital copies of all of the TRC records held regionally as well as at the denominational level. It reduces barriers to access for Survivors and others to talk to one UC Archive, and receive one complete answer.

Summer Internship

From May to August 2023, I hosted an Archival Studies Intern from the University of Manitoba Archival Studies MA Program. She reviewed, and briefly described, all of the archival records that have been

received by the Archives since 2019, that have yet to be completely appraised and described. She also processed a few small collections.

The Archives Circle Gathering and the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference

In June 2023, the archivists of the United Church of Canada gathered for a few days together in Sackville, New Brunswick to discuss common challenges and network. A few of our number carried on to PEI for a professional development opportunity at the ACA Conference. It was a great time for connection and relationship building.

Looking for a Second Location

Lack of storage has been a significant problem for the Archives since 1996. Then, the Conference hired an off-site storage company to store a portion of our records, and this has been an acceptable, if not ideal, solution for almost thirty years. However, the cost of off-site storage and delivery has increased exponentially, and since 2016 our bill has increased by over ten times! This is not sustainable.

In November 2023, I researched and presented to the Executive a series of options going forward, including hiring a different off-site storage company and leasing space within a United Church building. Both have pros and cons, and the Executive decided to pursue the latter option. This option provides me with better access to the entirety of the archival collection, and lessens the Region's financial risk, while also keeping funds within the UCC. Consultations with different Communities of Faith are expected to take some time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives
Prairie to Pine Regional Council*



Julie Graham
Regional Minister:
Justice and Communications
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and
Prairie to Pine Regional Councils

In the midst of incredible busy-ness, we have seen important United Church local presence at some difficult moments through 2023 and 2024, particularly alongside targeted communities, and for that I am so grateful. In the moments when all we can see is scarcity, I think we need to celebrate that deep and spirit-ed commitment to ministry with all in our communities. I hope this report helps show just a few examples. – Julie Graham, Regional Minister, Justice and Communications.



National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering: I was honoured to attend this gathering in Edmonton in July. I was present to listen and, as it turned out, to help with photos. This was a very important space in which to listen, and to sit with questions and plans regarding the Remit (next section) and the importance of urban as well as on reserve churches and spiritual communities. Being at worship led by the Keewatin Circle was a highlight for me.

Remit on an autonomous Indigenous organization

This is a crucial piece that passed to communities of faith in the fall of 2023, once our Regional Council votes in June passed. It was a major priority through the end of March 2024. We [created a resource page](#), and held two well-attended open learning sessions online. Cherry Abad pulled together new contact sheets prioritizing pastoral charge governing body contacts, and we sent out multiple letters to all pastoral charges. Early in 2024 phoning began, led by the Committee on Community of Faith Support. This was hard work, sparked many intense conversations, and allowed us to be in touch with communities of faith who are not regularly in touch with the Regional Council. Thank you to all who worked so hard to get the vote out. The Remit passed, and while the work of implementation rests with Indigenous

communities and their governance, there's a lot of non-Indigenous work to do as follow up. It was clear from many conversations and emails that racism remains a reality in our church, and we can't gloss over that. We as a non-Indigenous majority Regional Council need to encourage much more understanding about self-determination, funding, and the role and even existence of the Indigenous church.



Search the landfill(s) and church leaders' visit, September 2023

In August 2023 the Moderator arranged for her fellow national church leaders to visit Camp Morgan, located at the Brady landfill near Winnipeg. This was done in light of the

clear refusal of the then-provincial government to search the landfill, despite funding from other levels of government and a task force report that said the search was risky but feasible. It is worth noting here that by late summer, it was clear that the Conservative government had staked part of its re-election strategy on not searching. To say this was profoundly hurtful and racist is a gross understatement, and the church leaders wished to push back on this.

Regional staff worked to support this, using our channels to invite all in the Region who could come to Winnipeg to join the leadership of Camp Morgan and the church leaders the day after Labour Day. Media liaison work was done out of the General Council office with onsite assistance from Regional staff. At least 200 people came out from the community, despite it being a work day and despite a very strong and cold wind. The participation was very diverse and included many United Church people.

Since that time, camp leaders have been concerned by what they have felt is limited church follow up. We know that a number of Winnipeg people have visited the camp, brought food, and donated. Yet most are likely not self-identifying as church members in any of those actions. This remains an overall dilemma with our public presence as church, and we've seen the same pattern in Affirming work. If we don't clearly self-identify, people assume we aren't there. But we hesitate to self-identify, because often the communities we are with are targeted, and we don't want our presence to be about us. Through the newsletter, we renewed encouragement for our members to donate, visit, and to write their MLA. Support and solidarity to Camps Morgan and Mercedes, in person or from a distance, continues to be important welcome.

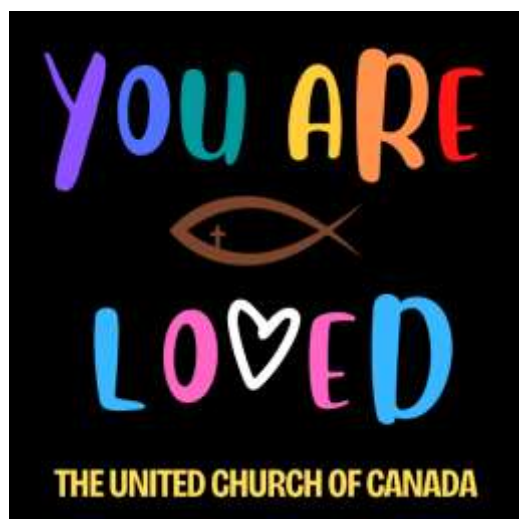
Climate justice: Following the 2023 annual meeting proposal to work on divestment from fossil fuels and support for alternatives, a team led by Lynda Trono worked very hard on pulling together resources to support communities of faith in their conversations with their financial institutions, [available at their home page here](#). They're also holding regular online meetings to support local conversations, and inviting the Region to wider community, ecumenical, and interfaith commitments and resources. Thank you to this small and mighty team.



Western Intercultural Ministries Network gathering:

For the first time in four years, in October 2023 this network held an [in-person gathering](#) of about 33 people in St Albert AB, from all five Western Regional Councils. It was a very rich time of singing and worship, ceremony and sharing in meals, and honest conversation about the intercultural church we long for. I wish more people had come; this gathering felt to me like the church as it could be, and like the renewal we all long for. It was worth the hours of work, but we clearly have to think through the sheer number of events happening.

Equity and Diversity network; dealing with transphobia and extremism



Equity and Diversity Committee: this committee has re-formed with many new members, and began meeting in fall 2023. It got right to work, hosting a gathering for Affirming network members. They have launched a private Facebook group to support Affirming work, are holding regular gatherings, and want to create spaces to connect with the wider Regional Council. [See their home base here.](#)

The Nominations Committee poured a lot of work into finding new members, and despite that work was unable to find members who are Black, Indigenous, or people of colour. The committee will continue to work on how to connect with BIPOC people and communities, and very

much welcomes conversation with the Region on expanding its diversity.

Affirming work in 2023 and 2024 got off to a fast start with the country-wide September 20- 21 2023 transphobic demonstrations against inclusive school curricula and lenses, dubbed the “Million Person Marches”. Counter demonstrations and messaging were organized across the country too, and included extensive United Church participation, including in our Regional Councils. This was the latest expression of a now years-long sharp increase in hate movements targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ and, particularly, gender-diverse people. That spike in hate led to a June 2023 cross-Regional [resource to help churches be both safer and Public, Intentional, and Explicit in their Affirming work](#). For many of us working on the resource, it felt shocking to have to produce it in the first place.

In September 2023 we held a tri-Region meeting of the Affirming networks to support local action against these demonstrations. Sixty people came out at short notice, and many excellent ideas and commitments were shared. I cannot express how grateful I am to our local Affirming leadership (wherever they are or are not in the formal process.) Extensive social media commentary indicated that United presence was noted by many non-church people attending the counter demonstrations, though many would have liked to see more, or assumed the UCC was not present unless it clearly self-identified. Our Public, Intentional, and Explicit commitments do have a wider public impact in their presence or absence. In September 2024 [renewed materials were sent out to the network](#), as new nationwide marches were planned for September 20. I am grateful to the Equity and Diversity Committee for their thoughtful and caring work on this.

From the spaces they have set up, we are hearing about the impact hate is having in our communities of faith, whether for trans members, their loved ones, their supporters, or for governance bodies and ministers who find themselves in very insistent and disruptive one-sided conversations about the threat

2SLGBTQIA rights pose. We have heard this from a number of different sources. What are we, an Affirming Regional Council with many local Affirming ministries, called to offer our communities?



Palestine and Israel: October and November 2023 saw the beginning of a lot of communications work about this desperate situation. I have mostly just worked with national communications, but also created a post to our websites [highlighting the ceasefire call](#) and, in September 2024, Living Skies people and some allies in Manitoba launched an [all-ages, interactive Palestinian olive harvest focus](#) to coincide with our own harvest time

and significant justice days in the fall. This is a significant project we hope to carry into the future to support better understanding and networking.

March 2024 networking time at the Fairmont: Because the Moderator's Flourishing team had to let go of a booking at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg, the Region was given the booking to use as it wished. So we held a community get together, inviting communities of faith, community ministries, and committees to hold their own meetings, and to come together for lunch and prayer. Around 50 attended, and people emailed to say how good it was to simply come together as the wider community, and in their own community in a setting that's a bit more luxurious than we're used to.

Communications

All of the above involves communication. A lot of my work in this area also involves Regional newsletters and supporting newsletter coordinator Cherry Abad in her constant connecting work. Newsletters and contact management for networks I support is another priority. Occasional consulting with local coalitions or committees who want to know what channels we can use to support them, or how best to set up their own channels, is always fun and a good learning space. Site maintenance and media tracking run in the background all the time, as does feeding and tending to the social media beasts. Some project highlights:

Structures document: this beast of a project is slowly coming to completion thanks to Teresa Melnychuk, Diane Dwarka, and Pat Bird. We are tackling the job descriptions (part 3 of the document); these are intended to help the Nominations committee and anyone considering a position.

Nominations: Working with Prairie to Pine's Nominations Committee is a pleasure and honour. No matter how complex the need or the conversation, they find the right people and help them discern their call. In September 2024 they have shifted focus to the complicated task of finding General Council 45 Commissioners from the Regional Council, consulting on Youth Forum delegates and Commissioners, and working with important diversity and equity commitments. [This page is their home base](#), and here you'll find copies of invitations sent to the wider membership of the Region.

Accessibility and inclusion: A need for a style guide and best practices for language regarding disabilities and other diverse identities has become clear. Related to this, yet bigger: **Inclusive and accessible meetings and the need for guidelines/ resources.** This came up following all three in-person regional meetings. There is a lot we can and must do to help meetings of all sizes and formats be fully accessible, and a lot of interest in working on this. Checklists and guides pulled together in one place is one starting point identified.

June 2024 open meeting on connecting and community: Follow up to a 2023 regional meeting proposal on connecting resulted in lots of planning and a rich online conversation of about 40 people on strategies for connecting and reducing isolation. More work will follow. Related is Cluster development: this perennial need is getting more urgent, but slowly contact lists are emerging, and a number of people have brought their time and skills to calling Cluster meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Graham, Regional Minister: Justice and Communications for
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.*

jgraham@united-church.ca



Judy Hare
Pastoral Relations Minister

*We have this ministry and **we are not discouraged**,*

it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.

Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,

Praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.

We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

(Words and music by Jim Strathdee, 1979 # 510 in Voices United, One License #A-609122)

This hymn might seem appropriate (or not) to depict this past year in Prairie to Pine Regional Council depending on whether you have a glass-half-full or a glass-half-empty outlook on what has been happening. This pastoral year 2023-2024 has been a year of engaging in the newly emerging reality of post-pandemic times; a year of engaging the current demographics within the United Church of Canada within Prairie to Pine Regional Council and our community contexts that are impacting the availability of volunteers for leadership positions within local Communities of Faith and the Regional Council; a year of openness to new ways of being church and sharing resources of paid accountable ministry and buildings; a new way of engaging education and networking online that is more friendly to the environment; a year of engaging in ministry with an increasing number of Ministers from other denominations be they our ecumenical partners here in Canada or partners around the globe and experiencing” the new lenses” “these new relationships bring; a year with a lot of talking, a lot of meetings, a lot of celebrating of new beginnings and yes, some endings. You can read details in each of the reports from committees and commissions with which I have the pleasure to work: the Committee on Community of Faith Support; the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support; the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support and the Pastoral Relations Commission.

Below are a few comments by way of an overview or trends noted in working with these committees, commissions, lay leadership and Ministry Personnel and the communities of faith and my colleagues across the country:

POLICIES & RESOURCES

It was a year when we:

- fine-tuned some policies to better meet expressed needs (*Licensed Lay Worship Leader Pulpit Supply*);
- adopted some new policies: *Policy on Lay Led Communities of Faith with Congregational Designated Ministers* in response to changes made at GC 44 and in anticipation of requests); and a *Policy for Admission, Commissioning, Ordination, or Recognition* mainly in response to the General Council 44 decisions regarding the future of Designated Lay Ministry and in anticipation of the request for ordination and/or commissioning of some of the Ministry Personnel with DLM training;
- and began working on revisions to policies and protocols to hopefully assist with some of the challenges in our current context such as Pastoral Charge Supervision.
- began to make some revisions to resources used in the pastoral relations processes and work facilitated by the Committee on Community of Faith Support related to future options and changes, to in hopes of making them clearer and more user-friendly. These are still a work in progress.

TRANSITIONS

As you can read in the Pastoral Relations Update it was a year when we had four ministry personnel begin to collect their United Church Pension: Elizabeth Brown, Kathy Platt, Laurie Stewart, and Deborah Vitt. We had one Designated Lay Minister ordained and one Designated Lay Minister commissioned to Diaconal Ministry on June 23, 2024. Twenty-seven Pastoral Charges experienced **changes in their pastoral relations**” between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, resulting in nine **Covenanting Services** in the period; changes that were approved during that period may result in new pastoral relationships in 2024-2025 Pastoral Year: 16 Communities of Faith entered new collaborative ministry agreements between United Churches, one new Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement involving an Anglican Parish

(Souris), one new Ministry Sharing Agreement with and Anglican parish (Miniota). Among those remembered in the In Memoria are eleven Ministry Personnel and eleven lay volunteers.

OPENNESS TO OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

When Communities of Faith and Pastoral Charges want to look at their future and explore some of the options, we would appreciate the opportunity to engage with you. We have become aware that some pastoral charges with financial resources have engaged individuals or companies with particular specialties to facilitate visioning, strategic planning or building-related partnering. We would encourage you to consider resources that may be available within church circles to assist with some of those matters accessible through our Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell (see her report for details) and/or Miriam Bowlby of the United Property Resource Corporation. As the hymn says “Let the dreams we dream be larger than they’ve ever been before.” The Committee on Community of Faith Support, the Pastoral Relations Commission, and the Property Commission would like to ensure that you don’t limit yourselves to only options that you may be familiar with from the past. New ways of being together and doing ministry ARE possible, so reach out and let us help you explore. Who knows, you may brainstorm something new and exciting that is doable within current governance and regulations or with minor tinkering!

VOLUNTEERS

Paving new paths or developing new ways of being and doing often means things need to be tailored to context. That work often requires time and patience and may require focused assistance from staff and trained volunteers. To that end, we are actively seeking people to be trained and mentored to function as Regional Council Liaisons (Pastoral Relations) joining the nine Liaisons that we have functioning at the present time. Larger numbers could allow some Liaisons to specialize in a particular aspect of the work such as processes related to collaborative ministries. The Committee on Community of Faith Support could benefit from additional people to accomplish the work that they do on behalf of the Regional Council, related to self-assessments and accompanying Communities of Faith through processes related to amalgamations and disbanding. The Committee on Lay Ministry Lay Leadership Support is seeking to add a couple of ordered ministers to their membership, especially to help with interviews and training processes.

