

Together on a Journey



Docket for the Inaugural Gathering
of Living Skies Regional Council
Swift Current, Saskatchewan
May 30 – June 2, 2019

About the Logo:

The theme “Together on a Journey” evokes for me an image of a long and winding road, stretching out into the distance. From where we stand now, the destination is obscured and our path is uncertain, but we will navigate this road together. Three people represent many more, and hold hands as a symbol of unity and connectedness. They stand already partway along the path, showing that we are continuing a journey rather than starting one. We remember the journeys of our ancestors in faith, and we clear a path for future generations. The colour blue is a deep colour to me: as deep as the ocean, representing the depth of our faith and love. Despite our differences, despite the hills and valleys and twists and turns, we commit to travel this road together, hand in hand.

About the Artist:

Monique Poisson-Fast is a 16-year-old artist from Regina, Saskatchewan. She enjoys reading, writing, music, and all kinds of art. When she isn't playing in band or singing in choir, she spends most of her spare time drawing and painting. Monique and her family attend Knox-Metropolitan United Church, in the heart of downtown Regina.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
REGIONAL GATHERING
LIVING SKIES
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Last Updated May 23rd, 2019

Thursday, May 30th, 2019	
1:00 ~ Registration of Delegates ~ Table Hosts Training ~ Newcomers' Training	
1:45 ~ Singing ~ Welcome ~ Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory ~ Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests ~ Opening Worship ~ Announcements and Enabling Motions	
3:45 ~ Table Group Time ~ Introducing Workshops ~ Business Process overview ~ Commission Chair's Report ~ Executive Minister's Report ~ General Council Report ~ Announcements	
5:25 ~ Grace	
5:30 ~ Supper Break (90 minutes) ~ <i>Displays</i> ~ <i>Book Store</i>	
6:45 ~ Singing 7:00 ~ Structure Introduction ~ Introduction of Candidate and speeches ~ Memorial Worship 8:35 ~ Announcements 8:40 ~ Adjournment / Benediction	

Friday, May 31th, 2019	
8:45 ~ Singing 9:00 ~ Worship 9:30 ~ Finance Presentation 10:00 ~ Business 1 ~ Office of Vocation Report ~ St. Andrew's College Report ~ Workshop Instructions 11:50 ~ Announcements 11:55 ~ Grace	
12:00 ~ Lunch Break (90 minutes) ~ <i>M&S Fundraiser:</i> 1:30 ~ Silent Auction with a Twist	
2:00 ~ Workshops 3:30 ~ Break / moving time 3:45 ~ Workshops	
5:30 ~ Supper Break (90 minutes)	
7:00 ~ Business 2 Table Group time 8:30 ~ No formal adjournment	

Saturday, June 1st, 2019	
8:45 ~ Singing 9:00 ~ Regional Council Priority Conversation 10:00 ~ Nominations 10:45 ~ Clusters and Networks introductions and conversations	
12:00 ~ Lunch Break (90 minutes)	

Saturday, June 1st, 2019 continued	
1:45 ~ Singing 2:00 ~ Business (Deciding) 2:50 ~ Covenanting with Staff 3:05 ~ Centre for Christian Studies 3:15 ~ Stewardship 3:30 ~ Nominations - Elections and Motions 4:00 ~ Announcements / Registration Report 4:05 ~ Unfinished / Courtesies / Closing Motions 4:25 ~ Worship 4:55 ~ Adjournment / Benediction	
6:00 ~ Celebration of Ministry Banquet ~ <i>Displays Removed</i> ~ <i>Book Store Closes</i>	
Please be sure to remove all your belongings, books, etc. from the meeting space when you leave on Saturday evening, as we will not be back in the space. Thank you!	
Sunday, June 2nd, 2019	
8:30 ~ Service of Praise Rehearsal 10:00 ~ Service of Praise and Celebration First United Church 223 Third Ave. NE. (Swift Current)	
12:00 ~ Reception All are welcome to attend	
Departure ~ Following the Service of Praise and Reception	

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL
INAUGURAL ANNUAL MEETING
May 30 – JUNE 1, 2019 at The I-PLEX, Swift Current, SK**

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
	Agenda
A	General Information
B	Report of the Regional Commission
C	Reports of Commissions and Committees
D	Reports of Networks and Task Groups
E	Friends and Partners of Living Skies Regional Council
F	Nominations
G	Proposals
H	Biographies

DURING THE REGIONAL GATHERING

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER IS: 306-583-9040

CHAPLAINS:

Cam Fraser – 1-306-581-9454 Michelle Rowe – 1-306-661-0005

Bonnie Morton - 1-306-541-4589

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CONSULTANT:

Pam Thomas – 1-306-533-4884

Next meeting Location: Humboldt from May 21 - 24, 2020

WHO'S WHO AT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERING

CHAIR:	Annette Taylor
INAUGURAL REGIONAL GATHERING PLANNING COMMITTEE CONVENOR:	Barb MacNaughton
EXECUTIVE MINISTER:	Shannon McCarthy
FLOOR MANAGERS:	Marion Tudor and Bryan Tudor
FLOW COMMITTEE:	Shannon McCarthy, Barb MacNaughton, Annette Taylor, Marion Tudor, Bryan Tudor
CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY DINNER CO-ORDINATOR:	Bonnie Morton
EMCEE:	Jim MacNaughton
GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REP.	David Armour
DISPLAY SPACE:	Local Arrangements Committee Marilyn Durant
BOOK DISPLAYS:	Suzette Mungal
MINUTE SECRETARY:	Jamie McKay
PROPOSALS TASK GROUP:	George Thurlow and Bill Unger
CONVENOR OF SCRUTINEERS:	Donna Brown
SERVICE OF PRAISE & CELEBRATION ORGAINZER	Darrell Reine
REFLECTION SPEAKER:	Brenda Curtis
MUSIC LEADERSHIP: Thursday	James MacLauchlan
Friday and Saturday	Aliah Nelson and Colin Elliot
WORSHIP PLANNER:	Jordan Cantwell
PROJECTIONIST/TECHNICIAN:	Don Kindopp
PARLIAMENTARIAN:	Rob Reed
COMMON-TATER EDITORS	Roy Bortolotto and Bev Diebert (staff)
PRAYERS:	Susan Reed

**People with whom we are Celebrating
at the 2019 Annual Event of Saskatchewan Conference**

<u>ORDINAND</u>	<u>COMMISSIONAND</u>	<u>ADMITTAND</u>
Mitchell Anderson	Keith Hall	YongSeok Baek

Those Retiring

Catherine Christie Jane Jupe Shelby Kinrade Marilyn Leuty David Maxwell	Duane Mohn Joan Rennie-Laing Karl (Jung-Hyun) Shin Heather Wyatt
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Those Celebrating Anniversaries

<u>60 YEARS</u> Donald Campbell Gordon Jardine	Donald Milne Ronald Sutton	<u>30 YEARS</u> Hazel Arbon Nobuko Iwai Mary Young	Deanna Hawkins Flor Linantud
<u>50 YEARS</u> Thomas Powell	George Ward	<u>25 YEARS</u> Debra Berg Lorna King Jeanette Liberty-Duns Louise Robson Sung Shim Kathleen Smith	Margaret Crawford Marilyn Leuty Noreen Powell Ken Schrag Erin Shoemaker Bill Thomson (CH)
<u>45 YEARS</u> George Holliday	<u>40 YEARS</u> Mark Wartman		
<u>35 YEARS</u> Carolyn McBean David McKinnell	Margaret McCallum Nancy Steinbachs		

Those for whom we mourn:

Neil Westcott Wes Ashwin Bev Fawcett Rowena McLellan Neil Millard	E. Florence Paull John Haas Mary Lou Estabrooks Margaret Anderson Ross McMurtry	Jackie Staples Rachel Balfour Kay Campbell Doug Hallman Frederick Seller
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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Opening worship on Thursday:

Bernice Saulteaux from Carry the Kettle and Russ and Charlene Burns from Samson United Church, Maskwacis, AB.

Thursday evening Memorial Service:

Mathias Ross from Carlyle Pastoral Charge and Jordan Cantwell from St. Martin's United Church in Saskatoon.

Friday worship:

Sun-Do Hyun from Radville Pastoral Charge and Ogema, Bengough, Pangman, Pastoral Charge.

