

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 17

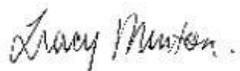
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! The beauty of the fall never ceases to amaze me with vibrant colours and gentle sun. I hope you have a chance to enjoy the splendour of God's creation.

1. **Support to Communities of Faith** – the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* continues to review annual reports and covenants that have been submitted to the Regional Council. Some congregations have held postponed annual meetings this fall and are continuing to submit both documents. It is the hope of the Committee that as many covenants as possible might be complete before the meeting of the Regional Council in November. If you need a reminder of the covenant materials (both the background and the template), please let me know.
2. **Support to Ministry Personnel** – the *Committee on Ministry Personnel Support* will continue to offer concrete support to ministry personnel through volunteer chaplains and opportunities for learning throughout the fall. They will also be offering an online retreat for Ministry Personnel at the beginning of Advent – stay tuned for details.
3. **Support to Lay Leadership** – the *Committee on Lay Leadership Support* will be focussing on Licensed Lay Worship Leader support this fall with in-person retreats being replaced with online offerings. There are also a number of folks renewing their licenses – if you are interested in being part of the interview team, let me know.
4. **Building re-opening plans** – if your community of faith has not developed a written plan for re-opening your building, either for worship or rentals, please consider doing so for clarity for both worshippers and leaders. There are many options for plans available – contact me for a sample. The background information, including discernment videos, is available [here](#).

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 **September 25** in order to be considered on October 1.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have begun to work part-time from my office so feel free to contact me there. As you enter into this season of harvest and thanksgiving, take time to offer gratitude for all those offering ministry in your midst.

Blessings and peace,



Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister

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