

**Prairie to Pine Executive Minutes
Westworth United Church
1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg
January 19-20, 2026 (In-Person and via Zoom)**

January 19, 2026

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Dawn Rolke (Chair), Lynne Sanderson (Past Co-Chair), Jennifer Pakula, M Chorney, Tricia Gerhard, Craig Miller, Korlyn Dubé, Teresa Melnychuk A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Damber Khadka
GUEST	Alexandra Belaskie (General Council-Innovation and Renewal Coordinator)
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Patrick Woodbeck, Susan Tilleman, Ken Thomas, Patricia Bird, Linda Buchanan, Frances Flook, Kristin Woodburke
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister on sabbatical); Judy Hare (Acting Executive Minister/Pastoral Relations Minister); Robert Smith (Finance Administrator), Erin Acland (Keeper of the Archives); Twila MacNair (YAA); Cherry Abad (Recording Secretary)
CALL TO ORDER CHECK-IN	Dawn called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Shannon explained the participation of the corresponding members in the Executive. Jennifer led us in the Land Recognition, reflection on Matthew 16:13-19, and prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
TOWARD 2035 CONVERSATION	Shannon spoke on the need to reshape our thinking in doing things, being a leader in between seasons and the church in between times. In doing so, we need to listen to ourselves and the Holy Spirit. She posed the question: "What excites you about 2035?" A time was provided to think through this question. Some ideas were shared. Other questions to reflect on: What is our role as a Regional Council in Toward 2035? At this present moment, where is the spirit leading us? A time was provided for breakout groups. Responses were shared.

We need to figure out how to make use of the money, based on the Region's priorities, that are channelled through other bodies. The question is: What is the future we want to invest in?

Each COF received the material. There is an ask for somebody to make a presentation.

Questions to ponder: Do we envision any clustering with the neighbourhood to have a conversation before the Annual Meeting? What is it that we want to achieve at our Annual Meeting? Value in smaller group conversations- group churches by geography or what the challenges are.

There will be a meeting for workshops on January 26, and everyone is invited for input on Toward 2035.

DASHBOARD

Shannon presented the Dashboard map (data-based map of every congregation in the UCC). Every community of faith has been assigned a colour (green, yellow, or orange) based on different factors. The information comes from the stats report (not current), and there is a lag in the data. The data is only a tool in our toolbox. There is an opportunity for the Region to add information and identify strategic properties.

The Dashboard is not made public.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. to reconvene the following day at 9:00 a.m.

January 20, 2026

OPENING WORHSIP

Jen led us in the Land Recognition, a reflection on Gospel-based discipleship (Mark 2:23-28) and prayer.

REACHING OUT

Dawn gave instructions and questions for phoning people to check in:

- How are things in their communities of faith and pastoral charges?
- If they have a lay delegate, and if the Region has the right information.
- Do they understand their role as a lay delegate?
- Are they able to communicate with the communities of faith?
- Is there anything you want us to know?
- Anything you need from us?
- Does your community of faith understand its assessment?

DEBRIEF

Feedback from communities of faith/ lay delegates was shared. Members spoke on some of the important things that they think the Region should do/ take note of (access/assistance to online resources and information, continuous connection/ communication, articles for the website).

To do: Updates/corrections on contact information to be sent to Cherry Abad.

LUNCH

Frances led the blessing.

PROPERTY CONVERSATION

- Strategic property usage and support

Alexandra joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Ken provided an overview of the current situation, the work of the Property Commission and the urgency of the Region to take over and provide leadership on properties. There are some options (redevelopment, sale) and the need for a strategic plan for church buildings. Identify strategic properties in rural Manitoba that we need to keep.

Shannon commented on the different organizations that helped/are helping communities of faith on property matters. There is a need to streamline the process and have someone do the administration (paperwork), knowing what has been sold and the inventory (does not include cemeteries).

Alexandra spoke on how to best resource work that we do on church properties and the relationship between General Council, Regional Council and United Property Resource Corporation. Property inventory is ongoing and will be presented to the Region when completed. The contact person would be Shannon, who connects with Jennifer Henry (General Council's Executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy, who is working on the Toward 2035 project.

Judy explained how her work and the commission/committees she resourced intersect with the Property Commission.

- Next steps

To do: Shannon to prepare the job description and hire Tri-Region Property Staff.
Organize a workshop with the trustees in conjunction with Ken.

(Suggestions: To have a training for trustees on Churchx and to make a video recording of the workshop available; to have a local-focused training highlighting best practices that other COFs are doing (sharing buildings with other denominations)

Archives

Erin presented her report on the Archives' storage move to Transcona Memorial United Church. She noted that with Toward 2035, church closures will increase the need for archives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 036-2025/2026

**It was agreed by consensus:
That the Prairie to Pine Executive approves the minutes of December 2, 2025, as distributed.**

FINANCE

Rob presented the Income Statement and Equity Statement (November 30, 2025) (see attached). He explained that this is not a complete financial picture- this is only from Connexus Credit Union, and does not include Assiniboine and CDI.

The onboarding process is going well. Those that need to be issued by cheque can be sent to Jen. Payments made so far were through e-transfers.

- Staffing

Shannon commented that with staffing changes, there is a need to explore the shared services that GC provides (bookkeeping). They acknowledge that this could change the way that they do things to fit the region's needs. They do this for one region (Western Ontario waterway). They will build the capacity before they set us up.

- Committee budget

There were some discussions on the process/ guidelines for how the committee budget will be approved, including expenses that go over the budget. Committees can be asked for clarification. A suggestion was made to bring expense claims before the Executive to get approved, so it will not only be Jen and Rob making those decisions.

YAA Y

Twila reported on the travelling youth group St. Andrew's River Heights and expressed hope that youth attendance would translate to Zeebu event at Harrow United Church on February 20-22.

Upcoming events/participation:

- Prairie to Pine AGM in May
- Neechi camp
- Collective Gathering at Brock University, St. Catherine's, ON on August 12-15

**Incorporated
Ministries – Omnibus
037-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approve the following

a) United Church Halfway Homes Inc.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the United Church Halfway Homes Inc. 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Crystal Lynn Adams

J. Carlos Clark

James Dixon

Darrin Hale

Kendra Kinley

Carey Lai

Kirti Sharma

Anne Walker

This is based on the draft AGM Meeting Minutes of November 20, 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.

**Committee on
Ministry Personnel
Support**

Pensioners Day will be on May 28, 2026 at Westworth United Church (Winnipeg). The Committee is looking for someone to present Toward 2035 and engage in a conversation for about 10-15 minutes.

**-Nomination of
Millie Lewis
038-2025/2026**

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Prairie to Pine Executive approved the nomination of Millie Lewis as a new
member of the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support, effective immediately.**

**REVIEW OF REPORTS
& ACCEPTANCE
039-2025/2026**

**It was agreed by consensus:
That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive accepts the following reports:**
a) Pastoral Relations Commission
b) Pastoral Relations Minister
c) Property Commission
d) Committee on Ministry Personnel Support
e) Archives
f) YAA Y

**Manitoba Multifaith
Council Inc. (MMC)
040-2025/2026**

**It was agreed by consensus:
That the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive approves the payment of the 2026
membership dues to the Manitoba Multifaith Council Inc. (MMC).**

NEXT MEETING


Next meeting will be March 3, 2026, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Opening /Closing prayer to be offered by M Chorney.

ADJOURNMENT

Patrick led the closing prayer.


Dawn Rolke, Co-Chair


Judith Hare, Acting Executive Minister