Saturday worship:

Emmanuel Menyereye from Melfort-Ethelton Pastoral Charge.

MUSIC LEADERSHIP

Thursday:

James MacLachlan from First United Church in Swift Current.

Friday and Saturday

Aliah Nelson and Colin Elliot from Saskatoon.

SERVICE OF PRAISE PREACHER BRENDA CURTIS

Brenda Curtis is a diaconal minister, serving the past 15 years with the faith communities of Humboldt Pastoral Charge (Westminster & Brithdir); and more recently, with Quill Plains Pastoral Charge (Watson/Quill Lake). Brenda has worked in paid accountable ministry for 24 years and has been involved in the various courts of the church throughout her career. At the end of June she will have completed her Interim Ministry training and is excited to bring this experience and learning to her ongoing work in the church.

Supported in ministry by her community and her family; life partner Clarke, 3 children and 2 step children; Brenda is also the proud grandma of 9 little people varying in age from 16 months to 16 years (true, some are not so "little" anymore).

Brenda also has 2 great canine companions who insist on taking her for walks even when she doesn't want to. She enjoys golfing, playing Rummikub and going to warm places during the cold Sask. winters.

**GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID ARMOUR**

**Director of Philanthropy : United Church of Canada
and
President : United Church of Canada Foundation**

David's role is to lift up the theology and practice of stewardship, gratitude and generosity as integral to our lives of discipleship in living out God's Mission throughout the Church.

This role includes providing support and leadership to all aspects of stewardship and giving programs in all courts of the church including leading the Foundation.

David began his work life with juveniles in trouble with the law in Hamilton and he brings to the church experience from previous leadership roles in the United Way, the Canadian Olympic Foundation, the Canadian Medical Foundation, University Laval Foundation and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

As a volunteer, David currently serves as board member of Food Banks of Canada and of the Pembina Institute in Alberta.

David lives in Chatsworth Ontario, a small farming town of 300 in South West Ontario.

**CHAIR OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COMMISSION
ANNETTE TAYLOR**

Annette Taylor is currently in ministry with First United Church in Swift Current. Before arriving in Swift Current, Annette spent five years in ministry with Living Shamrock Pastoral Charge in Wynyard, Saskatchewan and four years as the Executive Director of Calling Lakes Centre, near Fort Qu'Appelle.

She grew up on a farm near Oshawa, and has a Bachelor of Mathematics (Computer Science) degree from the University of Waterloo, and a Master of Business degree from McMaster University. She worked as a project manager for IBM Canada before returning to school to obtain a Masters in Divinity from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. In the midst of her theological studies Annette took a leave of absence and lived in Clyde River, Nunavut for fourteen months while working as the director of their family resource centre.

At the last annual meeting of Saskatchewan Conference, Annette became their President-Elect. In that role she was automatically a member of the transition commission for Region Four. In the fall of 2018 the commission appointed Annette as their chair and this spring asked her to chair the inaugural gathering of Living Skies Regional Council. Annette has welcomed the privilege and the challenge of doing this transitional work in the church that she loves.

**Saskatchewan Conference Past President's Report
Bonnie Morton**

2018 was the final year of Saskatchewan Conference. It was an honour to act as your President of Conference until the end of December, 2018.

As President I had the pleasure of writing letters acknowledging the celebrations of Church anniversaries. I was asked to write a birthday letter for a lady in Lafleche who was celebrating her 100th Birthday. The letter would not have been received by this lady in time for her birthday so the committee organizing the Sunday service, which was the beginning of the day's celebration, asked me to join them. This lady was so thrilled that Saskatchewan Conference would recognize not just her birthday but her many years of service to the United Church of Canada and her community. This lady is still very active in the life of her church and community. We are blessed to have such committed people among us.

In July, 2018 I attended General Council 43, with a number of other representatives from Saskatchewan. Attended the listening, discussing, and decision making sessions. Bill Doyle and I participated in the ceremony recognizing all of the Conferences within the United Church.

On September 30th, 2018 I participated in the Covenanting service for Michele Rowe, in Maple Creek. Two days later was in Swift Current for the site visit to the venue the next annual meeting will be held at.

As President of Conference I sat on the Commission and have been part of two sub groups dealing with; 1) policies around the functioning of the annual meetings, and 2) theme development for the annual meeting. At the end of December I remained on the Commission, but not as President.

I attended Presbytery meetings, many of which were the final meetings before we moved into the new structure of UCC. The following is the list and dates of the meetings I attended.

- 1) Chinook Presbytery (Zion UCC, Moose Jaw, September 14, 2018)
- 2) River Bend Presbytery (St. Paul's UCC, Saskatoon, September 15, 2018)
- 3) Wascana Presbytery (Strasburg UCC, Strasburg, September 29, 2018)
- 4) Tamarack Presbytery (St. Paul's UCC, Tisdale, October 19, 2018)
- 5) Prairie Pine Presbytery (St. Paul's UCC, Kindersley, November 17, 2018)
- 6) Twin Valley Presbytery (November 23, 2018)
- 7) Good Spirit Presbytery (Foam Lake, November 24, 2018)

I worked with Bernice Saulteaux to try to visit as many Reserves as I could before my position ended on December 31. Due to personal and work issues on both our parts this did not happen. Bernice and I are still discussing how this might actually happen.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President of Saskatchewan Conference, even for just a short period.

A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

We promise to relate to one another with

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

In our Christian love for one another we will

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

HOLY MANNERS

The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honour the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.

MEETING PROCEDURES

*(Numbering in this section is from the 2019 Manual Appendix pg. 188-191
and only includes sections relevant to this meeting)*

3.1 The Chair

The chair keeps a meeting of the council on track and may make rulings on procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

All members must be able to participate fully and comfortably.

Every voting member makes decisions on the basis of their own understanding of scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the council.

Any member of the council may bring to the attention of the chair any concerns about how a motion is being dealt with.

When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the council decides otherwise by a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The chair does not participate in the discussion or vote except in the case of a tie. If the chair wants to express an opinion, then they move aside from the role and ask another member to chair until the matter is disposed of.

3.2 How to Conduct a Meeting

3.2.1 Process

A council may set its own process for conducting business. If the council has not set its own process, it follows the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules).

3.2.2 Motions

A council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of a higher council.

A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.

3.2.3 Challenging Rulings

A voting member may challenge a ruling of the chair at the time the ruling is made. The chair restates the ruling and may give reasons. The secretary then calls the vote without any discussion on whether the chair's ruling is sustained.

3.3 How to Amend a Motion

When a motion has been made and is open for discussion, any motion to amend must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.

When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the council may deal with the final form of the original motion.

Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.

A motion to amend fails if there is no seconder.

A motion to amend may not change the intention of the original motion.

A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

3.5 Motions That Interrupt the Meeting

At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to

- a) close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- b) fix the time to adjourn;
- c) adjourn;
- d) take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- e) limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- f) postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- g) refer the motion to another body or commission;
- h) amend/change the motion; or
- i) postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specified time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

3.6 How to Reconsider a Motion

A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

Only a voting member who voted "yes" for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.

A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.

The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed.

A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

3.7 Additional Procedures

In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules) will be followed.

OTHER:

Divide a Motion (seriatim) This is a request to vote on a motion in parts rather than in total. A seconder is required. If two persons ask, the chairperson must grant the request.

Point of Information Any person can go to a microphone, interrupt debate and ask for information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is speaking?".

Point of Order Any person can interrupt to challenge or question procedures. For example, "We didn't vote", or "President, we are debating this motion to table and we shouldn't be."

Point of Privilege Any person can interrupt debate to raise point of privilege. For example, "Our table group doesn't have copies of this motion" or "Could you please repeat the motion, I didn't hear it."

Business Process at Living Skies Regional Council – May 30 - June 1, 2019

The Living Skies Regional Council Commission has given approval in principle to using the General Council model for business at the inaugural meeting in Swift Current, 2019.

- **Pre-Living Skies RC conversations:** Topics of conversation of interest to the regional council will be solicited from the regional council to go to the Living Skies Regional Meeting. These conversations may help to inform proposals to the Regional Council or identify conversations the church wishes to hold.
- **New proposal format:** The template for proposals is designed to encourage naming an issue without specifying the outcome. “Conversation proposals” requesting a conversation on a particular issue are also encouraged.
- **Priority agenda set by Living Skies Meeting Planning Team:** Proposals will be reviewed and grouped by theme/issue. Proposals will be prioritized with the time available or referred to Living Skies Regional Council Executive.

