

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**Regional Council Planning Committee:**

Convenor	Barb MacNaughton
Member	Darrell Reine
Member	Hoeun Lee
Member	Bonnie Morton
Local Arrangements	Allison Sarauer
Local Arrangements	Carol Oleksyn
Convenor of the Regional Gathering	Rob Reed
Staff - Admin	Bev Diebert

Property Commission

Convenor	Annette Taylor
Member	Bev Kostichuk
Member	Jim MacNaughton
Member	Jim Pulfer
Member	George Thurlow
Member	Daryl Woods
Staff – Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy

Nominations Committee

Co-Convenor	Carolyn Conarroe
Co-Convenor	Susan Reed
Member	Beth Baerwald
Member	Jeannette Warriar
Member	Gary Johnson
Member	Yvonne Terry

Grants Committee

Convenor	Leslee Whalley
Member	Cindy Goodman
Member	Herb Conrad
Member	Barry Balls
Staff - Minister: Justice / Communication	Julie Graham
Staff – Financial Administrator	Heather Dootoff

Pastoral Relations Commission

Member	Jen Dresser
Member	Marvin Mackie
Member	Donna Rumpel
Member	Miles Russell
Member	Janelle Shaw
Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton
Administrative Staff	Bev Diebert

Committee on Community of Faith Support

Member	Sheila Deforest
Member	Hyun Heo
Member	Bill Pollock
Member	Deborah Smith
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

Committee on Lay Leadership Support

Member	Faye Ford
Member	Andrew Hecker
Member	Sheila Ivanochko
Member	Patti Sawchuk
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

Member	Koshy David
Member	Rick McCorrister
Member	Michele Rowe
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERING PLANNING COMMITTEE

On March 25, 2020, the Regional Gathering Planning Committee, in consultation with the Living Skies Executive and staff, decided to cancel the 2020 Regional Gathering that was scheduled to be held in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, May 21 through 24. At the time, there were many uncertainties and unknowns related to COVID-19, and it was determined that canceling the Regional Gathering was the most responsible decision. In hindsight, it is clear that there was no other reasonable decision to be made.

Cancellation of the Regional Gathering meant that much of the work of the Planning Team and the Local Arrangements Committee would go unrecognized and uncompleted. I want to thank everyone who generously contributed time, energy and spirit to the planning process for this event. My sense is that you were all enthusiastic about your work toward this Regional Gathering, and I am sorry that you were not able to see it through to its completion.

For the sake of interest, I want to share that the theme that was in the works for Humboldt was "Right Where We're Supposed to Be." The scriptural foundation for this theme is from Luke 17:20-21. The Theme Presenter was going to be Rev. Cameron Trimble who is the CEO of Convergence (formerly Centre for Progressive Renewal), and the author of *Piloting Church*. The logo for this gathering is found here:



As for the future, the intention is that the Regional Gathering will return, at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has passed and it is clearly safe enough to gather in large groups.

Respectfully Submitted:
Rob Reed, Diaconal Minister,
Convenor of the Regional Gathering.

PROPERTY COMMISSION

Background

The purpose of the Living Skies Regional Council Property Commission is to make decisions related to property matters on behalf of regional council. The commission makes these decisions within the scope of regional responsibilities as set out in C.2.6 of The Manual and property policies adopted by the regional council. The commission also make recommendations to the regional council (or its executive) for new regional policies related to property matters. In addition, in September 2019, the regional council executive gave the property commission the authority to approve the disbanding of congregations.

This report includes the work of the property commission from its commencement in February 2019 to April 2020. During that time the commission has met via video conferencing thirteen times and twice in person (at the inaugural regional gathering in Swift Current on May 30, 2019 and again in Saskatoon September 3-4, 2019). There were also several working sessions to do initial planning for the commission and to review the property handbook.

Initially the property commission was comprised of three members from the Living Skies Regional Council Transition Commission (Bev Kostichuk, Dave Whalley, Annette Taylor) and Shannon McCarthy our Executive Minister. As of June 2, 2019 the members of the property commission were: Annette Taylor (chair), Bev Kostichuk, Daryl Woods, George Thurlow, Jim MacNaughton, Jim Pulfer, and Shannon McCarthy (staff). In October, 2019 the committee regretfully accepted the resignation of Jim Pulfer.

