

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 33

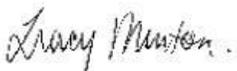
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! I hope that the warming weather is bringing signs of hope and spring to you. Check the highlighted links below for further information on all of the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies.

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – the Self-Assessment material has been distributed to ministry personnel and pastoral charge supervisors – it is found [here](#) in the Committee on Community of Faith Support file. However, they are simply the conduits for information. Please offer your support to ensure this process is shared within your community of faith and help complete the parts you can. If you are the chair of your governing body, please contact me so I can send you the information as well.
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – a review of the [Licensed Lay Worship Leader policy](#) is underway. 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 the policy and process, 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.
4. **A note about annual reports** – as mentioned previously, 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 support you.
5. **Another appeal for volunteers** – for everything there is a season, and now is the time when ministry personnel discern their readiness for a change in pastoral relations, either for retirement or a new opportunity. When this happens, we need volunteers to step in to walk with communities of faith on behalf of the Regional Council. If you have some time and passion for supporting another community of faith, regardless of proximity since accompaniment can happen electronically, please contact me to discuss options.

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, April 1** for April 7.

Lent is generally a time of deepening spiritual practices. Some folks “give up” things, while others “take on” things. I have been following a book by Kate Bowler called *Good Enough* – just the title should give you an indication of how things are going! And yet, I have been moved by the stories of hope and inspiration coming from all over the world. May you continue to find moments of grace and nurture within your community of faith as you await the signs of spring.

Blessings and peace,



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