Three-Phase Process		
Listening	Discussion	Decision
Learn Clarify Understand	Thoughts Insights Refinements Affirmations	Debate Final refinements Toward consensus Vote

- **Three-phase decision-making:** Regional Council Representatives will engage in a three-phase process for all Living Skies Regional Council business:
 1. **Listening:** presentation of the proposal, questions and answers to clarify issues and implications.
 2. **Discussion:** exchange of ideas, thoughts, arguments and pros and cons; suggestions for refining proposal, affirmations, naming principles/parameters. Groups might also prioritize items as “we’d like to decide this together” and/or “We could live with the Living Skies RC Executive making these decisions if we run out of time.”
 3. **Decision:** final debate and refinement of proposal in plenary; working toward consensus, voting

While a consent motion will be used for some items, the majority of business the Living Skies Regional Council discusses—the priority identified themes/issues—will follow the three-phase decision-making process:

- 1. Listening phase:** Information sessions inform Living Skies RC representatives about the issues on the agenda. Information sessions may be held in plenary or in table groups.
- 2. Discussion phase:** Representatives meet in table groups with a pre-named Facilitator and a note-taker.

Discussion groups share what they have heard through the Listening phase so everyone is informed about all the issues. Discussion groups deliberate on the proposals. Note-takers record comments, affirmations, and suggestions, and the groups confirm the information to be recorded and shared. The reports from all discussion groups are available for viewing by all representatives as well as by the facilitation group.

- 3. Decision-making phase:** The Facilitation group's refined proposals are made available to Living Skies RC members.

There is final debate and refinement of the proposal in plenary, with the facilitation group returning to do more refinement as necessary. The process concludes with a motion in response to the proposal and a vote on the motion.



BASIC RULES for DEBATE on PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the Regional Council Meeting, proposals are received for information and consultation by the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. The Committee may make editorial suggestions to the proposing body to promote accurate understanding of the proposal by the people at the Regional Council Meeting. The Committee will communicate these suggestions to the proposing body and the proposing body may, or may not, take the suggestions.

Proposals that are received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be included in the Workbook (ROP Volume I). Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Workbook deadline will be provided in written form at the Regional Council Meeting.

The proposals will be available in a variety of ways: typed hard copy, via PowerPoint, and read aloud at the time of decision-making.

2. Prior to 8:45 a.m., Friday, June 14th, 2019, proposals may be received for information and consultation by the Flow Table and the Committee will follow the same steps as in #1 above.
3. The Flow Table will meet to decide in what order the proposals will be placed before the Council. This order will be presented to the Council during the first business session on the agenda.
4. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
 - i. A representative of the Flow Table will indicate which proposal is being dealt with.
 - ii. A representative from the proposing body will be given 3 minutes to present the 'issue' described in the proposal and their proposed action to address the issue (Listening).
 - iii. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.
 - iv. All proposals will be 'Listened to' before discussion happens.
 - v. Table group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
 - vi. After Discussion, written responses will be given to the Flow Table and a motion will be brought forth in the decision making time based on the feedback and according to the following:

If the Regional Council is the Council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.

If the General Council is the court of action:

- a. The Regional Council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- b. *If it agrees*, it passes the proposal to the General Council.
- c. *If it does not agree*, it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.
- d. The Regional Council may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.

If the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to General Council only if there is a compelling reason. (2019 Manual, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d), p.102)

INAUGURAL MEETING OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL ENABLING MOTIONS

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the Inaugural meeting be:
 - i. the members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
 - ii. Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council
 - iii. lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by communities of faith. (Manual 2019, C.1.1 & C.1.2)
2. **Corresponding Members:** that all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this regional council meeting, with voice but not vote.
3. **The Bounds of the Council Meeting:** that for voting purposes the bounds of the council Meeting shall be the numbered tables on the floor, when in session and that the Living Skies Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including ordination, commission and admission to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada on June 2, 2019 at 10:00am at First United Church, 223 Third Ave. NE, Swift Current to fulfill its responsibility to ordain, commission and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.
4. **Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:** that the regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose. (Manual 2019; C.4.3)
5. **Limits to Debate:** that without the permission of the Council, no member shall speak more than once on any proposal or amendment; and that speeches be limited to two minutes per person on each proposal, except at the discretion of the Chair.
6. **Election Procedures for Vacancies in Regional Council Appointed Positions:** that the Nominating Committee present a proposal with a slate of names for all vacancies at a time prior to the agenda time for voting; and that all other nominations be presented in writing to the convener of the Nominating Committee, or her/his designate.
7. **Scrutineers:** that the responsibilities of Scrutineers are to distribute, collect and count ballots, reporting the result to the President or Executive Minister; and to count show-of-hand votes when requested by the President or the Council.
8. **Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this inaugural meeting of the Regional Council be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian.
9. **Materials to be Distributed:** that aside from documentation relevant to this meeting, no other material shall be distributed to Regional Council Attendees or placed on tables or put on PowerPoint, within the bounds of the Regional Council Meeting without permission of one of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee and Convener or a designate, the President, or the Executive Minister.
10. **Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2019 (pages 187-191); and that any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.

MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION – 2018

Conference President-Elect (Commission Chairperson)	Annette Taylor
Conference President	Bonnie Morton
Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy

Presbytery Representatives:

Chinook	Neil Gilbert
Good Spirit	Bev Kostichuk
Prairie Pine	Barb MacNaughton
River Bend	Brian Maitland
Tamarack	Dave Whalley
Twin Valleys	Susan Reed
Wascana	Tricia Gerhard
All Native Circle Conference Rep.	Bernice Salteaux

EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

Welcome to your Inaugural Regional Gathering!! The work of getting to these meetings began years ago with the visioning of the comprehensive review process, congregations and presbyteries responding to remits, and finally enacting the remits at the 43rd General Council. That is when the work really began for conference and regional council staff and regional council commissions appointed to get us to this point.

The role of Executive Secretary became one of 'closer', of ensuring Presbyteries and Conferences closed down appropriately and passed on their work to the new Regional Councils. This was the work of all Executive Secretaries regardless of whether we were moving forward into the new system or not. I want to take this opportunity to thank Bill Doyle for his dedication, his sense of humour, and his collegiality in making the transition as smooth as possible.

The Conference Staff also played a large role in this transition in the fall, especially in Saskatchewan where the office was closed and moved to several locations. All of the Conferences lost dedicated staff in the transition: Melanie Funk and Ann Thomas in Alberta and Northwest Conference; Bill Doyle and Liz McKenzie in Saskatchewan Conference; Joan Jarvis, Linda Firman, Gaye Pokotylo, and Maggie Zoske in the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. They worked hard to make this transition as smooth as possible and were valuable members of our staff teams, I want to thank them for their professionalism and dedication to the church.

In January the work of the regional councils began in earnest and all of our staff worked overtime to keep the 'system' up and running throughout the transition. These things never go quite as smoothly as we would like but I assure you it wasn't for lack of trying. There were many moving parts and conversations about where the work fits now, how can we communicate and keep people connected, all while still trying to make sure things didn't fall through the cracks. All of our staff deserve a huge thank you for the extra hours, the hundreds of emails, the learning as we went, all in an attempt to make the transition as smooth as possible. The staff of the Regional Councils that I relate to are as follows:

Shared between all three Regional Councils:

- Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister
- Jamie McKay, Program Administrator to the Executive Minister
- Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator

Northern Spirit Regional Council:

- Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support
- Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister
- Leanne Templeton, Archivist

Living Skies Regional Council

- Bev Diebert, Administrative Support
- Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister
- Julie Graham, Transition and Education Minister
- Kent Mohn, Youth and Young Adult Minister
- Madeleine McLuhan-Myers, Archivist

Prairie to Pine Regional Council

- Cherry Abad, Administrative Support
- Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister
- Twila MacNair, Young Adult and Youth Minister
- Erin Acland, Keeper of the Archives

The conciliar system we use and continue to use in the United Church takes many volunteers to offer their gifts and talents; our Presbyteries and Conferences would never have functioned without their dedication and passion for the work of the 'structure'. Thank you to all those Presbytery and Conference volunteers who shared their gifts over the years to keep our church going! The work of 'closing' presbyteries primarily fell to a few people, the chairs, secretaries, and treasurers; I offer a great big thank you to all of you for all of the extra time and energy you gave in this transition.

