

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

### **CHAPLAINCIES:**

#### **NORTH SASKATCHEWAN HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY**

Our chaplain visits patients in Saskatoon City Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, and Royal University Hospital, including the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and the Dube Center. We walk with those at the end of life and those facing complicated health decisions to provide advocacy, support, and spiritual care for patients and families in need. We continue to provide 24/7 emergency coverage among all the hospitals and officiated at eleven funerals in 2021. We are a part of an inter-denominational group of spiritual care providers in the hospital who support and help one another meet the needs of all patients as requested by hospital staff. We continue to provide non-judgemental and supportive spiritual care in partnership with the provincial MAiD for those choosing medical assistance in dying.

We wish to thank all prayer shawl ministers who have donated incredible shawls to our ministry this year. These shawls help patients as they go through chemotherapy, wrap up newborn babies, are placed on patients' beds as they die, and provide a sign of God's love and our communities' prayers at a critical time.

Even as we continue to face challenges due to Covid 19, at the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy we are beginning to see some signs of hope. We have begun offering worship again in the hospitals for patients and families who are able to attend. We have resumed visiting at Parkridge Center after over two years of on-call only coverage. Ministers and pastoral care visitors in the city of Saskatoon are returning to visiting as they are able. Thank you to the work of both the Northern and Southern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy boards, we now have joint business cards for Rev. Lorna King and Rev. Emily Carr, a new website, and are distributing printed information among churches about the work that we are doing together.

Emily Carr  
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#### **SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY**

Lorna King has been serving as hospital chaplain since September 2019 and paperwork is underway to extend the appointment for another year. The chaplain provides Spiritual Care for patients at the Pasqua and Regina General Hospitals as well as at the Wascana Grace Hospice, and for patients and residents at Wascana Rehab Centre. Through the pandemic, Chaplain Lorna continued to find ways to connect with patients and residents by phone and email, sending over 1,000 Well Wishes in 2021.

A continuing challenge for the chaplaincy is that Saskatchewan Health Authority does not provide lists of patients by faith affiliation. Chaplain Lorna is very thankful for the patients, families, ministers, and pastoral care committees who alert her that someone is a patient in Regina hospitals.

Over the last year, with the support of Kent Mohn, the two hospital chaplaincies have been consulting and working closely together in the development of a chaplaincy web-page <https://uccskhospitalchaplaincy.com> This page has contact links to each of the chaplains, as

well as information on how to make donations to each of the chaplaincies.

The chaplaincies, chaplains and Kent also consulted with the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) staff with Sask Health Authority about the need for trained spiritual care support across the province for patients seeking MAiD and for their families. Most of the requests are within Regina and Saskatoon, and the chaplains have provided support in the hospital settings. But many patients wish to have the procedure completed in their home communities. Work continues to discover how the United Church can help connect the MAiD staff with the right Spiritual Care people in communities across the province.

Chaplain Lorna has also partnered with Regina Native Outreach Ministry (another ministry of LSRC) in coordinating their project to provide greetings and support for indigenous new moms. Regina congregations generously donated supplies for new moms and their babies which are packed in reusable cloth bags and come with a greeting card from Rev. Deb Anderson-Pratt along with a bundle of traditional medicine and an explanation of the traditions behind them. Feedback from the hospital staff who support these new moms is that they are very appreciative of this gift.

The chaplaincy is grateful for the support of congregations and individuals who have supported this ministry financially, including the Mission Support Grant and a grant from The United Church Foundation. We are also appreciative of the communities of faith who shared some of their remaining funds with the chaplaincy when they made the sad and difficult decision to close their churches. A big thank you to the congregations who share some of their prayer shawls with the chaplaincy – they are gifts which the patients deeply appreciate and cherish as a reminder that church families are holding them in prayer.