Property Handbook and Policies

Our work began with updating the *Handbook on Church Property Matters* so that it would reflect the new regional council structure. This task was completed in March, 2019 and the revised document was approved by the Living Skies Transition Commission on April 4, 2019. Further work on this handbook is currently underway and a new version should be available in May, 2020.

The commission also created a *Property Policies and Processes* document that includes policies for the distribution of assets from the sale of property. The initial document was approved by the transition commission on April 18, 2019. Several updates to this document have been approved by the regional council executive over the past five months and a revised version is now available on the regional council website.

Communities of Faith – Property/Disbanding Decisions

The property commission is keeping a working list of communities of faith that are considering property transactions (sale, purchase, rental, etc) and/or are requesting to be disbanded. As of the end of April, 2020 the commission is in communication with twenty-two congregations. Ten of those congregations have already received approval to list or tender their properties. At least twelve congregations are in the process of disbanding.

Since the beginning of 2019 the property commission has approved the sale of the following thirteen congregational properties:

Approved Sales - transfer not complete:

- Foam Lake/Leslie Manse - March 27, 2020
- Kelfield United Church - November 15, 2019
- Mortlach United Church - January 10, 2020

Sales Complete - date sale approved / date transfer completed:

- Climax Manse - May 31, 2019 / August 2019
- Coronach Manse - October 8, 2019 / January 9, 2020
- Delisle/Vanscoy Manse- March 13, 2020 / April 2, 2020
- Fillmore United Church & Manse – February 14, 2020 / March 17, 2020
- Loverna- Grace United Church – June 21, 2019 / November 2019
- Mossbank United Church – September 4, 2019 / February 21, 2020
- Rouleau United Church - February 14, 2020 / March 30, 2020
- Saskatoon – St. Thomas Wesley United Church – June 21, 2019 / July 2019
- Tugaske Manse – October 8, 2019 / October 28, 2019
- Val Marie United Church – October 24, 2019 / February 25, 2020

Since the beginning of 2019, the following congregations have officially disbanded:

- Asquith United Church (approved by regional council executive)
- Loverna United Church - December 13, 2019

Cemeteries & Abandoned Properties.

The property commission is developing a list of United Church cemeteries in the regional council that no longer have congregations associated with them. Many of these properties

were identified by Bill Doyle, the previous Executive Secretary of Saskatchewan Conference, and commission members are now working to determine their status (e.g. is anyone caring for them and is an RM, town or village willing to assume responsibility). Letters are being sent to the appropriate rural municipalities requesting their assistance.

The commission is also working on a list of other abandoned properties in the regional council. In the past, some congregations disbanded without selling their property and therefore United Church buildings and land now sit abandoned on rural roads or in hamlets or villages. After review of the files received from Bill Doyle the commission has determined that the following abandoned properties need to be reviewed:

- 75 United Church properties, 32 of these are cemeteries
- 5 Congregationalist titles representing 3 or 4 properties
- 11 Methodist titles representing 9 properties
- Over 80 Presbyterian titles representing over 35 properties (exact number still to be determined)
- 23 United Church properties with mineral rights.
- Unknown number of properties listed only in name of trustees of the United, Methodist, Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches (these cannot be found with an ISC search).

So far the property commission has managed to sell one of these properties, an empty lot in Mullingar. The sale was approved on November 15, 2019 and the transfer occurred February 24, 2020;

Conclusion

On behalf of the members of the property commission I want to acknowledge what a privilege it is to work with communities of faith during these difficult times of transition and closure. I also want to recognize the large workload that this small group of people has undertaken. A huge thank you to all the members of the property commission for your dedication and compassion as you work to support congregations through a process that is often emotionally, mentally and even physically challenging.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Taylor
Chair, Living Skies Property Commission

GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Living Skies Regional Grants Committee members were approved at the Annual Meeting, May 30-June 1, 2019 in Swift Current. The members are Leslee Whalley, Chair, Barry Balls, Herb Conrad, Cindy Goodman. Julie Graham and Heather Dootoff are staff support.

Prior to the creation of the current committee, the Mission and Support Grants for 2019 were allocated by a task group of the Regional Council Executive.

