

Annual Report of the Pastoral Relations Commission

The Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) continues its work through monthly meetings held via Zoom. The dedicated persons appointed to this Commission are supported in our work by Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister; Cherry Abad, Administrative Support for the Regional Council, as well as those who are appointed as Liaisons to work with Communities of Faith through the pastoral relations process.

Much of our work follows a similar pattern:

- We provide training and support to those serving as Liaisons 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 time of 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, review, and approve 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

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 which continue to provide 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 for collaboration and the creation of full-time ministry positions. This collaborative work has become more frequent, and as each collaboration is unique in scope and practice, we, as a Commission, receive, review, and approve the Collaboration Agreements and resulting ministry position descriptions.

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. Where a community of faith has engaged an overseas clergy, we have provided cultural awareness and sensitivity workshops.

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, Paul Duval, Patrick Woodbeck and those who also serve as members of the PRC (Lorraine Kakegamic, Harold Kenyon, Sherri McConnell, Simbarashe Mazhara, and Paul Duval). We are thankful for the work of Linda

Buchanan and Aileen Urquhart who completed their time as members of the Commission 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 to move forward with a dedicated group of individuals.

Respectfully submitted by
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Chair
Pastoral Relations Commission
Prairie to Pine Regional Council