

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 18

Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! As I look out my window, the first snowfall of the year is struggling to maintain its hold on the pavement, and I marvel once again at the changing of the seasons. I hope that you, too, are ready for all that is coming our way this winter! This issue of the Ponderings is focussed on three ways that you, *or someone you know*, can assist in the ongoing work of Pastoral Relations in the Regional Council in both long-term and short-term ways:

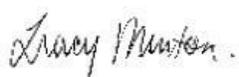
1. **Regional Council Liaisons** – the work of supporting communities of faith through conversations about their future ministry needs is now the responsibility of Regional Council Liaisons. As the long-term impact of COVID-19 continues to be discerned, there is an increasing need for people to engage in this work on behalf of the Regional Council. If you have some time and capacity to listen and discern with others, please let me know.
2. **Retiree chaplains** – in June, the idea of creating a role for a chaplain to retired ministry personnel was proposed. Given the approaching winter, this role seems to be even more relevant and urgent. If you have some interest in offering support through some pastoral calling to retired ministers in our Regional Council, please let me know.
3. **Interviewers** – one of the responsibilities of the Regional Council is to approve the licensing and re-licensing of those who wish to offer themselves as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. We are in that season again. If you are missing your time on education and students committees and want to have conversation with committed lay leaders in our Regional Council, please let me know.

As you begin to think about the Advent and Christmas season, I encourage you to check in with the ministry personnel who are serving your community of faith. What might be some ways that you can offer assistance during this unprecedented time? If you are part of a community of faith without called or appointed ministry personnel, what are the ways that you might imagine supporting one another in a new way this season? And if you are ministry personnel yourself, how might you seek support from members of your community of faith during this holy season? It is clear that we need one another differently this year; let's walk together with new insight on this journey through the wilderness.

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 **October 30** in order to be considered on November 5.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. May you continue to find moments of solace and grace in the midst of the chaos of constantly washing your hands. ☺

Blessings and peace,



Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister
tmurton@united-church.ca; 306-966-4861