The first task for the Grants Committee was to meet and set the framework for our responsibilities. The committee met by Zoom on October 3, 2019. We spent some time getting to know each other and also discussed the many issues and questions we had regarding the role of the Grants committee in the Living Skies Region.

Our most pressing item was the distribution of the \$100,000.00 made available by the Regional Council to help mitigate the shortage of funds available for Mission Support Grants for 2019. After discussing the applications, we decided we needed to have more information from the

applicants. They were divided up among the committee members and contacted directly with questions we needed to assist us in making our decisions. The results were to be discussed at a face to face meeting set for Oct. 29 and 30, 2019 in Regina. After much discussion the \$100,000.00 was allocated. Letters and cheques were sent out with the information that this money was only a one time “bridging” for 2019.

Our other task at the meeting was to allocate the \$125,000.00 Mission and Service Grants for 2020. Requests were received for \$328,182.00 which left a huge difference between the requests and the money available. Applications were looked at and prayerfully discussed. This chart shows the amounts of each allocation.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>2019 Mission Support Grant Allocations</u>		<u>2020 Mission Support Grant Allocations</u>
	<u>Amount given</u>	<u>2019 Bridge</u>	<u>2020 Grant given</u>
Lumsden Beach	0	8,100	7,000
Tapawingo	0	2,600	2,000
Wellman Lake	0	1,000	
Christopher	0	4,600	
South Sk Hospital	14,650	13,000	15,000
North Sk Hospital	11,500	25,000	25,000
RAPM	30,650	22,500	30,000
ICM	36,150	15,000	20,000
LaRonge	24,532	0	12,000
U of Sk	8,400	3,500	9,000
Micah Mission	4,500	3,000	2,500
Parkland Rest. Justice	4,500	500	2,500
Prairie Ctr.	0	1,200	0
Total	\$134,882	\$100,000	\$125,000

At the Annual Meeting a motion was passed to assess Communities of Faith 20% of their denominational assessment for 2020 and 2021. The Grants Committee was given the task to explore ways to help applicants increase their ability to find other sources of income. Mission supported ministries, although centred in specific locations across Saskatchewan, provide services for many people all over the province. They previously had received support from Presbyteries and Saskatchewan Conference and are finding it difficult to fund their ministries, as are many Communities of Faith.

A task group from the Executive was struck, consisting of Tim Ellis, Brian Maitland, Leslee Whalley, and support staff Julie Graham and Heather Dootoff to formulate ways in which the assessment could assist applicants. The group met by Zoom, March 5, 2020 and discussed what the assessment should be used for, how best to allocate it and the process to allocate it. The one guiding factor was that it was not to be allocated just for general operating funds. The committee realized we needed information on just what these ministries needed to secure more funding and remain viable. Julie Graham was tasked with developing a survey to send out to the ministries to obtain information. The survey was sent out in late March but because of the pandemic, responses were understandably slow to come in and not all of the ministries replied. The task group has met 3 times to discuss how to proceed with the assessment money and are in the process of finalizing a method to allocate the additional assessments.

Because of the restructuring, a new web site had to be developed. Another task group from the executive, made up of Julie Graham, Heather Dootoff, and Leslee Whalley were tasked with developing information on funding available, particularly the funds that were given over to the Region from Presbyteries to go on a Funding webpage. This group has met several times by Zoom. That page is still a work in progress. An application form needs to be developed and the Grants Committee is working on it.

Covid 19 has definitely slowed down the work of our committee and increased the work of the Executive and Communities of Faith. The Grants Committee is working on the 2021 Mission Grant Applications and continues to work on the Additional Assessment Allocations and the funding page of the website. The charts below show the monies allocated since the last annual meeting.

Please contact me and I will try to answer any questions or concerns.

Submitted by,
Leslee Whalley
ldwhalley@sasktel.net

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Pastoral Relations Commission meets monthly from September to June by teleconference or, more recently Zoom, as well as through email between regular meetings. Together we address the work of pastoral relations throughout the Regional Council. This includes reviewing and approving Community of Faith profiles, calls and appointments of ministry personnel, candidates and pastoral charge supervisors, as well as appointing and supporting the work of the Regional Council Liaisons who accompany Communities of Faith during transitions of pastoral relationships and facilitate conversations around pastoral needs.