If you or a family member or a member of your faith community is in hospital in Regina, please contact your Chaplain:

Chaplain Lorna King  
1 (306) 551-7755 phone or text  
email: [LKing1255@yahoo.com](mailto:LKing1255@yahoo.com)  
webpage: <https://uccskhospitalchaplaincy.com>

## **ECUMENICAL CHAPLAINCY, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

For most of the 700 days between university lockdown and the careful resumption of on-campus learning we have shared a common melody. “Long, confusing, stressful, intrusive, limiting, boring, and lonely;” the words roll off our tongues like a sad litany. Like most laments, we join the chorus keenly aware of plans on hold, opportunities lost, painful separation, chronic anxiety and abiding grief. Debates between angry objectors and worried prognosticators add urgency to our voices and the weary passage of time slows our tempo to a dirge. The Psalmist intones: *“How can we sing a song to the Lord in a foreign land?”* (Ps 137:4). On-line learning, on-campus restrictions and loss of community has been “foreign land” to students and instructors alike. Like the psalmist, it’s hard to imagine something to sing about; yet, like those who wandered in the wilderness or endured captivity discovered; God’s presence, care and hope make new songs possible.

The pandemic caused new melodies to immerge. On-campus demographics of students changed. Those present were more likely international, doing a MA or PhD or enrolled in programs requiring lab-work. Isolation, lack of community events, increasing costs and worry

about folks at home made the year stressful. Working with Peer Health and Student Wellness ECUS increased on-campus office hours and coordinated with University staff to provide a consistent presence. Online services (recorded in local churches as a way to “get students in the door”) were posted on the ECUS Facebook page. With the return to campus, they morphed into “Lent-10” videos which were posted weekly until Holy Week. The partnership between ECUS and Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) has continued to grow. Among students, at events or during on-campus office hours our ministries blend seamlessly. LCM has a long tradition of Tuesday services and meals. During the lockdown “Check-in-takeout” provided an average of 20 takeaway meals and Covid cautious conversations each week. With the end of term, ECUS has taken over this time by hosting a barbecue for continuing students. This Christmas ECUS, LCM, Peer health and the International Student Association hosted a Covid Cautious “Holiday Hangout”. During exams ECUS and LCM partnered with other Faith leaders to host a “Refresh Stop” featuring coffee, home-made muffins, fruit and cookies and a place to calm mind and spirit in the hour before each scheduled exam period.

As with all reports, I can identify changes to the social setting, challenges and actions taken. Such details do help you connect with ECUS’s ministry and enables me to express my gratitude for your support; but, reports can’t convey the privilege of getting to know students from across the country and around the world or the blessings of meeting folks of different faiths, experiences and challenges. It can’t convey the joy of seeing students use their gifts in encouragement and care of others or how they have found hope, learning and life in the midst of a difficult year. “*Sing a new song to the Lord*” (Ps. 96:1) is the Psalmist’s joyful refrain. Like the songs of wilderness wanderers or captive folks of old, God’s gifts discovered in times of challenge do linger and melodies of thanks and praise continue to resound.

Submitted by Rev. George Hind.  
 Chaplain for ECUS and LCM  
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## **JUSTICE MINISTRIES**

### **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES (ICM)**

River Bend Integrated Community Ministries (ICM) is the face of outreach in the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood of Saskatoon. Following a visioning process undertaken 2019 and 2020 in consultation with Essential Voices staff and community engagement, we have begun some new programs and adapted others to comply with COVID-19 protocols.

Of special note is the institution of a Sharing Circle led by Knowledge Keeper Dr. Jacqueline Marie Maurice (Grandmother Rainbow Woman) and elder Pelly to help address Mental Health Concerns within the community. Although it started small, this program is well received by the community.

Chop’nChat was replaced with a Community Pantry/Food Box program in response to the pandemic. A Take-Away meals program was initiated.

Our annual 10X10 Art Project was discontinued.

Our by-laws were revised to meet Regional requirements.

ICM continues to advocate for resources connected to mental health, trauma-informed care, housing, harm reduction, and client/community care. This work happens through one on one conversation, interview, conferences, vigil attendance, and letter writing.

ICM continues to follow the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us”, so essential to attaining the trust of the community.

ICM continues to refer to the visioning document and has made significant progress in addressing the priorities in a thoughtful way.