TRAININGS & EDUCATION

Our online training for pastoral relations processes (Community of Faith Profile teams and Search Committees) continues to be done on a rotational basis with the schedule based on the needs of those requiring training. The same could be said of training for Sacraments Elders and members of Ministry and Personnel Committees. We are in the process of responding to a request for some support and training for pastoral care visitors through offering training and the development of a network.

CONNECTING & SUPPORTING

The Regional Council has attempted to encourage cluster gatherings and networks of those in geographical areas or with common interests or visions for mutual support and inspiration. Some of these gatherings are happening regularly on ZOOM and/or in person while others are very occasional. The Support Committees try and gather certain populations related to their particular work at least annually in person: active Ministry Personnel; Ministry Personnel collecting UCC pensions; and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Because of the growing number of Ministry Personnel coming into the Regional Council from various parts of the globe and from other denominations, we are also attempting to gather those Ministry Personnel to provide mutual support and to share their unique experiences of the immigration and admissions process journeys and perspectives of this United Church of ours.

I am so very grateful for the many people who voluntarily share their skills and time in various committees, commissions, boards, and councils locally, regionally, and nationally. I am grateful for colleagues who bring different skills and perspectives to the work that we share. I am particularly grateful to Cherry Abad, Administrative Support, for the work that she does with me and the various committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister,

Prairie to Pine Regional Council

A few statistics related to the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (more or less accurate):

- Approximately 42 Pastoral Charges interacted with the Pastoral Relations Commission within the past year (profile and/or search processes; ministry sharing or Collaborative Ministry agreements and/or change in ministry time); some completed; some still in process. In the fall of 2023, there were nine services celebrating new Pastoral Relations Covenants.
- Eight new Collaborative Ministry **arrangements involving 16 communities of faith were approved** in this pastoral year **some of which began to function with Ministry Personnel in place on or after July 1, 2024**
- Two Communities of Faith/Pastoral Charges engaged in a Collaborative Ministry Agreement for a decade have made some changes when confronted with a change in pastoral relations from their Minister: one Community of faith is in the process of disbanding (Sparling); the other community of faith moved into a new Collaborative Ministry arrangement with another partner (Rosser Grosse Isle).
- Two Communities of Faith /Pastoral Charges (Grandview and St. Paul's United Church-Gilbert Plains) that had been in a Collaborative Ministry Agreement for some years decided to amalgamate into ONE two-point pastoral charge (Grand Plains) before searching for a new minister after the retirement of their former minister in 2023.
- Two Communities of Faith (Emerson and Dominion City) amalgamated into one amalgamated Community of Faith making what was a three-point Pastoral Charge into a two-point Pastoral Charge (Valley)
- As noted in the Report on Committee on Community of Faith Support there were **six Communities of Faith that were disbanded** this year (Elm Creek; Ashern; Miniota; Winnipeg Korean United; Alexander and Lakeside: Ste Rose (September)
- One new Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement was completed this past year between **St. Paul's United Church and St. Luke's Anglican Church in Souris**; one of our longstanding Ecumenical Shared Ministries at **Broadway Disciples United Church, Winnipeg** transitioned to leadership under the oversight of the Christian Church(Disciples of Christ); we had one **ecumenical ministry sharing agreement** approved between **Miniota United Church and Holy Trinity Anglican Church** with Reverend Sally Carter as Minister exploring the possibility of a longer term arrangement; one **ministry sharing agreement** in place between **Altona United Church and Ecumenical Shared Ministry at Morris** to assist with pastoral care and worship leadership needs while they were in search process. **We currently have nine Pastoral Charges within the Prairie to Pine Regional Council designated as Ecumenical Shared Ministries.**
- As of June 30, 2024, there were 142 non-Indigenous Communities of Faith and 18 Indigenous Ministries organized into 140 Pastoral Charges, among them nine Collaborative Ministry

arrangements. The number of Collaborative Ministries shifted significantly as of the summer of 2024.

- Seventy-nine Pastoral Charges/Communities of Faith received Pastoral Charge Supervision for some portion of **the 2023-2024 Pastoral Year** with 15 lay people and 41 ministry personnel assuming the role of Pastoral Charge Supervisor with 17 PCSs assuming more than 1 supervision assignment (three of those Pastoral Charges had Candidates; two Pastoral Charges had Ministers in Admission Process); 3 of our Ecumenical Shared Ministry sites had Pastoral Charge Supervisors who function as denominational mentors while are Ministry Personnel of another denomination in place; three Pastoral Charge Supervisors were in place for sabbaticals. We are grateful that Living Skies Regional Council has agreed to allow one of their Ministry Personnel who spends time in Manitoba to act as a Pastoral Charge Supervisor here.
- We had one Ministry Personnel experience Maternity/Parental Leave and four Ministry Personnel experience Medical Absence. We had four Ministry Personnel engage in sabbatical leave within the pastoral year.
- Forty Ministry Personnel engaged in full-time ministry during this pastoral year among those 4 from other denominations serving Ecumenical Shared Ministries; 7 in Collaborative arrangements serving 14 Communities of Faith in FTE positions; 1 in the Admission process;
- Twenty-four Ministry Personnel were in part-time employment including 12 Retired Supply; 5 were in employment more than halftime; 9 were in halftime employment, and 9 were less than halftime; 1 was in collaborative arrangements/more than one pastoral charge; 6 were in Calls and the balance in appointments
- As of June 30, 2024, ten pastoral charges were still engaged in pastoral relations profile or search processes (4 seeking FTE; four seeking to fill 2 FTE positions as Collaborative Ministry, 2 seeking PT ministry, one as an SME (Supervised Education Site); We are anticipating 9 Covenanting Services this fall to acknowledge new pastoral relationships of six months or longer.
- Forty-five Pastoral Charges have been without paid accountable ministry leadership for a year or more and some have not yet /or are not intending to engage the profile /search processes looking for Ministry Personnel Leadership (perpetually vacant of paid accountable leadership).
- Ten self-described “minority “Ministry Personnel serving in non-Indigenous Ministry settings with two more beginning in pastoral relationships over the summer of 2024 and one pastoral charge awaiting the arrival of their Minister from Zimbabwe.
- Prairie to Pine has eighteen Indigenous Ministries served by 12 Indigenous Ministers and supported by Reynold Anderson, the Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Keewatin Circle. This summer Fisher River United Church appointed a new minister.





Shannon McCarthy
Executive Minister

We are now five years into the restructuring and a couple of years from the lockdowns of COVID. It feels like Prairie to Pine is finding its footing. As we reflect on 100 years as a United Church we recognize the shortness of our existence as Regional Council as part of the whole, yet we are in a time of massive change in society and how we exist as the church in our communities. Sometimes we forget to be gentle on ourselves and recognize the grief and exhaustion that comes with constant change. I want to say “Well done good and faithful servant” to all of you who are offering your time and energy to the church across all of our councils.

Restructuring evaluation

There will be an opportunity to evaluate the new structure and how it is meeting the needs of the church over the next two years; we know that this change has not been perfect and that it has felt like the decision-making structures are farther away than ever. Our hope is that we will continue to find ways to communicate what is happening at the regional council, to continue building relationships with communities of faith, and to do the hard work of justice and equity-seeking.

Thank you to the Executive

I want to give a huge thanks to the Prairie to Pine Executive for all their work and prayerful consideration of the work of the Regional Council. They make hard decisions with care and compassion, trying to always keep the best interests of the communities of faith and the regional council at the forefront. I especially want to thank Erica Wittevrongel for serving as chair for the last year, and to Pat Bird who backed her up as past-chair when necessary. A warm welcome to our new co-chairs Dawn Rolke and Lynne Sanderson.

Thank you to many, many volunteers and elected leadership

It is important to remember that the majority of the work of the regional council is done by volunteers. Filling all of the opportunities on our lengthy list of commissions, committees, task groups, and boards would take a lot of people (over 100). We continue to need people who are able to step up and offer their gifts and talents on a variety of committees and commissions. I want to thank those that do offer their time, and challenge those who feel disconnected to offer their time for one of the various committees, commissions, or networks, and clusters that can help us be more connected and build community. WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

Regional Council and deployed staff

I want to thank the staff of the Regional Council for all they do, their commitment to the church, and the personal sacrifices they make to do this work.

Although our staff list looks long, it is important to remember that we only have two full-time staff: Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, and Cherry Abad, Office Administrator; and one part-time, Twila MacNair, Youth and Young Adult Minister (.5 FTE) that work only for Prairie to Pine. Erin Acland is .8 FTE now up from .6 as she takes on assisting with Living Skies Archives.

The rest of the staff work for three Regional Councils.

Julie Graham, Justice and Communications Minister;

Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant; and

Heather Dootoff, Finance Officer is moving to .5 FTE serving three RCs as she transitions towards retirement.

As Executive Minister, I work for three Regional Councils as well as sharing some of my time with General Council responsibilities.

Staff cannot be part of all the pieces of work of the Regional Council; there is a limit to our finances and to our capacity to do all the work. Despite that, your staff do an incredible job. When you do the math on all these positions it is around 4.5 full-time equivalent (FTE), which is a significant cut compared to when Prairie to Pine was the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and we had 6 FTE plus 2 Winnipeg Presbytery staff.

We are also grateful for the three staff people deployed from General Council to Living Skies: Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell (1/3 time with Prairie to Pine); Laura Fohse, Office of Vocation Minister across the three Regions; and Vicki Nelson, Stewardship Animator for BC right over to NW Ontario, so 1/5 time with our Region.

We need to find new ways to do the work that we are called to do through clusters, networks, community partnerships, and working ecumenically. Thank you to the many communities of faith, ecumenical shared ministries, community ministries, and camps, and our many community and ecumenical or interfaith partners who continue to show us all how to offer ministry in new ways.

As we begin the United Church's 99th year looking towards our centennial in June 2025, it is an important time to reflect on who we have been, our celebrations, and the milestones of what we have been as a denomination as well as recognizing our mistakes. We also need to work together to discern what we are called to be for the next 100 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.

REPORT – REGIONAL COUNCIL TREASURER



Jennifer Pakula
Treasurer

Prairie to Pine Region had a good financial year. Thank-you to Heather Dootoff, our Region's Financial Administrator, for her management of our funds. It was exciting to see our region able to take on our commitments and expand them due to the strong financial support.

On review of the Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for 2023, I am pleased to report that although the Region had budgeted for a deficit of \$156,048 in 2023, there was actually \$13,988 in surplus. The primary reason for the revenue increase was additional nonbudgeted income of \$153,332. Expenses were also under budget by \$11,232 due to lower annual meeting costs. The major differences from budget included:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Higher amount of donations, | \$94,041 |
| • Better than expected returns from investment income, | \$30,391 |
| • Less than expected annual meeting expenses, | \$28,349 |
| • Opportunity to increase funding to programs, | (\$13,422) |
| • Lower than anticipated staffing costs, | \$11,232 |

Given our financial health in 2023, our 2024 budget was also planned to have a deficit and current estimates indicate carrying a similar deficit for our 2025 budget would be prudent. Thank-you to our staff for the excellent management of our finances.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Pakula, Treasurer
Prairie to Pine Regional Council

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
Consensus Decisions 2023/2024

MOTION #		MEETING	
44	2022/2023	May 2, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of April 4, 2023 as distributed.
45	2022/2023	May 2, 2023	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the Level Two Structure Document as presented.
46	2022/2023	May 2, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the following proposals:</p> <p>Whereas it is apparent that the existing governance structure of the Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach Pastoral Charge (one congregation with one board and two worship sites) was created with good intentions, without adequate detail or Regional Council approval; and</p> <p>Whereas people of Clandeboye have shown no desire or commitment participate in creating an effective governance structure that would preserve the one-board-two-worship-sites model, and have instead indicated their desire to leave the pastoral charge;</p> <p>Therefore, Prairie to Pine Regional Council approves a proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the Board of the Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach as presently constituted, be dismissed with appreciation, effective May 31, 2023; and 2) That Clandeboye United church, as the party initiating the separation of the pastoral charge, be expected to apply for and receive a new CRA charitable number prior to the official ending of the Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach Pastoral Charge; and 3) That by May 31, 2023, the congregations of each of Winnipeg Beach UC and Clandeboye UC will establish an Interim Board for carrying out the ministry of their congregation until their Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>and Support with the Regional Council are completed and approved by the Regional Council; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) That the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the two Interim Congregational Boards will be members of an Interim Joint Pastoral Charge Board that will include the current pastoral charge Treasurer (Gord Adie) and Chair (Joan Dawkins), plus the pastoral charge supervisor, to carry out any necessary business, and negotiate the end to the Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach Pastoral Charge; and 5) That each meeting of each congregation and the Interim Boards follow an agenda previously approved by the Pastoral Charge Supervisor in consultation with a person named by the Committee on Community of Faith Support; and 6) That minutes, along with the financial reports, of each meeting of the congregations and Interim Boards be sent electronically to the Pastoral Charge Supervisor, the Committee on Community of Faith Support, and the chair of Pastoral Relations Commission within 12 days following a meeting; and 7) That the existing Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach Pastoral Charge profile team be disbanded; and 8) That each congregation appoint members to a Profile Team for their own community of faith, and proceed with a viability report as required by the Pastoral Relations Commission; and 9) That each Profile Team begin seeking collaborative or other arrangements with other communities of faith as part of a revised Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with the Regional Council; and 10) That at some future date the Regional Council will consider requests to formally disband the Clandeboye Winnipeg Beach Pastoral Charge and to recognize Winnipeg Beach UC and Clandeboye UC in new Covenants of Mutual Commitment, Accountability, and Support with the Regional Council; and. 11) That If these recommendations and expectations are not followed, the Regional Council may assume control of the Communities of Faith and/or Pastoral Charge.
47	2022/2023	May 2, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the audited report.</p>
48	2022/2023	May 2, 2023	<p>It was agreed by consensus that:</p>

MOTION #	MEETING	
		<p>1. Based on recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support on February 15, 2023 and confirmation of completion of an Introductory Boundaries course that the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve that IRENE CHABLUK of Dugald United Church be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) within Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years</p> <p>2. Based on recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support on February 15, 2023 and confirmation of completion of Boundaries Refresher: Social Media course that the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve that BEV LEADBEATER of Rock Lake Pastoral Charge be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader within Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>3. Based on recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support on February 15, 2023 and confirmation of completion of Boundaries Refresher: Social Media course that the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve that JAN RICHARDSON of Knox United Church, Kenora be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) within Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>4. Based on recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support on February 15, 2023 and confirmation of completion of Boundaries Refresher: Social Media course that the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve that ILA SWAIN of Roland United Church be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) within Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>5. Based on recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support on February 15, 2023 and confirmation of completion of Boundaries Refresher: Social Media course that the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve that DANIEL SCHWARTZ Bird's Hill United Church be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>Worship Leader (LLWL) within Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>6. Based on recommendation from the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support on February 15,2023 and confirmation of completion of Boundaries Refresher: Social Media course that the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council approve that ELAINE BENSON, McCreary United Church be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) within Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p>
01	2023/2024	September 12, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of May 2, 2023 as distributed.
02	2023/2024	September 12, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve supporting the Western Intercultural Ministry Network with a financial donation of \$4000.
03	2023/2024	September 12, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry (NUASM) revised ESM agreement dated Sept. 2022, and that the document be signed as requested, and filed for future reference.
04	2023/2024	September 12, 2023	<p>That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following:</p> <p>a) Wellman Lake United Church Camp ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wellman Lake United Church Camp 2023-2024 Board of Directors</p> <p>Joyce Bateman Caleb Harris Lanaya Harris Blair Mullin Lucile Neufeld Kendal Stechyshyn Candace Wenzel</p>
05	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of September 12, 2023 as distributed.

