

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada
3rd Annual Meeting
June 4-5, 2021

Session 3: Saturday, June 5, 1:30 p.m.

Tricia Gerhard, Chairperson for the Regional Council Executive, welcomed the delegates back for the final session of the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Living Skies Regional Council.

The two proposals introduced on Friday evening were discussed in preparation for decisions.

Darrell Reine, Chairperson for the Regional Gathering Planning Committee, introduced the Proposals and reported on the feedback received overnight and any revisions that were made.

The full revised text of both Proposals can be viewed [here](#).

Proposal 1: Living Skies Regional Council Policy on Justice

Originator: the Rev. SunDo Hyun

The proposal received general agreement, with the particular focus on racial justice/anti-racism. The need for a committee was outlined: a place where clusters and networks can connect, and a body to foster the development of clusters and networks around specific focus areas in order to propose justice and equity policies for the Regional Council.

The Revised Proposal 1 was moved by Darrell Reine and Seconded by Hoeun Lee.

The motion was Carried.

Proposal 2: Reinstatement of Funding for Spiritual Care throughout the Saskatchewan Health Authority

Originators: Daryl Woods, Chair of North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy; and Randy Graham, Chair of South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy

The Proposal received general agreement. Suggestions included the need for funding for all people of Saskatchewan and not just in Saskatoon and Regina. This proposal speaks to provincial funding for all people of all faiths. The Executive will work with the originators to prepare a brief that goes to the government. Adjusting the Proposal to make it an ecumenical/interfaith request would change the intent of the originators, however, the Executive can explore that further in consultation with the Chaplaincy Boards. All of the feedback will be provided to the Executive as they create the brief and prepare the package to help Communities of Faith respond to the Proposal.

The Revised Proposal 2 was moved by Hoeun Lee and seconded by Darrell Reine.

Discussion: the brief will also be presented to the opposition; health determinants outline social determinants, including spiritual care, so this may be future work for a Justice Committee if the province doesn't have funding, and it is larger than a chaplaincy issue; contact with other denominations and ecumenical partners doing the same work is under purview of Executive follow-through; a sample letter will be part of the information for Communities of Faith; Chaplaincies are working with *Edge* to help chaplaincies create sustainable funding, and they can apply for Mission Support funding; it needs to be clear that this is about broad spiritual care; support is also needed for chaplains and leaders from all faith communities; denominational chaplains vs. spiritual care for all with a spirit was explained.

The motion was carried.

Darrell Reine was thanked for his leadership during the discussion of the Proposals.

Music Break: the singing of “Ay, Ay, Salidummay” (MV 184), was led by Romnak Lugayan; and “We are a Rainbow”, was led by the 2021 Living Skies Regional Council Virtual Choir, directed by Hoeun Lee.

Greetings

A video greeting from St. Andrew’s College was presented:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9ce4ttPrFw>

A video greeting from United Church Moderator, Richard Bott, was shared:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vMq2f4kO-o>

Anti-Racism Learning Time

Darrell Reine began this time for learning by saying, “I am a racist”, and reminding the delegates that there is lots of work ahead for us to do.

An example that makes this clear is the continued struggle of the Board of Vocation to find diversity for the Board and its Committees.

A video presentation from Michael Blair was shown, with his reflection on the importance of racial justice work for the Christian community. The Table has become a central symbol of the Christian tradition. Some only allow those who fit certain criteria to join. In the United Church, we affirm that the table is open to all, invited by the Lord who invites all people, as a symbol of community and hospitality. The open table is an opportunity to explore our understanding of justice and inclusion. Attending to who is at the table, who is missing, who cannot participate, and how we justify the make-up of the table, invites us to ask questions about our blinders. This is where the conversation about race becomes significant. We need to question where we are blinded and what assumptions we are making. This is critical to our fundamental understanding of an open table and our identity of being a just and inclusive church.

Time was given for personal reflection on these questions:

- Who is present at the Table of Racial Justice?
- Who is missing?
- Why are some present, and some missing?

In plenary, the delegates considered these questions:

- How would you engage these questions in you Community of Faith or ministry setting?
- What resources have been helpful to you? This discussion is just the tip, need to encourage one another to work towards right relationship with one another.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Tricia Gerhard led a prayer for re-centring.

Deb Anderson-Pratt offered a Woman’s Warrior Song that was written to give strength to face difficult times. Thank you Deb!

Honouring New Ministers and those Retiring from Active Ministry

A video, with submitted material, was presented to honour the Retirees and New Ministers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHX0S-fah_g

- Jonathan Worrall, Ordinand
- Brian Maitland, Retiree
- Mathias Ross, Retiree
- Mark Wartman, Retiree
- Emily Carr, Admittand
- Ron McConnell, Retiree
- Yvonne Terry, Retiree

Tricia Gerhard invited delegates to celebrate all that we have been blessed with, and to hold each of them in their hearts, and honour them in worship.

Darrell Reine offered final reminders of the announcements.

After a deep breath, the delegates prepared themselves for the closing worship.

Closing Worship

The Closing Worship was led by Jen Dresser and Shelly Manley-Tannis, with readings from Isaiah, Chapter 5.

Jen Dresser led the call to worship and the opening prayer.

The singing of "Hey Ney Yana" (words and music by Brook Medicine Eagle) was led by Mayfair3, with drumming by S. Manley-Tannis (created with teaching by Elder, Garry Dano, Treaty 1 Territory)

Scripture throughout the Worship was read by Shelly and Jen.

"Soil of God, You and I", was sung, led by Sacred Sounds Worship Band.