Lastly, I cannot thank the three regional council commissions enough for all that they have given to the church in this transition. The passion, commitment, dedication, and prayerful discernment that they brought to this work has truly been inspiring. No decisions were made lightly or with anything but the best intentions for the church in this time and place. It is no easy task to begin anew after 90 plus years of history and tradition. The commissions came to this task with great respect for the work of dedicated church volunteers throughout the decades and a passion for the church we can be moving forward. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the commission members!!! A special thank you to Ruth Lumax, Annette Taylor, and Sherri McConnell who chaired the commissions with grace, kept us all organized and helpfully reminded me which regional council I was in!!!

Blessings to all as we join together at these Inaugural Regional Council meetings to share in worship, collegiality, love of the church, and to create a vision for the future as we join our voices in song calling the world and our church to account.

Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Minister
Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.

Transition Commission

The Living Skies Transition Commission officially came into being at the 43rd General Council meeting in July 2018. The commission was made up of representatives from each presbytery in Saskatchewan Conference, the president and the president-elect of the conference, a representative from the All Native Circle Conference and the Executive Minister of the new regional council, Shannon McCarthy. The purpose of the commission was to do significant planning prior to January 1, 2019 so that the regional council could be functional on that date. This report covers the work on the Living Skies Transmission Commission using the mandate that we were given by General Council.

Mandate One: Make decisions on such items as, in the commission's opinion, are necessary to allow for the immediate functioning of the regional council on January 1, 2019. These decisions to include the following items:

- **any required actions regarding staff who will serve the regional council;**
Some of the first decisions that the commission made were in regards to staffing positions for the new regional council. When our first report was published at the end of September, 2018 we had already named the following regional staff: Pastoral Relations Minister, Tracy Murton, Transition and Education Minister, Julie Graham, Archivist, Madeline McLuhan-Myers and Finance Administrator, Heather Dootoff. By the middle of October, Bev Diebert was added as Administrative Support for the regional council and Jamie MacKay had been named as Program Assistant to the Executive Minister. We are very grateful for the skill and dedication that all the regional council staff have demonstrated during this challenging transition period!
- **a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding between the regional councils being served by a single Executive Minister and a plan for how the Executive Minister will come to know the regional councils;**
Our Executive Minister serves three regional councils: Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine. Shannon had already worked in the conference office in all three former conferences so it was not necessary to introduce her to the new regional councils. Early in October we met in Saskatoon for a three-day meeting with the other two transition commissions. At that meeting we decided how we would deal with shared expenses and we agreed to have similar governance structures and property policies in the three regions. We agreed to work together across regional borders as much as possible in order to share expertise and reduce Shannon's workload.
- **a regional council budget for 2019;**
A working budget was prepared and approved in October, 2018. This budget is divided into two main sections: governance and mission & ministry.
- **mission support grants for 2019;**
One of the most difficult tasks the commission was given was the distribution of the Mission Support Grants for 2019. The difficult reality was that we had over \$400,000 of requests for grants, and only \$135,000 to allocate. Very few ministries received the amount they requested, some received far less, and several received none at all. The commission quickly realized that our presbyteries had been providing a significant amount of funding for these ministries and that we would not be able to fill that gap with the Mission and Ministry funds we received from General Council. In March 2019, the commission organized a gathering of ministries and brought in a fundraising expert to talk about creating new sources of revenue for future sustainability.

- **an interim governance structure to be in place by January 1, 2019;**
Our Pastoral Relations Ministers demonstrated the importance of working together when they met in early November to come up with the pastoral relations committee structure for our three regional councils. The Living Skies Transition Commission adopted their recommendations and added a Property Commission, a Nominations Committee, and a Regional Gathering Planning Committee in order to create the interim governance structure that would be in place as of January 1, 2019. We also recognized the important ministry and mission work being done by our existing networks and task groups and requested that they continue in their current format until the inaugural regional gathering at the end of May, 2019.
- **a date and organizing a founding meeting for the regional council not later than June 30, 2019.**
The commission was also responsible for organizing the inaugural regional gathering of the new regional council. We are grateful that the Saskatchewan Conference Executive went ahead and secured a date and location for this important event. We will be meeting in Swift Current from May 30th to June 2nd, 2019.

Mandate Two: Function as the executive of the regional council from January 1, 2019 until such time as the regional council meets and elects a new Executive.

As of January 1st, 2019, the commission took on the additional task of making the necessary operational decisions for Living Skies Regional Council. These decisions included:

- Reviewing and approving the final minutes of the seven presbyteries;
- Reviewing requests from congregations and pastoral charges regarding property matters such as the selling of church buildings and manses (this task was assigned to the property commission which was made up of three members of the transition commission);
- Reviewing and approving decisions made by committees within our governance structure; and
- Approving 2019 budget requests from existing networks and task groups, using the working budget that we had approved in October 2018.

Mandate Three: Propose plans for addressing the following potential topics:

- **a process for selecting a name for the regional council;**
In the fall of 2018 we began the process of choosing a name for the new regional council. Names were submitted from people across the conference and a short list was prepared by the commission. We worked with our representative from All Native Circle Conference to get input from our Indigenous neighbours on the naming process and they suggested that we continue with the current process. In 2019 the members of Region 4 were given the opportunity to vote on the top three candidates and the name "Living Skies" was chosen. This name will be ratified by the voting delegates at our regional gathering. It is our hope that we will obtain additional input on appropriate translations or Indigenous interpretations of this name after the Indigenous church meets at their national gathering in August, 2019.

- **the composition of the regional council's governing body and a process and timeline for determining the longer term governance of the regional council following the interim period filled by the commission;**

Since January 2019 the commission has continued to work on the governance structure of the regional council. We have added an eight-member regional executive and a grants committee to the structure that was in place at the beginning of 2019. This expanded structure is seen as a starting point for the new regional council and will be adjusted as the vision of the regional council is finalized over the next couple of years.

- **a vision for the regional council;**

The commission decided that the visioning process for the new regional council would begin at our inaugural regional gathering. We have set aside time at this meeting for setting priorities in our mission and ministry. The information gathered at this meeting will be used by our new executive to set the budget for 2020 and to determine if any additional structural components are needed in our regional council.

- **frequency and times of regional council meetings;**

The commission has already approved the date and location of our 2020 regional gathering: May 21-24 in Humboldt. At this time it is expected that there will be, at most, one meeting of the regional council in a year.

- **nominations policies;**

With the elimination of presbyteries the work of the nominations committee has been made even more difficult. In early 2019, we attempted to solicit nominations using a process similar to the one used by General Council. This was not very successful and we will be coming to the regional gathering with many positions still needing to be filled. Further work is needed to come up new ways of generating nominations for positions in the regional council.

The Living Skies Regional Council Transition Commission has met a total of seventeen times since June 2018. This includes three in-person meetings and fourteen conference calls. Most of our members were also part of task groups, committees and/or commissions within the regional council and several were also members of the Saskatchewan Conference Executive. The members of the commission have worked hard to bring Living Skies Regional Council to its inaugural gathering in Swift Current. This has been a rewarding, but also a challenging year for all our members.

It is our hope that the work we have accomplished will provide Living Skies Regional Council with the framework it needs to create a new vision for its mission and ministry in this province. We recognize that there is still much that is unknown about this road that we are travelling together. But together we will find our way as Living Skies Regional Council and continue to be The United Church of Canada in Saskatchewan.

