

Region 4 Commission Minutes December 13, 2018

- Present:** Annette Taylor, Tricia Gerhard, Bev Kostichuk, Brian Maitland, Dave Whalley, Barb MacNaughton, Susan Reed, Bonnie Morton, Neil Gilbert.
- A quorum was present.
- Staff Present:** Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister; Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister; Jamie Mckay (Recording Secretary)
- Regrets:** Bernice Saulteaux
- Opening** Annette opening the meeting with an advent reflection and asked the group to check-in.
- Minutes** We will approve past minutes at our next meeting.
- Agenda** The agenda as distributed will be our agenda.
Sacrament licensing to be moved up in the agenda.
- Mission Support Grant letter** Shannon indicated the letter was in process and will be sent out in the new year.
- Naming process** Tricia gave an update on the naming process. She will continue to try to connect again with Bernice Saulteaux and Arlene Dieter. Tracy would like to think about different ways to communicate with Plains Presbytery members.
- Property Policies** Nothing to update. The property committee will bring a policy document with proposed motions to the January meeting.
- Ministries Gathering Task Group** The task group will be sending out a letter to all the grant applicants outlining the idea for a gathering, the benefits, and asking if they would find it beneficial. Upon positive feedback, looking to have a gathering in late February or early March.
- Networks and task groups** Letter was sent by Annette. Julie Graham was involved in the preparation of the letter.
- Letter/Report to Pastoral Charges** Report was sent by Annette. Shannon, Tracy and Julie were all involved in preparation of the report.
- It was requested that information that goes out to pastoral charges also go out to Community and Social Justice Ministries.
- Indigenous Implementation Gathering** Gathering took place November 30 to December 2, 2018. Tracy Murton and Julie Graham attended December 1-2 and gave a presentation on pastoral relations governance.
- Tracy and Julie heard there was yearning for additional ways of training for some critical issues that are happening in communities; drug and alcohol abuse, suicide

prevention and response, how to prepare people to be in ministry in those contexts. They would like to establish an Elders Advisory Council to advise collectively on how we are doing the work of the church.

Charlene Burns would be a good resource for nominations to connect with key people and to facilitate bringing people into community.

It was acknowledged that our representative from Plains Presbytery was not present at this meeting and it was hoped that we can begin think differently about ways to communicate so that voices that are not yet being heard, can be heard.

Proposal from the National Indigenous Council

We reviewed the letter from Maggie Dieter & Nora Sanders with the request to regions regarding membership of Indigenous congregations until dual belonging decisions are made.

015-2018/2019

**It was agreed by consensus:
That we accept the request from the National Indigenous Council and that we act in this capacity and use resources as necessary to make sure the Indigenous congregations within the bounds of Region 4 receive the services they need.**

Affirming Ministry Day

We received correspondence from Nobuko Iwai requesting that May 5, 2019 be declared Affirming Ministry Sunday in Region 4.

016-2018/2019

**It was agreed by consensus:
That May 5, 2018 be declared Affirming Ministry Sunday in Region 4.**

017-2018/2019

It was proposed by Bev Kostichuk that Region 4 pay a \$100 membership to Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble for 2019. Agreed by consensus.

Annette will let Nobuko Iwai know.

Affirming Ministry Process

This was discussed under the annual meeting planning committee report.

Continuing Education Fund

We received correspondence requesting that we keep the Continuing Education fund that existed in Saskatchewan Conference.

018-2018/2019

**It was agreed by consensus:
That we keep the Continuing Education Fund that we currently have for use in 2019.**

Letter from Wascana

We received a letter from Wascana Presbytery with concerns about Eastside United Church in Regina.

The letter from Wascana Presbytery was discussed and we agreed to hold a meeting in early January to deal with this.

Executive Minister's Report

Staff are gathering in Winnipeg from January 14-16, 2019.

New generic office email is Region4@united-church.ca and Jamie will forward emails from this account to the appropriate person.

Admin staff attended the Admin Gathering in Toronto from November 27-29, 2018 to receive training on the new systems being put in place.