Chantalle Morrow-Fescucic - Director  
Bill Pollock – Board Chair

### **REGINA ANTI-POVERTY MINISTRY (RAPM)**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Laura Sundberg - United Church

Donnie Wood - Volunteer

#### **Anti-Poverty Ministry**

2330 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 0S6  
TEL: (306) 352-6386

Website: [www.antipovertyministry.ca](http://www.antipovertyministry.ca)

Mission Statement:

**Rooted in God’s radical love,  
expressed through  
compassion and action,  
the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry  
advocates and educates  
with and for those seeking  
social and economic justice.**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

I have been privileged to chair the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry for the last four years. As we continue to negotiate the complexities of providing services in the midst of a pandemic, I give all the credit in the world to our fantastic staff who have done such a commendable job in carrying out the mission of the ministry. Bonnie Morton, after many decades of service with the ministry, retired in December of 2021. Bonnie helped to shape the current vision and mandate of RAPM. It is because of her dedication and perseverance that RAPM has been able to make so many strides towards the elimination of poverty in our community over the last several decades.

Peter Gilmer continues to offer his expertise in a full-time role on our staff, and he is joined by a new part-time staff member, Colleen Taylor. We are so thankful to have Colleen join us. In 2021, we were also blessed by the assistance of our practicum students: Danielle Christie, James Struthers and Courtney Cross.

RAPM is unique. When it comes to social justice, we believe in the call to action. We provide more than just charitable support to people experiencing poverty; we seek to provide them with hope. We believe that change is possible and this fuels our determination to call for change to legislation and policies that keep people in poverty.

As always, we greatly appreciate all the support we receive from Knox-Metropolitan United Church here in Regina, as well as from our other support partners, The United Church of Canada, the Living Skies region, the G. Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation and our monthly givers, whom I like to call our RAPM heroes, without whom we would not be able to provide these services. Working towards the end of poverty requires patience and determination but it also requires the support of our community.

We are always looking for more RAPM heroes. If you would like to become part of this work, please visit our website at [antipovertyministry.ca](http://antipovertyministry.ca), to find out how you can help. If you would like to explore becoming a member of our Board, please contact me or either of our staff members at the RAPM office.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Berringer, Chair

### **STAFF REPORT**

The work of the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry (RAPM) is done in three areas: individual advocacy, public education and social justice. Here are some of our activities in each of these areas in 2021.

#### **Individual Advocacy**

Individual advocacy involves providing support for low-income people and households to ensure that they are receiving those benefits that they are entitled to and that they are being treated fairly by the institutions that they are engaging with. RAPM attempts to mediate conflict between individuals and institutions so that there are mutually agreed upon resolutions, but we do represent clients through the appeal processes which are in place to resolve conflicts.

A majority of our individual advocacy casework involves responding to decisions made by the Income Assistance and Disabilities Services Division of the Ministry of Social Services. Since the closure of the Welfare Rights Centre in 2011, we are the only community organization with a mandate to provide this service.

Our income security advocacy includes handling income assistance cut-offs and denials, shelter and utility coverage, underpayments and overpayments, as well as income and asset verification and exemption cases. We help people with the eligibility assessment process for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) as well as accessing special needs.

RAPM handled a high number of cases related to people trying to gain and maintain benefits from the new Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program. Since September 1, 2021, SIS has completely replaced the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan and the Transitional Employment Allowance. This has led to a growth in cases related to rental and utility arrears as well as loss of special needs due to the inadequate benefits and provisions.

RAPM handled 2265 cases in 2021 of which we successfully resolved the vast majority. This does not mean that persons necessarily received everything that they would have liked but that their situation was made better after having made contact with our office.

RAPM also acts as a referral agency and intervenes to help people meet immediate needs such as food, shelter and clothing. We navigate systems and refer people to the appropriate

services. RAPM also provides pastoral care for persons who are dealing with issues or crises that are not advocacy or charity related. In all of our casework we seek to uphold the dignity of those requesting our help. We also maintain strict confidentiality.

During the past year, the RAPM staff conducted three advocacy training workshops for volunteers, clients, ministry personnel, service providers and practicum students. These workshops develop advocacy skills in the community and help us keep up with the demand for this service. We present a recognized certificate to those that take the workshop and then provide 30 hours of advocacy service.

