

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL
June 4 and June 5, 2021 on ZOOM**

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REPORT OF THE CONVENOR OF THE REGIONAL GATHERING

Welcome to the 2021 Regional Gathering of Living Skies Regional Council! On behalf of the Planning Team, I thank you for the commitment of your time and energy to attend and participate in this online gathering.

In the fall of 2020, the Regional Gathering Planning Committee recommended to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive that, because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic and its associated uncertainties, no in-person Regional Gathering take place in 2021. The recommendation was approved, which meant that the Planning Committee would be tasked with planning for a second online Regional Gathering, sometime in 2021.

The dates of the Living Skies Regional Gathering were set as June 4 and 5, 2021. These dates were selected to honor the commitments of our staff who serve multiple Regions, and to allow some leeway ahead of the General Council's June deadline for naming Commissioners to General Council 44 (2022).

Once again, our Regional Gathering will take place using the ZOOM platform. The Planning Team appreciates that meeting by ZOOM is not even remotely close to meeting in person, however, it does allow us the opportunity to meet. We are ever-grateful for our Living Skies staff and volunteers who work behind the scenes to make this meeting experience as accessible and meaningful as possible.

In an effort to respect the present concerns related to ZOOM fatigue, the Planning Team has chosen to focus the Regional Gathering on emergent and urgent business. The three blocks of meeting time will include worship, created and led by a variety of people from across our Living Skies Region. The business pieces, such as proposals, will be presented and engaged following the model used at General Council, where there will be three intentional times, one each for listening, discussing and deciding. Our online time together will also include recognition of significant passages of individuals and Communities of Faith, connected to our Region.

While the Planning Team decided that it was unnecessary for our 2021 Regional Gathering to have an express theme, there is work underway to begin the conversations about becoming an anti-racist church. In addition, the Planning Team is working on an online Town Hall-style series intended to support the Community Ministries of Living Skies Regional Council.

As for the future of our Regional Gathering, it is impossible to answer any questions about it, with any sense of confidence. Such is the uncertain nature of living in the time of a global pandemic. For now, on behalf of the Planning Team, I thank you for being here and taking part in the life and ministry of Living Skies Regional Council.

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

**People with whom we are Celebrating
at the 2021 Annual Event of Saskatchewan Conference**

ORDINAND

Jonathan Worrall

ADMITTAND

Emily Carr

Those Retiring

Brian Maitland Ron McConnell Mathias Ross	Yvonne Terry Mark Wartman
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Those Celebrating Anniversaries

<p><u>65 YEARS</u> Howard Hanson</p>	<p><u>35 YEARS</u> Elaine MacLaughlin Russell Mitchell-Walker Matthias Ross</p>
<p><u>55 YEARS</u> Bill Dearborn Alvin Hingley Wayne Knouse John Oussoren Bill Wall</p>	<p><u>30 YEARS</u> Marjorie Keyser Jo Anne Knobbe Roland Legge Rick McCorrister</p>
<p><u>50 YEARS</u> <u>45 YEARS</u> Robert Brown Lorne Calvert</p>	<p><u>25 YEARS</u> Peter Calhoun Darilyn Grigg Doug Ponto Linda Stumpf</p>
<p><u>40 YEARS</u> Greg Grace Holly Schick Tony Thompson Mike Williams</p>	

Those for whom we mourn:

Ronald Evans Eric Pullam Allan Shaw Alma Packrandt	Marylynn Dumont Betty Powell Earl Grigg Joan Farquharson	Ivan Fulford Jack Millar Chuck Alton
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**CONVENOR OF THE REGIONAL GATHERING
ROB REED, DIACONAL MINISTER**

I live in Carnduff, Saskatchewan, with my spouse, Susan, who ministers there, with the people of St. Andrew's United Church. I have two grown children who live in Camrose, Alberta, which is my hometown. Besides the church, my passions include music, reading and writing, gardening, and walking.

I returned to the church as an adult, with a young family. Early in that return, I was enchanted by the music of handbells and a sermon that seemed to speak directly to my life (I can't remember if it was Luke 15:11-32, or not). My involvement in my home congregation and Coronation Presbytery was fast and frenetic: I joined choirs, served on committees, led Youth Groups, and chaired the local church Board.

When significant changes occurred in my professional and personal life, my relationship with the church also changed. Feeling a call to ministry, I became a Staff Associate with Sherwood Park United Church. During this five-year appointment, I began discernment, which led me to the Centre for Christian Studies. I was commissioned to diaconal ministry in 2010, through Alberta and Northwest Conference. As part of that process, I was transferred to Saskatchewan Conference, and settled to the Gainsborough-Carievale Pastoral Charge, where I had served as a student, since 2007, and continue to serve, today.

