

NETWORKS AND TASK GROUPS

Chinook Ministry Support Cluster

Contact: Carolyn Conarroe

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: Jordan Cantwell

Refugee Networking

Contact: Jim Tenford

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

Western Intercultural Ministries Network

Contact: Mathias Ross and Salesi Takau

Women of the United Church Network

Contact: Susan Dokken or Mary Mohn

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

THE REFUGEE ADVISORY GROUP

This past year I began my role on the Refugee Advisory group and so far, I've mostly been trying to figure out what the job entails as well as answering many questions from people involved or interested in sponsorship. There have also been frequent meetings, articles, and webinars discussing sponsorship and how quickly everything is changing. Of course, like everything else, COVID19 has had a dramatic effect on Canada's efforts from overseas visa offices needing to be shut down (and recently reopened at least to limited capacity) to constantly changing quarantine measures for newcomers arriving in Canada.

I've also posted to YouTube a church service promoting sponsorship that can be used by anyone who wishes. This could be used as pulpit supply on a Sunday your minister needs a break - and trust me, your minister needs and deserves a Sunday off! The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/o9uRKakGGGk>

Moving forward, I'll be attempting to keep up to date on policies and regulations so that I can offer you as much assistance as I can. If it's wanted, I was thinking of yearly (or twice yearly) meetings over Zoom (or dare we hope for in person?) for mutual support and idea sharing. There is also talk of bringing a second person into this position to help share the load but specifics are not yet in place.

If your congregation is involved in this rewarding, deeply Christian work, or if you're interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact me.

God's blessings on your ministries,
Rev. Jim Tenford

Regina and Area Cluster

Background

The Regina and Area Cluster was formed at the final meeting of Wascana Presbytery in the fall of 2018 at which time a Coordinating Committee was appointed, seed money from the assets of WP were set aside, and a staff resource person was hired on a 1-year contract.

During 2019, the Cluster Coordinating Committee met monthly with Catherine Barnsley, our contracted staff person. The first year of the Cluster produced the following:

- Articulated a vision statement
 - To be a container / incubator for Communities of Faith / individuals to do work in this area
 - To be a facilitator of conversations about the future of The United Church of Canada in this area
 - To be a space wherein Community Ministries can communicate with Communities of Faith (COFs)
 - To link Communities of Faith in this area to the broader United Church.
- Established a Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/reginaandareaclusterucc>
- Created an E-Newsletter which went out 10 times in 2019
- Held 3 discussions with both lay and ministry personnel leadership about the future of Urban COFs in Regina exploring possibilities for collaboration and potential shared strategic planning. The final of these 3 included community ministries.
- Held 2 gatherings for rural COF to discuss blessings and challenges of ministry in their context and to discuss possible shared work.

- 2 gatherings were held for anyone involved in rural or urban COF for social and connection purposes.
- A fall gathering was held at Lumsden Beach Camp (LBC)

Activity in 2020

2020 activity began with a clear focus but due to the COVID-19 pandemic several activities had to be adjusted.

Early in 2020, the Cluster Coordinating Committee met with Carla Leon of the EDGE Network to receive advice and guidance on the work accomplished in 2019 and what was being planned for 2020. Exploring best-practices, the Coordinating Committee decided to have a two-pronged focus attempting to refocus strategic planning on shared ministry possibilities for Urban COF and also initiating intentional conversations around rural strategy with these two projects being in conversation with one another. Separate leadership was appointed to work on each of these projects with an intention that both groups would coordinate through the Cluster Coordinating Committee.

It was decided that the Cluster would encourage Communities of Faith to instigate community building programming and would act as a facilitator in this regard. An initial goal for 2020 was to work on intentional connections between COF in Regina with the ministry of The Rev. Deb Anderson-Pratt and the Regina Native Outreach Ministry (who was ordained at Wesley United Church in September 2020 – congratulations Deb).

The beginning of the pandemic in March ceased all work on the urban COF project but the Cluster was able to apply for and receive a grant from the EDGE Network to pursue the rural work which was able to continue even amidst pandemic restrictions, largely occurring on Zoom.

The Cluster maintained the Facebook Group and E-Newsletter throughout 2020 as a way to connect COFs doing online ministry. A shared Pentecost Service was planned, recorded and streamed which featured each COF that is a congregation, each Community Ministry and a special message from the Moderator.