### **Public Education**

RAPM's public education work involves providing educational workshops and producing educational resources on anti-poverty issues. Our public education campaign is aimed at the provincial public, with a focus on faith-based, community and educational groups and institutions as well as interested individuals.

Within the faith community, RAPM conducted twelve anti-poverty services of worship in the past year. We also gave presentations to congregational, ecumenical and multi-faith groups and gatherings.

In the wider community, RAPM provided many workshops on a range of poverty issues to community and labour groups and a broad cross section of high school and post-secondary classes. Our office acts as an anti-poverty resource centre and we are a media resource on poverty issues. 2021 marked an all-time high for media coverage for RAPM as we were quoted on almost 70 occasions through interviews, events and rallies. Much of this coverage related to problems with the SIS program but included many other issues as well as coverage related to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Honorary Doctorates received by staff.

RAPM facilitated two practicum placements through the Faculty of Social Work in 2021. We also supervised a full year internship through the Meadville Lombard Theological School.

In 2021, RAPM continued distributing its Low-Income Anthology. This anthology of 20 stories allowed RAPM clients to describe their experiences in an anonymous way. It is being used to sensitize church members, decision makers and the general public on the struggles faced by low-income people. It also shows the strength of the people seeking our support and many victories over significant barriers.

A key educational activity continues to be RAPM's monthly study circles with low-income volunteers and activists. These study circles offer low-income people the opportunity to discuss poverty concerns that impact their lives. While our staff may provide resource materials or line up speakers, the topics are decided upon and often led by members of the group. In 2021 our circles included discussions about SIS, Guaranteed Liveable Income and international comparisons of inequality and social policy. These study circles influence RAPM's policy and tactical direction. They are also a meaningful way for low-income people to connect with and empower each other.

### **Social Justice**

Social justice work involves anti-poverty activism and lobbying as well as community consensus building around key issues. It also includes joint projects and campaigns with community partners.

RAPM frequently makes presentations to politicians and other government representatives. We know that there are many powerful interests, which carry considerable influence in policy-making circles. The concerns of low-income people and the issues of the anti-poverty movement must also be heard by decision makers. In the past year, RAPM has met with the Minister and senior officials of Social Services. We have also met with the Opposition Caucus and Critic for Social Services as well as making presentations to the Community Wellness Committee and Regina City Council.

RAPM chairs End Poverty Regina and is on the Steering Committee of Poverty Free Saskatchewan. These are networks of organizations and individuals working on poverty issues. In the past year, RAPM has worked with these organizations as well as with Living Skies Regional Council of The United Church of Canada to campaign for reforms and adequacy measures for the SIS program.

RAPM is active in the Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC), which has been working with the Government of Saskatchewan on the development of the SAID program. Most recently we have been represented on the DISC Benefits Committee, which is working on adequacy measures for SAID.

Since 1997, RAPM has identified key anti-poverty proposals through extensive consultation with low-income people and community groups dealing with poverty issues. These proposals fall under the categories of adequate income security benefits, a living wage, quality and affordable housing and childcare, equity initiatives and fair taxation. We continue to promote these proposals along with our call for an Act to End Poverty in Saskatchewan which would ensure basic social and economic rights committed to under international law.

RAPM networks with many organizations at the local, provincial and national levels. Locally this has included involvement with several church and community groups. At the national level Bonnie Morton was President of Canada Without Poverty (Canada's national poor people's organization). Bonnie is also the Chairperson of the Charter Committee on Poverty Issues, which assists low-income people challenging social and economic human rights violations in our court systems. In 2021, Bonnie was asked to work with other leaders on monitoring Canada's policy development around the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. After 34 years of exceptional ministry and advocacy work, Bonnie retired from RAPM at the end of 2021. Joining RAPM as an Anti-Poverty Support Worker is Colleen Taylor. Colleen brings over 30 years in human service and social movement experience to this position.

From the 2021 RAPM Annual Report

### **MICAH MISSION**

The Micah Mission is going through a significant time. At the end of March 2022, the CoSA (Circles of Support and Accountability) National Capacity Project came to an end. This resulted in the loss of considerable funding to our program. However, it also meant that we no longer need to submit monthly data to CoSA Canada which reduced the work load. At the same time, our CoSA Administrator took a one year leave of absence, resulting in less current staff. So, we are working at a reduced capacity – determined to maintain and still grow our program in all ways that we can.

