

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 34

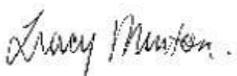
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! I hope the spring storms are moving on to create space for real spring! Check the highlighted links below for further information on all of the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies.

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. Committee members are busily reading annual reports in addition to reviewing these documents. Thanks for making their task easier by submitting materials to me electronically.
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – a review of the [Licensed Lay Worship Leader policy](#) is underway. Feedback has been collected from current LLWLs and will be sent to Pastoral Charge Supervisors this week. 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. Final edits are pending the outcome of General Council decisions this summer.
4. **A note for M&P Committees** – as you are aware, your staff have just completed the longest and busiest season of the church year. I encourage you to find ways to recognize this for all of them with whatever means you have available – extra time off, tokens of appreciation or notes of encouragement all express gratitude.
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 29** for May 5.

The blessings of Easter this year were mixed. While many of us had some version of in-person worship, others engaged our communities of faith online due to the continued rise in COVID-19 case numbers. This, in addition to a surprising spring snowstorm, meant that we needed to listen even more attentively for the promise of new life and hope in the stories of the early and present believers. Regardless of how you witnessed the proclamation of faith, may it continue to inspire and move you to work to create the vision of shalom Jesus preached throughout his ministry – radical justice, peace and faithfulness.

Blessings and peace,



Tracy Murton,
Pastoral Relations Minister
tmurton@united-church.ca
1-800-268-3781 ext. 6322



"Easter egg" by kud4ipad is marked with [CC BY 2.0](#).