MOTION #		MEETING	
06	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive grant the \$2000 to the Church Office Administrator's for their conference in October 2024.
07	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the Mission Support Grant amount of \$99,000 for 2024.
08	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive make the following changes to the Travel Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase mileage reimbursement to \$0.45 • Increase meal allowance to \$15 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch and \$25 for dinner.
09	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive, upon recommendation of the Committee on Community of Faith Support, accept and prepare to celebrate at a date yet to be determined, the completed Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support with Nestor Falls Pastoral Charge.
10	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve, effective immediately, Grandview United Church Pastoral Charge and (Gilbert Plains) St. Paul's United Church Pastoral Charge be amalgamated and recognized by Prairie to Pine Regional Council as Grand Plains Pastoral Charge according to the Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support dated July 11, 2023 and that the Grand Plains Governance Policies dated June 27, 2023 be approved.
10	2023/2024	October 3, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following: <p>a. <u>Prairie View Lodge</u></p> <p>... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge 2023-2024 Board of Directors</p> <p>Sandra Cavers Susanne Fortin Yvette Glenn Jack McKay Judy MacKinnon Barbara McLaren</p>

MOTION #	MEETING	
		<p>Elaine McLennan Alan Melvin Janice Olfert</p> <p><i>This is based on the Annual Area Board Meeting minutes of June 14, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</i></p> <p>b. <u>Prairie View Lodge Foundation</u></p> <p>... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie View Lodge Foundation 2023-2024 Board of Directors</p> <p>Val Choquette Audrey Cockerline Art Harms Nancy Holman Melissa Krahn Cheryl McKitrick Alan Melvin Irene Onuch Elaine Trefiak Curtis Weeks</p> <p><i>This is based on the Annual Area Board Meeting minutes of June 14, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</i></p> <p>c. <u>Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc.</u></p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. 2023-2024 Board of Directors</p> <p>Carole Bere Gene Fortin Susanne Fortin Michelle Funk Steve Harbicht Nancy MacAulay David Manning Jan Martens Bonnie Robbins Elaine Trefiak</p> <p><i>This is based on the draft Annual Meeting minutes of April 16, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</i></p> <p><i>While working with this camp staff discovered that the directors and officers insurance does not have the correct address on the policy and this dates back several years. Hub Insurance is working to correct this.</i></p>
11	2023/2024	November 6, 2023	<p>That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following:</p> <p>1. Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support on February 13, 2023 and the recent completion of mandatory training (September 15, 2023) that NANCY DZEBO-MACKLIN be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.</p> <p>2. Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support on February 13, 2023 and the recent completion of mandatory training (June 07, 2023) that RITA FREISEN be Re-Licensed as Licensed Lay Worship</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.
12	2023/2024	November 6, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve Mission Support Grant allocations in the following amounts: \$ 4,220 - Rock Lake Camp 3,070 - Wellman Lake Camp 6,140 - The Counselling Centre 1,150 - Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre <u>84,420</u> - 1Just City \$99,000
13	2023/2024	December 5, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of October 3, 2023 and November 6, 2023 as distributed.
14	2023/2024	December 5, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the 2024 budget as presented.
14	2023/2024	December 5, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the Honorarium policy as presented.
15	2023/2024	December 5, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve that effective January 1, 2024 the congregations of (Emerson) St. Andrew's United Church and Dominion City United Church be amalgamated according to the terms in the Dominion City - (Emerson) St. Andrew's Amalgamation Agreement dated October 30, 2023; and That the January 1, 2024 Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support between Dominion City United Church and Prairie to Pine Regional Council be accepted and acknowledged.
16	2023/2024	December 5, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the disbanding of Korean United Church of Winnipeg effective December 31, 2023.
17	2023/2024	December 5, 2023	That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive take the following actions: Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. 2023-2024 Board of Directors</p> <p>Dennis Butcher Andrew Fletcher-Cook Stuart Fletcher-Cook Gordon Goossen Spencer Libbrecht Lisa Lix Sheron Miller Teresa Moysey Dwight Rutherford Warren Thompson Betty Young</p> <p><i>This is based on the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 15, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</i></p> <p>United Church Halfway Homes Inc. ... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the United Church Halfway Homes Inc. 2022-2023 Board of Directors</p> <p>Crystal Lynn Adams *Paul Campbell J. Carlos Clark James Dixon Edward Johnson Kendra Kinley Duncan Michie Anne Walker</p> <p>*Paul Campbell, Secretary, passed away July 5, 2023. <i>This is based on the draft Minutes from Annual General Meeting of December 15, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, the board 2</i></p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p><i>contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</i></p> <p>**NB. At this and previous annual meetings the board was not actually elected, but the work was done to confirm the members and the T3010 has been submitted to CRA and copy on file. The intent was there to approve the board members. This IM is working on its by-laws so at its next members meeting the tasks required of the annual meeting should be completed.</p>
18	2023/2024	February 6, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of December 5, 2023 as distributed.
19	2023/2024	February 6, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive disband Ashern United Church Community of Faith effective December 31, 2023.
20	2023/2024	February 6, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive disband St. Andrew's United Church, Elm Creek effective December 31, 2023.
21	2023/2024	February 6, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive disband Knox United Church, Minitonas effective December 31, 2023.
22	2023/2024	February 6, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the combination of the Active Ministries and the Retiree Events on May 15, 2024.
	2023/2024	February 6, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive take no action in regards to proposal 2.
23	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of February 6, 2024 as amended.
24	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive Council disband Alexander United Church Community of Faith effective February 29, 2024.

MOTION #		MEETING	
25	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive allow Rock Lake Camp to establish an Easement for Valley Fibre to allow buried internet cable to be installed crossing Rock Lake Camp property.
26	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve that SUSAN SPINDLER of St. Paul's United Church, Beausejour be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.
27	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive Council will provide 4 tickets to each retiree to be celebrated at the retiree celebration on May 15, 2024. The price for other guests will be set at \$15.
28	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve that a trust (the "Regional Trust") be formed by UPRC and with the approval of Prairie to Pine Regional Council for the benefit of Prairie to Pine Regional Council. The beneficiary of each Regional Trust will be the Regional Council and a wholly-owned affiliate UPRC will be the corporate trustee of each of the Regional Trusts.
29	2023/2024	March 5, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve a yearly expense of \$250 for membership to Winnipeg Free Press Faith Council. This is approved for the next 3 years and will then be reviewed.
30	2023/2024	April 2, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of March 5, 2024 as distributed.
31	2023/2024	April 2, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement as received between St. Paul's United Church (Souris) and St. Luke's Anglican Church (Souris) dated March 22, 2024, with the addition of the words "or impacts" in the section of conflict resolution (Sec 4 Conflict in the Church") in paragraph 2, page 17, and with any further editorial changes made by the Bishop of Brandon.
32	2023/2024	April 2, 2024	That the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council adopt and implement immediately the Policy on Lay-Led Communities of Faith with Congregational Designated Ministers

MOTION #		MEETING	
			developed and recommended by the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Committee on Lay Ministry /Lay Leadership Support of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.
33	2023/2024	April 2, 2024	That the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council adopt and implement immediately upon recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Commission the Policy on Ordination, Commissioning and Admission including minimum standards for Provisional Calls or Appointments.
33	2023/2024	April 2, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the Level 1 and Level 2 Structure Document; that the Nominating Committee and P2PRC staff may make editorial changes and minor updates to this document as needed, without the need for approval from the Executive; and that the Executive facilitate a review of the document in 2026 to ensure it continues to reflect the work of the Regional Council.
34	2023/2024	May 7, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of April 2, 2024 as distributed.
35	2023/2024	May 7, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve \$4000 to be provided to We Are All Treaty People for their event on September 15, 2024.
36	2023/2024	May 7, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the audited financial statements.
37	2023/2024	May 7, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following: Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc. 2024-2025 Board of Directors Kathryn Avery-Deines Carole Bere Kelvin Campbell *Gene Fortin Rodney Guilford Steve Harbicht Nancy MacAulay

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>Jan Martens Bonnie Robbins Margaret Treble</p> <p>This is based on the draft Annual Meeting minutes of April 14, 2024, draft board Minutes of Election Meeting of April 18, 2024, the 2024 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</p> <p>*Gene Fortin was elected at the Annual Meeting and resigned at the Election Meeting so that Kathryn Avery-Deines could be elected and took on the position of secretary.</p> <p>*N.B. Hub has corrected address on insurance certificates for 2024.</p>
38	2023/2024	May 7, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive appoint Grant Christiansen to the University of Winnipeg Board. His term will expire on June 30, 2027.
39	2023/2024	May 7, 2024	<p>That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support on April 24, 2024 that MILLIE LEWIS of Cloverdale United Church be re-licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years. 2. Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support on April 24, 2024 and that Julie Hutton be Re-Licensed as Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) in Prairie to Pine Regional Council effective immediately for a period of three years.
40	2023/2024	June 11, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of May 7, 2024 as distributed.
41	2023/2024	June 11, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive declines to donate financially to Camp Arnes.
42	2023/2024	June 11, 2024	That Prairie to Pine Executive accept the Nominations Slate as presented, effective July 1.
43	2023/2024	June 11, 2024	<p>That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following:</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that Diane McKenty of Grey Street United Church be licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>Leaders in Prairie to Pine Region Council effective immediately for the period of 3 years (June, 2024- June 2027).</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that Irma Nadeau of Trinity United Church Winnipeg be licensed as a LLWL in Prairie to Pine Region effective immediately for the period of 3 years (June, 2024- June, 2027).</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support that Fiona Hastie of Killarney United Church be re- licensed as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in Prairie to pine Regional council effective immediately for a period of three years (June ,2024- June, 2027)</p>
44	2023/2024	June 11, 2024	<p>That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following:</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council which received and reviewed relevant documents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • form entitled “Community of Faith Request for Categorization of Lay Ministry position, a position description for a twenty hour per week position focused on worship leadership, list of skills, proposed terms for the position including financial and the position Categorization Worksheet • 2023 End of Year Financial statement and Budget for 2024 • minutes of the meetings of the Council of Roblin Knox Community of Faith on April 24,2024 and May 27,2024 and the Community of Faith on May 05,2024 indicating support for the request • List of those appointed to the Council and Trustees of Roblin Knox/Tummel Pastoral Charge demonstrating its governance structure is in functioning as per the requirements of the policy • Comments about communication exchange with current Pastoral Charge Supervisor and a willingness to continue that pattern of sharing minutes established in that relationship and as required by the policy • Appointment of a representative to Prairie to Pine Regional Council (Anna Stewart) as required by the policy

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement that Reverend Ron McConnell (Ordered Minister to be named Pastoral Charge Supervisor) would be willing to incorporate the sacraments into services that he would provide, as Roblin Knox/Tummel is unable currently to identify any lay people willing or able to take the Sacraments Elder Training • Commitment to support the participation of the Congregational Designated Minister in any gatherings/ conversations arranged and mandated by the Committee of Lay Ministry/Lay Leadership Support of Prairie to Pine Regional Council as per the policy • Comments about involvement in the Boundary Cluster Group (Manitoba/Saskatchewan United Churches) <p>and in accordance with the handbook and policies) for Congregational Designated Ministers in The Manual (2024) and the policy of Prairie to Pine Regional Council related to "Lay-Led Communities of Faith with Congregational Designated Ministers, The Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council agrees by consensus to:</p> <p>A. Supports the Categorization of the position submitted by Roblin (Knox) Tummel Pastoral Charge as a Congregational Designated Minister: Worship Leader based on the assessment of documents submitted to the Pastoral Relations Commission</p> <p>B. Supports the appointment by the Pastoral Relations Commission of the Reverend Ronald McConnell as Pastoral Charge Supervisor on the Roblin Knox /Tummel Pastoral Charge effective July 01, 2024 in the absence of a Order of Ministry Person or Designated Lay Pastoral Minister Recognized on the Roblin Knox/Tummel Pastoral Charge , and as permitted by Manual(2024) section 1.11.4 (d) and the Policy of Prairie to Pine Regional Council on Lay -Lay Communities of Faith with Congregational Designated Ministers,</p> <p>C. Agrees/approves the designation of Roblin Pastoral Charge including the communities of faith Knox United Church, Roblin and Tummel United Church, as led Lay -Led Communities of Faith effective July 01, 2024 for as long as all requirements of the policy and The Manual continue to be met and/or until June 30, 2025 noting</p>

MOTION #		MEETING	
			<p>the exception to policy related to the arrangement related to the provision of sacraments</p> <p>And With the understanding/condition that during the pastoral year initiation of conversations with neighbouring communities of faith/ pastoral charges related to the potential establishment of collaborative ministry agreement needs to continue and encouragement for lay person/s on the Roblin Pastoral Charge to undertake training as sacraments elder must continue.</p>



REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES of the REGION**NOMINATIONS**

To start, I want to acknowledge the incredible volunteers of our regional council. The Nominating Committee is so overjoyed when we find a match for someone's gifts and skills with a committee that needs them, and for me, that's the most rewarding part of this work. We are so lucky to have so many of you answer the call to serve, often in multiple roles, and we understand the time commitment that is required for all your work.

A few years ago, when we underwent a change to how our church was structured, the belief was that we would need fewer volunteers to do all this important work. Today, the Nominating Committee is responsible for filling almost 100 positions across our committees for our region, work that has been made harder coming out of the pandemic in a time when people are reassessing where best to put their efforts.

We have tried and will continue to try new ways of reaching out and recruiting volunteers. We held our first open house over Zoom in the spring, which was a fun new way of reaching folks that we may not otherwise have. However, we know the best way to recruit volunteers is one-on-one contact, by phone or by email.

The full nominating slate is available in the Appendix of the workbook. Our slate is continually updated as new members step into new work, and throughout the year we add folks to committees with the approval of the regional council executive. We will continue to share new opportunities throughout the year on the website and through the weekly news, so keep your eyes peeled for work that may interest you and that you may find life-giving.

Our largest piece of work this fall was assembling a slate of dedicated folks to become General Council Commissioners. That slate will be up for consideration during this meeting, and know we considered long and hard who best to represent our region at this important time and place.

Prairie to Pine Nominating Committee consisted of Teresa Melnychuk, Frances Flook, Joey Dearborn, Betty Kelly, Marissa Smirl, and Harold Kenyon at various points along the church year. We are sad to have lost the gifts, skills, abilities, and levity that both Betty and Teresa brought to our committee, and we will sorely miss their contributions around our virtual table. We are also ably supported by Julie Graham, and Cherry Abad. We could not do our work without them and their technical expertise in the background. Julie's input about what the nominating committees in other regions are doing is an added gift.

The Nominating Committee would be delighted to talk with you further and help you discern where you might comfortably volunteer. Contact us at p2p.nominations@gmail.com.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joey Dearborn, on behalf of P2P Nominating Committee*

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

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, Past Chair
Pastoral Relations Commission*

**COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY OF FAITH SUPPORT
(aka CCFS)**

This Committee is tasked

“to provide oversight and support to communities of faith, especially pastoral charges in their day-to-day mission and ministry and guidance with matters of transition such as structural changes, amalgamation, realignment and closure.

This committee ...[makes] recommendations on matters requiring decisions to these bodies. In the former structure, much of the work of this committee was done by Pastoral Oversight Committees in Presbyteries.” (www.prairietopinerc.ca/governance)

The CCFS meets monthly by Zoom and currently has five members and one staff person. Each Pastoral Charge is assigned to a member who attempts to make contact regularly (when there is current contact information). We are to be a supportive presence, provide resources or pointing you to where you can find them. We stay abreast of how Pastoral Charges are faring in their work, and in times of transition.

This committee, beginning in 2019, is responsible for creating the template for the *Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support*, which is a required relationship of every community of faith and Regional Council in the United Church of Canada, according to the *Basis of Union* (Section III) and our By-laws (*The Manual* B.1.1.3). We are very pleased to announce that the work of approving those Covenants, for non-Indigenous communities within our Regional Council, has been successfully completed!

The next block of work has been creating a template for the Self-assessment process. This process is mandated by our By-laws (B.2.1). This is a written document which is very similar to the work of former Oversight visits. As such our Regional Council has determined that these Self-assessments should be completed on a similar 3-year cycle; we are entering our third year of that cycle this Fall. These Self-assessments provide an opportunity to not only to assess the practical requirements of being part of the United Church of Canada but also to reflect on the joys and challenges of being a congregation within this large denominational church to which we belong.

The document template for Self-assessments is an evolving tool. It is reviewed and changed annually based on feedback from communities of faith who have completed them. We want this to be an opportunity for honest self-assessment not an onerous task, particularly when communities of faith and Pastoral Charges are involved in multiple visioning and governance processes. As a committee we read and respond to 33 Self-assessments per year.