There is never a shortage of items on our agenda and we give grateful thanks for Bev Diebert and Tracy Murton who keep us all on track. Their wisdom, organization, and sense of humour has been amazing since “day one”. Thank you, Tracy and Bev for all you do and for being the great human beings that you are!

We also give thanks for our Chair, Marvin Mackie. When we first started our work together, we had a rotating Chair as we sorted out exactly how our Commission would look and be structured. Eventually Marvin graciously agreed to be our permanent Chair and we are grateful for his leadership.

The Pastoral Relations Commission meets on the first Thursday of the month and we appreciate the efforts of Communities of Faith and ministry personnel to submit any material needing consideration by our deadline of the Friday before the meeting. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Pastoral Relations Commission, please contact any member or check the Regional Council website at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/ministry-leadership/pastoral-relations-commission/>.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janelle Shaw

Pastoral Relations Staff Report 2020

According to the online Oxford Dictionary, the word “unprecedented” is defined as something “that has never happened, been done or been known before”. Many memes, articles, and blog posts have been written about the last 6 months from this vantage point, but the piece of this definition that resonates with me is that this time has “never been known before”. Just before the world went into lockdown in March, we were busily preparing for spring workshops, the regional council gathering, and a celebration of ministry service in the way that we had always known these things to happen. As collectively we put plans into place to re-imagine everything we have known as communities of faith and the structures of the church, volunteers and staff from around Living Skies Regional Council faithfully and patiently began to support one another in ways that we have not known before. We have always been dispersed so committee and staff meetings by Zoom were not new, but we began to add in other means of connecting, all culminating in a new way of being church together. As we lost the joy found in gathering in person, we gained the ability to connect over screens with integrity, faithfulness and purpose.

The work of the Pastoral Relations Commission has been reported by Janelle Shaw above. This group of people have faithfully and diligently met monthly (sometimes more than that) to review and support the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies. We are most fortunate to have their wisdom and expertise shepherding ministry profiles, calls/appointments, and so much more on our behalf.

Committee on Community of Faith Support

This Committee has carefully and thoroughly reviewed the 100 annual reports and 20 covenants that have been submitted by Communities of Faith over the last year. When the COVID-19 restrictions on gathering for worship in person came into effect, many communities had not yet completed their annual meetings, and therefore had not approved the reports on their work over the year. A checklist was developed to assist in this work to ensure that all components of an annual report are included which will be expanded to include guidelines for the preparation of annual reports in 2021. Two online workshops were offered in February to assist in the development of the covenants that were attended by folks around the Regional Council. Background material was made available, as well as sample covenants from communities of faith of varying sizes. This Committee is looking forward to celebrating the covenants that have been received at the Regional Council gathering as an acknowledgement of the new relationship with the structures of the church. The next project to be considered is the development of the self-assessment tools for Living Faith stories, as required by The Manual.

Committee on Lay Leadership Support

The work of this Committee has evolved in a couple of ways over the last year. In terms of Sacraments Elders, the Committee interviewed 3 people to receive a licence for the first time, and renewed the licences for 21 more individuals. These lay leaders are becoming more valuable as more communities of faith find themselves without called or appointed ministry personnel. We are grateful for these folks offering their time and service in this way. In terms of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs), another group of dedicated leaders, the Committee spent time establishing a manageable protocol for renewals. Two individuals were interviewed at the Regional Council gathering in Swift Current, 16 were interviewed last fall, and 5 were interviewed this spring – 23 renewals in total. There were also 7 individuals who were interviewed last fall and granted a licence for the first time. Over the next 12 months, it is hoped that the remaining 21 current LLWLs will be interviewed for renewal; there are also people who are currently completing the online training that will be included in the next sessions of interviews. The Committee is grateful for the assistance of the many volunteers from the Regional Council who participated in these interviews over the past year – Judy Beck,

Thom Carnahan, Jen Dresser, Walter Farquharson, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Sheila Lavender, Shelly Manley-Tannis, Nancy McCrea, Deborah Smith, Jim Tenford, Linda Tomlinson-Seebach, Brian Walton, Gayle Wensley, and Darren Wooff. The other initiative this Committee undertook over the last year was to offer training opportunities for LLWLs – more information regarding this occurs in the report on the Regional Council Tour below. This spring, two opportunities for gathering online were also offered – the first a worship service, and the second an opportunity for feedback on the current training opportunities (both prior to licensing and after). Out of these experiences, a number of proposals have emerged for the support and care of LLWLs which will be the focus for this Committee this fall, including an online retreat to replace the previously scheduled in-person retreat in Saskatoon. The Committee is also reviewing a general Sacraments policy for the Regional Council that will be used for all people requiring licences.