The Clergy of Urban Churches met occasionally via Zoom for mutual support and a gathering to intentionally discuss the need to build competency around anti-racist worship and liturgy.

A group of grassroots leaders within Rural COFs within the Cluster met several times to continue their work which was presented to the Coordinating Committee early 2021 with a hope to continue explorations into 2021.

A second fall event at LBC was planned in a way that would accommodate public health restrictions and best practices but was cancelled due to inclement weather (safe procedures depended on the ability for the whole event to occur outdoors).

Presented by the Cluster Coordinating Committee:

Joy Cowan, Kent Stewart, Linda Gunningham, Cam Fraser

THE SASKATCHEWAN UNITED CHURCH CAMP NETWORK

The Living Skies Regional Council is blessed to have five camp ministries in its boundaries. As you can imagine 2020 and the pandemic had a deep impact on these places, the staff and campers. Below can you read a short update from four of the camps. If you would like to support any of the camps—with your time, energy or treasure—please contact info@lumsdenbeachcamp.com and get connected with these vital and energetic ministries.



Shagabec will be offering Day Camps.

Camp Shagabec - We did not offer any in person camps at all for the 2020 camping season. We offered a virtual camp experience, "Shagabec at Home", that was quite successful, all things considered. There was a short video posted each day; each relating to a different element of camp: crafts, activities, made a camp recipe, songs, nature photo challenges, etc. It was well received and allowed a number of past campers to get involved as well. We had a number of parents donate part of the camp registration fee back to us when we cancelled the camp for the season, and this certainly helped to pay the bills for the camp. In 2021

Lumsden Beach Camp - Like every other organization, spring 2020 was a roller-coaster for the camp. The unknowns and anxiety of March & April, turned into the disappoint and grief of cancellation for overnight camps in May. With no rental income, no campers, and a number of fixed costs, things looked gloomy for this United Church Camp. In mid-June, when day camps were allowed to run, sixteen, mostly youth and young adults, worked together to create week-long programs that would engage and delight campers ages 5-15. Sessions were kept small, cleaning was amped up, masks were worn, and so much joy was experienced. Throughout the summer 243 campers connected with each other and the land. They canoed, swam, crafted, hiked, played and more. For summer 2021 LBC will run day camps once again.



Camp Christopher was unable to run programming in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The camp had a few rentals, and spent a great amount of time updating the camp and getting many repairs done. Our water system was redone with a new deck component added. We painted our kitchen, dining hall, and cabins - thanks to lots of work by volunteers. We also reshingled our lodge roof and removed the chapel that was full of mold. We are looking at finishing some of our painting and building a new boat house in 2021 as camp will not look the same this year. For 2021 we will be trying something new called Camp in a Bag - to reach many of our inner city campers in Prince Albert - but will be available for others if wanted.

Camp Tapawingo - We were so disappointed that our popular camping program was canceled due to the global pandemic. Instead, we offered on-line camping activities and special merchandise. But it wasn't the same, was it? Our faithful volunteers took advantage of the down time this summer to do some great upgrades of the camp buildings. Some of the work included: new windows in the mess hall, cleaning the beach and site of garbage and debris, painting the interior of cabin 7 and more! Summer 2021 has also been cancelled, but all the leadership at Tapawingo are hopeful that in-person camp can resume in 2022.



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 Western Intercultural Network is a relatively 'young' network of communities in The United Church of Canada committed to a fully inclusive and intercultural church, covering the five Western Regional Councils.



The network holds gatherings and online conversations that focus on intercultural discussions. Network members are engaging in and promoting action in their regions towards living out the UCC's vision of being an intercultural church ([Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](https://www.united-church.ca)), and come together occasionally for educational events and other opportunities for dialogue. An executive from the five Western Regional Councils of the United Church offers us leadership.

Our vision of becoming an intercultural United Church encompasses:

- Racialized people and communities, which includes ethnic churches within the United Church, racialized lay leaders and ministry personnel, and more.
- Indigenous people and communities, within the United Church and beyond, of all traditions.
- People with disabilities.
- LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people and communities.