In addition to this foundational governance work, the CCFS is here to support Pastoral Charges as they consider their future direction. This involvement is done to different degrees, based on several factors. It includes providing or directing towards resources to assist in creating of Collaborative Ministries, amalgamations and realignment within and between Pastoral Charges, co-writing Ecumenical Shared Ministry agreements, and the process of disbanding. We recognize that this work takes time and some of the detailed aspects can feel frustrating. We keep in touch with and receive updates on an average of 21 communities of faith and/or Pastoral Charges each month.

Since Sept 2023 we have been involved with 47 congregations. Of these 5 were officially disbanded*, there were two amalgamations,** and there was one new Ecumenical Shared Ministry (Souris) agreement completed.

For those places in our Regional Council, among the non-Indigenous Churches, without regularly Called/Appointed ministry personnel, we read the annual Report of the Pastoral Charge Supervisor. In the Fall of 2023, we received 38 reports and (at the time of writing) we have received 13 reports for the 2023-24 Pastoral year. While there are some reports still to come, the number of reports is lower in part due to amalgamations, closures/disbanding or the creation of Collaborative Ministry agreements.

We also are mandated with the oversight work of ensuring Pastoral Charges submit their Annual Reports to the Regional Council office, complete the United Church Statistical Forms, have registered votes on any General Council Remits and are up-to-date with the payment of denominational assessments. We are very grateful to *Heather Lea* for her ongoing support of the work of this committee with specific pastoral charges, despite formally stepping away from the CCFS in 2023 after four intensive years of work.

We are grateful to *Cheryl McKittrick* who has served diligently since 2020 working around some health and personal challenges. Deep thanks to *Pat Bird* for Chairing the Committee and keeping the “current lists” of our involvement straight. We are also very grateful, beyond what words can say, to *Cheri Abad* for the administrative support she provides with grace and seeming ease as she does the “paper juggling” keeping us on track. For her administrative skills, attention to detail, deep knowledge of the Church processes, hands-on shepherding and sense of humour through it all, we are deeply grateful to *Judy Hare*, our Regional Council Staff person, beyond what words can say.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee for Community of Faith Support: Pat Bird (Chairperson),
Irene Chabluk, Silas Lee, Bill Miller, Heather Sandilands (Secretary)

** Alexander UC, St. Andrew’s UC (Elm Creek), Korean United (Wpg), Ashern COF (SW Interlake PC); and Knox UC (Minitonas). There are several others in process of doing the tasks required for disbanding.*

***Gilbert Plains and Grandview were amalgamated into Grand Plains Pastoral Charge; Emerson UC and Dominion City amalgamated to form Valley Pastoral Charge*



**COMMITTEE ON
LAY MINISTRY/ LAY LEADERSHIP
SUPPORT**

The Committee on Lay Ministry and Lay Leadership Support is responsible for supporting, licensing, re-licensing and tracking information for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL), training related to Sacraments Elders, and tracking related to Congregational Designated Ministers (CDM).

More detail on our role, including a link to our mandate, can be found at <https://prairietopinerc.ca/about/governance/committees-on-support/clls/>.

This year we have licensed two new LLWLs, Irma Nadeau (Trinity United Church, Winnipeg) and Diane McKenty (Grey Street United Church, Winnipeg). At the time of writing this report we have additional requests pending. We have also made some small revisions to the interview process as we learn each time we do this what is effective and what might need to be improved.

Last year was a busy year for relicensing LLWLs. Now that we have caught up on the initial round of relicensing post-restructuring we are into our regular three-year cycle. We currently have 16 LLWLs and 4 retired designated lay ministers available for pulpit supply throughout various areas within Prairie to Pine Regional Council: [LLWL-Pulpit-Supply-List-February-14-2023.pdf \(prairietopinerc.ca\)](#)

We held two gatherings with the LLWL community this past year. On December 14, 2023 we gathered via Zoom. On May 3, 2024 we met in person at Trinity United Church in Winnipeg. Our thanks to those who helped with programming on that day: Erin Acland, the Keeper of the Archives who spoke about archives in advance of this year when the United Church of Canada will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary; Caryn Douglas and Karen Tjaden, diaconal ministers who engaged the gathered group in some exercises to help LLWLs to engage communities of faith in matters related to creation and climate change including sharing a method that can be used in worship preparation to explore scripture with an eye, ear and heart for Creation. Both events were well attended by LLWLs and feedback was generally positive.

One of the topics discussed at the LLWL gathering was some of the rules governing LLWLs. As a committee we have tried to strike a balance that gives as much freedom as possible while limiting risks of going against CRA policies. In response to the discussion we made two changes to the policy within Prairie to Pine Regional Council: <https://prairietopinerc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-Revised-Policy-Prairie-to-Pine-LLWL-Pulpit-Supply.pdf>. We increased the maximum number of services offered by one LLWL in any one particular community of faith in a calendar year to 12 from 10. If more frequent services are desired in the one location, LLWLs must become employees of the Pastoral Charge /Community of Faith as Congregational Designated Ministers – Worship Leaders. We also removed the restriction of 3 consecutive services in one location during the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter to allow for more consistent worship leadership during these seasons. We hope these two changes will address most of the concerns.

Many thanks to Rev. Lynne Sanderson for serving as our chaplain this year during our interview sessions. We are grateful that Lynne is serving in this capacity.

Interest was expressed by some in pastoral care training. Although pastoral care is not a function of LLWLs it is something that can be offered by lay leadership in our communities of faith. As there has been interest in training for pastoral care we looked into offering some training on this topic. On June 12, 2024 Judy Hare and Rob Reed met via ZOOM with some people who had expressed interest in this this topic. Plans are underway to offer session/s this fall.

On January 20, 2024 training was held via ZOOM for those seeking to become sacraments elders and as a refresher for some who had been previously trained. Licensing is done annually based on the Pastoral Year. There were sixty sacraments elders providing sacraments to thirty-eight communities of faith where their membership is held at various points in time during the 2023-2024 Pastoral Year. As of September 15, 2024, there are fifty sacraments elders licensed associated with thirty-four communities of faith.

Recently, General Council gave the Regional Councils some flexibility regarding the rules and structure in place for Congregational Designated Ministers (CDMs). By a joint effort of ourselves and the Pastoral Relations Commission, a [policy on "Lay-led Communities of Faith with Congregational Designated Ministers"](#) was developed and subsequently adopted by the regional council executive on April 02, 2024.

Earlier this year we were greatly saddened by the loss of Marg Scott. Marg contributed so much to our committee and to people and communities of faith she served and supported. She will be missed.

Recently, we said goodbye to Doug Neufeld. He leaves our committee to take on other important tasks. We wish him well and thank him for his many contributions to our committee and lay leadership in this region.

My thanks go out to our staff resource, Judy Hare, and to all the committee members who help to make lay ministry and lay leadership a reality in so many places where it is much needed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Don Schau, Chair
on behalf of the Committee
(Dianne Kowalchuk, Hope Mattus, Doug Neufeld,
Marg Scott (deceased), Jim Warburton,
Judy Hare (staff resource), and Lynne Sanderson (chaplain))*

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY PERSONNEL SUPPORT

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

(David Howell (Chair), Cathy Maxwell (Secretary),

Susan Tilleman, Chris Davis, Beth Rutherford (on medical leave)

Judy Hare (Staff Resource))

PROPERTY COMMISSION

The commission members are Ken Thomas (Chair), Keith McFarlane, Chuck Ross, and Wayne Sanderson, with Dwight Rutherford as a corresponding member.

The commission meets at the call of the chair by conference call in order to respond quickly to requests. So far 2024 has been the busiest year since establishing the commission and it appears to be getting even busier.

This report covers the time from March 31, 2023, the date of our last report, until August 31, 2024. Our last report was from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. We reported we had met 8 times and passed fifteen motions regarding church property in the Region, in a period of twelve months. Since April 1 2023 we have met 23 times in 17 months, and have approved 33 motions pertaining directly to property transactions. In our last report, we noted we hand-cleaned up transactions going back to 2004. This year we are working on actions remaining from 1999.

We approved 11 requests to list or seek to sell. 4 properties have since been sold and the other 7 are still pending. As well, 16 consent-to-sell motions were passed pertaining to 13 individual properties, 7 of which were churches, and the rest were other buildings, vacant land, and one cemetery. The commission also approved 4 major renovations, 4 financing plans, a Hydro easement, and a lease for a cell phone relay. We are currently aware of 6 Winnipeg churches each independently working on future plans for their buildings, and at least one pending amalgamation that will require commission action.

It is obvious to the commission, and many others within the church, that the various urban congregations are holding millions of dollars of valuable property, but each in its own silo. There is a clear need for some form of unified approach to make the best use of our urban buildings in order to meet the ongoing worshiping and pastoral needs of the urban church, and also to maximize the legacy of our property to serve our faithful commitment to justice and reconciliation. Although the need is clear, such a conversation may be difficult to have. The Regional Council is currently working on establishing a Regional Trust that will be able to hold properties on behalf of the region.

The Regional Council continues to have three permanent regional trustees available when dealing with properties that are still in the name of the church, but no longer have congregational trustees.

The commission wishes to remind everyone that all United Church properties are governed by the United Church of Canada Act. Proper procedures must be followed and proper documentation completed for transactions to be registered by Provincial registries. The processes are not difficult and can be completed quickly if followed properly. We recommend consultation with the commission prior to proceeding with any property-related transactions, major renovations, or financing.

The commission continues to recommend that all communities of faith who anticipate selling or renovating property in the future ensure that the title is brought up to date.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ken Thomas, Chair*

EQUITY and DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Equity and Diversity (E&D) Committee experienced a significant transition during this period as we shifted our focus from Affirming Ministries to a broader scope encompassing Equity and Diversity. This report covers our journey from January 2023 to June 2024, outlining our key changes, challenges, and accomplishments.

2023 Overview

Committee Transitions

The year 2023 was marked by a significant shift in the makeup of the E&D Committee. Many long-serving members stepped down, including Jamie Miller, Hope Mattus, Cathey Day, Kyle Kellar, and M. Chorney. In their place, we welcomed new members: Kristin Woodburke, Susan Weppler, Carrie Martens, Tanis Podobni, and Rob Reed. Only two members from the previous committee, Alan Gershuny and Linda Rodgers, continued; as well, Julie Graham, the Tri-Regional Minister for Justice and Communication, continued as staff support. This change signified a shift not only in members but also in our focus and goals.

Events and Initiatives

- United Against Hate Webinar: Several E&D members participated in a webinar hosted by United in Learning titled *United Against Hate*, aligning with our committee's focus on combating hate and discrimination.
- P2P Regional Council Meeting (Meadowood United Church):
 - The E&D Committee hosted an informational table featuring LGBTQIA+ resources and giveaways.
 - We organised a panel discussion on *The Common Good*, featuring the following speakers:
 - Ken DeLisle: Affirming Ministries
 - Julie Graham: Anti-Hate Initiatives
 - Alcris Limongi: Racial Justice
 - Despite efforts, we were unable to secure an Indigenous speaker, highlighting an area for improvement in achieving inclusivity.
 -

2024 Overview

Committee Development

At the close of 2023 and early in 2024, we spent time getting to know each other. We continued to face challenges in creating a more diverse membership. Kristin Woodburke was appointed as the new chairperson. We reviewed our committee's job description and goals. In March 2024, we updated our committee's purpose:

"The Committee will assess, educate, and raise awareness to celebrate the diversity and intercultural membership of our Region; and will help the Regional Council be accountable for living out its Affirming commitments and membership."

2024 Events and Programs

● Equity and Diversity Community Connections (EDCC):

We launched an ongoing series of Zoom meetings to encourage communication and collaboration among churches and interested parties on equity and diversity issues. Key meetings included:

- **PIE Day Prep Meeting** (Jan 31, 2024): 25 participants from the Prairie to Pine (P2P) region attended this Zoom session in preparation for PIE Day events.
- **P2P Equity and Diversity Meeting** (March 14, 2024, PIE Day): Held at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg, this meeting gathered E&D members alongside ten guests, including clergy, lay people, and two members of Pembina Valley Pride. Discussions covered representation at Regional Council Executive meetings, participating in Winnipeg Pride Day, setting up a closed Facebook group, and editing the committee's job description.
- **Pride Prep Meeting** (April 24, 2024): Another EDCC Zoom session focused on planning for Pride events and fostering continued community connections.

New Communication Channels

On April 25, 2024, we launched a private Facebook group, *Prairie to Pine Affirming Ministries and People*. This has become an effective platform for information sharing, including:

- Updates from the MB Pride Alliance
- Resources for crisis response and safety concerns
- Publicising Pride event dates and sharing photos
- Requests from *Women and Gender Equality* to connect with rural 2S and LGBTQIA+ individuals

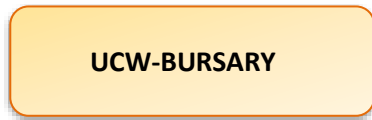
Ongoing Adjustments and Future Priorities

As we continue to adjust to our updated mandate, our committee remains committed to achieving greater diversity within our ranks and ensuring that our efforts reflect the evolving needs of the Prairie to Pine region. We look forward to continuing our work in the upcoming year, building on the foundation we've established while addressing the challenges we face.

Conclusion

The Equity and Diversity Committee has made significant progress in transitioning its focus, strengthening its team, and implementing new initiatives. We remain dedicated to fostering a culture of inclusivity, equity, and justice across the United Church's Regional Council. We express our gratitude to all members, both past and present, for their contributions to this important work.

*Respectfully submitted,
The Equity and Diversity Committee
Prairie to Pine Regional Council*



The **Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary** has been funded by donations to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, by UCWs or Communities of Faith. (**Note:** The committee wonders why the interest from the **F.B. McArthur Estate Trust** is no longer being paid to the Bursary fund.) The Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary has been administered by a Committee within Prairie to Pine Regional UCW Network and usually meets in person twice a year, and by teleconference in June. In 2024 we met via Zoom to make decisions regarding the Bursaries.

The purpose of the Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary has been to financially assist promising candidates for the Order of Ministry (ordained or diaconal) from our Conference who are registered in theological studies, as well as persons in the Designated Lay Ministry Training program qualifying for leadership in the Church.

In 2024, there was only one applicant, Hyerim Park whom received a Bursary of \$1250.00.

Hyerim Park: \$1250.00

Diaconal Program: Centre of Christian Studies

Master of Theological Studies: St. Andrew's College

We sincerely thank all UCWs and Communities of Faith for their contributions and ask for their continued support. If your Community of Faith no longer has a contributing UCW, our committee requests that you consider including this in your future yearly budget. Our financial resources for the Bursaries are sorely lacking. This year's award almost depleted the Bursary Fund by June's end.

The **UCW Bursary** of \$800 is awarded annually from Prairie to Pine Regional UCW funds to persons, at least 18 years of age, (and not in, or studying towards, paid accountable ministry). The applicant must be actively involved in, and taking a course that would benefit, a local United Church Community of Faith. For this year we had no applicants. Please encourage members of your Community of Faith who would benefit from this bursary, to apply in the future.

As well, the **Agatha Kaasa Bursary**, established in 2003 by the National UCW is available to women for leadership training, continuing education or projects/events that would benefit United Church work. This bursary application form can be found on the National site “search.”

There is another National Bursary, the **Dorothy Amos Fund**, for any woman who is a UCW member, and not in paid accountable ministry. This Bursary was founded in 2012 in honour of Dorothy Amos using proceeds from the UCW 50th Anniversary. Both these National Bursaries can be found by searching under the particular Bursary/Fund name.

Our Bursary Committee wishes to thank both Judy Hare and Cherry Abad and the Prairie to Pine Regional Council office for their years of work on our behalf. Our committee also works with Laura Fohse, Minister for the Office of Vocation, and Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator, both representatives for our Prairie to Pine Region. Thank you all for your support!

