

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 24

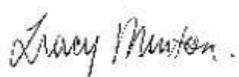
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! I hope this finds you healthy and well, celebrating the coming of spring and the ongoing availability of vaccines. While a great deal is happening, there is little new to report on the work of the PRC and the Committees; policy links are embedded accordingly:

1. **Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM)** – *the Manual* requires that all ministry personnel who are not in a call or appointment but wish to continue to perform the functions of ministry (including weddings) need to be in a formal association with a community of faith and in good standing. If you are a retired minister in Living Skies, you will be contacted shortly with further information on this [policy](#). Thanks to those who have already begun or even [completed this form](#).
2. **Ministry and Personnel Committees** – the *Committee on Ministry Personnel Support* conducted a wellness survey of ministry personnel in the Regional Council. The significance of support from M&P Committees for the health and wellness of our ministry personnel is providing additional content for Zoom workshops that will be a basic intro plus insights from the survey – May 5, 7:00-8:30pm **OR** May 8, 10:00-11:30am. Registration information is in the Rambler.
3. **Annual meetings/ reports** – To date, the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* has received and reviewed 74 annual reports (either the full or condensed version). This means that there are about 75 communities of faith who have yet to submit any documentation for review. Help us support you well in your local ministry through this means of accountability by submitting **as soon as possible** or contact me. Please see the [Rambler in December](#) for details on the revised expectations for reporting. Stay tuned for updates from the General Council Executive later this month regarding the requirement for annual meetings in 2021.
4. **Covenants** – To date, a total of 46 Covenants have been received and reviewed. This means that there are about 100 communities of faith who have yet to submit! We would like to celebrate the remaining covenants at the Regional Council Gathering in June. Please check with your governing body regarding the status of the covenant in your community of faith.

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 **Friday, April 30** in order to be considered on May 6.

As the weather continues to improve, I urge you to continue to celebrate the new life that our faith proclaims. Find ways to practice your faith in community that are safe, enjoy the wonders of creation renewed, and reach out if there is any way we can support you. Thanks be to God, we are not alone.

Blessings and peace,



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