Time was spent in acknowledgement of the loss of Communities of Faith that had closed since the last Regional Council meeting. These losses were acknowledged and their connections were remembered, as they were held in prayer.

Communities of Faith remembered:

- Brithdir Congregation of the Humboldt Pastoral Charge
- Borden Pastoral Charge
- Fillmore: Grace United Church Congregation of the Prairie Points Pastoral Charge
- Gravelbourg: St. Stephen's Congregation of the Gravelbourg Pastoral Charge
- Manor: Knox United Pastoral Charge (SM)
- Nokomis Congregation of the Lanigan, Nokomis Pastoral Charge
- Redvers: Knox United/Lutheran Pastoral Charge (SM)

The lives of the people who had died since the last Regional Council meeting were honoured and remembered, and celebrated for their faithful service and witness:

- Ronald Murray Evans; Eric Pullam;
- Allan Shaw; Alma Pockrandt;
- Marylynn Florence Dumont; Betty Powell;
- Earl Grigg; Patricia Joan Farquharson;
- Ivan Glen Fulford; John (Jack) Millar; and
- Charles (Chuck) Robert Alton.

"Called by Earth and Sky" (MV135) was sung, led by Sacred Sounds Worship Band.

Shelly offered a reflection on the need to face the difficulties and losses of people and Communities of Faith we love, even as we continue to experience joy, promise, abundance of life, and new possibilities offered by Creator, and to pay attention to Creator, creatures and the earth that offers home, medicine for our healing, so many of our needs, holy ground.

Time was given to experience the medicine of the earth, through a video of sounds and photography shared by people throughout Living Skies Regional Council.

Members of the Regional Council Executive and the Committee on Community of Faith Support led time of covenanting with these Communities of Faith:

- Bridging Waters Pastoral Charge; Four Town Pastoral Charge;
- KeLRose Pastoral Charge; Norquay Pastoral Charge;
- Rocanville United Pastoral Charge; Star City Pastoral Charge;
- Crossroads United Pastoral Charge; Lafleche-Limerick Pastoral Charge;
- Moose Jaw: St. Andrew's United Church; Ogema, Bengough, Pangman Pastoral Charge;
- Regina: Eastside United Church; Regina: Wesley United Church;
- Southey Pastoral Charge; Swift Current: First United Church;
- Wolseley: St. James Pastoral Charge; Biggar Pastoral Charge;
- Coteau Hills Pastoral Charge; Meadow Lake: Grace Pastoral Charge;

- Outlook: St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge;
 - Big River Pastoral Charge;
 - Northern Lakes Pastoral Charge;
 - Davidson-Girvin Pastoral Charge;
 - Dundurn-Hanley Pastoral Charge;
 - Quill Plains Pastoral Charge;
 - Saskatoon: St. David's Trinity United Church;
 - Saskatoon: St. Martin's United Church.
- Rosetown Pastoral Charge;
 - Prince Albert: Calvary United Church;
 - Kinistino: St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge;
 - Delisle-Vanscoy United Church;
 - Humboldt Pastoral Charge;
 - Saskatoon: Mayfair United Church;
 - Saskatoon: St. Paul's United Church; and

Shelly closed the worship by asking delegates to share their hopes and dreams for the Regional Council in the chat box during the singing of You Shall Go Out With Joy, led by Sacred Sounds Worship Band. Tricia Gerhard thanked Shelly Manley-Tannis and Jen Dresser for the Worship service.

Bonnie Morton and Peter Gilmour were congratulated on their joint Honourary Doctorate from St. Andrew's College, for their advocacy work, particularly with the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry.

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister, offered words of thanks to Tricia Gerhard for stepping in to chair this meeting in the absence of Convenor, Rob Reed

Shannon also expressed appreciation to the many people who made this meeting possible, including: Rob Reed, Darrell, Reine, Hoeun Lee, Bonnie Morton, and Shannon McCarthy, Planning Committee; Hoeun Lee, video creation; Don Kindopp, screen sharing; Emily Carr, Jen Dresser, Lorna King, Shelly Manley-Tannis, Worship leaders; Alan Hall, General Council Representative; Bev Diebert, Heather Dootoff, Julie Graham, Kathy Jackson, Shannon McCarthy, Jamie McKay, Kent Mohn, Tracy Murton, tech and communications team (Gremlins); and the group from Westminster United Church, partnered with St. Andrew's Anglican Church, both in Humboldt, and Quill Plains United Church Pastoral Charge in Watson and Quill Lake, for the June 6 Sunday Service: God's Family of Faith - A recipe for Unity, including, Matteo Carboni, Phyllis Arnst, Andrew Cebryk, Maureen Whalley, Carol Gossner, Deborah Bryson, Elan Buan, Ruth Mostowy, Roxanne Bagnall, Elsa Hancock, Chris Hancock, Yoonjin Park Bott, Tyler Skogen, Doug Berger, Allison Sarauer, April Pauli, Cindy Goodman, Brenda Curtis and Sarah Miller (Video Editor).

Thanks were expressed to all delegates and visitors for coming to yet another Zoom meeting, and for faithful and enduring ministry over the past year, and possible thanks to all who contributed the "terrible" prior to the beginning of the sessions.

A fervent "Here's to cookies next year in person!" concluded the expressions of appreciation.

Tricia expressed gratitude to all 170 people who participated in the meeting, and provided the words of sending forth and blessing.

Tricia Gerhard, at 4:05 p.m., declared the 3rd Annual Meeting of Living Skies Regional Council to be adjourned until the next gathering of Living Skies Regional Council.