Respectfully submitted,

Darlynne Smith

Darlynne Smith, Convener

Prairie to Pine Regional Bursary Committee

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YAA)

2023 saw a complete return to in-person programming, with the YAA committee's first major event, ZEEBU 2023, being held at Knox United Church in Brandon from February 18-20th. Face masks were mandatory for this event, however, these masks became optional

for YAA events by the end of the year. 31 participants and 22 young leaders attended ZEEBU 2023, and the theme for this event was “H.O.B.I.E.S.: How Our Bible Builds Important Extracurricular Spirit”, with a focus on exploring how youth can practice spirituality through their passions.

Of course, a theme such as this gave youth the opportunity to try many different activities throughout the weekend, including Irish dance, sports, juggling, Dungeons and Dragons, Origami, watercolour painting, karaoke, calligraphy, board games, and puzzles! A special thank you as well to Elder Rev. Susie McPherson-Derendy who shared some teachings, and Sam Jackson who taught the youth Pow Wow Dancing!

The YAA committee was proud to host our other retreat, ALF, at St. Mary's Road UC in Winnipeg from October 19th-22nd. The retreat's theme this time around was “Lost in Translation: the History of the Bible, How it has Changed through the Ages, and Whose Voices Are Missing”. This theme allowed the worship team to incorporate perspectives from women, Indigenous peoples, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Theme-focused activities included a bible scavenger hunt, translating scripture, and studying the relationship between storytelling and different cultures. Special activities at ALF included swimming at St. James-Assiniboia Centennial Pool and participating in an Indigenous drum ceremony led by young people who had connected at Neechi Camp at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre! Overall, 36 participants and 20 young leaders gathered to make ALF 2023 a truly special event!

Speaking of Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, four Indigenous and four non-Indigenous youth gathered there to participate in Neechi Camp from August 20-25th. The camp for this week was specifically titled “Mamawe Ota Askihk – Sharing Life Together Here on Earth”. Activities that the youth participated in included ceremonial drumming, braiding sweetgrass, sewing ribbon skirts, making drums, scraping deer hides, cutting meat, harvesting wild rice, and horse riding, among many other things! A special thank you to SSSC, Elder Stan McKay and the rest of the adults, and finally the youth present for making Neechi Camp a resounding success!

The YAAY committee is pleased to announce the completion of the mural at Harrow UC in Winnipeg, a project over two years in the making. The mural was created in connection to reconciliation and features a turtle, an Indigenous elder, and the silhouettes of the 12 youth who spent a day working with the artists and actually painted themselves into the mural! An opening ceremony was held in May to celebrate this monumental achievement, where the artists, Jeannie White Bird and Charlie Johnson, were able to discuss the meanings behind the mural. Bannock, jam, berries, and tobacco ties were exchanged between Harrow United and those in the community present. Thank you to Jeannie and Charlie for their beautiful art, Harrow UC, the Winnipeg Foundation and the “Walking Together” grant team, the youth, and everyone else who worked hard to celebrate and contribute towards a future of reconciliation!

The YAAY committee met three times over the course of 2023. While we conducted a virtual meeting in January, we would like to send a thank you to St. Mary’s Road UC and St. Charles Headingley UC who hosted our in-person meetings in May and October, respectively. Given that most of the committee’s turnover takes place over the summer, it was especially great to hold these two meetings in person as it allowed the committee to say goodbye to those who have since moved on while also welcoming new faces!

Other happenings in the regions included Travelling Youth Group, which continued to meet in 2023. The Travelling Youth Group went to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in March. John Black Memorial UC hosted “The Jesus Olympics” in April and a “Pizza Party” in September, UC in Meadowood hosted “Jesus In The Wild” in June. Trinity UC hosted “Making TYG World Records” in November and Fort Garry UC hosted a “Christmas Extravaganza” in December. Thank you to all the host churches for their youth engagement work!

One youth from Winnipeg and two from Brandon also participated in the Climate Motivator Program over the summer. These youth were tasked with undertaking a climate project of their choice and participating in Camp Pringle in British Columbia, where they participated in an MP panel, and wrote letters to their MPs as well as Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault. Meanwhile, our young adult group, YARG, met a few times in 2023 for activities including skating at the Forks in Winnipeg.

The YAAY committee would like to thank each and every one of the volunteers for the time and work they put in to make events such as these possible, as well as Regional Staff Twila MacNair for the unbelievable support she provides. We would also like to thank the youth not only for their continued support, but more importantly for their participation and the work that they have put in as well in many cases. If you have youth or young adults in your community of faith who are looking to connect with other United Church youth, we would love to include them!

For more information about YAAY’s activities, see the YAAY page on the Prairie to Pine website:
<https://prairietopinerc.ca/programs/young-adults-and-youth/>

We wish our Prairie to Pine community all the best for the rest of 2024!

Xander Miller & Marissa Smirl
YAAY Co-Convenors

OTHER REPORTS

UNITED CHURCH RURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

<https://ucrmn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ucrmn-banner402x-3-768x354.jpg>

2024 REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

The United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN) is a national network, that connects electronically sharing stories and news of rural communities across Canada (and around the world), by networking with lay and clergy leaders of rural communities of faith. Find us on website ucrmn.ca.

Let me walk with you through some of the resources on the UCRMN website. Peter Chynoweth (Cochrane, AB) is the web minder. The 'Network' connection includes a partner Atlantic Canada network called Rural Roots Through the Holy which has sponsored conferences in the Maritimes for 3 years. In the Prairies is highlighted the ecumenical Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M) which has connections to Saskatoon Theological Union. CiRCLe M is hosting a conference, Experiencing the Rural Culture of the Alberta Foothills, June 18-21.

Then there are 'Resources'. I would like to recommend to all 'Tech Resources'. Martin Dawson, from Cornwall, PEI, and web minder Peter Chynoweth write thoughtfully, with humour and matters of ethical consideration of computers. They discuss the use of inexpensive software, like the free Jitsi meet instead of Zoom, refurbishing old and tired computers using open source software – in short, 'tech for scarce budgets' with an eye to keeping our tech out of landfills.

Next comes practical and helpful information on Collaborative Ministry, ways for congregations and communities of faith to work in partnership with others.

Then there are interviews that Martin hosts: With Peter on Open Software as an Ethical Alternative; with George Bott on Rural Connect; with Catherine Smith on her views of rural ministry and initiatives in the Maritimes; with Catherine Christie and Eric Skillings on the founding and workings of UCRMN. (These interviews are also found on Short-Wave Radio stations, a huge love of Martin's)

The next area is Workshops, with information about the quarterly Zoom workshops that UCRMN has hosted through the years. During this Regional Council year, 2023-24, workshops have been: on April 18 - Social Media in the Rural Church, facilitated by United Church Digital Team, Cara Czech, Stephen Fetter and Aaron Gallogos; Feb. 15 – Life Long Learning facilitated by St. Andrew's College staff, Dr. Bernon Lee and Shawn Sanford Beck; Nov. 16 – Pastoral Care to the Rural Church, led by Kathy Douglas of Antler River Watershed; Sept. 21 – further discussions on Collaborative Ministry; June 22 - Radically Welcoming and Rural, the opportunities of Diversity in the Rural Church.

Then there is ENews, with an archive of all the past ENews, from 2020 to 2024. We print 9 editions of UCRMN ENews during the year. Events happening throughout the Church are publicized, advertising from Regions and committees, the regular column on Tech Advice, a regular column from Joyce Sasse's Gleanings of a Prairie Pastor, reports from Conferences, and most importantly, stories from congregations of community action and ministries. We love to have stories shared. If you have something to tell, send an article (about 300 to 500 words) to editor@UCRMN.ca.

There are over 400 members of UCRMN across the country and in most Regional Councils. As a Network, UCRMN asks for financial support from each Regional Council. We thank those who have given support from their Networking funds. Our suggestion is \$300 from each RC - UCRMN wishes to support all the Regional Councils in their rural ministries. (70% of United Church congregations across the country are in rural or small towns, therefore a relevant cost to each Regional Council.)

UCRMN members are taking part in the “Rural Townhall” by Edge Network for Ministry Development, to hear peoples’ thoughts about what is going on in rural churches, and how rural ministries can be supported.

We are a grassroots initiative for Rural Ministry in the United Church of Canada. Our goal is to connect the many Rural Ministry initiatives across Canada.

Respectfully submitted by UCRMN Board:

Catherine Christie, President UCRMN, Abbey, SK, Living Skies RC

Eric Skillings, Secretary/Treasurer UCRMN, Merlin, ON, Antler River Watershed RC

Shelley Roberts, Vice President UCRMN, Lanark ON, Eastern Ontario Outaouais RC

Donna Mann, Officer UCRMN, Elora ON, Western Ontario Waterways RC

Yvonne Terry, Officer UCRMN, Milestone SK, Living Skies RC

JUBILEE FUND



The United Church in the Prairie to Pine region is a founding member of the **Jubilee Fund** - Manitoba's only charitable impact investment fund. We offer financial help for local non-profits and social enterprises working to reduce the impact of poverty.

The Jubilee Fund has been making a difference all over Manitoba since the year 2,000. We have funded day cares, low income housing, small businesses ventures and more.

Over the past two years our **Rent Guarantee Program** has helped at-risk women, previously incarcerated individuals, youth-coming-out-of-care and newcomers who have the capacity to make full rent payments but are facing the barrier of a lack of rental history to find rental housing. Jubilee Fund's role is to act as a guarantor.

Projects outside of Winnipeg have included the following:

Portage la Prairie Vision of Independence

(VOI) is a non-profit charitable organization that provides housing and programs to persons with intellectual disabilities. VOI provides residential, day and supported independent living programs in Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie. A loan guarantee made possible by Jubilee Fund investors helped VOI with the purchase of a training centre building and general office located in Portage la Prairie.

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation Inc.

Jubilee Fund investors supported this organization that helps to reduce poverty and its harmful effects in Manitoba—with a direct loan in 2020

Thompson

A loan guarantee made possible by Jubilee Fund investors helped Keewatinowi Awasiak Opi-Ki-Wak Inc. (a childcare service for postsecondary students) purchase equipment, toys and furnishings for a new facility at the University College of the North (UNC) campus in Thompson.

Anola

A loan guarantee made possible by Jubilee Fund investors helped Springfield Learning Centres Inc. (SLC) add 21 new subsidized childcare spaces, including five new infant spaces to their new facility in Anola, Manitoba.

Families and farmers across Manitoba

This past summer, the Manitoba Community Food Currency Program received a \$100,000 boost from the Jubilee Fund. Under the Manitoba Community Food Currency Program, clients of social service agencies are provided with currency in the form of vouchers to spend at farmers' markets. <https://www.brandonsun.com/local/2024/08/20/farmers-market-voucher-program-needs-more-vendors>

The Jubilee Fund has funded over 52 projects in the City of Winnipeg. To find out more about our projects and investment opportunities, check our website. <https://www.jubileefund.ca/>

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Trono*

MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL



Manitoba Multifaith Council continues its partnership with the wider United Church community, through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We embrace this opportunity to honour this relationship.

Meetings: The Manitoba Multifaith Council continues to meet regularly. Most meetings are held in person. The Annual General Meeting for 2024 was held on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Cambridge Street.

Guest speaker, John Longhurst has been the faith page columnist at the Winnipeg Free Press since 2003. Earlier this year a collection of this columns in the Free Press was published, titled **Can Robots Love God and Be Saved: A Journalist Reports on Faith**.

Here are a few highlights of the year:



Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding

Loraine Mackenzie Shepperd, a retired United Church minister was the 2023 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding. Loraine has worked extensively with many faith communities to promote and develop inter-religious understanding within some of the faith communities that co-exist within the city of Winnipeg.

Multifaith Leadership Breakfast

Premier Wab Kinew was the speaker at the leadership breakfast held on April 11, 2024, at the RBC Convention Centre. In his remarks the premier said that the Speaker of the House recites a prayer at the start of every legislative session. This prayer was adopted around 1937 and has not changed. Many of those present felt that the prayer of 1937 does not reflect the multifaith community that exists today. The *Premier's Prayer summit* is meeting soon to address this concern.

The various committees, Community Relations, Education, Justice and Corrections and Spiritual Health continue to hold events which address the needs of the community. In November, the Spiritual Health Care committee hosted a half day workshop on *Positive Effects of Spirituality and Religion on Mental Health*. There were 36 participants at this event.



Multifaith Calendars 2025

In the 2025 Multifaith Calendar - Pathways to Peace artists were invited to reflect deeply on these perennial questions and to channel their visions of peace into artwork that soothes the spirit, uplifts the soul, inspires others to action, and ultimately offers solace to a divided world. We hope you find that the included art evokes a sense of both comfort and optimism. Now available for purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Dwarka

Board Member, Manitoba Multifaith Council

**UNITED CHURCH
HALFWAY HOMES**



October 10, 2024

Submit to: Harrow United Church

United Church Halfway Homes (UCHH) discontinued occupying the office space on the main floor of Harrow United Church. This was designated as an office for the Executive Director, unfortunately it was underutilized. Over the past 2 years it was proven to be more effective for the Executive Director to work from home or utilize office space and visits to UCHH 3 homes individually.

UCHH continues to rent space at Harrow for Meetings, Training and Events.

Meetings- Over the past years United Church Halfway Homes have been afforded the convenience of attending meetings in the lower hall. UCHH has increased its in person meetings, slowly decreasing virtual utilization. This year we will be continuing with a combination of In Person and Virtual Meetings. We utilize two main spaces in Harrow's facilities, both on the lower level. The Parlour room is generally used for staff meetings. The Main Hall is used for larger meetings that require the use of the big screen TV provided in the space. This has been convenient for displaying power point presentations or Virtual Meetings.

Training: In the past years the main lower hall has been used for training. This past year we utilized the room on two occasions for mass training of our staff. This coming year we intend on increasing the utilization of this space for large group training. All other training for staff has been held virtually or in person off site.

Accommodations: Harrow United Church continues to accommodate UCHH whenever possible. We are pleased to be fortunate to rent space from Harrow United Church as it is not only convenient but reasonably priced. There have been several impromptu meetings taken place and accommodations have always been made by Harrow Secretary Karen to accommodate UCHH.

McMillan Gift Baskets: Every year during Christmas our ladies at McMillan are gifted Christmas presents from Harrow United Church. Hand made knitted items such as blankets, scarfs and other assortment of gifts are provided, children of our residents are also included. Christmas time can be stressful and trigger unpleasant memories for our residents. This good will Christmas gesture, assist to shine a bright light during the holiday season. This year the house was provided with homemade knitted items and an assortment of gifts in the same fashion as the previous years. Our residents were happy to receive these thoughtful gifts. The addition of pillow cases to house the gifts in are an added special touch.

UCHH would like to thank the ladies of Harrow for their kind act of sharing and giving, sending a positive message to our residents.

In addition to the handcrafted gifts McMillan is fortune to receive an assortment of gifts from the "Shoe Box".

Salvation Army also provides small token gifts to all 3 homes at Christmas time.

Events- This past summer UCHH was able to Host our third Organizational BBQ for our staff, this was good for bonding and breaking bread with each other. Staff seemed to enjoy it a great deal.

UCHH also hosted our Annual General Meeting virtually utilizing the Big Screen TV in the lower hall.

Christmas Parties were hosted for staff and residents in individual homes.

Events have been planned for residents such a game nights, beach and picnic days, attending movies, or grabbing a bit to eat. This is important to provide some normalcies throughout the community reintegration process.

Employment

UCHH has hired a new Board Secretary Marcia. A new Board Secretary will assist us in keeping things organized as we move into the next phases of our organizational growth.

UCHH is fortunate to experience community partnership with Harrow United Church!

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Dennis,
Executive Director

**MANITOBA COUNCIL for
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MCIC)**
(www.mcic.ca)



MCIC is a coalition of over 40 organizations involved in international development. Responsible for disturbing government financial funds designed for international development. 2024 is the 50th Anniversary of MCIC.

International Development Week 2024 was launched at the Mb Legislative Building in Feb. The province of Manitoba in 2023 contributed \$36.2 million to the international work of member organizations & partners. In 2024 the province of Manitoba contributed \$1.25 million which supported 52 projects in 34 countries.

Inspiring Action for Global Citizenship organized 182 events with approximately 7,000 participants. Also developed “Fast Fashion: The T-Shirt” board game. One can find more info on game@ MCIC site.

