

NETWORKS AND TASK GROUPS

Task Group for Clusters / Networks

Member	Elaine Little
Member	Margaret McCallum
Member	Karen Mitchell
Member	Vicki Nelson
Member	Kevin Sprong

Chinook Worship Circle (Cluster)

Contact: Elaine Little

Korean Ministers Cluster

Contact: Rev. Hyun Heo

Former Twin Valleys ministry personnel gathering

Contact: Susan Reed

Reconciliation United (Saskatoon area)

Contact: Dave Moors

Regina and Area Cluster

Contact: ReginaAreaCluster@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2205391406391275/>

Saskatoon and Area Cluster

Contact: Gary Storey,

United Church Sask Camps Network

Contact: Vicki Nelson

Women of the United Church Network

Contact: Susan Dokken_or Mary Mohn

Wynyard-area Cluster

Contact: Cindy Goodman

For more information about networks, task groups and clusters, please contact Julie Graham at jgraham@united-curch.ca

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL NETWORK

The Western Intercultural Ministry Network includes the people of, and leadership from, Pacific Mountain, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.

The Interim Executive:

At the Annual General Meeting of the **Intercultural Ministry Network** (Northern Spirit Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council) held on October 16, 2019 at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, the then executive decided to expand our network to include all of the Western region under an assumed name “**Western Intercultural Ministry Network**” with the following members as its Interim Executive: **Kay Quon** – Elder (Edmonton), **Katheryn Yamashita** (Lethbridge), **Julie Graham** (staff support), **Pamela Won** – Secretary, (Calgary) **Kwang Beom Cho** – Vice-chair (Winnipeg), **Alwin Maben** – Chair (Coronation)

At that time we did not have anybody from the **Pacific Mountain region** at the AGM to be coopted into the Interim Executive. However, with help from the Regional Councils and with a little persuasion, we were able to have **Deborah Richards** representing **Pacific Mountain Region** and **Kurt Katzmar** representing **Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network** and later **Dambar Khadka** join us as Interim Executive members. We are grateful to all our interim Executive members for their wisdom, enthusiasm and input with regard to the functioning of our committee

Policies and Procedures (Terms of Reference):

As an Interim Executive we started working on preparing **Policies and Procedures (Terms of Reference)** with Dr. Kathy Yamashita on the chair. We thank Kathy for drafting the terms of Reference and the committee accepted the same with some corrections which was later shared with all the five Regional Councils for their information (following).

Committee Meetings:

Our first Interim Executive Committee meeting over Zoom was on **November 5, 2019**. In order to keep the momentum going after the success of our Continuing Education and Learning Day event - “**Continuing the Awkward Conversation to become and Intercultural and Sustainable Church**” (Oct.16-18, 2019) with **Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law** and **Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park** at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton and a “**Korean Ministers/Lay Leaders Gathering 2019**” on Oct.18-19 at Edmonton Korean Church with Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park, we began planning to host the **Education and Learning day event for 2020**. Initially, we planned to host it September 22-25, 2020 at FCJ Centre, Calgary with the Theme: “**New Wine**” – **Creating Missional, Sustainable and Intercultural Ministries in the United Church.**” While **Rev. Dr. Eric Law** was returning as one of the Main Speakers we were also hoping to have the support from or collaboration with **The First Nations** and “**Being Good Relations**” Network. After preparing a budget for this event, we also sought financial support from all concerned regional councils who were gracious enough to accept our proposal and the budget. So far the committee has met seven times over Zoom. We are especially grateful to Dr. Kathy Yamashita for taking the minutes and sharing it as Pamela Won was not able to participate in most of our meetings.

Continuing Education and Learning Day event 2020:

With COVID-19 coming in the way, we had to change our plans with regard to hosting the Education Event. While we retained the Theme: “**New Wine**” – **Creating Missional, Sustainable and Intercultural Ministries in the United Church.**” with **Rev. Dr. Eric Law** as returning Main Speaker, we also contacted few Indigenous leaders to be the Second speaker. We are happy that **Rev. Tony Snow** accepted our invitation and will be the other Speaker at

this event. In consultation with the speakers, our committee decided to host this year's Education Event online on three separate Fridays with a particular theme which is as follows:

September 25: Missional Ministries

October 2: Sustainable Ministries

October 9: Intercultural Ministries

There will be presentations, dialogue between Tony and Eric, small group conversations, Q and A, and a break in each session. At the end of each day, participants will be given "homework" contextual to their ministry, and tools to engage people in their ministry. They will bring their experience and reflection back to the following session. Each day will include an optional afternoon or evening informal conversation circle to close the day; these will be based regionally, linguistically, and more. While the cost is free, registration is required. For full information please go to: <http://bit.ly/2CqFRjt> . We look forward to many participating and benefitting from this event.

