

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 35

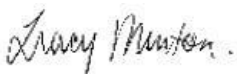
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! I hope the warmth of the sun combined with all the rain is bringing spring to you! Check the highlighted links below for further information on all of the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies, including all the ways that you could be involved.

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. **There is room for at least one more member – 3 more would be great!**
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 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 the policy and process, please contact me. **There is room for one more member!**
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. Final edits are pending the outcome of General Council decisions this summer. Next up encouraging more ways for supporting pensioners. **There is room for one more member!**
4. **A few notes for M&P Committees** – If you have not yet completed the online survey regarding continuing education from the office of vocation, please take a moment to do so as soon as possible. This information will help the staff at the General Council Office determine how best to develop standards for the professional development of ministry personnel. These standards will help support the ongoing health, joy and excellence in the practice of ministry. Another way to offer this support is ensuring your ministry personnel and lay employees have opportunity for rest and renewal this summer – time to start finalizing those holiday plans!

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, May 27** for June 2. This will be our last meeting until September so completing the paperwork is critical.

I have fond memories of searching for crocuses in the field near my farm with my grandmother. The little bits of purple were always miraculous bursts of colour in amongst the dry, brown field. And the most miraculous part is that they appeared every year, with no intervention from us. I wonder what signs of new life might emerge in our communities of faith if we are patient enough to search for them? What miraculous bursts of colour would you identify? May you continue to find moments of joy in miraculous places, and then tell all your friends about the good news.

Blessings and peace,



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Photo credit: Julie Graham