We honour these identities, and the spaces where they intersect. Our ministry includes courageous (and awkward!) conversations about our diversity, and about the social privilege and history that hinder right relationships. We believe the Good News of Jesus Christ calls us into such conversations and relationship.

2020-21 Activities

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic required the WIMN's Interim Executive to change its plans for holding an in-person education event in September. We instead offered a highly successful online event – **New Wine: Western Intercultural Ministry Gathering** over three Fridays - September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2020. The gathering focussed on presentations and discussions on creating missional, sustainable, intercultural ministries together, with

leadership provided by Rev. Tony Snow, from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and Coordinator for Indigenous Right Relations, Chinook Winds Region, and Rev. Dr. Eric Law, Founder/Director of the Diverse Leadership Inst., Los Angeles, California. The online format allowed us to expand the reach of this education event and we had over 60 persons attending the sessions on each day.

Annual Meeting

WIMN hosted its Annual meeting on November 17, 2020, in conjunction with one of its Chai/Coffee Sessions.

At that meeting the members of the Interim Executive that had guided the Network's activities for 2019-20 were pleased to welcome new members to lead the Network.

The new Executive for 2020-21 comprises:

Co-Chairs: Deborah Richards (Pacific Mountain) and Kurt Katzmar (Northern Spirit)

Secretary: Kathy Yamashita (Chinook Winds)

Elder: Kay Quon

Chinook Winds: Alwin Maben (past chair)

Northern Spirit: Chelsea Masterman

Living Skies: Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau

Prairie to Pine: Kwang Beom Cho, Damber Khadka, Bill Millar

Staff support: Julie Graham, Chris Mah Poy, and Emo Yango (General Council).

The Executive meets monthly for about 90 minutes, and this provide an opportunity for us to connect about activities in our region, as well as engage in planning discussions. The sessions are lively!

Looking forward

The new Executive has been discussing how the Network will engage in supporting and living out the call within our regions to be an Intercultural Church, as well as how we build intercultural social values and communities by working with other organisations in our provinces like Multicultural Councils and Multifaith bodies. Those discussions will continue throughout the year and we hope to find ways to engage the network in these engaging conversations. We have been heartened and energized by the engaging conversations that we have had during our New Wine intercultural gathering in fall 2020 and various Network Chai/Coffee times held in 2020 and early 2021.

The following decisions have been made about Network activities for 2021:

- Given ongoing uncertainty about in-person gatherings and church building re-openings this coming fall, we have decided not to hold a longer in person or online gathering in 2021. Instead, shorter programs and other opportunities will be the focus. We pray that in 2022 we will be able to be together again in a larger in-person gathering.
- The Network's Intercultural conversation (Chai/Coffee) times will continue through 2021. Our hope is to have 3 or 4 such conversation times during the year. In February we enjoyed a really rich national and intergenerational conversation focussed on the question 'Who do we want to be as we re-open our communities?'

Upcoming Events

Our next Chai/Coffee gathering in this series will be **Thursday June 3**, likely at 9:00AM Pacific, 10:00AM Mountain Daylight (AB)/ Central Standard (SK), 11:00AM Central Daylight (MB and NW Ontario), and noon Eastern.

Contact Us

If you would like to be contacted about WIMN events you can [sign up for occasional updates here](#); you can unsubscribe at any time, and we don't share your information with anyone else.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kurt Katzmar and Deborah Richards

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Executive of the Western Intercultural Ministries Network

THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH NETWORK

It is unfortunate that the Women's Retreats and a province wide Meeting were postponed in 2020, necessitated by the restrictions due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Extensive planning was completed for the postponed April 24 to 26, 2020 Gathering in Prince Albert, refunds of deposits and cancellation of presenters were completed.

Tentative plans are being made for a Sask UCCW Gathering/Meeting in September 2021 if an in-person meeting can be held. Otherwise, a Zoom Meeting of Saskatchewan members may be arranged.

The Executive consulted by telephone and e-mail. It met in person by October and December 2020 Zoom Executive meetings.