Submitted by

Annette Taylor

Chair, Living Skies Regional Council Transition Commission

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Regional Council Planning Committee:

Convenor	Barb MacNaughton
Secretary	Susan Neal
President of Conference	Bonnie Morton
Member	Marilyn Leuty (term ended December 31, 2018)
Local Arrangements	Colleen McBean
Local Arrangements	Eileen Elkington
President-Elect (Ex-officio)	Annette Taylor
Staff – Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy
Staff -	Julie Graham
Staff - Admin	Bev Diebert

Nominations Committee:

Convenor	Bev Kostichuk
Member	Linda Gunningham
Member	Lesley Parkin
Member	Jason Richards
Member	Miles Russell
Member	Diane Thurlow

Property Commission

Member	Bev Kostichuk
Member	Annette Taylor
Member	Dave Whalley
Staff – Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy

Pastoral Relations Commission

Member	Jen Dresser
Member	Marvin Mackie
Member	Donna Rumpel
Member	Miles Russell
Member	Janelle Shaw
Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton
Administrative Staff	Bev Diebert

Committee on Community of Faith Support

Member	Nora Borgeson
Member	Bill Pollock
Member	Deborah Smith
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

Committee on Lay Leadership Support

Member	Faye Ford
Member	Sheila Ivanochko
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

Member	Rick McCorrister
Member	Michele Rowe
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Hello from the Regional Gathering Planning Team. This has been a very different year in the planning of our inaugural meeting for the Living Skies Regional Council. You will notice things are different. There is no children's program at our meeting this year. If this is important to you please make a note of that on the evaluation. Our Youth will hopefully be back next year. There is a new Youth Staff person so this will make a difference. It was just too late when Kent was hired to get things up and running.

Many things are changing in our Region and we are just barely skimming the surface of these changes. At our meeting this year we hope folks will take part willing and eagerly to help make our region one that is fulfilling whatever the vision is that we want to share together.

This year's theme – Together on a Journey – was chosen by a group of three from the Regional Commission as they began their journey together. To quote directly from the theme document – “We are not alone. Like our ancestors in faith, we have the Holy Spirit with us to guide us along our path and we have the added benefit of travelling together as communities of faith in Region 4 [Living Skies Regional Council]. Together we will climb the hills and walk through the valleys. Together we will navigate the curves and avoid the potholes. Together we will find our way.”

I would like to thank the Planning Team – Susan Neal and Bonnie Morton as well as the Local Arrangements Committee of Eileen Elkington and Colleen MacBean, along with many local folks for all their help. The Staff – Shannon McCarthy, Julie Graham, Bev Diebert and Heather Dootoff have been invaluable in helping put this meeting together. Thank you to Jordan Cantwell and Laura Fohse for putting together our worship and music teams. I would also like to thank is Bev Kostichuk who helped me find people to fill some of the positions that needed filling for this meeting. Thanks to Darrell Reine for taking on the job of putting together a team and planning the Service of Praise. Thanks to everyone who offered to help, who responded with a yes when asked or were ‘voluntold’ they were helping. A special thanks to my congregation for their patience as this year took a lot more of my time than usual. Hopefully next year things will go along smoother.

Next year's meeting is being held in Humboldt so watch for news of that.

Blessings on your time at our meeting,
Barb MacNaughton

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Living Skies Regional Nominations committee is made up of two members of the former conference nominations committee and representatives from four of our former presbyteries. Our meetings have all been electronic. The nominations work in the fall was dominated by the need for the pastoral relations commission, committees and liaison officers to be in place to begin pastoral relations work on January 1, 2019. We continue to need more liaison officers.

Our work to fill the other governance positions did not begin until the commission had an initial governance model and structure document. We continued to meet electronically.

Rather than meeting and calling people to fill positions, we asked that members submit expressions of interest for the various positions to be filled. This way of doing nominations had limited success.

The work of nominations will have to be done differently; our work under the previous structure depending on the presbytery reps to nominations and their knowledge of the lay and ministry people within their presbyteries. Nominations is going to need each of us to encourage members to put their names forward to serve the region. We are often each hesitant to put ourselves forward; if someone talks to us about our skills and why they think we would be good in a position we are more likely to say yes.

The nominations slate being presented at the annual meeting has vacancies. It can be found in Section F of the Docket. The annual meeting needs to consider leaving vacancies on most of the committees as Plains Presbytery members will make their decision on their membership in our region this summer thus, they were not approached in our nominations process.

We hope that the new nominations committee receives good support from the members of the region and our communities of faith as they begin their work this fall.

Thanks to the members of the nominations committee for all their work over that past eight months. The committee members were: Linda Gunningham, Jason Richards, Diane Thurlow, Leslie Parkin and Miles Russell.

Thank you to those who said yes to serving on committees, commissions, etc. Those who said that they needed a break but willing to be approached in the fall or next spring, please continue to discern how you might serve the region.

Bev Kostichuk
Convenor

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

The work of Pastoral Relations since January 1, 2019 has been a journey filled with gratitude, creativity and patience. When the files from the former Presbytery Oversight and Pastoral Relations committees began to surface in my office, the enormity of the task began to emerge – how do we cultivate the best practices that were supported by a host of volunteers, ensuring our support to ministry personnel and communities of faith was just, effective and sustainable? All this in a national structure, regional staff team and local volunteer network that was completely re-configured? Hopefully, as we continue to live into the new structure, the answers to these questions will become more clear. In the meantime, I am immensely grateful for the years of dedicated commitment to the work of the wider church that was contained within all of those files, and I appreciate the patience from all of you as we continue to develop the practices that will sustain the work in this time. Once we have a few more months of implementation, I look forward to the opportunity for feedback as the path unfolds.

I also want to acknowledge the challenge inherent in the closure of the Saskatchewan Conference Office. In the midst of understanding a new structure, the staff who had been working together in the same place are learning new ways of teaming, file management, and shared responsibility. I assume that if discerning how this deployed staff model functions is challenging for those of us in the centre of it, learning where to access information for the various aspects of the wider church is equally challenging for the whole of the Regional Council. Finally, the reality of sharing staff across Regional Councils (our Executive Minister, Program Assistant and Finance Administrator) has its own set of challenging implications for both members and other staff.

The structure for the governance is available on the old Sk Conference website at

<https://www.sk.united-church.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ProposedPastoralRelationsGovernance-Region2-4-5.pdf> . Thanks to the good work of the Nominations Committee, volunteers have been recruited and work has begun in the support of health, joy and excellence in the practice of ministry in Living Skies Regional Council.

Pastoral Relations Commission

This decision-making body meets monthly to review all of the work associated with pastoral relationships: ministry profiles, calls and appointments of ministry personnel, candidates and pastoral charge supervisors, and supporting the work of the Regional Council Liaisons. The volume of material that comes before this 5-person Commission is immense; while they aspire to adhere to the contribution deadline, each month has necessitated additional meetings to meet the requirements of their mandate. In the new structure, the role of presbytery representatives to Joint Needs Assessment and Joint Search Committees has been replaced by trained Regional Council Liaisons who consult with communities of faith on any matter related to the pastoral relationship – beginning, sustaining and ending. These Liaisons also meet monthly for support and networking, updating their progress to the Pastoral Relations Commission as required. Handbooks related to this work are found on the national website at: <https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/supporting-ministry/pastoral-relations>.

Committee on Community of Faith Support

In addition to their current task of reviewing the annual reports from all of the communities of faith in Living Skies Regional Council, this 3-person committee will be responsible for developing the process for writing covenants between the Regional Council and communities of faith. A member of the committee has been assigned to each community of faith for ongoing support and accountability. The new practice of crafting Living Faith stories and annually assessing them will ideally assist communities of faith in the development of ministry profiles should the need for a change in pastoral relations arise. Stay tuned for the background information related to this work in the near future. This committee will also work with the Property Commission of the Regional Council to support communities of faith in the process of closure, as well as assisting in any structural changes.

Committee on Lay Leadership Support

One of the first tasks of this 3-person committee was to develop the policy and practice related to the training, licensing, and ongoing support of lay folks who are offering worship leadership in Living Skies Regional Council. The handbooks from the national church for both Sacraments Elders and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders are still to be updated but the policy for Living Skies Regional Council for both categories of leadership is available on our website. This committee will also be supporting interviews for these folks as they prepare for licensing, some of which will be happening during this meeting.

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support

This 3-person committee has the responsibility for support to active and retired ministry personnel in the health, joy and excellence of ministry practice. It is the intention to gather feedback at this meeting as to the ongoing needs related to support in this Regional Council and therefore there is not a proposal related to this work at this time. A key aspect of this support includes recommendations related to the functioning of Designated Lay Ministers as they retire. To this end, a recommendation has been made to grant licenses to administer the sacraments to all retired Designated Lay Ministers who were recognized by their former presbyteries until June 30, 2020.