**CHAIR OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL
TRICIA GERHARD**

Tricia is in ministry with the people of Sunset United Church in Regina. A Vancouverite by birth but a Prairie girl by choice, Tricia has been in Saskatchewan for 16 years working in various pastoral charges both rural and urban. She has had various roles in the Region (Conference) and Presbytery (when it existed), but the role of Chair of Executive has been the most challenging and intriguing so far. She is married to David, and mother to Sophia and Jacob. When there are moments of free time in life, Tricia enjoys reading, crafting, and baking.

**GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE
ALAN HALL**

Alan serves as the Executive Officer for Ministry and Employment for the United Church. In this role he is the registrar of and senior staff resource to the Board of Vocation, has oversight of human resources and compensation for the denomination, and is responsible for the governance and administration of the pension and group health plans of the church. A graduate of Mount Allison University and Emmanuel College, and ordained by the Maritime Conference, Alan has served The United Church of Canada in Saskatchewan (Wynyard and Eflros), East Africa, Manitoba, and Ontario. He lives in, and since covid works from, the Beach neighbourhood of Toronto.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Friday evening worship – planned / edited by Hoeun Lee

Hoeun Lee serves St. Paul's United Church in Tisdale, Treaty 6 territory. His intercultural journey started in the summer of 2017, which has come along with the community of St. Andrew's College, Coteau Hills Pastoral Charge and St. Paul's United Church. As a Ph. D. candidate in Theology of Culture, he is broadly interested in cultural phenomena and their theological implications. His experiences as a racialized migrant has led him to his commitment for an anti-racist church. He enjoys video making and playing with his 10 month-old-baby.

Leadership:

Jordan Cantwell is in team ministry at St. Martin's United Church on Treaty 6 territory in Saskatoon. She has long been a passionate advocate for social justice. More recently, she has been learning the need to bring humility, deep listening, and an open mind and heart into the spaces where conflict and passions run high. She's also a total bible-geek.

Sarah Tut is a South Sudanese Governor Canadian. She served as a Co-Chair of the Council of the Grosvenor Park United Church in Saskatoon. She is a social activist and co-organizer of Black History Month Saskatoon SK.

Mitchell Anderson serves as lead minister for St. Paul's United in Saskatoon. He also serves on the Executive of the General Council for the United Church and the pension board for the United Church pension plan. Mitchell is dēnesuḷiné and a member of the English River First Nation in Treaty 10.

SunDo Hyun was born and raised in South Korea and has been in congregational ministry in The United Church of Canada since 2014. Currently serving at Grace United Church in Meadow Lake, he is passionate about working toward Truth & Reconciliation in Canada, welcoming people of different cultural backgrounds & LGBTQTT2S+ people, helping young generation find home in Christian faith and community, and making wider community a better place for everyone.

Nobuko Iwai (she/her) is a 1.5 generation (born in Japan & raised in Canada) Japanese Canadian woman. During the pandemic, she has learned to make homemade bread and maki-sushi (rolled sushi). She has lived in Japan, Alberta, Quebec, and Ontario before moving to Saskatchewan. Her Masters of Sacred Theology thesis was titled: *With Almond Shaped Eyes of Faith: Towards an understanding of Church and Community for Third and Fourth Generation Japanese Canadian Women*. She has been amongst other things, a life partner to Rev. Douglas Ponto, an Interim Minister, a Presbytery Chairperson, Saskatchewan Conference President, and a caregiver to her parents. Since 2015 she has ministered with the good people at Grosvenor Park United Church, in Treaty 6, in the city of Saskatoon.

Cindy Jordison has been a member of St. Paul's United Church in Tisdale since moving to Tisdale in 1996. She has been church secretary, Sunday School teacher and has been on numerous committees. Currently she is Board Chair, and a member of our Media Team and our Worship Committee. She is also a Licensed Lay Worship Leader. In retirement, besides church involvement, she enjoys pastimes such as reading and gardening and is hoping to get more time with family and friends as COVID restrictions loosen!

Deanna Gruending-Hallman is a retired teacher-librarian who has taught in Melfort, Tisdale, Sandy Bay and Kitsakik School outside La Ronge. She grew up and was schooled on Saskatoon's west and east sides, the University of Saskatchewan and University of Calgary. She travelled extensively (after each degree), but chose to raise

her children in rural Saskatchewan, though she still loves the diversity and arts communities of Saskatoon. She is presently reading as many of her late husband's papers and acquired books as is humanly possible as well as participating in the life and work of St. Paul's, Tisdale.