Dawn Weber, 1st Vice Chair and Barbara Byers Bradley, Secretary represented Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women at the National UCW Annual Meeting held September 28 to October 2020 by Zoom. Our unit was assigned to provide Morning and Evening Meditations. National UCW Elections have been postponed as was the transfer of duties to President elect Nancy Risto from Horseshoe Falls Region. The UCW Handbook Committee Manual update is proceeding. Rev. Michael Blair's special closing worship service with communion was open to anyone wishing to register via Zoom. Rev. Blair assumed the new General Council Secretary position November 1, 2020. Full report of the NUCW Zoom Meeting is available. Due to the illness of President Beulah Hayley, a follow-up NUCW zoom meeting has been postponed. The representatives are to consider a draft letter to General Council recommending UCW recognition as a constituent member of The United Church of Canada.

The 60th anniversary of UCW is set for July 11 to 15, 2022 at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Due to reorganization at the General Council Office, Carol Owegi is our new UCW support person at head office and can be emailed at COwegi@united-church.ca.

Monthly newsletters have been written, distributed by email and mail by Mary Mohn, Editor. She is our representative to the National UCW In Touch Newsletter [formerly Keeping In Touch]. The Sask UCCW Newsletters and revised Statistics Form are posted online at the Living Skies Regional Council website: www.livingskiesrc.ca/programs/UCW under Programs>Women's Network]. Mary Mohn has been appointed as Sask UCCW Communications Officer and contact person for Sask UCCW on the UCW webpage.

The Statistics Form 2020/2021 has been revised and circulated with a deadline date for returns by March 1, 2021. As at March 2020 there were 718 Saskatchewan UCCW Members. A 2021 project is planned for Dawn Weber and Barb Byers Bradley to personally contact all Living Skies Regional Council pastoral charges and community of faith members and/or women's groups including UCWs to ensure we have correct contact information for Newsletters, Announcements, Gatherings, Meetings and Camps. Sask United Church of Canada Women is a "Network" that includes all UCW, and all women and individuals in the entire Province of Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan UCW Bursary Fund Committee members are Mary Mohn, Susan Dokken, Chantal Ntibategera, Allison Irvine, Joan Brown. The Bursary Fund Application Form and Pamphlet were revised, with thanks to Bev Diebert, to reflect the regional structure. Persons who are members of Living Skies Regional Council United Church community of faith and who are participants in a recognized program of preparation for pastoral ministry in The United Church of Canada may apply. Applications will be considered twice yearly, at the end of February and the end of October. Applications may be submitted once per year per person.

Four Bursaries were awarded totalling \$5,600.00. The Bursary Fund balance at year end, December 31, 2020, is \$8,461.00 including donations received in 2020 of \$7,247.00.

The United Church Women of Living Skies Regional Council gave \$50,402 to Mission and Service in 2019. In total, UCWs across Canada and Bermuda gave \$1,020,034.00 to Mission and Service in 2019.

For the year 2020 an Election and Installation of an Executive has not been held because of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women
*Susan Dokken & Chantal Ntibategera, Co-chairs, Mary Mohn, Past Co-chair,
Dawn Weber, 1st Vice-chair, Wilma Will, Treasurer, Barb Byers Bradley, Secretary and
Phyllis Robinson.*

REGIONAL MINISTER: JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Communications work continues in partnership with Bev Diebert, and includes the newsletter, regular website posting and upgrading, Facebook, Nominations-related communications, and contact list development. List development in particular is proving both important and difficult, and makes me miss presbyteries, and the immense amount of often unrecognized connecting and relationship they offered the church. A special thank you to the members and admins for the three Facebook groups that help us all keep in touch.

My **newsletter and social media content** prioritize some emphasis on the wider church and its resources and learning spaces. I hope this is a good accompaniment to news about the Region and its communities of faith; feedback on what you'd like to see about the wider church and partnerships (and how much) is always welcome.

Proposals template: To help people work through the mysterious process of writing a proposal, I wrote a template and checked it out with people who practice the gold standard of having a print copy of The Manual. [Available here.](#)

Nominating Committee connections: It has been a privilege to work more closely with this very busy committee, and to see again and again how they respond to the challenging reality of communications networks that were seriously disrupted by the restructuring. We have focused on regular newsletter and [website communication](#), and on job descriptions, invitations, and other tools that help explain the wide range of needs and opportunities available to the people of this Region. Special thanks to chair Susan Reed for all of her work in the midst of rebuilding networks.