It is a great honour to be engaged in this work on behalf of Living Skies Regional Council. I would like to express again my deep gratitude to the former volunteers on Pastoral Relations and Oversight committees who continue to share their wisdom and stories as we move into a

new structure. I also want to recognize the work of Liz Mackenzie who carried this work in the fall, and ensured that the transition would be as smooth as possible. Finally, this work would be impossible without the grace, humour and support of Bev Diebert who keeps me on track, is patient when I am behind, and transforms my ideas into something effective. May we all find opportunities to find hope in the midst of chaos, knowing that we are sustained by the relationships we create and nurture.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister

NETWORKS AND TASK GROUPS

All My Relations Network

Leader	Deb Walker
Program Staff	Julie Graham
Administrative Staff	Bev Diebert

Intercultural Ministries Network

Co-Leader	Nobuko Iwai
Co-Leader	Brian Mitchell-Walker
Program Staff	Julie Graham

Local Global Advocacy Network

Co-Leader	Catherine Christie
Co-Leader	Linda Stumpf
Program Staff	Julie Graham
Administrative Staff	Bev Diebert

The Women of the United Church Network

WUC Convenor	Susan Dokken
WUC Convenor	Mary Mohn
Program Staff	Julie Graham
Administrative Staff	Bev Diebert

Refugee Liaison	Darren Wooff
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INTERCULTURAL NETWORK

Although Living Skies Regional Council is a new entity in a new structure, some of our work of justice-making remains the same. The InterCultural Network thanks the Region 4 Commission for the permission to continue our work until the rise of the Living Skies Regional Council Meeting.

To recap who we are:

This network encourages all people from various cultures in church and society to be transformed through cross-cultural interactions where similarities and differences are acknowledged and honoured. In particular, this network aims to address cultural imbalances and advocates for those who fall outside majority culture.

Brian Mitchell-Walker and Nobuko Iwai have co-lead this network and the work is done by so many people. Thank you all. We have appreciated the opportunity to be part of this work, which includes the work in the previous structure(s) of the Affirming Ministries Committee, the Ethnic Ministries Coordinator, and the Women in Ministry Committee.

We look forward to new expressions of justice-promoting, justice-seeking, justice-making, justice-living, in Christ's name.

We celebrate this work completed and to come:

- Affirming Ministries day was named May 5, 2019. We thank Calvary United Church, Prince Albert for their work on providing Resources for this day.
- InterCultural Network requested and prepared a proposal to begin the Affirming Ministry Process for the Living Skies Regional Council.
- Planning is underway for a fall Affirming/Affirming Curious workshop.
- After a Successful Be Bold 2018, and a request to hold another event, Be Bold 2019—Good News/Real News has been organized and will be held as a pre-Regional Council event with leadership from Charlene Burns, SunDo Hyun, Nobuko Iwai, amongst others.
- A women in ministry caucus gathering is planned for the Living Skies Regional Gathering Meeting.
- We participated in a conference phone call with friends from the two Regions west of us involved in InterCultural Work: Northern Lights & Chinook Winds, and Living Skies Regional Council members have been invited to participate in a fall event in Calgary, Alberta (late October 2019) with speakers (Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park & Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law)

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Mitchell-Walker & Nobuko Iwai

LOCAL GLOBAL ADVOCACY NETWORK

This network has had a mandate through Saskatchewan Conference to gather together people in congregations of Saskatchewan Conference who are interested in justice work. The Network was to encourage and challenge the church to reflect ethically and theologically as a compassionate, justice-seeking and justice-making community, living with respect in creation. The Network would also relate to the wider church particularly in response to local and global issues being raised by General Council. The Local/Global Advocacy Network communicated

through the Local/Global Advocacy Network Site as well as posts about emerging issues or events on E-Notes.

The following were under the Network's umbrella:

Earthcare Connections (Rep was Duane Mohn bhunitedchurch@gmail.com but there has been no rep this past year)

Micah Mission (Rep was Marjorie Keyser marjoriekeyser@gmail.com)

SCIC (SK Council for International Co-operation) (Dan Beveridge danmbeveridge@gmail.com)

Refugee Sponsorship (Darren Woof darren@stmartinsuc.com)

Global Mission

Brief (Bonnie Morton bonnie.morton@gmail.com and Peter Gilmer rapm@sasktel.net)

"Raising Sustainable Food" Group (Vicki Obedkoff minstw@sasktel.net)

We agreed that **KAIROS** and **UNJPPI** should also be under this umbrella. You could contact Dan Beveridge (danmbeveridge@gmail.com) for information regarding KAIROS and Donna Wilson (donna_wilson@shaw.ca) for UNJPPI (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel).

We also relate to the All My Relations Network and the Intercultural Network.

We tried to maintain contact with the presbyteries until the end of 2018 in order to provide a link with the above task groups and to keep them informed about the work that was being done.

We have had a busy year in anticipation of the change in structure and have reached out to the Conferences on either side of us (now Northern Spirit and Prairie to Pine Regions) in hopes of perhaps developing a network which would enable us to work together on justice – related issues. Catherine was able to be part of a meeting with the former Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario's (now Prairie to Pine's) Justice, Global Relations and Public Witness Committee. We also reached out to the presbyteries in search of folk who might want to continue to be part of such a network.

We had conference calls in October and April with as many of these folk who were available. It was an opportunity to connect with one another and hear about the work that was being done. Questions were asked about how LGA might function more effectively and how we might work to support one another. In April we were concerned about how we might support the work moving forward and talked about resolutions we might bring to the inaugural meeting of Living Skies Region. We used some of the questions from General Council for Kitchen Table discussions around Public Witness programs.

We supported the Sustainable Food Group to send 3 people to a conference in Saskatoon. We financially supported a panel for the InterPride event in Saskatoon. Donna took training for the No Way to Treat a Child Campaign and has applied to be an accompanier in Palestine. Bonnie Morton helped us with a letter to the Prime Minister and Revenue Minister Diane LeBouthillier regarding misuse of the Charities Act which threatened the revoking of charitable status of organizations that were deemed "political" to the government. There is still interest in the support of refugees and much work to be done in this area. Catherine is part of a General Council Group on White Privilege and continues to make connections with our partners in Korea.

We are agreed that a staff person to help co-ordinate and resource the justice work in Living Skies Region is of prime importance.

Thanks to Julie Graham who has been staff support for the work of this network.

Linda Stumpf and Catherine Christie
Co-convenors

THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH NETWORK

On April 6, 7, and 8, 2018, the Women's Network hosted a Women's Gathering at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. All women were invited to attend. Susan Dokken and Mary Mohn introduced themselves as the Women's Network since there had only ever been two people in the Women's Network since it first evolved in 2012 even though regular calls for anyone interested were put out.

All those in attendance were welcomed by Lorne Calvert, Principal of St. Andrew's College. He encouraged everyone to walk around the college since many UCW groups have contributed to its funding over the years. Friday evening our guest speaker and performer was Jorgina Sunn, First Nations singer/songwriter/speaker. She told of her life experiences and performed some of the original songs she has written. Susan led vespers Friday. Debbie McPherson provided musical accompaniment on the piano during the week-end.

Saturday morning began with worship in the Chapel led by Susan. Then the group broke into workshops including a choice of: line dancing, chair yoga, ukulele and drumming. We reconvened to the Chapel to hear our guest from Peterborough, Ontario: Nancy Sutherland, President of National UCW. Before lunch we broke into table discussions to talk about the future of the Women's Network in Saskatchewan.

A very informative slide and vocal presentation was given on Palestine/Israel by Donna Wilson and Vicki Obedkoff to start the afternoon's events. Both gave personal views on the situation having been there themselves. Afternoon workshops included: dreamcatchers, mosaics, and prayer bracelets. Saturday evening entertainment was provided by Cowboy Poet Bernadette Greuel from Bruno. Saturday evening vespers were led by Rev. Lindsay Mohn.

The caterer for Saturday's meals was Jenni Schrenk, who introduced her special vegetarian menus. We were also pleased to have two CGIT members from Milden in attendance on Saturday. It was great to have them share their views on the future of women in The United Church of Canada. We also had two students from St. Andrew's College in attendance all three days.

On Sunday Susan planned and led a very meaningful worship service. Her message was titled "One Step". Worship concluded with communion led by Rev. Heather Wyatt, from La Ronge. Mary thanked the morning's special worship team: Susan who had recently completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader program and Heather who was presented an Honorary Doctorate Degree from St. Andrew's College last year.

During the Gathering a meeting was held to determine if there was enough interest in forming a provincial Women's Group. The group voted in favor and it was decided to call it the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women to encompass all women's groups including UCWs as well as individuals. The executive was received and appointed by acclamation.