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

The work of this Committee has also evolved over the last year, especially in response to COVID-19. A significant piece of work since the Regional Council gathering involved the development and approval of the Voluntary Associate Ministry policy for retired ministers. The intent of the policy is to support the requirement in The Manual that retirees wishing to offer any of the functions of ministry have a formal and active association with a community of faith. For a wide variety of reasons related to timing, implementation of this policy has been suspended until further notice. A second focus was the discernment regarding what support might be helpful for ministry personnel, both active and retired. A retreat was proposed for January 2020 but was ultimately cancelled due to lack of registration. The Committee proposed to the Regional Council Executive the financial support of retired ministry personnel for attending the Regional Council Gathering. While this proposal received support, the gathering was also ultimately cancelled due to COVID-19. Finally, the Committee developed a network of Volunteer Chaplains who contacted each of the individuals in active ministry to offer support during the pandemic. Much gratitude goes to Cathy Coates, Joan Rennie-Laing, Deborah Smith, Jackie Van't Voort, and Heather Wyatt for volunteering their time to contact folks on 3 separate occasions to express care and concern. This fall, the Committee will focus on ways to offer similar care and concern to retired ministry personnel in the Regional Council, as well as respond to the needs expressed by active ministry personnel to support health, joy and excellence in the practice of ministry.

Regional Council Tour

At the Regional Council Gathering in Swift Current, the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support heard a request for opportunities to connect with colleagues for learning and support. Concurrently, the Committee on Lay Leadership Support recognized that although the process for the assessment of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders differed across the former presbyteries, it often included a day of learning and connection. In addition, the challenge of creating time and space for clusters and networks to discern their context and purpose became apparent. Therefore, as part of the responsibility for health, joy and excellence in the practice of ministry and with the support of these two committees, the program staff team developed a series of gatherings in different locations across the Regional Council in an attempt to meet those needs. Each event was supported financially by the Regional Council budget (travel and refreshments) and offered worship (led by Kent Mohn and Lindsay Mohn), and self-led opportunities for spiritual practices and sharing circles for ministry personnel and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Workshops included a Faith Formation sharing circle (led by Kent Mohn and Lindsay Mohn), Ministry and Personnel Committee 101 (led by Tracy Murton), Music with limited resources (led by Lindsay Mohn), and Technology in Worship (led by Kent Mohn). Moose Jaw and Saskatoon included a Cluster and Communications conversation (led by Julie Graham). Originally, a workshop on Writing the Community of Faith Covenant was planned but the interest for this was low and it was therefore cancelled in all locations. Finally, volunteers from both the Committee on Lay Leadership Support and others from the Regional

Council participated in interviews for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (both those being licensed for the first time and those whose licenses needed to be renewed) at each event. Feedback overall was positive – people expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gather with one another for learning and worship, and to connect informally over a meal. Deep appreciation and gratitude to the three communities of faith (Minto in Moose Jaw, St. Martin's in Saskatoon, and Westview in Yorkton) for the use of their space and the warm welcome received by the volunteers and staff in each location. It is hoped that further events will be possible once gatherings are deemed to be safe – tentative next locations are Prince Albert and Weyburn.

