

## **Prairie to Pine Regional Council**

### **Annual General Meeting**

Held by Zoom – October 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm CST

Below you will find a brief overview of our two-night annual general meeting. For the full account of each meeting please see the YouTube recordings of each night's events posted in the Prairie to Pine Weekly News.

#### **Overview and Highlights**

##### **Wednesday, October 10**

Welcome and declaration of the opening of the meeting was led by Lynne Sanderson, Co-Chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister of the Tri-Regions of Prairie to Pine, Northern Spirit, and Living Skies proposed, seconded by Pat Bird the enabling motions of which were passed. Shannon then introduced the Tri-Region and Prairie to Pine staff.

Dawn Rolke, Co-Chair of Prairie to Pine Regional Council lead us in the Land Acknowledgement and opening worship. Dawn then offered a time of worship, which included a reading from Anne Lamott's book 'Traveling Mercies'. Dawn ended the reading with hopes that you the gathered will feel like you have arrived home safe and sound and no matter what your state of the world is, we are glad you are here. Music was provided by Arlene Baschak.

People were reminded of the reports in the workbook and offered brief overviews from the Executive Minister, Shannon McCarthy, the Executive Co-Chair, and Dawn Rolke. Erica Wittevrongel was recognized for her service as Chair. Even though she had moved to Saskatchewan, Erica completed her term with a final act being part of the Celebration of Ministry Service in Dauphin, Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was to celebrate the ordination of Irene Dowd, and commissioning to the Diaconal Ministry of Maureen McCartney. Thanks also to Pat Bird, past chair who stepped in when needed to fill leadership responsibilities.

Dawn spoke of the hopes for the coming term to be one of encouraging and building up connection. She also gave thanks to Erica Wittevrongel for her leadership and dedication as well as Pat Bird.

Lynne Sanderson gave a report on the Town Hall that took place by Zoom on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that this forum generated great discussion and that more time and discussion were needed. To that end, the following invitation was offered:

**Town Hall 2.0 on November 27 at 7:00 pm (CST) by Zoom. Invitation and links will be available in the Prairie to Pine Weekly News in the coming weeks.**

This was followed by a reminder to review the list of nominees by the Nominations Committee as the vote on this slate will take place at the following Zoom meeting, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

We then heard from our Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne with her warm greetings for our gathering. She reminded us of her time with us in Winnipeg for our in-person AGM. She also reminded us of the call for equity and diversity when populating our committees and commissions and electing delegates to General Council 45 in Calgary 2025.

Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for the Tri-Region gave us a Minute for Mission, highlighting two of the five recipients of 2023 Mission Support Grants; Wellman Lake Camp, and the Counselling Centre. She also included that Mission and Service supports youth and young adults to attend Rendezvous and other events hosted by YAAY. We were all invited to donate to M&S throughout the meeting and instructions were left to do so.

Next on the agenda was a conversation regarding trends and new relationships and more with Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, and Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator with Organizational Development and Strategy for the United Church of Canada who serves the Tri-Region. This discussion was, by comments and feedback received, a highlight of the evening. We heard of the growth of collaborative ministries, the growing pains of navigating required steps for people entering ministry with the U.C.C. from another country, and the challenges of providing support with few resources available. We heard of hope where Communities of Faith were stepping out into brand new ways of being in ministry and also of the importance of acknowledging when a Community of Faith has reached its final stage. We were reminded that God is still at work and our job is to find out what is it now that God is calling us to do. You can find the entire conversation at 53:50 of the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting recording.

The meeting closed with a time of remembering the ministers and laity who have died since we met in May of 2023. Thanks to the worship leadership of Ila Swain, a C.D.M. and lay delegate from Roland U.C., and Pat Bird, past Co-Chair of Prairie to Pine, and Chair of Committee on Community of Faith Support who led the recognition of Communities of Faith that have disbanded. Many thanks to Crossroads Pastoral Charge for their musicians and singers who contributed music for this service.

All were invited to stay on for breakout rooms for fellowship time.

### **Wednesday, October 17**

Dawn Rolke welcomed all to part two of the Annual General Meeting and reminded us that we were still in session until the close of the meeting.

Opening worship was given by St. Andrew's College Faculty of Becca Whitla, Bernon Lee with a liturgy contribution by Lynn Caldwell who could not be present. It was a great connecting and start to our second evening of gathering by Zoom.

Next on the agenda was the Financial Report given by Shannon McCarthy, Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator for Tri-Region, and Jennifer Pakula, Treasurer of Prairie to Pine R.C. People were invited to questions. The full report may be found in the workbook.

People were invited to break out groups to discuss "When you think of the budget presentation, or items from last week's meeting, what are bigger picture Regional questions raised for you?"

The slate of nominees for General Council 45 was presented for the vote and was passed. The commissioners will be taking part in meetings by Zoom from now until the in-person meeting in Calgary in 2025.

Our next Minute for Mission was again presented by our Tri-Region staff Vicki Nelson who spoke of three more recipients of the Mission Service Grant, Rock Lake United Church Camp, 1Just City, and Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. She also invited anyone wishing for more information and ideas on Stewardship, Planned Giving, Mission, and Service to connect with her. Vicki's contact information is listed along with our other Prairie to Pine and tri-Region staff. Thanks to all who did contribute. **Your generosity helped raise \$1980.00. Thank you!**

Erin Ackland, Keeper of the Archives gave us an impressive presentation on preparing for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada and a tour of helpful websites. It is important to remember to contact the archives far in advance of any requests for material. Erin presented us with a great list of resources with ideas for how we might gather to acknowledge this event and that it can be all year long and not only tied to the June 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary date. Share your ideas and look at collaborating with neighbour Communities of Faith. Resources are all available through the Prairie to Pine website as well as the United Church of Canada website. Please see the recording of October 17<sup>th</sup> for Erin's full presentation @ 49:45.

Courtesies were given and we are reminded in our giving thanks that we are blessed to have a dedicated, committed staff, dedicated, committed laity, and ministry in this Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

Our closing worship was a celebration of recognition of two new Licenced Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL), Irma Nadeau and Diane McKenty, and a commissioning of the newly elected Commissioners and alternates to General Council 45. The recognition portion was led by Rev. Don Schau of Atlantic-Garden City United Church and the commissioning was led by Rev. Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister for the Tri-Region. Thanks to Crossroads Pastoral Charge for the musicians and singers for this worship.

Dawn Rolke, Co-Chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council adjourned the meeting and invited any who wished to do so to stay and visit in chat rooms.