Judy Shire is a member of St. Paul's United Church in Tisdale and is on the Christian Education Committee. She is a retired teacher-librarian who enjoys reading and learning. She has been participating in the Anti-Racist study group and it is through the readings and discussions she hopes to gain a better understanding on issues related to racism.

Saturday morning worship - Lorna King and Emily Carr

Lorna King: After years of ministry in communities of faith, I retired briefly before accepting the appointment as half-time chaplain for the South Sask Hospital Chaplaincy, providing care for patients in Sask Health Authority facilities in Regina. This ministry, in the best of times, fulfills my calling to provide pastoral and spiritual care. In the challenging times of a pandemic, the ministry calls me to patience and improvisation. My gifts and skills do not include mind-reading, so if you or a family member or friend or someone from your church community is in hospital, please let me know - cell: (306) 551-7755

Emily Carr: I am an Anglican priest currently in the process of transferring to The United Church of Canada. Currently, I am working in a combination of part-time ministries, as the chaplain with the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, with Knox United Church in Langham, and as a chaplain at Kilburn Hall Youth Centre. I absolutely love my current work walking with patients in the hospitals in Saskatoon, meeting outreach teams and prayer shawl groups from across the province, and ministering with and among the faithful and fun people of Knox Langham. I can be reached at 306-220-9964

Saturday afternoon worship - Jen Dresser and Shelly Manley-Tannis

Jen Dresser (she/her): I am a Diaconal minister currently serving with the folks at St. Andrew's in Yorkton. I live with my partner Roland and our elderly beagle Abby. This summer, I am looking forward to lounging in the backyard with a good book. For adventure, I am planning virtual holidays to exotic places: trying local recipes, online tours and streaming music. Last summer I travelled to Morocco without leaving the comfort of home. I am looking forward to crafting worship for us to share.

Shelly Manley-Tannis: I am celebrating my 20th anniversary of ordination this spring. I trained at Queen's Theological College in Kingston, but have lived West of the Ontario border ever since. I live in Saskatoon (Treaty 6 Territory) with my partner Richard and our two dogs, and work in ministry with the folks at Mayfair United Church. I am also a spiritual director (Jubilee Associate), a student in the Winnipeg Holistic Expressive Arts program and someone who loves nature, creative pursuits, music and all things Celtic.

Prepared Sunday service for May 6, 2021

Westminster United Church in Humboldt in partnership with St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Humboldt and Quill Plains United Church Pastoral Charge in Watson and Quill Lake have created a worship service in a spirit of collaboration. A variety of lay and ministry people from these 3 partnership groups will provide a service of prayer and scripture readings, music and reflections inspired by the Prairie Center for Ecumenism "Recipe for Unity". By joining hands and hearts with our friends and neighbours across barriers and boundaries we share our joy in this gathering of God's faithful people as we continue to learn what it means to worship and work together in new ways.

A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

We promise to relate to one another with

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

In our Christian love for one another we will

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

HOLY MANNERS

The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honour the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.

MEETING PROCEDURES

*(Numbering in this section is from the 2021 Manual Appendix pg. 190-194
and only includes sections relevant to this meeting)*

3.1 The Chair

The chair keeps a meeting of the council on track and may make rulings on procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

All members must be able to participate fully and comfortably.

Every voting member makes decisions on the basis of their own understanding of scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the council.

Any member of the council may bring to the attention of the chair any concerns about how a motion is being dealt with.

When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the council decides otherwise by a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The chair does not participate in the discussion or vote except in the case of a tie. If the chair wants to express an opinion, then they move aside from the role and ask another member to chair until the matter is disposed of.

3.2 How to Conduct a Meeting

3.2.1 Process

A council may set its own process for conducting business. If the council has not set its own process, it follows the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules).

3.2.2 Motions

A council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of a higher council.

A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.

3.2.3 Challenging Rulings

A voting member may challenge a ruling of the chair at the time the ruling is made. The chair restates the ruling and may give reasons. The secretary then calls the vote without any discussion on whether the chair's ruling is sustained.

3.3 How to Amend a Motion

When a motion has been made and is open for discussion, any motion to amend must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.

When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the council may deal with the final form of the original motion.

Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.

A motion to amend fails if there is no seconder.

A motion to amend may not change the intention of the original motion.

A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

3.5 Motions That Interrupt the Meeting

At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to

- a) close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- b) fix the time to adjourn;
- c) adjourn;
- d) take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- e) limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- f) postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- g) refer the motion to another body or commission;
- h) amend/change the motion; or
- i) postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specified time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

3.6 How to Reconsider a Motion

A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

Only a voting member who voted "yes" for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.

A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.

