## Regional Rambler – Nominations – to Regional Council Representatives

## March 17, 2021

Hello everyone,

This email is being sent to delegates of the Living Skies Regional Council, and is a reminder of some of the opportunities currently available to serve in the wider church. We hope you will consider these opportunities for yourselves, and that you might also help us by sharing this information as widely as possible.

The Nominations Committee of the Living Skies Regional Council currently has a number of opportunities available to serve the wider church. You will find the list of positions currently vacant in our Regional Council in our newsfeed under – *Opportunities to get involved in our Region Council*. The link to this is here,

As well, we are continuing to seek Commissioners for General Council 44. The details of that are available in this letter.

We invite you to consider whether you might feel called to serve the wider church in any of these ways. If you are interested, you can find the nominations form here. We are using the same form for all nominations, including for General Council Commissioners. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of these opportunities!

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact us by email at lsrcnominations@gmail.com or contact Susan by phone at 306-482-3932.

Thank you, and blessings,
Susan Reed
on behalf of the Nominations Committee of the Living Skies Regional Council

**To find the Nominations form, go to:**

**https://livingskiesrc.ca/governance-admin/nominations/**

# Here are Living Skies Regional Council's current openings:

This list is also available on the Living Skies website found on the home page at:

https://livingskiesrc.ca/opportunities-to-get-involved-in-our-regional-council/

**Property Commission:** one new member. This Commission oversees and makes decisions on various property-related matters in our Region. This Commission meets primarily electronically or by telephone, and sometimes needs to meet on short notice. This position is a three-year term. More information about the Property Commission is here.

**Nominations Committee:** three new members. This committee gathers a slate of nominations for the officers of the Regional Council and its executive, commissions, committees, task groups, steering committees, or teams. It also provides nominations for unexpected vacancies or new positions which occur during the year. These positions are all three-year terms.

The **Committee on Ministry Personnel Support**: one new member. The focus of this committee is to "encourage and support Ministry Personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practise." This position is a three-year term. Read more about this committee here.

The **Committee on Community of Faith Support:** one new member. The focus of this committee is to support Communities of Faith in their life and work. Experience with current pastoral oversight process or sexual misconduct prevention and response is an asset. This position is a three-year term. Read more about this Committee here.

We are in need of one more person to serve as a **Refugee Liaison**. This is a three-year term.

We are in need of six members to form an **Affirming Process Task Group**. This group will be asked to design and propose a process through which our Regional Council might consider becoming an Affirming Region.

We are in need of three members to form a **Rural Pastoral Care Process Task Group**. This group will explore and recommend a process or plan for addressing the issue of pastoral care needs and coverage in rural areas where congregations have closed and/or the ministry personnel available are scarce or stretched. This group will include at least one ministry personnel and at least one lay member.

And finally, we are working with the Pastoral Relations Commission to help find folks from across our Regional Council to serve as **Pastoral Relations Liaisons**. The liaisons are a bridge between communities of faith and the Regional Council, touching base with a community of faith or ministry personnel in time such as discussions about the pastoral relationship, change in pastoral relations, creating a community of faith profile, or throughout the search process. Support is provided by the Pastoral Relations Minister and Pastoral Relations commission.

# The United Church of Canada

## Living Skies Regional Council

### Nominations Committee

Email: lsrcnominations@gmail.com

To: Members of the Living Skies Regional Council March 2021
From: The Nominations Committee of the Living Skies Regional Council

Dear friends,

This letter is concerning nominations of Commissioners for the meeting of General Council 44.

We are currently seeking commissioners to serve for a three year period, which includes attending the main meeting of General Council 44, as well as annual online meetings, and occasional special meetings in between. Those who are members of The United Church of Canada as well as those Ministry Personnel currently in the Admissions process are eligible to serve as Commissioners.

You may recall that General Council 44 was originally planned for July of 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. Due to the pandemic, those plans needed to change, and a decision was made to move the General Council meeting back one year, to the summer of 2022. Plans for that meeting are still unfolding, but it is possible that General Council 44 will take place entirely online, with the main meeting happening in July of 2022, and with other components of learning and preparation happening in the months prior.

We are aware that an online meeting might pose additional challenges for some folks in terms of online accessibility. We are hoping this will not be an obstacle which will block you from applying. The Living Skies Regional Council Executive is committed to doing what they can in response to technological and online needs.

For the 44th General Council, the Living Skies Regional Council is asked to name 17 Commissioners, and that number includes:

- 1 Commissioner who is ex-officio – the chairperson of the Living Skies Regional Council
- 1 Youth Commissioner from the Living Skies Regional Council, chosen from among the 4 youth chosen by YAYAC (Youth & Young Adult Community), as described below
- 15 Commissioners who are selected from the applications submitted to the Nominations Committee

Youth Forum for General Council 44 in 2022 is expected to be similar to that of GC43. Each Regional Council will be invited to select four youth, ages 15-18, to comprise a Youth Forum at GC44. These youth will attend GC44 as well as a Winter Retreat at Five Oaks Centre in Ontario in February of 2022. YAYAC is taking the lead in organizing the selection of the four youth from Living Skies, with more information about the application process to follow in coming months as it becomes available. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact Kent at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca or 306-221-5529.

**The deadline for nominations for GC44 Commissioners is April 15th, 2021.**

The Nominations Committee will meet after that date to enter into a process of "balancing" the list of nominees to ensure that the commissioners represent the Regional Council. It is required by the General Council that "a minimum of 1/3 of the members elected must be ministry personnel on the roll of the Regional Council, and a minimum of 1/3 of the members elected must be lay members of communities of faith within the bounds of the Regional Council other than ministry personnel..." (Manual 2019 D.1.1)

The Nominations Committee will also be guided by a commitment made by The United Church of Canada, and affirmed by the Living Skies Regional Council Executive of "honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry." The Living Skies Regional Council Executive has further advised the Nominations Committee to "ensure that individuals who are representative of the intercultural church (including but not limited to racialized / racial minority, gender identities, sexual orientation, differently abled) are valued participants in the structures of Living Skies Regional Council. This principle of inclusion should also be adhered to in the selection of Commissioners for General Council 44."

Once the Nominations Committee has determined a recommended list of GC44 Commissioners, we will then present that list to list to the Living Skies Regional Council at their online meeting planned for June 4-6, 2021. A list of alternate commissioners will also be presented, in case some commissioners cannot attend at the time of General Council. Because we are electing commissioners a year in advance, having a list of alternate commissioners will be important.

Also linked on the Regional Council website is an application form to be completed by those interested in applying to be Commissioners. Please send your completed application to the Nominations Committee at lsrcnominations@gmail.com on or before April 15, 2021.

Applications can also be mailed to:
Susan Reed
Box 542
Carnduff, SK S0C 0S0

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at lsrcnominations@gmail.com or contact Susan by phone at 306-482-3932.

We hope you will consider this opportunity, and we hope you will help spread word of it to others you know who might be interested in serving the wider church in this way.

Thank you, and blessings,
Susan Reed

On behalf of the Nominations Committee of the Living Skies Regional Council:
Yvonne Terry
Jeanette Warrian
Susan Reed, Convenor