

Committee on Lay Ministry and Lay Leadership Support Report for 2024-25

The Committee on Lay Ministry and Lay Leadership Support is responsible for supporting, licensing, re-licensing, and tracking information for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs); training related to Sacrament Elders; and tracking related to Congregational Designated Ministers (CDMs). More detail on our role, including a link to our mandate, can be found at <https://prairietopiner.ca/about/governance/committees-on-support/clls/>. The committee was chaired by Don Schau, and Hope Mattus served as corresponding member to the Executive meetings.

We currently have 19 LLWLs and three retired Designated Lay Ministers available for pulpit supply throughout various areas of Prairie to Pine Region. The annual in person gathering for the LLWLs took place on October 17, 2025, in Portage la Prairie.

On June 14, 2025, seven people took part in the Sacrament Elder training provided via Zoom. As of August 25, 2025, there are 55 Sacrament Elders licensed (associated with 34 Communities of Faith).

Because pastoral care is often offered by lay leadership in their Communities of Faith, we were pleased to see good participation in the Pastoral Care Workshops offered in the Region and facilitated by Rob Reed and Barb Jardine. Two in-person events (November 09, 2024 and September 27, 2025) and two Zoom events have been held.

In June, Don Schau left this committee after six years as Chair. His leadership was greatly appreciated. The committee greatly values the work of our staff resource person, Judy Hare. We begin the new pastoral year (2025-2026) with three new members: Peter Latimer, Susan Reed and Linda Buchanan. This will greatly enhance our ability to do the work that is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Kowalchuk (Secretary), on behalf of the Committee: Jim Warburton (Chair), Hope Mattus, Susan Reed, Linda Buchanan, Peter Latimer, Judy Hare (Staff Resource), and Lynne Sanderson (Chaplain)