With the change in plans the budget too was revised and we are grateful to **Northern Spirit** and **Chinook Winds Regional Councils** for approving our budget and also for extending Staff support to our ministry. We are particularly grateful to **Julie Graham** for the tremendous staff support she is extending to us.

Zoom Chai/Coffee Conversation:

A special feature has been the two **Zoom Chai/Coffee Sessions** we had this year. The first one on **February 4, 2020** was mainly for those who attended the last education event. This session was chaired by Dr. Kathy Yamashita and was quite well attended with lots of suggestions and concerns shared with regard to intercultural ministry. The second session was on **June 23, 2020** where the focus was on Racism within the United Church. This too was well attended and was planned and Moderated by Deborah Richards and Julie Graham to whom we are very much grateful. Another session is planned for **November 17, 2020 at 12.30 PM (MST)**. All are welcome to participate.

Support to DUIM:

"Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry" offered by the Canadian Council of Churches from time to time has not been held Alberta so far. There was a request to host the same in Alberta with the help of Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network. Rev. Jonathan Schmidt - Associate Secretary: Intercultural Leadership; Justice and Peace, had an exploratory meeting with Rev. Kurt Katzmar and other members of the Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network on February 5, 2020 at Sherwood Park United Church. Unfortunately not much progress has been made due to COVID-19.

Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting this year will be on **November 24, 2020 at 12.30 PM (MST)**. We hope that interested folks from all regions will participate in this and that we will be able to form a New Executive to continue the work of Intercultural Ministry within our region with new vision and enthusiasm.

Once again we express our sincere gratitude to all the Regional Councils in the Western Region, particularly, **Northern Spirit** and **Chinook Winds Regional Councils** for all the support and encouragement we have received and look forward to continued support and guidance in the important ministry for the Glory of God and for the good of all God's children.

Alwin Maben
Interim Executive Chair

**The Western Intercultural Ministry Network
The United Church of Canada
(December 9, 2019, DRAFT)**

Mission Statement

In 2012 the General Council of the United Church of Canada declared that it would become an Intercultural church. By this we understand that we are affirming the very beginning of our faith which was born in a time which was richly coloured by people from many different countries and traditions and faiths. When we affirm and welcome a variety of traditions and faith expressions, our understanding of God and of each other is deepened.

1. To this end, in 2019 the Western Intercultural Ministry Network was born from the ashes of the Alberta and Northwest Conference and Edmonton Presbytery Intercultural committees. Our mission is to extend the vision of intercultural ministry to the five Western regions of The United Church of Canada.
2. We will endeavour to work closely with General Council in their Intercultural Ministry support for the whole of The United Church of Canada. At the same time, we hope to bring together those who are doing intercultural ministry work in their regions.
3. We hope to educate the mainstream United churches about the issues experienced by people who are marginalized because of race, sexual identity, disability and poverty. We will work toward holding an annual educational event featuring speakers who can teach us about becoming an Intercultural church.
4. We hope to build a relationship with indigenous peoples in order to learn about their histories, traditions and spiritualities.
5. We hope to continue support for ministry personnel who have come to Canada to work in the United Church and must navigate its culture and policies as they seek to become fully accepted in The United Church of Canada. We intend to petition the Office of Vocation and federal and provincial governmental agencies to improve their policies to fully support immigrant ministers in The United Church of Canada.
6. This mission statement is a work in progress and will need to be reviewed and approved at each general meeting.

Terms of Reference

Mandate

- To nurture and support the ministries of Ethnic Congregations, Migrant Congregations, and those of visible Minority Clergy and Laity in mainstream Congregations of The United Church of Canada's five western Regions: Living Skies, Prairie to Pine, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain.
- To enable these ministries to participate fully in the life of The United Church of Canada.
- To empower the constituents of the Intercultural Ministry Committee to participate in the General Council Mandate, "Towards becoming an Intercultural Church."
- To advocate for persons navigating the immigration process and provide supports to enable integration into life in Canada.

Membership

- Chairperson, Secretary and either past chair or chair elect to act as Co-Chairperson

- At least one member from each of the member Regions and one member from each of the ethnic, affirming and migrant ministries. Intercultural ministry working groups within our five Regions will be welcome to appoint a member.
- The recruitment of network members will take into account the diversity of peoples in the United Church.
- There will be an attempt to rotate the leadership amongst the diversity of the groups represented in our network on a three yearly basis.
- Elders may be named in recognition of wise and faithful contribution from a longstanding former committee member. The Elder will have full corresponding privileges.