They are as follows: Mary Mohn – one year term as co-chair, Susan Dokken, two year term as co-chair, Chantal Ntibategera, 1st vice chair, Dawn Weber, 2nd vice chair, secretary, presently rotating among executive, and treasurer, Wilma Will. Minutes of the meeting are available for anyone wanting a copy.

The executive was formed by acclamation and is made up of UCW and non-UCW. Each will serve a two year term with the exception of a one-year term for Mary Mohn as co-chair. Then first vice chair will move up. Therefore we have two-co-chairs and two vice chairs plus a treasurer and presently have a revolving secretary to record minutes of meetings. We have opened a bank account and the proceeds from the UCW history book now go into the account. Erik Mathieson, Chief Financial Officer from General Council sent an e-mail letter to the bank confirming that we are an official and duly constituted entity of The United Church of Canada and providing our charitable status number.

The Women's Network decided on amounts to give students applying for the Saskatchewan UCW Bursary Fund. The Bursary Fund committee is made up of UCW members and both co-chairs of the Women's Network and then administered by Heather Dootoff from the Conference Office as the money was held in a special trust fund by the Conference. This will continue to be administered by the Regional finance person, Heather Dootoff. Since 2011, UCWs in Saskatchewan have raised and presented over \$30,000 in bursary funding for Saskatchewan students who are members of a Saskatchewan United Church going into ministry. In 2018 \$9400 was given out to 5 deserving students.

The main reason it was necessary to form the new provincial body (Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women) was that there was no place to deposit registration money for any events/retreats and also no way to pay at the time with everything having to go through conference. Now payments can be made directly and immediately for things like food, workshop supplies, guest speakers etc. We hope to be fairly self-sufficient as time goes along and we will be asking groups (including UCWs) and individuals for a \$2 annual donation to go toward planning expenses, postage, executive representative travel to national UCW meeting once a year, and other costs. We have prepared and sent a budget for the year 2019 to the Regional Council. Donations and/or funding could be mailed to our Treasurer: Wilma Will at Box 367, Star City, Sask. S0E 1P0. Cheques should be made out to the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women or Sask. UCC_Women. _COMMUNICATION is our major focus in the coming years along with special events to give women around the province a chance to meet and to take and make time for God.

Chantal Ntibategera and Mary Mohn attended the annual meeting of the National United Church Women in Mississauga, Ontario from September 17 – 21, 2018. The new national UCW president, Beulah Hayley from Newfoundland was installed. Phyllis Buchner is the UCW representative on the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. The 60th Anniversary of UCW will take place at Membertou Conference Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 2022. Nationally the UCW decided it's next five-year initiative would be: Women for Change, Zambia. Women for Change (WFC) is an NGO (non Governmental Organization) that works in rural communities in Zambia, focusing on social and economic changes that empower women and children. WFC has grown into one of the most influential indigenous NGOs in Zambia. Women for Change has been a partner of the United Church of Canada since 1992.

The executive of the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women all attended a Women's Camp at Camp Christopher, a Presbyterian-United Camp in September. We got together and made some informal plans for next year. Then on February 10, 2019 we met at Grosvenor Park United church to plan events for the coming year. We held a teleconference meeting on April 23 to formalize plans for the events we plan to host for ALL United Church women around

the province.

We are hosting a Women's Retreat for ALL women of the United Church at Camp Tapawingo on Candle Lake on June 21 - 23, 2019. Theme this year is "Spirit, Open My Heart". Former moderator Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell will be our theme speaker and will be part of the special outdoor worship and communion service on Sunday. Friday will begin with a potluck supper and silent auction (with all proceeds to Camp Tapawingo). Activities will include walking the labyrinth, canoeing, kayaking, line dancing, swimming, beach time, board games, crafts, gentle yoga. There will be evening vespers and Sat. morning worship, campfires with skits, charades, and singing.

On August 23 – 25, 2019 we are hosting a Women's Retreat at Wellman Lake United Church Camp on Regatta Bay in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Again the theme will be "Spirit, Open My Heart" and camp will begin on Friday with a potluck supper and a silent auction (with proceeds to go to the cost of renting the facility). Canoeing, beach time, walking, board games, crafts and round dancing will be included in the activities. There will be evening vespers and campfire every night with charades, skits, singing. On Sunday a special outdoor worship service with communion will take place. United Church women from Manitoba will be invited to this camp as well.

We will be part of Camp Christopher Women's Camp again on September 6 – 8, 2019. This is an ecumenical camp and is held at Camp Christopher on Christopher Lake (a joint Presbyterian-United camp). This year the camp is being planned by Presbyterian Women in Saskatoon.

On Saturday, October 5, 2019, Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women are hosting a one-day Women's Event at First United in Swift Current. The day will begin in the morning with a meeting and report from the annual meeting of the National United Church Women. Then there will be a special worship service with communion. In the afternoon we will have a guest speaker.

We plan to host a provincial-wide Women's Gathering every second year. The dates for the next Gathering are April 24, 25, 26, 2020.

While the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women will maintain a close affiliation with national UCW, it is already encompassing many non-UCW groups and individuals. It will continue to provide and distribute regular newsletters mostly through e-mail, but also by mail if requested. The newsletter is also posted on the Conference Website under Women's Network. We will also use the Regional Rambler to advertise up-coming events.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Mohn and Susan Dokken,
Co-Conveners of Living Skies Regional Council Women's Network
And co-chairs of the Sask. United Church of Canada Women

REFUGEE LIAISON

The role of the Refugee Liaison is to connect with the General Council staff who administer private refugee sponsorship on behalf of The United Church of Canada and those interested in refugee sponsorship within the Conference/Regional Council. There are Refugee Liaisons in the various Regional Councils of the United Church and we comprise the Refugee Advisory

Group (RAG). Our national staff people are Khwaka Kukubo and Ammar Youzbashi. The United Church of Canada is a private Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the ability to broker private sponsorships between congregations, the federal government and refugees.

The federal government imposes a quota system on the private sponsorship program so that each SAH has a limit on how many refugees they may sponsor. The United Church, like most SAHs, has more people that would like to sponsor refugees than they have quota space. This means that there is a wait list for refugee sponsorship through the United Church – excepting LGBTQ+ sponsorships and Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) sponsorships. BVOR sponsorships are government chosen cases where the private sponsor takes on the social support of the refugees while the financial costs are split between the private sponsor and the government.

The private refugee sponsorship system is currently under stress. One of these stresses is because the United States has drastically reduced their sponsorship of refugees, so other refugee sponsoring countries are pressured to pick up the slack. Another stress is because of new private sponsorship monitoring programs that are bringing an increasing bureaucratic burden to SAHs.

That being said, refugee sponsorship still remains an amazing way to live out our faith. The United Church is one of a handful of SAHs who are enthusiastic about sponsoring LGBTQ+ people and so that is a unique way to literally save a life. There are programs for people considering a BVOR sponsorship so that the split financial cost can be paid for by charitable foundations, leaving a congregation only with the social support of a refugee family.

I regret that because of other wider church commitments I am unable to continue to serve as Refugee Liaison for Living Skies Region. I have enjoyed my time in this position and I am happy to advise my successor(s). If you are interested in promoting refugee sponsorship, please contact Julie Graham, our Regional office or our national staff at refugees@united-church.ca

For more information on refugee sponsorship online please visit www.united-church.ca and www.rstp.ca as well as <http://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees.html>.

Respectfully submitted,
Darren Wooff

FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE
 1121 College Drive
 Saskatoon, SK S7M 0W3
 P: 306-966-8970/F: 306-966-8981



Greetings from St. Andrew's College (Saskatoon)

Hello kin, Sisters & Brothers of Living Skies Regional Council,

It is an honour to write to you in our year of firsts. For me that has meant coming to know the College in first experiences. From my first day, meeting students and attending classes, to gathering with Faculty and engaging with alum, there have been multiple firsts.

For the Living Skies Regional Council, in which we gather in Swift Current, this too will be a first. We have navigated change that has reshaped the denomination. The intention of this change aspires to release an energy that some have experienced as either pent-up or wanting. I believe we are ready to let go of conversations about structure and deficit and to reorient ourselves to mission and the Gospel.