On March 17, we had a great day at Wanuskeewin when we invited a number of agencies to gather together, in person, to talk about Reconciliation and how our agencies could work more



closely together in the spirit of Reconciliation and in the work of Restorative Justice. We purchased gift bags, note books and stress balls for the event, and have enough left over for further promotions. A portion of the Living Skies grant was used for these purchases. We, and our facilitators are still in the process of evaluating that day and determining future goals for our Indigenous programs.

We have also been in contact with the Saskatoon Media Group about purchasing online ads with the hope of recruiting more volunteers. Though our CoSA Administrator is away, we continue to receive CoSA, P2P (Person to Person), and Faith Community Reintegration Project (FCRP) referrals and are always in need of volunteers. The intent is that our ads will increase awareness and interest in the work that we do and result in further volunteer applications.

We are grateful for the support of Living Skies Regional Council. The Strategic planning provided by Edge has resulted in our monthly board meeting Agenda focusing on Authenticity, Collaboration, Marketing and Advocacy. It helps us to keep our strategic plan in front of us at all times.

We are also grateful for the support through the annual grant which this year is helping us to assist us with our marketing and advertising.

Dave Feick  
Executive Director

## **PARKLAND RESTORATIVE**



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[parklandrestorativejustice.com](http://parklandrestorativejustice.com)

Parkland Restorative Justice is a charitable organization providing positive social support to those in the justice system.

This past year was my first full year as Director of Parkland Restorative Justice (PRJ). It has been filled with exciting new challenges as together we are all learning new ways of being and working.

The Saskatchewan Penitentiary has restricted access for much of the year, so we have learned to work from a home office. We have become much more comfortable with Zoom meetings, initiating new working relationships and professional partnerships virtually. Our programming in the community has continued with minimal interruption and the Dad Hero program adapted to a virtual format when necessary. Inmates in Unit 8 (Minimum Security), and in (SIU) solitary confinement received social support when Covid restrictions made it possible.

The end of CoSA (Circles of Support and Accountability) funding contract from the federal government on March 31, 2022, came and went with no sign of it being included in the latest budget. Advocacy efforts with all levels of government to support this vital program will continue. In the interim, we were successful in being granted funding for one year from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan to continue programming uninterrupted.



PRJ partnered with Micah Mission of Saskatoon and CoSA South Saskatchewan of Regina in 2021 as we pursue innovative, sustainable funding solutions for CoSA programming in Saskatchewan. We are thankful for our growing relationships with John Howard Society, Str8UP, The Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan - Prince Albert, Cornerstone Church Saskatoon, Eigenheim Mennonite Church, as well as our longer-term partners: Mennonite Church Sask and congregations, Mennonite Central Committee, Living Skies/United Church of SK, Evangelical Covenant Church, Canadian Families and Corrections Network ( <https://www.cfcn-rcafd.org/> ); The Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert, CoSA Canada, Sask Penitentiary and others.

We were saddened by the recent closing of Grace Mennonite Church in Prince Albert. We honour this church as the birthplace of P2P (Person to Person) prison visitation, and CoSA in Saskatchewan. They have been active restorative justice supporters for decades. We hold space with them as they grieve.

We are so very thankful for Living Skies Regional Council/United Church of Saskatchewan Mission Support for the provision of the Edge Future Directions coaching!! It has assisted us greatly in the past year with envisioning and planning for a sustainable and innovative future. With the direct coaching of Carol Hennigar our board and staff felt confident in moving ahead with the development of the property of Grace Mennonite Church that was gifted to us upon their recent closing. In addition, we were chosen to receive the funding from the Meewasin Valley United Church Outreach Fund. It was a very welcome gift that has given us the confidence to dream bigger.

Parkland Restorative Justice board of directors have been consistently generous in giving their support showing adaptability as we learn together, grow together as a team, and passionately serve our people in the justice system. I am very thankful to be working for an organization that has a growth mindset; to be able to shift and innovate when the times call for it. This fills my heart with positive anticipation as we look to a bright future.

Director Kerry Reimer