Accountability

- The Ethnic congregation representatives shall report about their church matters and will support and respond to the goals set by the Network.
- The Network will maintain a connection with General Council and the Regional executives of The United Church of Canada.

Meetings

- A General meeting and Educational event will be held once a year, lasting 2-3 days.
- Other meetings may be held electronically as called by the Chairperson or two members of the Network with at least two weeks notice.

Financial Support

- We will petition each Region to assist their representatives with travel expenses.
- We will request funding from each Region to support the cost of the Annual General meeting and Educational event.

Review

- These terms of reference shall be reviewed and accepted annually at a general meeting.

THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH NETWORK

We hosted a Women's Retreat for ALL women of the United Church at Camp Tapawingo on Candle Lake on June 21 - 23, 2019. Theme this year was "Spirit, Open My Heart". Former moderator Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell was our theme speaker on Saturday afternoon and prepared a special Communion Worship Service for us to use at all of our communion services. Friday began with a potluck supper and silent auction (with all proceeds to Camp Tapawingo). Activities included walking the labyrinth, canoeing, kayaking, line dancing, swimming, beach and outdoor walks, board games, crafts, gentle yoga. There was evening vespers at Vesper Hill on Friday and morning worship and vespers indoors on Saturday. Skits and singing were incorporated into evening events. On Sunday Susan Dokken, LLWL led the special worship service which included communion written by Jordan Cantwell and led by Rev. Nancy Steinbachs.

On August 23 – 25, 2019 we hosted a Women's Retreat at Wellman Lake United Church Camp on Regatta Bay in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Again the theme was "Spirit, Open My Heart". Camp began on Friday with a potluck supper and a silent auction (with proceeds to go to the cost of renting the facility). Canoeing, walking, board games, crafts including hardanger and planting coleus were included in the activities. Both Susan Dokken and Chantal Ntibategera, LLWL prepared evening vespers and morning worship on Saturday and the special worship service that included communion led by Rev. Jenny Sprong on Saturday before supper. We were able to have an outdoor campfire on Saturday with stories and

singing. On Sunday worship was held indoors because of the weather. We had women from Saskatchewan and Manitoba in attendance.

We took part in Camp Christopher Women's Camp on Sept. 6 – 8, 2019. This is an ecumenical camp and is held at Camp Christopher on Christopher Lake (a joint Presbyterian-United camp). This year the camp was planned by Presbyterian Women in Saskatoon. Guest speaker was Dr. Vivian Walker who spoke about hospice programs and the lack of Doctors specializing in hospice care. She was pleased to announce the building of a special hospice care home in Saskatoon. There was kayaking, Bible study, indoor board games, a craft and Saturday was skit and entertainment night. Proceeds from the Sunday Worship service went to Dr. Walker's hospice home project.

Dawn Weber and Mary Mohn represented Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women at the annual National UCW meeting in Mississauga, Ontario on September 23 – 27. The 60th Anniversary of UCW will take place at Membertou Conference Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 2022.

On Saturday, 5 October 2019, Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women hosted a one-day Women's Event at First United in Swift Current. We opened with the acknowledgment that our meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saukteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota known as Treaty 4 Territory Lands and, also, the homeland of the Metis Nation.

Our secretary, Barb Bradley, was nominated at this meeting.

The day began with a meeting and report from the annual meeting of the National United Church Women. The new Saskatchewan UCC Women's executive for the year 2020 was elected and installed. They are as follows: Susan Dokken and Chantal Ntibategera, Co-Chairs; Dawn Weber, 1st Vice-Chair; Barbara Byers Bradley, 2nd Vice-Chair; Wilma Will, Treasurer. We held a special worship service including a memorial for UCW members who passed away in 2019. Rev. Catherine Christie led communion. In the afternoon Rev. Catherine Christie was our guest speaker. She gave an educational and motivational talk on "Where We Have Been and Where We Are Now". Then led table discussions on where the new structure might lead us. The Swift Current UCW served a delicious lunch and coffee break refreshments.

The executive has already met on Nov. 2 to plan the Women's Gathering for next April 24, 25, and 26 at Calvary United Church in Prince Albert. ALL women are invited!

While the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women maintains a close affiliation with national UCW it is also encompassing many non-UCW groups and individuals. It will continue to provide and distribute regular newsletters mostly through e-mail, but also by mail if requested. The newsletter is posted on the Regional Council website under Women's Network as well. Susan has set up a Facebook Page. We use the Regional Rambler to advertise upcoming events.

The above is from the 2019 Annual Report written by co-chairs Mary Mohn and Susan Dokken.

Since the Annual meeting, Barb Bradley has decided to remain as secretary for the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women. Right now we are looking for a 1st and 2nd Vice Chairs.