Janice Hamilton, Executive Director has worked for the past 36 years & has been leading MCIC for the last 24 years. There have been many changes over the years and MCIC has kept true to its commitment to the value of solidarity & cooperation in action.

The need remains for MCIC to work in unity with people & organizations in the Global South & engage Mb as global citizens. United Church of Canada received a \$10,200 matching grant for a project in the Philippines for the capacity of traditional farming communities in natural farming systems & climate change adaption. 3 villages of the Benguet province in the Cordillera region, worked together to empower Indigenous farmers on national farming systems & increasing technical capacity in sustainable agricultural practices.

St. Mary’s Road United Church of Canada received \$ 8,000 from the Community Solidarity funds for the project ‘Uniting through Peace: Tongogara Refugee Camp in Zimbabwe’. A story-based peacebuilding educational with community members to inspire creative, nonviolent peacemaking & activism.

There is so much more I could report on, I direct you MCIC site for additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wood
1929dfwoo@gmail.com



THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS and EDUCATIONAL CENTRES**ATLANTIC SCHOOL of THEOLOGY**www.astheology.ns.ca

Atlantic School of Theology serves Christ's mission by shaping effective and faithful ordained and lay leaders and understanding among communities of faith. We did this in a variety of ways in 2023. With students and alumni in every United Church of Canada Region, we bring together a community with an extensive understanding of the varied needs of the church. The Summer Distance MDiv continues to be the degree with the highest enrollment bringing students together for 6 weeks of intensive learning in the summer and online, synchronous, and asynchronous classes in the fall and winter. In addition to the MDiv degree, we have United Church of Canada Students enrolled in the MA as well as 3 diplomas and a wide range of continuing education options.

2023 saw the soft launch of our Bachelor of Theology degree which includes a "Ministry Specialization" stream. We were pleased to welcome 7 students in the fall and anticipate an increase in enrollment in 2024. This degree reduces the barrier for those without an undergraduate degree who feel called to serve the church and want academic excellence at a bachelor's level combined with opportunities for practical experience serving the church. We are excited about the ways this may meet the identified needs of our founding parties. We value our relationship with the Office of Vocation and Candidacy Boards across the country as we seek to respond to the educational needs of the church for shaping effective and faithful leaders.

The Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell concluded his tenure as Academic Dean on the 1st of July and I have taken over the role for the next 3 years. The Presidential search committee concluded their work, and the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance began serving as President on the 1st of August. Like all educational institutions, we face challenges and the road ahead is not always clear, however, there is a spirit of optimism and a sense of renewal within our school community as we chart a path for the future.

It is a joy to work with United Church of Canada students as well as those who support them within the administrative structure of the church and individual communities of faith. We welcome your input as we seek to serve the ever-changing needs of the church.

With the Deepest Respect and Gratitude,

Susan MacAlpine Gillis

Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Academic Dean
Atlantic School of Theology

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES REPORT – 2023

A Year of Desire and Longing



Students in Prairie to Pine Region

Hyerim Park

Jamie Miller

The year 2023 was a year of desire and longing, and with some exciting events to help us feel energized. During the Black History Month, Alcris Limongi organized a lively panel discussion with black diaconal ministers; Principal Alan did something similar with Asian UCC friends during the Asian Heritage Month, with the panelists addressing the question: Who is Asian?

The two-day Con Ed event with Dr. Claudio Carvalhases on worship was refreshing. We rejoiced with The Rev. Dr. Wenh-In Ng during the Annual Service of Celebration when she received the Companion of the Centre Award. To add another layer of joy, the presence of the Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and her conversation with Dr. Ng on Indigenous relations was stimulating.

We began the year desiring to strengthen intercultural education. Conversation with the Executive Director of the Forum of Intercultural Leadership and Education elevated our imagination. As invited by the Office of Vacation, CCS conducted an Admission Orientation Circle in August.

As far as longing goes, we hired Julie Ng-Leung to lead a strategic planning activity. It was a longing for direction and financial stability. After the pandemic, we are faced with the changing landscape in theological education and church life in general. There was a need to sort our priority, strength, and future path.

The strategic activity was completed. Julie has presented the school's leaders several options. The school has set up a special small team to study those findings, taking financial situation seriously. They will also study the recommendations and background information of the strategic plan of 2019. The goal is to provide a decisive strategic goals for the next two years.

CCS is working hard to envision the future. We do not approach it with fear but with courage and understanding. We pray for and work towards transformation.

We are blessed with collaborative, generous partners, including:

Anglican and United Churches
Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
Anglican Deacons
Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean
Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members,
Council and Committee volunteers
St Andrew's College
St Stephen's College
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Yearbook, Financial Statements, and Annual Report may be found at:

<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023-Year-Book.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Lai (Rev. Dr.)
Principal

EMMANUEL COLLEGE



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Spring 2024

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring season. I pray that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. **My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg and it is my privilege to bring you greetings as Emmanuel's Principal.** I hope to see you in person in the near future and share good news of Emmanuel College with you and hear good news of this region's wonderful ministry.

Faculty Compliment, Trauma Informed Pedagogy & Faculty on the Road

Last year, we completed three significant faculty searches, marking historical milestones for the Toronto School of Theology (TST) of which we are a part. Rev. Dr. Glenn McCullough joined as assistant professor through a partnership with Knox, a first in TST's history. Dr. Jenny Bright became Emmanuel's first assistant professor of Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counseling. **The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will be appointed as the first assistant professor of United Church of Canada studies at Emmanuel** after completing her moderator's role in December 2025. Additionally, Néstor Medina was promoted to associate professor, and Pam McCarroll to full professor, holding the Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Practical Theology.

This academic year, the faculty has engaged training in Trauma Informed Pedagogy (TIP), with monthly discussions involving faculty, staff, and Research Fellows. TIP emerged from student discussions in response to our EDIA stance, "DEAR" (Dignity, Equity Accountability, Responsibility) Declaration, and has been supported by grants from the Wabash Center and the Association of Theological Schools. We plan to host a TST-wide conference in May 2024 to share our insights and impact other theological schools.

The current faculty is keen to go out into different communities of faith to promote Emmanuel and share their scholarship and wisdom. Andrew Aitchison as Admissions Counsellor and Recruitment Coordinator will be a liaison connecting faculty with communities. Please let him know if your communities want to invite our Christian, Muslim or Buddhist faculty. That would be so wonderful.

The Indigenous Healing Garden Project

This project, which aligns beautifully with Victoria University's sustainability strategic framework and Emmanuel's commitment to right relations with Indigenous communities, is currently underway, thanks to an initial grant from the United Church Foundation's Seeds of Hope. Brook McKillop, the architectural firm, has been commissioned to redesign the courtyard which features the Crucified Woman Sculpture. The proposed designs have received approval from the project's advisory committee in collaboration with the Indigenous Elder circle. We aim to begin construction this summer and anticipate project completion by 2025, as part of the UCC Centennial celebration.

Major Celebrations at Emmanuel College

In the next few years, there are several significant anniversaries we're eagerly looking forward to celebrating! Firstly, in 2024-2025 we'll be commemorating three remarkable milestones: the 10th anniversary of the Buddhist Focus in our Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) program, the 15th anniversary

of the Muslim Focus in the MPS program, and the grand 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. In 2025-26 we will celebrate 30 years of the Committee on Asian/North American Asian Theologies (CANAAT). Then fast forward to 2027-2028, which promises to be another monumental period, marking the 20th anniversary of the Master of Sacred Music Program and the 100th anniversary of Emmanuel College itself. Stay tuned for more information about these celebrations to come.

I envision our celebrations will incorporate multiple fundraising opportunities to establish scholarships, enriching our offerings and supporting marginalized students. Notable progress has already been made in securing scholarships. We proudly unveiled our first named scholarship for Buddhist students in February 2024. Efforts are underway to establish a Korean Scholarship, with an inaugural fundraising dinner held this past fall, and another planned as a music concert commemorating the 100th birth year of the Right Rev. Dr. Sang Chul Lee on October 26, 2024, at Willowdale Emmanuel United Church. Additionally, a special fundraising event is in the works to establish a scholarship for Queer students, scheduled for November 2 for Drag Show paid event, in collaboration with the Drag and Spirituality Summit, to be held at Emmanuel November 1 to 3, 2024.

Hybrid Master of Divinity Program

Our Hybrid Master of Divinity (MDiv) program began this past year which allows for 2 years of a 3-year MDiv can be done online. We hope this will reach more prospective students outside of the Greater Toronto Area. [Read this story](#) about two folks who began the Hybrid MDiv this year.

Multi-faith Spiritual Life

Spiritual and religious activities thrive, in person every week, Tuesday and Wednesday. These sessions are led by Buddhist faculty members, guest religious leaders and our dedicated student Spiritual Life Team (SLT), along with students from Christian worship/preaching and Buddhist ritual courses. This SLT is enrolled in a year-long course for credit called "Worship and Ritual Leadership Practicum." Our Wednesday Spiritual Life Gathering continues to be the heartbeat of our week and alternates between Christian Worship and a Multi-faith Gathering. These gatherings are streamed live on YouTube and are open to the public and all are welcome!

Faith Community Partnerships

Over the past year and a half, we've been fortunate to receive community lunch sponsorships from various Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist faith communities. They've joined us at Emmanuel to share food, stories, and teachings about their faith traditions while learning from our students about their interfaith experiences. Addressing food insecurity is crucial today, and providing meals to our students in this manner has been a great blessing. If your church is interested in partnering with Emmanuel, please be in touch!

Financial Support

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students. Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. program and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada's candidacy pathway process. All basic degree domestic full-time students are eligible for our **Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first-year courses.** We also offer all (domestic and international) students who are registered in the Ph. D. program, 100% tuition coverage for four years. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programs, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison, emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca.

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online. These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts (CRIC). A list of upcoming offerings are found on the [Emmanuel College website](#). For further information about these events please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

Please follow us on social media:

[Facebook:](#) @EmmanuelCollegeofVic
[Instagram:](#) @emmanuelcollegetoronto
[YouTube:](#) @EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg,
Principal
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching
Emmanuel College

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE



Dear friends in Christ,

Warm greetings from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon! As we embark upon the year 2024, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the enduring support and prayers of our beloved community. Reflecting on the challenges we have collectively faced over the past several years we are reminded of the profound truth that we are stronger *together*.

It is with great joy and gratitude that we share the news of the deepening partnership between St. Andrew's College and our partners within the Saskatoon Theological Union. Through our Covenant of commitment, we continue to chart a path of collaboration and mutual support, transcending individual identities to embrace a shared vision of unity and purpose. While each institution retains its unique character and traditions, our collective endeavours serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the wider community. We hope that our bold ecumenical strides will serve as a catalyst for similar partnerships within our denominational traditions, fostering greater unity and understanding among God's people.

At the heart of our mission lies a commitment to excellence in theological education, and I am thrilled to share the exciting developments in our academic programs. Building upon a foundation of shared values and mutual respect, the faculty of the Saskatoon Theological Union has finalised the renewal of our Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degree programmes. These programmes, offered in

an intensive format through a trimester model, provide students with the opportunity to pursue their studies without the need for relocation. We take great pride in being the first mainline seminary in Canada to offer such a pathway, emphasising ecumenism and interdisciplinary collaboration.

In addition to our degree programmes, we remain steadfast in our commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. Our Doctor of Ministry programme continues to thrive, attracting a diverse cohort of students eager to deepen their knowledge and enhance their ministry. Furthermore, even though General Council has decided to discontinue the Designated Lay Ministry programme, we are grateful for the opportunity to support the current DLM students as they complete their studies. The presence of our DMin and DLM directors and students enriches our community, fostering vibrant dialogue and mutual learning.

This past September saw the launch of our Lifelong Learning Pathway—a testament to our commitment to inclusive education and spiritual formation. Developed over the past two years, this innovative programme offers a flexible and personalised approach to theological and spiritual exploration. Whether one is a seasoned pastor seeking continuing education, a lay person committed to furthering their ability to support their own and their faith's community's journey, or a spiritually curious seeker embarking on a journey of discovery, our certificate programmes provide a space for growth, reflection, and transformation.

As we stand on the threshold of a new era, we are filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation. The challenges of recent years have not weakened our resolve but have instead ignited our imaginations and renewed our sense of purpose. We invite you to join us on this journey of compassion, hope, and justice—to support us, to pray for us, and to walk alongside us as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of theological education in the twenty-first century.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you wish to explore our academic or lifelong learning pathways further. We are here to serve and support you in any way we can. As well, do reach out if you have any questions at all, at principal.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

If you would like to know more about our academic or lifelong learning pathways, feel free to contact the College Recruitment Ambassador at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

And we would be more than happy to receive your financial support! Contact our College Secretary at collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca for a list of development opportunities and ways to give.

May the Spirit continue to guide and bless us as we walk together in ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal, St. Andrew's College

ANNIVERSARIES

CONGRATULATIONS to those celebrating significant anniversaries of their admission to the Order of Ministry in the United Church, their commissioning to diaconal ministry or ordination: (OM-Ordained Minister; DM- Diaconal Minister)

Fifth Anniversary (2019)

James De Beer (OM-Admissions)	Tammy Bleue (DM)	Susan McPherson-Derendy (OM)
Donald Schau (OM)		

Tenth Anniversary (2014)

Lawrence Moore (OM)	Laurie Howard (OM)
---------------------	--------------------

Fifteenth Anniversary (2009)

Tim Crouch (OM)	Phillip Read (OM)	Wayne Sanderson (OM -Admissions)
-----------------	-------------------	----------------------------------

Twentieth Anniversary (2004)

Heather Sandilands (DM)	Tricia Gerhard (OM)	Charles (Chuck) Ross (OM)
Scott MacAuley (OM-Admissions)	Eric Lukacs (OM)	Ren Amell (OM)
Alison Halstead (DM)	Janet Walker (OM)	

Twenty Fifth Anniversary (1999)

Heather Lea (OM)	Adel Compton (OM)	Mark Satterly (OM)
------------------	-------------------	--------------------

Thirtieth Anniversary (1994)

Ken DeLisle (DM)	Joan Jarvis (DM)	Joseph (Joe) Ball (OM)
Julie Baker (OM)	Glenn Morison (OM)	Nannette McKay (OM)
Aileen Urquhart (DM)	John Oldencamp (OM)	Karen Tjaden (DM)

Thirty Fifth Anniversary (1989)

Michael Wilson (OM)

Millie Malavsky (DM)

Lynda Trono (DM)

Fortieth Anniversary (1984)

David Barrows (OM)

Jeff Cook (OM)

Cathie Waldie (OM)

Barb Jardine (OM)

Ellen Wood (OM)

David Murata (OM)

Margaret McCallum (OM)

barb janes (OM)

Caryn Douglas (DM)

Wendy Rankin (OM)

James Christie (OM)

Forty Fifth Anniversary (1979)

Bruce Faurshou (OM)

Teresa Moysey (OM)

Ann Naylor (DM)

Dawn Ballantine- Dickson (OM)

Fiftieth Anniversary (1974)

Eleanor Geib (OM) (Entered ministry as Deaconess in 1962)

Earl Gould (OM)

Glenna Beauchamp (OM)

Sixtieth Anniversary (1964)

† Robert (Bob) Galston (OM)

Yoshi Masaki (OM)

Kenneth Murdock (OM)



APPENDIX I - MINUTES OF THE 5th PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting 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 5th 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 COLLEGES 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	<p>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.</p> <p>Introduced Cheryl Jourdain to speak about the Remit.</p> <p>Remit video</p> <p>Table group time was provided and a time for questions and answers was given.</p>
GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT	
THEME	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.
CANDIDATES	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.
CLUSTER & NETWORKING	Time was given for attendees to gather in networks and clusters as they wished.
WORSHIP	Evening worship was led by Don Schau and others from Rural Connect.
LISTEN & DISCUSS PROPOSAL	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**WORSHIP**

Worship was led by Hyerim Park of Korean Rainbow United.

