



LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

1622-B St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg MB, R2M 3W7

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region5@united-church.ca

October 11, 2019

To: all communities of faith in Living Skies Regional Council

Re: Regional Council assessment of Congregations for 2020 and 2021 as decided at the 2019 regional gathering of Living Skies Regional Council

Dear Congregational Boards & Councils:

There is a long history in Saskatchewan Conference, and the Presbyteries within it, of supporting mission and ministry in a variety of ways. In Living Skies Regional Council, we have a total of nine ministries that received mission support grants and, in some cases, presbytery support in the form of both grants and working relationships. (Please see the list of ministries at the end of this letter).

All of this changed on January 1, 2019. The change in our structure, which replaced Conferences and Presbyteries with Regional Councils, has changed the way we can fund non-congregational and other mission-supported ministries. In addition to the effects of steadily declining Mission Support funds to and from General Council, this structural change has created the additional impact of removing funds that these ministries used to receive through presbyteries. In light of the funding crisis that has resulted, the 2019 Living Skies regional gathering received proposals related to support for these ministries as they face both significant budget shortfalls and a major shift in how they relate to the new structures.

At the Inaugural Living Skies Regional Council Meeting in Swift Current in May 2019, the following three motions were passed:

That Living Skies Regional Council affirm the importance of Outreach Ministries, Ecumenism, Camps and Chaplaincies; and that in order to assist in funding these ministries through regional council grants the Regional Council assess Communities of Faith and explore alternative sources of funding for the ministries.

That the Living Skies Regional Council assessment of Communities of Faith for 2020 and 2021 be 20% of the denominational assessment and that the regional council encourage communities of faith or clusters of Communities of Faith to support funding these United Church specialized ministries locally and thereby reduce their denominational assessment.

That the Regional Council will provide bridge funding up to \$100,000 in 2019 based on priorities and need of the Outreach Ministries, Ecumenism, Camps and Chaplaincies as determined by the Grants Committee.

In order to find a sustainable funding model we are working with the ministries to seek out new sources of funding and new approaches to the work. The bridge funding could, for example, include support and training for fundraising and donor relations for all ministries, or support for other such work within individual ministries. The Grants Committee and the Executive for the Regional Council will be involved in determining how the funds from the assessments will be allocated.

When you receive your assessment from General Council you will see the additional assessment included. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to be in touch with your Regional Council Executive by emailing lsrcexecutive@gmail.com or Executive Minister, Shannon McCarthy at smccarthy@united-church.ca.

Thank you for your continued generosity towards these ministries and many others through your assessments and the Mission & Service Fund. Your support will make a difference as these ministries work through a time of major transition, and your community of faith is invited to learn more about each of their vital ministries through the links shared below.

Blessings in your ministries,



Tricia Gerhard,
Chair, Regional Council Executive



Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Minister



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Ministries in Living Skies Regional Council (formerly Saskatchewan Conference and seven presbyteries) which have recently received or applied for mission support grants and/ or received presbytery support in the form of grants and working relationships:

Camps:

Christopher Lake (shared with the Presbyterian Church in Canada): www.campchristopher.ca

Lumsden Beach Camp: www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com

Camp Tapawingo: www.camptapawingo.net

Wellman Lake Camp (MB, shared catchment area with the former Good Spirit presbytery and others): www.wellmanlakeuccamp.ca

Chaplaincies:

Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the U of S:

www.facebook.com/EcumenicalChaplaincyUniversityOfSaskatchewan

North SK Hospital Chaplaincy

South SK Hospital Chaplaincy

Congregations:

La Ronge United Church: www.facebook.com/larongeunitedchurch

Social justice/ community ministries

Integrated Community Ministries (ICM- Saskatoon):

www.facebook.com/River-Bend-Integrated-Community-Ministries-Saskatoon-162107473861881/

Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry (RAPM): www.antipovertyministry.ca

Partnerships

Micah Mission: www.themicahmission.org

Parkland Restorative Justice: www.parklandrestorativejustice.com

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism: www.pcecumenism.ca