

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 16

Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! As the promise of summer beckons, I want to provide a few updates on the work that is ongoing before we break until the fall.

1. **Support to Communities of Faith** – the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* has reviewed the annual reports and covenants that have been submitted to the Regional Council. If your congregation has not submitted either document, a reminder will be issued over the summer so that it can be completed in the fall. If either document is complete and yet to be submitted, please do so as soon as possible.
2. **Support to Ministry Personnel** – the *Committee on Ministry Personnel Support* has invited volunteer chaplains (Cathy Coates, Joan Rennie-Laing, Deborah Smith, Jackie Van't Voort, and Heather Wyatt) to support active ministry personnel during this time – thank you! The next step is offering similar support and accompaniment to our retired ministry personnel – see announcement in the Rambler for further details. In September, implementation of the Voluntary Associate Minister policy will begin – stay tuned for further information.
3. **Support to Lay Leadership** – the *Committee on Lay Leadership Support* has been reviewing Sacraments Elders and Licensed Lay Worship Leader renewals. The next project is reviewing the training recommendations for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders in Living Skies Regional Council. If you have feedback regarding the program requirements, please let me know.
4. **A note about Regional Council Parties** – this spring, there were two gatherings scheduled, similar to the offerings last fall, to bring folks together for worship, community and learning. Both gatherings were subsequently cancelled, initially to focus on communication strategies. Due to a shift in focus to anti-racist education and action, these gatherings (one in Prince Albert and one in Weyburn) will be further postponed to next spring. If there are topic areas that you feel would benefit from an online workshop, please contact me to discuss possibilities.
5. **A note for Ministry and Personnel Committees** – in this time of change and challenge, it continues to be important for your staff (ministry personnel and lay employees) to take their annual study and vacation leave. It may also be a good opportunity to review position descriptions as duties may have shifted. This will be especially important as you contemplate what the re-opening of your building might entail. If you need further information on this, please let me know. Here is a good article that highlights this necessity:
<https://sixtysecondpreacher.wordpress.com/2020/05/07/top-ten-reasons-why-your-pastor-may-need-a-break-a-special-message-for-clerks-of-sessions-and-elders/>

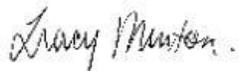
An online version of the M&P 101 workshop will be offered in the fall for those who have new committee members, or who simply need a refresher. Stay tuned for registration and connection details in September.

A reminder that the Pastoral Relations Commission generally meets on the first Thursday of each month; therefore, we require any paperwork to be submitted to Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca) the

Friday before the meeting. For the next meeting of the PRC, any paperwork needs to be received by **August 28** in order to be considered on September 3.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is by email as I can respond whenever my family schedule allows as I continue to work from home. In the midst of “unprecedented” stress and upheaval regarding the way in which we continue to be church in the world, I am constantly inspired and amazed by the leadership of folks in this Regional Council who challenge systems of injustice and model lives of faithfulness. I am grateful for the cloud of saints walking this journey, and I look forward to what the fall might bring. I invite you to find moments of gratitude and rest over the next few months so we can engage with renewed vision together.

Blessings and peace in this season of summer Sabbath,



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Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

1. Find something that is useful for you
2. Discover something new
3. Find something that reminds you of the people you love
4. Find something you are grateful for
5. Find something that tastes good
6. Find something you know someone else will enjoy
7. Find something outside you enjoy looking at
8. Find something that is unique to you
9. Find something that makes you laugh
10. Find someone you are grateful for. Tell them why.
11. Find something that makes a beautiful sound
12. Find a place that you love
13. Find something that is your favourite colour
14. Find something that makes you happy
15. Find something that smells amazing
16. Find something in the night that you enjoy
17. Share your favourite book with somebody
18. Find something in the morning you enjoy
19. Find something that makes you feel safe
20. Find your favourite place to spend alone time



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