WORKSHOPS

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

DECIDE

**Proposal #1
002-2023/2024**

It was approved by consensus

That Prairie to Pine Regional Council will:

- 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.**
- 2. Create an educational process to assist communities of faith and other ministries, their membership and supporters to:**
 - 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.**
 - Consider other actions such as switching to a more climate-conscious institution, divesting from less ethical investments, and transferring investments to ethical funds.**
- 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 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

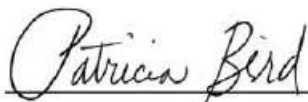
CLOSING WORSHIP We gathered to have closing worship led by our Young Adult and Youth (YAAY) committee.

ADJOURNMENT Pat Bird adjourned the meeting.

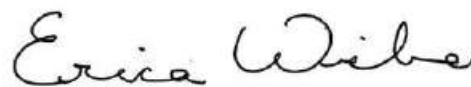
RETIREES BANQUET A delicious meal celebrating the retirees took place on Saturday evening. We celebrated the following retirees:

- 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.



Patricia Bird, Co-Chair



Erica Wiebe, Co-Chair



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

Appendix II - NOMINATIONS REPORT 2024

The Nominations Committee works throughout the year to find people from all over the Prairie to Pine region to fill vacancies on the Executive, Commissions, Committees and Task Groups. Nominations are presented to the Regional Council Executive for approval, and a yearly report is presented to each Annual Meeting. It is important to note that the Nominations Committee attempts to follow the diversity parameters established by The United Church of Canada, as well as the Calls to the Church by the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle. Therefore, to the best of our ability, we try to represent a diversity of identities, lenses and geography among nominees to Regional Council roles. A summary of the roles on the Executive, Commissions, Committees and Task Groups that currently carry out the mission and ministry of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council will be updated in the coming months, but the most recent version can be viewed or downloaded here <https://prairietopinerc.ca/about/governance/>.

The following is a list of the people involved in the work of the Regional Council. If you, or someone you know, is interested in getting involved as the Regional Council continues to develop its mission and ministry, please complete the online Expression of Interest and Nominations Form.

Nominations are considered and members added to committees throughout the year; your interest is encouraged, your willingness to volunteer is a gift to the church.

Prairie to Pine Executive

1	Erica Wittevrongel	Past Chair	3-2025
2	Dawn Rolke	Co-Chair	1-2026
3	Lynne Sanderson	Co-Chair	1-2025
4	Doug Neufeld	Co-Chair-Elect	1-2025
5	Pat Bird	Past Chair	3-2025
6	Jennifer Pakula	Treasurer	2-2026
7	M Chorney		2-2025
8	James deBeer		3-2025
9	Craig Miller		2-2025
10	Tricia Gerhard		1-2025
11			
12	Youth Representative (alternating)		1-2025

Officer of the Court

James deBeer
Lori Stewart

Property Commission

1	Ken Thomas	Chair	3-2025
2	Chuck Ross		3-2025
3	Wayne Sanderson		3-2026
4	<i>vacant</i>		
5	<i>vacant</i>		

Trustees

Bev Simpson		3-2026
Teresa Melnychuk	Secretary	3-2026
Al Franchuk	Chair	3-2026

Nominating Committee

1	Betty Kelly	Past Chair	3-2025
2	Joey Dearborn	Chair	3-2026
3	Frances Flook		2-2025
4	Marissa Smirl		1-2026
5	Harold Kenyon		3-2026

Pastoral Relations Commission

1	Patrick Woodbeck	Chair	1-2026
2	Harold Kenyon		4-2026
3	Sherri McConnell		3-2026
4	Linda Buchanan		2-2025
5	Aileen Urquhart		3-2025
6	Paul Duval		1-2026
7	Lorraine Kakegamic		1-2026
8	Simba Mazhara		1-2026

Pastoral Relations Liaisons

1	Mary Best
2	Linda Buchanan
3	Mona Denton
4	Lorraine Kakegamic
5	Paul DuVal
6	Harold Kenyon
7	Aileen Urquhart
8	Patrick Woodbeck
9	Sherri McConnell
10	<i>vacant</i>
11	<i>vacant</i>
12	<i>vacant</i>
13	<i>vacant</i>
14	<i>vacant</i>
15	<i>vacant</i>
16	<i>vacant</i>
17	<i>vacant</i>
18	<i>vacant</i>
19	<i>vacant</i>
20	<i>vacant</i>

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

1	David Howell	liaison to the regional council	3-2026
2	Joan Jarvis	secretary	3-2026
3	Christopher Davis		2-2025
4	Susan Tilleman		2-2026
5	Cathy Maxwell		2-2026

Committee on Community of Faith Support

1	Pat Bird	Chair	3-2026
2	Heather Sandilands		2-2025
3	Silas Lee		2-2025
4	Irene Chabluk		2-2026
5	Bill Millar		2-2026
6	<i>vacant</i>		
7	<i>vacant</i>		
8	<i>vacant</i>		
9	<i>vacant</i>		
10	<i>vacant</i>		
11	<i>vacant</i>		
12	<i>vacant</i>		

Committee on Lay Ministry Support

1	Don Schau	Chair	4-2026
2	Dianne Kowalchuk		2-2026
3	Hope Mattus		3-2025
4	Jim Warburton		2-2025
5	<i>Paul Lemire</i>		1-2026
6	<i>vacant</i>		
7	<i>vacant</i>		
8	<i>vacant</i>		
9	<i>vacant</i>	Chaplain	

Mission Support Grants Committee

1	Anna Stewart		3-2025
2	Anne Duncan		2-2026
3	Joan Neumann		2-2026

Young Adults and Youth Committee (YAAY)

	Emma Seamone	Adult Advisor	
	Tanis Podobni	Adult Advisor	
1	Xander Miller	Co-Convenor	
2	Marissa Smirl (interim)	Co-Convenor	
3	Julia Antonyshyn	Secretary	
4	George Meggison	Co-Coordination Coordinator	
5	Elizabeth Kenyon	Website Coordinator	
6	George Meggison	Executive Liaison	
7	Chelsea Sosiak	Social Media Manager	

8	Selina Santos	Social Media Manager
9	Elizabeth Kenyon	Website Coordinator
10	Xander Miller	Nominations Manager
11	George Meggison	Executive Liaison Staff Assistant
12	Sarah Meggison	Western Event Coordinator
13	Aidan McLeod	Google Drive & Archives Administrator
14	RJ Martinez	Rock Lake United Church Camp Representative
15	Chelsea Sosiak	Travelling Youth Group Representative
16	Ayla Hamilton	Reconciliation Representative
	Lilja Best & Xander Miller	Safer Spaces Covenant Sub-Committee
	Marissa Smirl, Chelsea	Succession Planning Sub-Committee
	Sosiak, George Meggison, & Xander Miller	

Equity and Diversity Committee

1	Linda Rodgers	Secretary	3-2026
2	Alan Gershuny		3-2025
3	Carrie Martens		1-2025
4	Tanis Podobni		1-2025
5	Susan Wepppler		1-2025
6	Kristin Woodburke	Chair	1-2025
7	Heather Robbins		1-2025
8	<i>vacant</i>		1-2025

Board/Council Appointments of Region

Annual Meeting of Initiatives for Just Communities

1	Caryn Douglas	2022
---	---------------	------

Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

1	Dwight Rutherford		1-2024
2	Dennis Butcher		1-2025
3	Del Sexsmith		2-2023
4	Betty Young	Secretary	2-2024
5	Stuart Fletcher-Cook	Chair	2-2025
6	Gordon Goossen	Treasurer	3-2024
7	Lisa Lix	Vice-Chair	3-2024
8	Teresa Moysey		member
9	Sharon Miller		member
10	Warren Thomson		member
11	Kirk Windsor		member

Fred Douglas Society

- | | | |
|---|---------------|------------|
| 1 | <i>vacant</i> | |
| 2 | <i>vacant</i> | indefinite |

Jubilee Fund

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|
| 1 | Lynda Trono | 1-2023 |
|---|-------------|--------|

Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)

- | | | |
|---|------------|--------|
| 1 | Ellen Wood | 2-2022 |
|---|------------|--------|

Manitoba Multifaith Council

- | | | |
|---|--------------|------|
| 1 | Diane Dwarka | 2022 |
|---|--------------|------|

Rock Lake United Church Camp Inc.

Kathryn Avery-Deines
 Carole Bere
 Kelvin Campbell
 Jan Martens
 Rodney Guilford
 Bonnie Robbins
 Steve Harbicht
 Nancy MacAulay
 Margaret Treble

University of Winnipeg – Board of Regents

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Grant Christensen | 2-2027 |
| 2 | Evan Podaima | 1-2025 |
| 3 | Mac Balacano | 2026 |
| 4 | Michelle Pereira | 2-2025 |
| 5 | Shanna Sterling | 3-2025 |
| 6 | Kathleen McCandless | 2-2026 |
| 7 | Greg Messer | 2-2026 |
| 8 | Richard Jones | 2-2026 |
| 9 | <i>vacant</i> | Student Rep 2024 |
| 10 | <i>vacant</i> | Student Rep 2024 |

Wellman Lake United Church Camp Board of Directors

Joyce Bateman
 Breana How
 Blair Mullin
 Lucile Neufeld
 Max Polon
 Kendal Stechyshyn
 Candace Wenzel
 Lanaya Harris

Winnipeg Free Press Advisory Board

- | | | |
|--|---------------|--------|
| | Teresa Moysey | 2-2025 |
|--|---------------|--------|

Appendix III – GENERAL COUNCIL 45 COMMISSIONERS and ALTERNATES



Jennifer Pakula

- Lay person
- Snow Lake, MB
- No previous GC experience
- “I’m interested in this position for two primary reasons. One, I am curious about how General Council works and would like to see it first-hand. Two, I am a member of an ecumenical ministry in a small northern isolated community that does not have ordained clergy and as such, think I would bring an interesting perspective to General Council.”



Teresa Melnychuk

- Lay person
- Balmoral United Church
- Previously attended GC 42
- “I am part of a small rural congregation and serve as chair of my pastoral charge. I would include my voice to represent small struggling congregations.”



Craig Miller

- Ministry personnel
- Knox United Church, Brandon
- No previous GC experience
- “It is essential for the voice of the Prairie to Pine Region, specifically our rural communities of faith, to be heard at the General Council. As a commissioner, I plan to share our experiences at Knox (Brandon) as an affirming ministry working actively for anti-racism, truth and reconciliation, as well as our experience developing community partnerships and interfaith ministry.”



Doug Neufeld

- Ministry personnel and incoming co-chair of Prairie to Pine Regional Council
- Trinity United, Brandon
- Previously attended GC 43
- “I will be co-chair of P2P at the time of GC45 so I have a responsibility to represent our region. I also have past experience by being a commissioner for GC43 and I served 9 years on the board of St. Andrew's College - the last 6 as board chair.”



Donna Neufeld

- Lay person
- Trinity United Church, Brandon
- No previous GC experience
- “I think that my many years of work experience in administration and finance, at different organizations, gives me a valuable perspective for General Conference. I served as secretary of the Board at my home churches as well as other roles on committees, including Christian Education, Equity & Diversity, and the Prayer Team.”



Silas Lee

- Lay person
- Chinese United Church, Winnipeg
- No previous GC experience
- “Currently a board member of Committees of Faith Support, 10 years’ experience with Central District of Evangelical Free Church of Canada, completed LLWL course this past May and is currently a board member of the Chinese United Church.”



Tricia Gerhard

- Ministry personnel
- Westworth United Church, Winnipeg
- Previously attended GC 43 and 44
- “First of all, I LOVE CHURCH MEETINGS. Not sure if that is a strength or a weakness, but it's the truth. Participating in General Council as a Commissioner for the last two councils has been such an empowering and humbling experience. Through my participation in the (Re)Generate program I have expressed my intention to continue to offer leadership and spiritual care for the people of the church for another ten or more years. That means I need to participate in the life and work of the Region and the General Council as well as my community of faith in order for the church to flourish and continue to shift in response to the changes that we see in our people and church.”



Simbarashe Mazhara

- Ministry personnel
- United in Spirit, Steinbach, and Niverville
- Previously attended GC 44
- “The role offers an opportunity to learn, to grow and to be confronted by real challenges faced by congregations and personnel (paid & non-paid) in ministry. It offers a 'hands-on' experience for involvement in policy-making processes. That active involvement enriches my ministry and empowers my leadership, especially when it comes to explaining the new policies to my faith community or society at large.”



Emma Seamone

- Ministry personnel
- Carberry United Church, Carberry
- Previously attended GC 42
- “Background in Environmental Science and church policy around climate and mining. Youth Ministry Postgraduate diploma and membership in YAAY. Been in ministry in rural areas so have that perspective.”



Kristin Woodburke

- Ministry personnel
- Oakbank United Church, Oakbank
- Previously attended GC 40
- “I have been a commissioner previously and understand the importance of the role, not only in serving to do the work of the General Council, but also to communicate that work to the Region. This being the 100th anniversary year, I anticipate an opportunity to talk about the future of the church, something that has been on my mind quite a bit lately, as part of my work with the church I serve, but also just as an individual middle-aged Christian.”



Damber Khadka

- Ministry personnel
- Trinity United Church, Winnipeg
- No previous GC experience
- “I have an experience of working with diverse racial /ethnic demographic communities. Involved in intercultural ministries, advocate on behalf of racialized, underserved, non-privileged individuals and communities.”



Hope Mattus

- Lay person
- United Church in Meadowood, Winnipeg
- Previously attended GC 44
- “I am currently serving as commissioner to the 44th General Council. This has been a vast learning experience for me. It puts me in a position to keep my community of faith duly informed of the happenings of the General Council and the wider church. This experience continues to enrich me and deepen my faith. Participation gives me a greater understanding of the church and why we are called to be the church.”



Frances Flook

- Ministry personnel
- Knox United, Kenora
- Previously attended GC 39
- “I bring 27+ years of ministry wisdom/experience with me- have been part of the changing journey of the church during that time - understanding of history, knowledge and context. My ministry has been in rural and small-town setting, so I bring the unique perspective of what it means to be the church where you are the only liberal/progressive option in town, and where out-migration for education and work is a reality.”



Hannah Polasek (Youth Forum)

- Lay person, selected by the YAAY committee as the region’s commissioner to Youth Forum
- Carberry United Church, Carberry
- No previous GC experience
- “I am currently in my 3rd course of LLWL (licensed lay worship leader) training and am very thankful for the opportunity to go to General Council. I believe that we can all do something to spark change and hope to bring my own experiences from a small rural town with me to General Council.”

Alternates

Diane Dwarka

- Lay person
- United Church in Meadowood, Winnipeg
- Previously attended GC 39, 40 and 44
- “I have served the United Church of Canada at all levels in various capacities. I have been chair of the United Church in Meadowood, Presbytery, Co-Chair of the P2P Region, Chair of Programs for Mission and Ministry (GC) and been on various committees.”
- **Recommended by the Nominating Committee to be considered as a Category H commissioner, named by General Council.**

Patrick Woodbeck

- Ministry personnel
- Gordon King Memorial and Grey St. United, Winnipeg
- Previously attended GC 42
- “I am deeply interested in the future direction of the United Church of Canada. I bring the ability to view issues from many different perspectives while honouring, and holding, these different perspectives at the same time. I have previously been a commissioner and in that work I spoke directly to the court at the meeting a few times, bringing concerns raised by my table group to the whole. I am willing to engage with others and I am thoughtful in response. I am open-minded to new ideas and possibilities.”
- **Recommended by the Nominating Committee to be considered as a Category H commissioner, named by General Council.**

Susie McPherson-Derendy

- Ministry personnel
- Knox United Church, Brandon
- No previous GC experience
- **Recommended by the Nominating Committee to be considered as a Category H commissioner, named by General Council**

Karen Tjaden

- Ministry personnel
- Knox United, Winnipeg and Carman
- Previously attended GC 44
- “I am a diaconal minister, commissioned by Conference of MB/NWO in 1994. Social justice and community ministries have been a strong focus of my ministry whether in paid or unpaid accountable ministry in both inner city and rural contexts. I was nurtured in my faith by a lively rural Manitoba congregation which prepared me well to be a follower of Jesus. Almost all of my formal employment and career opportunities have been available to me through serving in UCC ministries.”