The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed. A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

3.7 Additional Procedures

In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules) will be followed.

OTHER:

Divide a Motion (seriatim) This is a request to vote on a motion in parts rather than in total. A seconder is required. If two persons ask, the chairperson must grant the request.

Point of Information Any person can go to a microphone (raise their hand), interrupt debate and ask for information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is speaking?".

Point of Order Any person can interrupt to challenge or question procedures. For example, "We didn't vote", or "President, we are debating this motion to table and we shouldn't be."

Point of Privilege Any person can interrupt debate to raise point of privilege. For example, "Our table group doesn't have copies of this motion" or "Could you please repeat the motion, I didn't hear it."

Business Process at Living Skies Regional Council

- **New proposal format:** The template for proposals is designed to encourage naming an issue without specifying the outcome. “Conversation proposals” requesting a conversation on a particular issue are also encouraged.

Three-Phase Process		
Listening	Discussion	Decision
Learn	Thoughts	Debate
Clarify	Insights	Final refinements
Understand	Refinements	Toward consensus
	Affirmations	Vote

- **Three-phase decision-making:** Regional Council Representatives will engage in a three-phase process for all Living Skies Regional Council business:
 - 1. Listening:** presentation of the proposal, questions and answers to clarify issues and implications.
 - 2. Discussion:** exchange of ideas, thoughts, arguments and pros and cons; suggestions for refining proposal, affirmations, naming principles/parameters. Groups might also prioritize items as “we’d like to decide this together” and/or “We could live with the Living Skies RC Executive making these decisions if we run out of time.”
 - 3. Decision:** final debate and refinement of proposal in plenary; working toward consensus, voting

BASIC RULES for DEBATE on PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the Regional Council Meeting, proposals are received for information and consultation by the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. The Committee may make editorial suggestions to the proposing body to promote accurate understanding of the proposal by the people at the Regional Council Meeting. The Committee will communicate these suggestions to the proposing body and the proposing body may, or may not, take the suggestions.

Proposals that are received and edited prior to the Docket deadline will be included in the Docket. Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Docket deadline will be provided in written form at the Regional Council Meeting.

The proposals will be available in a variety of ways: typed hard copy, via PowerPoint, and read aloud at the time of decision-making.

Due to limitations of electronic online meetings any proposals received during the meeting or prior to the listen session prior to the meeting will be automatically referred to the Regional Council Executive.

2. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
 - i. The Convenor will indicate which proposal is being dealt with.
 - ii. A representative from the proposing body will be given 3 minutes to present the 'issue' described in the proposal and their proposed action to address the issue (Listening).
 - iii. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.
 - iv. All proposals will be 'Listened to' before discussion happens.
 - v. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
 - vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the stated deadline. A motion will be brought forth in the decision making time based on the feedback and according to the following:

If the Regional Council is the Council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.

If the General Council is the court of action:

- a. The Regional Council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- b. *If it agrees*, it passes the proposal to the General Council.
- c. *If it does not agree*, it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.
- d. The Regional Council may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.

If the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to General Council only if there is a compelling reason. (The Manual 2021, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d))

2021 REGIONAL GATHERING OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL ENABLING MOTIONS

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the Third (3rd) Annual Regional Council meeting be:
 - i. the members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
 - ii. other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council
 - iii. lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by communities of faith. (The Manual 2021, C.1.1 & C.1.2)
 - iv. members-at-large, lay members within the Regional Council who have been appointed members as necessary for the work of the Regional Council by the Regional Council Executive and who have not been elected by their community of faith.
2. **Corresponding Members:** that all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this Regional Council meeting, with voice but not vote.
3. **The Bounds of the Council:** that the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.
4. **Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:** that the Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose. (The Manual 2021; C.4.3)
5. **Limits to Debate:** that without the permission of the Council, no member shall speak more than once on any proposal or amendment; and that speeches be limited to two minutes per person on each proposal, except at the discretion of the Convenor.
6. **Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this Regional Gathering be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee.
7. **Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2021 (pages 190-194); and that, for any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.
8. **Proposals to the General Council:** that, if the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal where the General Council is the court of action, it will not be sent on to General Council unless a separate motion to send it on is made and passed.
9. **General Council Commissioners:** that the Living Skies Regional Council Executive will have the authority to elect additional commissioners to the 44th General Council (2022), if necessary, in order to fulfill the slate of sixteen (16) Regional Council-elected Commissioners, as set by the General Council.
10. **Unfinished Business:** that unfinished business be referred to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive.
11. **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting and the 2nd Regional Gathering of the Living Skies Regional Council be approved as distributed in the online docket.
12. **Reports:** that the verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.