Website: we continue to correct old material and wrestle with some technical problems. We hope to have an archive of all approved Executive minutes and related Pastoral Relations and Property Commissions decisions on the website before the annual meeting.

Clusters and Networks remain vital to how we do ministry, and at the same time a source of struggle. It's hard to track groups that are often very new and are not considered part of governance. Assembling even a small list has taken time and multiple staff. Bev included all Network and Cluster contacts in an invitation to submit a report to the Regional Gathering Docket, and thank you to all those who submitted your stories. The updated list of Living Skies Networks and Cluster is posted here, on the [Networks and Clusters page](#). It is a constant work in progress. Don't see your crew listed? Please contact me or Bev.

Clusters in particular are often struggling to hold together, or begin, through COVID, and may feel cut off from the wider church. National conversations have confirmed that this is a church-wide struggle. The community Clusters offer is vital, and I hope the Region can continue to work at finding ways to support them. Networks have an advantage of a more geographically widespread base, and many have adapted more easily to living on Zoom. But they too sometimes find it difficult to maintain energy and focus. When we emerge from this difficult time, we will have plenty of learnings to sort through, as we continue to make this new part of the structure work for us.

Justice work

Missions ministries and assessment task group: The Regional Assessment Task Group has continued its work, and hosted a meeting with mission-supported ministries and EDGE on April 22. A number have already been working with the national church's EDGE Network, and some will be taking a next step by working with EDGE's more tailored coaching/ sustainability/ planning for the future program. Next steps for the task group will include developing criteria for the \$150,000 fund from the 2020 special regional assessment. The Grants Committee has updated its main application form and the webpage detailing available grants, making it easier for it to add a section for applications to the Assessment fund (and/ or the more permanent fund proposed after the 2020 regional annual meeting.)

I continue to be in touch with ICM, RAPM, Parkland Restorative Justice, and Micah Mission. We hope to plan a public event for November 2021's Restorative Justice Week. Members of the Region and communities of faith are invited to make connections with any of our [community ministries](#), [camps](#), and [chaplains](#). Your support and care are gifts that are deeply appreciated.

Affirming work: (Our Affirming news and homepage [are here](#).) Thanks to an enormous amount of work from the Nominations Committee, we may yet get an Affirming Task Group going in 2021, to guide the Region in its formal Affirming journey. In the meantime, others have stepped up to offer space. Thanks to Trisha Little and her excellent leadership, we held Region-wide Affirming check ins in February and May, to help support both individuals and Affirming/ in-process/ curious ministries, and to share ideas about Affirming work during a pandemic.

At the fall 2020 regional meeting, delegates voted overwhelmingly that the Regional Council should convey its opposition to conversion therapy to the provincial government, and call for a ban. At the same time, communities of faith in Saskatoon and Regina have offered leadership and crucial Christian public witness in favour of municipal conversion therapy bans. The provincial letter from the Executive has gone to the government and is [up on the website](#). I'm sending it to community allies and working on a short guide to help communities of faith write to their MLA on this.

In April I worked with colleague Pam Rocker (Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds) to hold a five-Region Affirming task group check in. All of the Western Regions are Affirming (Prairie to Pine) or in the process and feel ongoing connection could help them in the sometimes-difficult task of imagining what an Affirming Regional Council might look like, and how to get there.

Refugee sponsorship and advocacy: Thanks to Jim Tenford, we now have a refugee liaison person, with others offering to join in the work of connecting communities of faith that are sponsoring, want to sponsor, or want to take on advocacy work. In May we had a first gathering, and will see if a Network might emerge, despite the enormous uncertainties and difficulties COVID has imposed those seeking refuge, and on their ability to arrive safely in Canada.

Intercultural: ([Homepage here](#).) The Western Intercultural Network continues its work, which includes Mathias Ross and Salesi Takau as Living Skies reps on the executive. More LS people are always welcome! The Network will not hold a fall 2021 event, instead taking a break from big online events. However, it will continue with at least quarterly open, 90 minute intercultural "coffee/ chai" learning and conversation events. I maintain the Network list and send out occasional updates, and feel privileged to be part of this vibrant and diverse group of leaders.