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2023

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Contents
Independent Auditor's Report	2
Non-Consolidated Financial Statements	
Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	4
Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations	
Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets	
Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements	8



Tel.: 204 956 7200
Fax.: 833 888 1678
www.bdo.ca

BDO Canada LLP
201 Portage Avenue - 26th Floor
Winnipeg MB R3B 3K6 Canada

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Opinion

We have audited the non-consolidated financial statements of Prairie to Pine Regional Council (the "Council"), which comprise the non-consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the non-consolidated statements of operations and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the non-consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of non-consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the non-consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the non-consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the non-consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the non-consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the non-consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the non-consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba

May 16, 2024

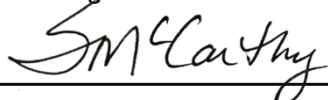
PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2023	2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank	\$ 144,020	\$ 291,943
Short-term investments (Note 3)	909,914	754,892
Accounts receivable	11,931	6,407
Other receivables	16,500	-
Prepaid expenses	2,014	1,079
Due from related party (Note 4)	19,453	15,311
Due from Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. (Note 5)	15,867	11,966
	<u>1,103,199</u>	<u>1,081,598</u>
Long-term investments (Note 3)	189,461	210,906
Capital assets (Note 6)	-	406
	<u>\$ 1,309,160</u>	<u>\$ 1,292,910</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 14,546	\$ 10,031
Due to related party (Note 4)	8,293	3,125
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	10,673	10,673
Designated funds (Note 8)	321,117	328,538
	<u>354,629</u>	<u>352,367</u>
Commitments (Note 9)		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	341,031	324,543
Internally restricted net assets (Note 11)		
Project Fund	400,000	400,000
Internal reserves	200,000	200,000
Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund	13,500	16,000
	<u>954,531</u>	<u>940,543</u>
	<u>\$ 1,309,160</u>	<u>\$ 1,292,910</u>

Approved by the Regional Council Executive:



Executive Minister



Treasurer

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2023	2023	2022
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenue			
The United Church of Canada (Note 4)	\$ 632,000	\$ 641,375	\$ 666,475
Donations	15,000	109,041	510,702
Investment income	10,000	40,391	9,220
Event fees	35,000	35,955	2,820
Miscellaneous income	-	18,032	6,411
Sales of goods and services	-	538	350
	692,000	845,332	1,195,978
Expenses			
Allocations and payments to programs	180,350	193,772	372,586
Amortization	-	406	406
Annual meeting	75,000	46,651	6,535
General funds	42,300	53,216	35,288
Office and administration	43,160	41,293	39,599
Staffing costs	507,238	496,006	456,007
	848,048	831,344	910,421
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (156,048)	\$ 13,988	\$ 285,557

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended December 31**2023****2022**

	<u>Internally Restricted (Note 11)</u>					Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Project Fund	Internal Reserves	Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 324,543	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 940,543	\$	654,986
Excess of revenue over expenses	13,988	-	-	-	13,988		285,557
Internal transfers	2,500	-	-	(2,500)	-		-
Balance, end of year	\$ 341,031	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 954,531	\$	940,543

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2023	2022
Cash Flows from (to) Operating Activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 13,988	\$ 285,557
Adjustments for		
Amortization of capital assets	406	406
	14,394	285,963
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Accounts receivable	(5,524)	(2,033)
Other receivables	(16,500)	-
Prepaid expenses	(935)	3,086
Due from related party	(4,142)	(11,454)
Due to related party	5,168	2,380
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,515	953
Designated funds	(7,421)	151,705
Due from Pine United Church Development Inc.	(3,901)	(2,907)
	(14,346)	427,693
Cash Flows to Investing Activities		
Proceeds of disposal of investments	888,469	16,756
Purchase of investments	(1,022,046)	(560,168)
	(133,577)	(543,412)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(147,923)	(115,719)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	291,943	407,662
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 144,020	\$ 291,943

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

1. Nature of Operations

The Prairie to Pine Regional Council (the "Council") is composed of Communities of Faith of The United Church of Canada within the Province of Manitoba and those in the Central Time Zone of Northwestern Ontario (including Atikokan). The Regional Council of the United Church of Canada is a decision making body responsible to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight. The Council is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. It is exempt from income taxes under section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The purpose of the Council is:

- Provide support advice and services to Communities of Faith in the areas of human resources, property, archives, leadership training.
- Provide oversight of Communities of Faith and supporting them in their life and work and ensure compliance with the policies and polity of the United Church.
- To ordain and commission members of the order of ministry, recognize Designated Lay Minister, and celebrate admission and re-admissions into the order of ministry.
- To speak both pastorally and prophetically while providing education and advocacy on issues that affect the health of our communities.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These non-consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Council has elected to not consolidate Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

Revenue Recognition

The Council follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Grants - These revenues are recognized as revenue in the period for which the grant is made based on the approved budget of the Council.

Interest - Interest revenue is recognized as income when the Council becomes entitled to such earnings.

Deferred Contributions - Contributions restricted for particular purposes are deferred and recognized as revenue when the related expenses are incurred.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue Recognition (continued)

Donations - Donation revenue is recorded when received. Donation revenue received with no specific purposes is unrestricted and will be used at the discretion of the Council. The Council's practice is to allocate these funds as per the donor's request.

Sales and fee for service - These revenues are recognized as revenue in the period for which the services have been rendered or goods provided in the case of service charges and fees.

Volunteer Services

The Conference receives the benefit of the contribution of significant time by many volunteers. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of the time, volunteer services are not recognized in these non-consolidated financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in bank accounts and guaranteed investment certificates that mature within 3 months.

Capital Assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost.

Other capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis starting the year after acquisition over the following term:

Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	5 years

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial Instruments

Arm's length financial instruments are recorded at fair value at initial recognition.

Related party financial instruments quoted in an active market or those with observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value or derivative contracts are recorded at fair value at initial recognition. All other related party financial instruments are recorded at cost at initial recognition.

In subsequent periods, equities traded in an active market and derivatives are reported at fair value, with any change in fair value reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items measured at fair value and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

Financial assets are tested for impairment when indicators of impairment exist. When a significant change in the expected timing or amount of the future cash flows of the financial asset is identified, the carrying amount of the financial asset is reduced and the amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. A previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, provided it is not greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously, and the amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

Post Retirement Benefit Plan

The employees of the Council participate in a contributory, multi-employer pension plan administered nationally by The United Church of Canada, where benefits are based upon career contributions. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to this pension plan.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the non-consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

3. Investments

	2023	2022
Conexus CU GIC - 3.75%, maturing November 02, 2024	\$ 200,000	\$ -
Conexus CU GIC - 4.65%, maturing August 21, 2024	157,035	-
Conexus CU GIC - 4.80%, maturing December 22, 2024	156,075	-
Conexus CU GIC - 4.25%, maturing March 03, 2024	150,802	-
Conexus CU GIC - 4.65%, maturing August 21, 2024	104,997	-
Conexus CU GIC - 3.65%, maturing November 2, 2023	-	200,000
Conexus CU GIC - 3.24%, maturing August 18, 2023	-	152,107
Conexus CU GIC - 0.55%, maturing March 13, 2023	-	150,000
Conexus CU GIC - 4.05%, maturing December 22, 2023	-	150,000
Conexus CU GIC - 3.44%, maturing August 18, 2023	-	101,505
Conexus CU GIC - 1.25% maturing March 15, 2024	101,250	100,000
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.26%, maturing December 22, 2028	25,500	-
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.37%, maturing December 21, 2026	23,000	23,000
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.76%, maturing December 23, 2024	23,000	23,000
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.51%, maturing December 22, 2025	23,000	23,000
Scotia Wealth GIC - 4.35%, maturing December 21, 2027	23,000	23,000
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.00%, maturing April 5, 2024	12,769	12,769
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.00%, maturing April 4, 2024	2,077	2,077
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.00%, maturing March 22, 2024	1,909	1,909
Assiniboine CU GIC - 2.80%, maturing September 26, 2028	1,293	-
Assiniboine CU GIC - 1.00%, maturing September 26, 2023	-	1,280
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.10%, maturing March 13, 2025	726	725
Assiniboine CU GIC - 0.50%, maturing May 9, 2025	725	721
Assiniboine CU GIC - 2.50%, maturing September 17, 2025	722	705
Scotia Wealth Coupon Bonds	91,495	-
	1,099,375	965,798
Less due within one year	(909,914)	(754,892)
	\$ 189,461	\$ 210,906

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

4. Due from Related Parties

The following table summarizes the Council's related party transactions for the year:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Grants from the United Church of Canada	\$ 641,375	\$ 666,475

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange value, which is the amount agreed upon by the two parties.

The amounts due (to) from related parties at year end are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Due from Northern Spirit Regional Council	\$ 2,373	\$ 5,501
Due from Living Skies Regional Council	17,080	9,810
	<u>\$ 19,453</u>	<u>\$ 15,311</u>
 Due to United Church of Canada	 <u>(8,293)</u>	 <u>(3,125)</u>

Northern Spirit Regional Council and Living Skies Regional Council are also United Church Regional Councils with similar purposes, goals and policies. These regions share employees and accounting with the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

United Church of Canada is the governing body for all Regional Council's in Canada and they provide grants and assistance to each region.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

5. Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc.

The Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. was established to promote the welfare and good of the Council by receiving funds allocated for new church development, redevelopment and the support of other Regional Ministries. The Organization is incorporated under The Corporations Act of Manitoba and is a registered not-for-profit organization under the Income Tax Act and was originally called Winnipeg Presbytery Church Development Inc.

The Organization is managed by a Board of Directors appointed from the members of the Organization, and accountable to the Council. The Council has a significant economic interest in the Organization in that the resources of the Organization can be provided to the Council or used for its benefit. In addition, the Council has the authority to direct the Organization by virtue of a resolution at any time and the Council can approve the Organization's activities including the election of Directors or send a direction for any particular activity.

The balance due to the Organization has arisen from transactions in the normal course of operations between the organizations and has no security, repayment terms or interest charged.

The following summarizes the Council's related party transactions for the year:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Grants received from the Organization	\$ 15,907	12,006

The Organization's financial statements have not been consolidated in the Council's non-consolidated financial statements. Financial statements of the Organization are available on request. Financial summaries of the Organization as at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the years then ended are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash	\$ 27,656	\$ 30,514
Long-term investments	2,233,464	2,098,395
	<u>\$ 2,261,120</u>	<u>\$ 2,128,909</u>

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

6. Prairie to Pine United Church Development Inc. (continued)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Grants payable	\$ 3,386	\$ 1,561
Due to related party	<u>15,867</u>	<u>11,966</u>
	<u>19,253</u>	13,527
Net Assets		
Externally restricted	<u>2,241,867</u>	<u>2,115,382</u>
	<u>\$ 2,261,120</u>	<u>\$ 2,128,909</u>
Revenues		
Investment income (loss)	\$ 167,044	\$ (84,333)
Investment management fees	11,202	10,789
Other grants expended	<u>13,450</u>	<u>43,936</u>
	<u>142,392</u>	(139,058)
Grants expended to Prairie to Pine Regional Council	<u>15,907</u>	<u>12,006</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 126,485</u>	<u>\$ (151,064)</u>

6. Capital Assets

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Office equipment	\$ 2,099	\$ 2,099	\$ 2,099	\$ 1,693
Net book value		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ 406</u>

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

7. Deferred Revenue

	2023		2022
Revenue generation fund	\$ 10,673	\$	10,673

8. Designated Funds

	2023		2022
Trusts			
Archives Sale of Property Fund	\$ 181,835	\$	182,731
Archives Project - Winnipeg Foundation	2,500		8,000
McArthur Estate	9,932		9,932
Neechi	3,250		3,250
Oral History Archive Trust	4,257		4,257
	201,774		208,170
Special Funds			
Archives Special Funds	863		863
BIRS	500		500
Bursary Fund	1,188		2,213
Education & Students 2015	1,000		1,000
Effective Leadership events 2013-2015	685		685
Keewatin	90,358		90,358
Ministry and Personnel - future projects	5,234		5,234
Overview & Visioning event 2014	2,500		2,500
Youth Events	14,695		14,695
Youth Leadership Development	2,320		2,320
	119,343		120,368
	\$ 321,117	\$	328,538

The Council administers funds for various projects and groups operating within the Region. Amounts received and expended on behalf of these projects and groups are recorded directly to these accounts.

The Council also administers funds for various projects and groups operating within the Prairie to Pine Region communities of faith. Amounts received and expended on behalf of these projects and groups are recorded directly to these accounts.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

9. Commitments

The Council has an operating lease for its buildings ending December 31, 2026. The following are the future minimum lease payments:

2024	\$	30,000
2025		30,000
2026		30,000
		<hr/>
	\$	90,000
		<hr/>

10. Pension Plan

Retirement benefits for employees of the Council are provided through the pension plan of The United Church of Canada (the "Plan"). The Plan is a multi-employer pension plan which provides pensions for members of the Ministry Personnel and lay employees of the Offices of the General Council, Regional Council, or Community of Faith of The United Church of Canada. The Plan is a contributory defined benefit pension plan which is financed by contributions from participating employers and employees, and by the investment earnings of the Plan. The Plan is registered under the Pension Benefits Act, (Ontario), Registration #0355230.

At the date of the last actuarial valuations and publicly available financial information, there were no unfunded liabilities related to either past service or to amendments to the Plan.

During the year, the Council made employer contributions to the plan of approximately \$34,454 (\$29,755 in 2022).

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

11. Internally Restricted Net Assets

The Executive Committee restricted net assets that can only be used for the following specific purposes:

Net assets restricted for Project Fund provide net assets to fund granting activities by the Council made to Communities of Faith within the Region.

Net assets restricted for short and long-term internal reserves provide net assets to fund operations in future years when the Council is experiencing fiscal challenges due to unanticipated revenue losses or unanticipated operating expenses.

Net assets restricted for Pastoral Relations Discretionary Fund provide net assets to support ministry personnel in emergency circumstances.

During the year, the Executive Committee has not restricted additional net assets for all restricted funds (\$nil in 2022).

12. Financial Instrument Risk

The Council is exposed to different types of risk in the normal course of operations. The Council's objective in risk management is to optimize the risk return trade-off, within set limits, by applying integrated risk management and control strategies, policies and procedures throughout the Council's activities.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument fails to discharge an obligation and causes financial loss to another party. Financial instruments which potentially subject the Council to credit risk consist principally of accounts receivable.

The Council is not exposed to significant credit risk as the receivable is spread among a broad client base and payment in full is typically collected when it is due. The Council establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts that represents its estimate of potential credit losses. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based on management's estimates and assumptions regarding current market conditions, customer analysis and historical payment trends. These factors are considered when determining whether past due accounts are allowed for or written off. The risk has not changed in the year.

PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023

12. Financial Instrument Risk (continued)

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council is not exposed to significant market risk.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Council is not exposed to significant interest rate risk as its cash and cash equivalents are held in short-term investments or variable rate products. The risk has not changed in the year.

Foreign Currency Risk

The Council is not exposed to significant foreign currency risk as it does not have any financial instruments denominated in foreign currency and the number of transactions in foreign currency are minimal.

AGENDA

October 10, 2024

When	What
7:00 pm	Opening Enabling Motions, rules of order Intro staff, committee, special guests
7:10 pm	Worship Land Acknowledgement
7:20 pm	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Minister • Executive Chairs • Town Hall Report • Nominations
7:40 pm	Moderator - Video
7:45 pm	Minute for Mission
7:50 pm	Conversation regarding trends, etc.
8:30 pm	In Memoriam Worship
9:00 pm	Social conversation time – Breakout rooms (for those who want to stay)

October 17, 2024

When	What
7:00 pm	Welcome
7:05 pm	Worship
7:25 pm	Finance Report
7:40 pm	Breakout groups
7:55 pm	Nominations - slate
8:00 pm	Minute for Mission
8:05 pm	Centennial Report
8:30 pm	Courtesies
8:35 pm	Closing worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLWL recognition • Commissioning commissioners
8:55 pm	“Workshop” time <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Centennial Conversation (What do we want to do Regionally) 2. Then Let Us Sing Conversation

