

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes
June 3, 2025 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Lynne Sanderson (Co-Chair), Dawn Rolke (Co-Chair), Pat Bird (Past Chair), Doug Neufeld, M Chorney, Tricia Gerhard, James deBeer A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Craig Miller, Jennifer Pakula
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Patrick Woodbeck, Susan Tilleman, Hope Mattus
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Judy Hare (Pastoral Relations Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications),
CALL TO ORDER	Lynne Sanderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She read our land acknowledgement. M led us in prayer and reflection.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 046-2024/2025	It was agreed by consensus: That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the minutes of May 6, 2025 as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING	NA
CORRESPONDENCE	Thank you to Julie for putting together a letter regarding the wild fires.
NEW BUSINESS	NA
FINANCE	Heather presented her financial report. We do have some funds available that we could tap into if we wanted to use that towards help supporting the communities affected by the fires. To do: * Heather to share the finalized audit documents with Cherry to post on the website
COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Co-chairs	Lynne reported. The retirement dinner is coming up on June 14. There will be almost 90 attendees. The celebration of Ministry will be on June 15.

Looking forward to going to St. John's for the centennial event.

This will be Lynne's last meeting as Co-chair. Thank you for your service.

Dawn reported. She wrote a letter to the Lt. Governor. The Lt. Governor responded with a letter that we can provide to any groups who are hosting events. This has also been posted to the website. <https://prairietopinerc.ca/centennial-message-from-the-lieutenant-governor-of-manitoba/>

**Community of Faith
Support**

The Committee on Community of Faith Support inform the Executive of Prairie to Pine Regional Council that notice was received from Council of Emmanuel Anglican /United Church at a meeting on April 16,2025 of its decision to move to toward "dis-establishment" as soon as possible. Their Minister, Jeanne Bryan will be retiring effective June 06,2025. Both the Property Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council and the appropriate Anglican Diocese are working toward the sale of the joint property. Final motion will be introduced when appropriate.

Pat Bird attended the final service on Sunday, June 1, 2025 at Ignace.

Equity and Diversity

NA

YAAY

Our two new YAAY reps are Korlyn Dube and Elizabeth Kenyon. They were unable to attend today but hopefully we will see them in September.

Property

Ken reached out to us via email regarding insurance implications of any communities of faith who wanted to host evacuees. As long as they are under UCC Protect insurance, they are all good. Please let Ken know if this is the case.

To do:

- Cherry will include this in the weekly news this week

**Incorporated
Ministries
047-2024/2025**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the following actions:

- a) 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. 2025-2026
Board of Directors
Kathryn Avery-Deines
Carole Bere
Lindsay Gemmell
Rodney Guilford
Steve Harbicht
Nancy MacAulay
Jan Martens
Bonnie Robbins

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 23, 2025, the 2025 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.

Nominations Joey provided us with the nominations slate (attached).

048-2024/2025 **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Prairie to Pine Executive approve the nominations slate as presented.

Lay Leadership Support Hope presented.
June 14 is the sacrament elder training. There are 10 people signed up.

Ministry Personnel Support The Ministry Personnell event that took place in Brandon went really well.

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister Shannon reported. She is freshly home from NS AGM today and leaving Thursday for Newfoundland.

The applications are now closed for the new Finance Admin. We received 6 applications, and will interview a few in the coming weeks.

Pastoral Relations Minister Judy reported.
The Pensioners gathering is on Tuesday, Covenanting service on Wednesday, Pastoral Relations meeting on Thursday, Sacrament Elders training on Saturday, Retirees banquet and Celebration of Ministry service on Sunday. Judy will be doing the service.

Right now we have a need for a tech person for help arranging recording of the celebration of ministry service.

Justice & Communications **Report, Justice and Communications, Prairie to Pine, 3 June 2025**
[Update on the Nuclear Waste Repository opposition request:](#)

The cross-Regional committee working on this met about ten days ago with Joni Shawana, Martha Pedoniquotte, and Sara Stratton. We sent to Indigenous Ministries and Justice the letter draft that we were going to send you before sending the letter to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. They would have liked to be involved from the beginning; we explained we basically were at the beginning but agreed we should have invited them in immediately. They affirmed our decision to not align with We the Nuclear Free North's approach.

Next steps: I am a little unclear. We likely need to meet to decide on shorter, more

direct wording.

Joni and Martha feel the [Chiefs' joint letter](#) is an important model to follow and to lift up.

Wildfires:

Thank you to our chairs, Lynne and Dawn, for their rapid words on the [Regional statement](#) encouraging our Region's people and communities of faith to step up quickly to support those affected by terrible wildfires. This situation is mirrored in SK, and northern AB looks to be next.

I would like to ask that we consider a tri-Region committee to look at the implications of what seems to be our new wildfire normal- an early season that demands a spring response; intense and fast-moving wildfires; and a particular impact on Indigenous communities. The need for funding, supports, insurance, and more

We are sharing this widely too:

The Power of Prayer: call for daily prayer for wildfire impacts. Keewatin Circle, the Indigenous United Church in Manitoba, invites you to pray with them for all communities in Canada regarding the forest fire emergencies. **Praying will take place for 1 hour each evening beginning at 7:00pm CST, 6:00pm Mountain, 5:00 pm Pacific. We are praying for the following:**

- Rain
- Safety of all communities
- Safety of evacuees
- Safety for all those responding to the needs of evacuees.
- Safety for those who are in communities fighting fires.
- As well as the animals both domestically and wild

We are asking that all communities pray with us, as prayer is stronger when we come together in time of need.

Palestine/ Israel:

The national church has posted an [updated action here](#). Starvation deaths are now happening,

We are also offering this learning time, as a chance to hear from a Prairie doctor who has served in Gaza multiple times during this conflict and genocide. We hope a UCC rep will join us.

Choking Gaza: why aid isn't getting through, and what we can do. Thursday June 19, 7:00PM CST (SK).

Gaza's people are dying of imposed hunger and thirst. Its medical system is targeted for destruction, and people of all ages suffer continuous bombing. We'll learn about why aid isn't getting through, the terrible impact, and what Canadians can do through our donations and advocacy- because we can do something!

We are grateful to hear from Dr Deidre Nunan, a Saskatchewan-trained orthopaedic surgeon who primarily works in the international medical humanitarian field. She has served in Palestine five times for a total of two years, most recently in Gaza in April 2025. Zoom link (do not post this in online public spaces; share by email only):

<https://united->

[church.zoom.us/j/88958792399?pwd=V46l0vsfe3OOrutWBCTtOQwal6o05Fo.1](https://united-church.zoom.us/j/88958792399?pwd=V46l0vsfe3OOrutWBCTtOQwal6o05Fo.1)

Meeting ID: 889 5879 2399 Password: 600297 1 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

ONGOING BUSINESS

Annual Gathering 2026

We need to get a committee ready for starting to prepare for the in person meeting in 2026.

If we are planning to stay in Winnipeg, maybe Meadowood would be a good option.

Our two date options are May 28-31 or June 4-7. This would depend on when Winnipeg Pride falls.

To do:

- Chantal and Pat to have a conversation
- Julie will reach out to Winnipeg Pride and try to determine when they are planning to hold the events

OTHER ITEMS

Convocation St. Andrews

Doug Neufeld represented the region at the convocation for St. Andrew's.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be September 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT


Dawn Rolke, Co-Chair


Lynne Sanderson, Co-Chair


Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