Nominations report We reviewed the nominations report from Bev Kostichuk.
Appendix A

019-2018/2019

It was agreed by consensus:

That the transition commission for Regional Council #4 take the following actions:

- **That Cam Fraser, Dave Whalley, Jo-Ann Hill, John Sellwood, Lyall Campbell, Eunkyn Ji, Brian Mee be named as Pastoral Relations Liaisons effective December 13, 2018;**
- **That the Nominations Committee be given permission to name the Pastoral Relation Liaisons (including Aboriginal members, if required) for the term of January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019;**
- **That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Janelle Shaw, Miles Russell, Jen Dresser, Marvin Mackie and Donna Rumpel be approved for the period from January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019; and**
- **That the Nominations committee be asked to recommend length of terms to the Commission to take to the Annual meeting.**

Annual meeting Barb sent in the annual meeting planning report. Decisions about mileage will be added to the discussion around budget in January.

Sacrament licensing Sacraments licenses that expire December 31, 2018 will be renewed by Tracy in the new year.

Banking motions We need to have a new banking motion that includes signing authority for Conexus accounts.

020-2018/2019

It was agreed by consensus:

That Heather Dootoff, Bev Diebert, Tricia Gerhard, Neil Gilbert, and Shannon McCarthy have signing authority for the Saskatchewan Conference account (to be renamed Region 4 of the United Church of Canada) effective December 13, 2018, with any two signatures needed, and that they have authorization to access accounts online, to be set up by Heather Dootoff.

Other We will try to place documents into the Dropbox at least two days before the next meeting takes place.

Next meeting January 3rd @ 10:00 am via Adobe Connect.

Jamie will send a Doodle poll for the following meeting.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned.

Annette Taylor, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

APPENDIX A: Regional Nominations Committee report to Commission meeting December 13, 2018

The Regional Nominations committee is made up of Linda Gunningham, John Haas, Bev Kostichuk (members of the former Conference Nominations Committee), Diane Thurlow (Prairie Pine Presbytery), Lesley Parkin (Wascana Presbytery), Jason Richards (Twin Valleys Presbytery) and Miles Russell (Good Spirit Presbytery).

The Nominations committee met by telephone and Adobe on November 26th to discuss nominations for the Pastoral Relations Commission (5 members) and the Liaison Officers 9 (about 15 officers). Tracy Murton participated in the meeting at the invitation on the Chair.

General information on confidentiality, conflict of interest and important things to be considered in determining names such as balances, diversity etc. During this meeting names were generated for the two positions mentioned above. The committee members made contacts.

The Pastoral Relations Commission members being recommended are: Janelle Shaw (ordained), Miles Russell (ordained), Jen Dresser (diaconal), Marvin Mackie (lay), Donna Rumpel (DLM).

We have asked all nominees to serve to the 2019 annual meeting and if they are willing to have their names go forward to the Annual meeting for term of two or three years.

Names were generated for the Liaison Officers, an important issue related to these positions if the geographic locations. We are trying to get 2 or 3 people in each presbytery area, we may need more names as we are getting “no’s” so **if any Commission member has suggestions of more names, please give them to me.** Pastoral relations experience would be helpful. Tracy is in discussion with members of the Aboriginal church to have a couple of their members serve as Liaison Officers plus possibly a member to the Pastoral Relations Commission.

The Nominations committee will begin work on other committees and commission in the new year. We will meet by telephone and Adobe then in person meeting (late February or March). At this point, we are using the nominations method used by SK Conference nominations but will begin discussions on how the region might do nominations work with the goal of taking some ideas to the annual meeting.

The Nominations committee make the following recommendations to the Commission:

- That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Janelle Shaw, Miles Russell, Jen Dresser, Marvin Mackie and Donna Rumpel be approved for the period from January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019.
- That the Nominations Committee be given permission to name the Liaison Officers (including Aboriginal members, if required) for the term of January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019.
- That the Nominations committee be asked to recommend length of terms to the Commission to take to the Annual meeting.

Submitted by Bev Kostichuk

Chair of interim Regional Nominations Committee