Right relations: We lack a formal network for this work, and as we live into the new structure, I hope one can emerge. Many communities of faith have their own local connections and learning commitments, but a province/ SK Treaties-wide network would be good. In April Jordan Cantwell and I were involved with an ecumenical Alberta and SK event focused on [diverse Indigenous perspectives on Bill C-15](#), intended to implement the UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights, but the focus of concerns from a number of Indigenous groups and advocates. Powerful speakers and 250 attendees from many backgrounds made for a rich event and follow up talking circles.

Treaty Land Sharing Network open letter calling for a halt to the private sale of "Crown" lands: The Executive signed on to this multi-group open call in April, in keeping with treaty commitments and past SK Conference concerns expressed about this provincial government practice. This news was [posted](#) and congregations invited to sign on.

Emerging Network connections include Guaranteed Livable Income, and action and learning related to this; the beginnings of some climate justice connection through For the Love of Creation; and possible racial justice connections. These are all experimental works in progress that use local, regional, and national connections to identify areas of common concern and interest and build local capacity that draws on wider resources and connections.

Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) vigil: On April 8 a nationwide vigil series was held to coincide with the Liberal convention. This work continues to be an important topic and moment, and leadership from Regina Anti Poverty Ministry and others has been very important, but the number of people actively involved is relatively low. This may point to

networking struggles rather than a lack of support or interest. We hope a Region-wide learning event on GLI, to coincide with RAPM's 25th anniversary, will be something in the works for June or the fall.

Climate justice: United reps to KAIROS Regina continue to engage with For the Love of Creation, the national ecumenical initiative of which the UCC is part, offering a number of learning opportunities for the Region.

I look forward to being in continued community with the people and ministries of Living Skies, and hope to keep meeting and greeting you virtually until that happy day when I can meet many more of you in person. Please don't ever hesitate to be in touch: jgraham@united-church.ca and 306-244-2157.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Graham

ARCHIVIST

It may come as no surprise to hear that 2020 was a bit of roller coaster for the archives program – a feeling likely shared by many in Living Skies Regional Council. After little over a year in a new office and new regional structure, requiring a number of changes to everyday activities, 2020 brought new challenges. Most were manageable but did slow things down. Many thanks go out to the individuals and congregations who patiently waited to transfer materials or hear back about requests for information.

Due to events unrelated to the epidemic, 2020 also turned out to be an unusual year for our collections. After preparation by region staff, our archival records are housed with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS), thanks to an ongoing partnership agreement. As part of a larger 2019-2020 project by PAS to bring together records from their various spaces into a single site, our UCC records were moved to the new location in August. The building includes a spacious reference room for visitors and well-secured storage areas, equipped with climate control and fire suppression systems designed to protect archival records long term. The relocation of UCC collections greatly simplified our day-to-day activities and opened the door for some necessary updates to our research tools, inventories and insurance coverage.

As of 2020, our current collections (processed and housed at PAS) include:

- approx. 260 linear metres* of textual records, incl. registers, rolls, reports, minutes, histories;
- about 2,000 photographic prints and 900 slides and negatives showing church events, people and other topics related to the history of the UCC in the region;
- more than 270 architectural plans and blueprints of churches, manses and other sites.

*Note: This means that if we lined up the documents and volumes (as you would in a file cabinet), the line would stretch for a length of 260 metres, or nearing twice the length of a Canadian football field.

Transfers from congregations and processing of new records – including describing and re-housing materials into acid-free folders and protective boxes – were limited in 2020, due in part to COVID precautions. Items that could not wait were still accepted though and inventory work uncovered gaps in our finding aids. Updates are ongoing, to make more of our records discoverable for research.

Reference activities continued at a relatively normal rate in 2020: approximately 146 requests for information were completed from January 1 to December 31, including 115 relating to baptism, marriage, burial, and memberships (for personal and genealogical purposes) and 25 for other historical topics (property, minutes, church histories, etc.). Requests for information from registers and rolls usually require less time to complete than other topics, though the reverse may also be true in the case of searches for records from elusive congregations, or simpler research topics. Most requests were handled via e-mail and a few by phone. In-person access to historical records was limited for much of the year.

Anyone looking for guidelines, forms and other written help for those requesting information or transferring / donating records should check our webpage, at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/resources/archives/> – this is our main jumping-off point for links, contact details, news and tips, so stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine McLuhan-Myers
Archivist