We keep the women in the Living Skies Regional Council updated through the monthly newsletter written by Mary Mohn (thank-you, Mary) and the Regional Rambler.

2020 Events

Women's Gathering – 24 to 26 April 2020 in Prince Albert (cancelled due to government restrictions COVID-19)

Women's Retreat – Camp Tapawingo – 24 to 26 July 2020 (cancelled due to government restrictions on COVID -19)

Women's Camp – Camp Christopher – 11 to 13 September 2020.

2021 Events

Annual Meeting – April 2021

Camp Tapawingo – TBA

Camp Christopher – 10 to 12 September 2021

Submitted by

Dawn Weber

REGIONAL MINISTER: JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Our collective refrain for 2020: things didn't go as planned. Beginning January 1 I started full time work with Living Skies, Northern Spirit, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils. It didn't go quite as I thought it would. And the communications half of the job has also taken priority over the "justice" part of the job, at least for a good part of 2020. So please consider this half a 2020 report, and half a dream of what 2021 might be.

In all of my work I'm getting to know the wide range of people, communities of faith, ideas, dreams, and needs that are central to this staff position. I have relied heavily on the relationships I'm privileged to be part of in Living Skies and the former SK Conference and appreciate those connections and supports very much.

I try to divide my time equally between Northern Spirit, Prairie to Pine, and Living Skies, with time set aside for tri-Region program initiatives, and for staff and national commitments. Unfortunately, this means that each Region gets the equivalent of only about one dedicated day per week, but I hope to learn how to best maximize this time.

In mid January 2020 I started my work with the three Regional Councils and joined a three-Region team of staff, led by Jamie Mckay, that focused on creating and posting the wide range of essential content to the three new Regional Council websites. The team included Bev Diebert, Kent Mohn, Kathy Jackson, and Cherry Abad, and help and support from all of the other staff. This took a lot of our collective time and energy through mid-March.

Five days after the sites successfully went live, the COVID shut down had begun. The next three months were focused on updates and tools for keeping the three Regions up to date, supported, and safe. As delegates know, all travel was cancelled, so getting to know the Region and its people moved online. This has had some positive impacts, including many more people become more comfortable with online communications. But it has also shown serious inequities in internet and computer equipment access. Some people have asked how the Regional Council might help address this- a fair question that will become more urgent the longer COVID shapes our public ministry.

Even before COVID, much of my work was online, via the website, social media, and Zoom or United in Learning. Unfortunately, our spring sub-Regional day long retreats and workshops were cancelled, as was our Affirming retreat.

However, by May and June, a number of long-delayed program pieces were back on track, including:

- * an action in support of COVID funding supports and permanent increases to social assistance, created with and on behalf of Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry
- * an informal multi-Region intercultural “chai and coffee” focused on racism and Black Lives Matter;
- * and an online learning and conversation workshop on non-binary gender language and its positive impact, offered to help people in the three Regions engage with Remit 1 and wider understanding of gender diversity.

Each of these supported some key wider priorities, such as Affirming work, right relations and Indigenous justice, and Intercultural ministry. Here are a few program priorities:

Connecting communications with **Nominations work**: I've begun talking with Nominations/Nominating committees in all three Regional Councils and hope to facilitate them sharing ideas and best practices. All are struggling with the loss of presbytery, and wondering how we use communication tools to find new channels for contacts, outreach, and invitation.

Grants committee: The committee, like many others, is adapting its wide range of work to the new structure, while also working with the Regional Assessment. Updating the website to reflect the grants available was a 2020 priority.

Affirming work will include making contact with all Affirming ministries and ministries in the Affirming process, as well as working alongside the Affirming task group when it begins. Our planned Affirming retreat in Humboldt was of course cancelled, and I'd like to offer some fall connecting calls with Affirming, in-process and Affirming-curious ministries.

For **Intercultural ministry and engagement**: The Western Intercultural Ministries Network has moved its Calgary event for the West online and opened it to the entire church. Learning how to do this work online across five Regional Councils is now more important than ever, and this Network is offering leadership in innovative ways in difficult circumstances within the new structure. How we practice intercultural ministry on the ground has always been a challenge, and Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter are a call to make this “how” an imminent and permanent commitment. Living Skies has a strong history in this work, and while it is not currently represented on the interim Executive, such presence would be welcome, and so would

Finally, getting to know **Clusters** and supporting them, especially those that carry forward work such as right relations, Affirming and more, will be a priority through 2021.

I look forward to being in continued community with the people and ministries of Living Skies. Losing some of my previous hours has been difficult, but I think there are ways we can come together across Regional Councils to support our diverse calls and ministry. Please don't ever hesitate to be in touch: jgraham@united-church.ca and 306-244-2157.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Graham