Final words

At the beginning of the lockdown in March, I worried about how we might collectively remain the church, active in the world and faithful in our practice, each from our own homes. As is clear from the list of things we have accomplished in the last year, some of it from lockdown, the Spirit continues to move in mysterious ways throughout my life and work. I have thoroughly enjoyed and been deeply moved by the weekly online gatherings of ministry personnel and am in awe of the care and compassion with which they approach their ministry and their colleagues. I have honed my stand-up comedy skills in hosting online gatherings for Community of Faith leaders and have witnessed with greater clarity the depth and breadth of faith-filled and competent people across the Regional Council who worry about the sustainability of their local congregation, both large and small, rural and urban. The resilience and adaptability of the volunteers in each of these Committees reported on is inspiring and fills my work with joy and gratitude knowing the host of saints are active in the world. I truly believe I work on the best staff team, individuals who support and care for one another in spite of distance, the strength of which lockdown simply highlighted (think staff socially-distanced picnics in the park). I am especially grateful for Bev Diebert, who tolerates my last-minute whims, turning my wonderings into clear and helpful documents or strategies, and patiently supporting the ministry of administration. It is a privilege to be invited into the ministry and work of many in our Regional Council and I pray that the Spirit will continue to move in mysterious ways to bring hope and justice-filled action into our lives in ways that may not have been known before. To quote Richard Wagamese, “What’s needed are eyes that focus with the soul. What’s needed are spirits open to everything. What’s needed are the belief that wonder is the glue of the universe and the desire to seek more of it. Be filled with wonder.”¹

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister

YAYAC: YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

Well...it was kind of a challenging year for region-wide youth & young adult events.

The social reality of pandemic life meant the cancellation or at least postponement of a number of pretty cool, pretty big projects. These included the Team Mexico group, the Youth Ministry Summit & Leadership Weekend, Youth @ Regional Council, and many Outdoor Ministry programs at UCC camps.

But, let's not get too bogged down with the disappointing stuff! Apparently, the catch phrase that we're all supposed to use is “pivot”, and Living Skies Region can celebrate inspirational youth ministry pivoting in many other ways in 2020:

¹ Wagamese, Richard; *Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations*, 2016, Douglas & McIntyre, p. 105.

1. **Local congregational youth groups** continued to meet by Zoom & physically-distanced activities.
2. An amazing **Confirmation Weekend for Youth** was hosted at St. Andrew's College in March. A very special note of appreciation goes to the diverse ministry leadership team and young adult volunteers.
3. Some **United Church Camps** were able to offer Day Camp Programs and/or online community throughout the summer months. Specifically, Lumsden Beach Camp coordinated a full summer of day camp programs including a week for teen Leaders in Training, Camp Shagabec created daily video activities, and Camp Tapawingo maintained an intentional social media network with past staff & campers.
4. **Rendez-Vous Reimagined 2020** went fully online in August for youth, young adults, and their leaders across the national United Church of Canada. The 4-day event included a variety of worship, theme speakers, home group communities, and workshops.
5. The selection process for youth delegates to **Youth Forum at GC44** (July 2022) has been extended to the spring of 2021. Application & Selection criteria will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Looking ahead, the plan is to keep pivoting creatively and enthusiastically. In-person region-wide gatherings are on hold for the fall, so the emphasis is on on-line programs, leadership development, and resource-sharing in support of local leaders and ministries. There's a lot of great ministry with, for and by young people happening and developing around the region, and the goal is to make sure everybody knows about it!

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact Kent at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca or 306-221-5529.

Respectfully submitted,
Kent Mohn
Youth and Young Adult Minister

OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER

Greetings in the name of Living God who by the Spirit moves and works amongst us, and who gave us the life of Jesus to teach us what it meant to be people of faith.

I cannot believe that it is over a year since we last gathered together. In the time since then I have been busy working with your candidacy board to support inquirers and candidates. They had a couple of in person meetings where they interviewed several inquirers and candidates. Since the pandemic they have been meeting, like so many of you, online which has added an interesting aspect to the interview process.

There has been an increase in the number of inquirers in the system and many of them have successfully become candidates. We have at present 36 inquirers and candidates in the three regions that the candidacy board are responsible for. If you are personally interested in paid accountable ministry in the United Church of Canada please email me for further information.

Although Church Hub continues to challenge many of us, especially anyone like me who uses

a mac, I appreciate the willingness to engage in our new processes. The level of reporting for annual declaration continues to increase as we become more familiar with the new process. We are still waiting on all the mandatory training being moved from paper file to your profiles, but if you have any concerns about it please email me.

I continue to support mandatory training by being one of the online instructors for the boundaries training. These workshops continue to help us all be aware of the complexities of our world. The refresher on social media is very relevant at this time.

Finally, as the Office of Vocation Minister for your region if there is anything I can do to support your work please let me know.

Yours in Christ

The Rev Dr. Karen Medland

kmedland@united-church.ca