

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 32

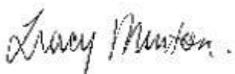
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! I hope that as you read this you are healthy and well, and you are feeling nurtured through this pandemic time by the community of faith you are part of, whether you are meeting online or in person or both. 😊 Check the highlighted links below for further information.

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – as mentioned previously, ministry personnel, pastoral charge supervisors, and governing body secretaries will be sent the instructions and checklist for the self-assessment process early next week. This is the next piece of the process embedded in the restructuring that provides greater autonomy for communities of faith in their accountability to the Regional Council. Stay tuned and offer your support where you can!
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – a review of the [Licensed Lay Worship Leader policy](#) is underway with opportunities for feedback over the next 6 weeks. Invitations to participate have been sent to all current LLWLs, and will next be sent to Pastoral Charge Supervisors. If your community of faith has been blessed with the leadership of a Licensed Lay Worship Leader and you would like to offer feedback regarding updating the policy, please contact me.
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – a review of the [Voluntary Associate Minister policy](#) and process is underway to provide greater clarity for both retired ministry personnel and communities of faith. If you have feedback that you wish to contribute, please send it along to me. In addition, the details for the Lenten event for ministry personnel may be found [here](#); registration information may be found [here](#).
4. **A note about annual reports** – this is an important year to reflect on the ministry that has happened in your community of faith. While a list of [best practices](#) has been developed, the annual report is an opportunity to acknowledge how the pandemic has impacted your community of faith. Please email me a copy of your report so that the Committee on Community of Faith Support can assess how best to work with you.

A further 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, February 25** for March 3.

I know that conversations have been happening in many communities of faith regarding the lifting of the indoor mask mandate and how we might continue to support people in our times of worship and community. This has been a challenging journey and not everyone has experienced the pandemic in the same way. As we walk the pathway together as beloved companions, may we continue to be reminded of these words from Micah as a guide.

Blessings and peace,



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