As I bring you greetings from the College and share this update, I am grateful to recognise the stability in which St. Andrew's finds itself. Much of this is owing to you: denominational supporters, who have entrusted the College with gifts that are allowing us to take seriously what it means to be stewards of your trust. In this place of reflection, we have begun to ask questions about how to ensure that we are thriving forty years from now in living out our why: to provide "Justice-Driven Education for Christian Leadership."

Our why propels us in ways that continue to allow us to innovate in our programming. The current learning opportunities are:

- The dual degree BTh/MDiv, which allows those beginning post-secondary education and seeking Ordination to save no less than 1.5 years;
- The national Designated Lay Ministry Programme, which is a three-year work-study program that trains lay people for paid, accountable ministry within The United Church of Canada;
- The MDiv, STM/MTh, MTS & Doctor of Ministry programmes;
- Order of Admissions from other denominations; and,
- Diploma in Theology is for people who want to experience theological education for personal enrichment or as preparation for future study.

In these changing times, however, the College is not simply living its why now. We are beginning an active process to explore what that means through the lens of stewardship. What do we have to begin now to ensure our why remains as relevant now into the future? The abundant learning opportunities outlined above propels us as we begin a new strategic process. We intend to look to our programme through a lens of evangelism and leadership.

As our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan approaches its final phase, it is important to recognise that the world outside of theological education, as with the church in general, has dramatically changed. These changes range from how we teach, what the expectations of learners are

now to a generational disconnect in which the Christian tradition is either completely unknown or is filtered through a narrative in which we are assumed to be judgmental and intolerant.

We are aware that this image of the church distorts who we know ourselves to be. In fact, we know that our United Church values align with secular Canada well. This generational disconnect is an opportunity inviting us to explore ways to start new conversations. It is conversations such as these that St. Andrew's is beginning to explore. I look forward to sharing how they unfold as the Board of Regents charts out the rich possibilities before the College

I will pause our first conversation with one way that the College is living into connecting such conversations with the experience of learning. This year we began the first capital campaign to enhance our classrooms. By integrating technology into the learning experience, we are moving toward being able to offer our programmes through the digital environment. This allows us to continue, in new ways, to adapt the in-community learning that has been and is a hallmark of our teaching practice. This enhancement allows St. Andrew's to embrace a both/and approach, in order to nurture new communities that learn in a hybrid community, which includes learners onsite and those at a distance.

In these times of change, the College wants you to know we are here. As St. Andrew's begins to share our prairie ethos in a manner that reaches globally, it is because of relationship with members of Living Skies Regional Council that we are able to dream boldly and audaciously. As you come together, please do know that St. Andrew's as your partner in Christ, remains excited to support the new region as it too begins to image radically.

In Christ,
Dea. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal

Designated Lay Ministers Program

As of the time of writing, there are currently 17 students in the DLM program, 15 of whom are active and 4 of whom will complete program requirements by the end of August 2019. Students come from Newfoundland & Labrador, the Maritimes, Ontario, and Saskatchewan. Two students have deferred starting the program and five students are currently looking for Supervised Ministry Education (SME) appointments.

In 2018, we held our regular two learning circles, each ten days' long. In March, we explored leadership in ministry, through the lenses of "pastor, priest, and prophet." We also examined leading planned change, shared reviews of different books on leadership, and spent significant time learning about conflict resolution. Students also designed and led creative presentations on historical and biblical leaders, prophets, and evangelists. In October, we focused on issues of justice, diversity, and reconciliation. We also welcomed Dr Yeong Mee Lee from Hanshin University for an afternoon session open to the public to learn about justice efforts in the PROK and Korea for LGBTQ people.

In the first few months of 2019, students in the DLM program (and potential students) across the country have noticed the change in church structures as it pertains to interviews for Candidacy and finding Supervised Ministry Education sites (required for entry into the DLM Program). Candidacy Boards and pastoral relations ministers in the regions are working very hard to be responsive to students; at the same time, any transition takes time to live into. Applications to the DLM program for June 2019 may be somewhat affected as a result of this

transition period. But I believe that once we have settled into new structures and processes, this will become easier for students.

The DLM program is primarily funded by the national church through your Mission and Service Fund givings, as it is a program of the national church. This funding contributes to program expenses, salaries, honouraria for qualified resource people to teach particular portions of learning circles, and twice-yearly meetings of the DLM Program Team. In addition, the national church contributes a travel bursary fund and a general bursary fund for DLM students. These are vital contributions, as many students are in half-time ministry and since there are not many bursaries available for DLM students.

I continue to work with an extremely dedicated national volunteer DLM Program Team: Marc Grenon, Kathryn McIntosh, Linda Stumpf, and Mary-Jo Tracy. We meet twice a year to plan for learning circles, admit students, and implement policies. We are now in the process of engaging in an evaluation of the DLM Program so that we can continue to improve the program. Two Program Team members are facilitators at each learning circle; we rotate leadership amongst the team. Program Team members volunteer time adds up to around 950 hours per year. This is a significant commitment and investment on their part and is greatly appreciated. The program would not be possible without their contribution.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Janzen-Ball,
DLM Program Director

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES



**125 Years of
Educating Students
for Ministry**

If you sail on an ocean (or big enough lake), you can experience the rolling swells that signal weather that you haven't directly experienced, but is close enough that the energy is travelling through the water. Theological education has been a bit like that this year; rolling on the swells of change – not our inner institutional change, but impacted by the big changes experienced in The United Church of Canada. Our diaconal ministry students are navigating changes in process: the switch from the Education and Students system to Candidacy Pathway; and we are building relationships with the new Office of Vocations staff and volunteers on the Candidacy Boards. With a national student body, we're learning the names and borders of all the new regions. There are even new forms!

We celebrated in March: the graduation of Keith Hall, Tammy Bleue, Marion Martin and Lynn McGrath; and honoured to name the Rev. Deacon Nancy Ford the newest Companion to the Centre for Christian Studies.

We added online learning circles to our curriculum for the first time; developed with the support of a generous alumni. And in our second year with the new, more flexible program, we have been welcoming more continuing studies participants in our weeklong themed learning circles. The theme learning circles we offered in this academic year included Learning on Purpose (June, at Christchurch Anglican Cathedral in Victoria), Ministry as Community Building,

Worship, Health Pain and Trauma, Power and Privilege (all in Winnipeg), Living Scripture and Ministry as Listening (our first online circles!)

As the winds of change continue to transform the world and the church, we rejoice in our community of learners – they are shaping contemporary diakonia with the ethos, theology and tools handed along through generations of diaconal ministers.

Michelle Owens
Principal

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Greetings from Atlantic School of Theology!

You might already know about us: we are a small ecumenical university in Halifax, NS, founded in 1971 when three theological schools merged together: Pine Hill (United Church of Canada); King's College (Anglican); and Holy Heart (Roman Catholic). We continue our close relationship with the United Church, and two-thirds of our degree students are United Church members. People from across Canada (every province) study with us.



In 2018-19, we continued to have a 'steady' enrolment pattern with 156 students. We offer the M.Div. (residential) degree; M.Div. (summer distance) degree; M.A. (jointly with Saint Mary's University); Diploma in Youth Ministry; Diploma in Theological Studies; and Diploma in the New Evangelization (a Roman Catholic initiative). As a full-integrated ecumenical theological university, we delight in the growth and graces we enjoy through constant contact and shared learning with peers from other Christian traditions. United Church of Canada students (from any Region) who are preparing for ministry enjoy a full tuition bursary for all years.

Continuing Education is an important aspect of what we do. This past year we offered a unique Social Enterprise Symposium and an online Feminist Spirituality course, for example. An increasing number of ministers are taking our M.A. degree (online or on campus) to further their learning.

A few campus renovations have been taking place, including the construction of Halifax Hospice on our property. We're happy to get to know this new neighbour and partner as they fulfill their important mission.

AST was a co-founder of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs, and has been involved for many years with its work. This year, in response to CCEPA's desire for increased autonomy, AST withdrew from the governance aspect of CCEPA, and CCEPA moved off our campus. We will remain active in their programming.

Like everyone associated with the United Church, we are adjusting to the new polity and structures that have been approved—for example, we have adapted the terms of reference for appointments to our Senate, and we are learning how best to relate to the new Candidacy Boards. If you have advice or suggestions for us, please get in touch any time. Our central aim is to serve the church, and we deeply value the partnership we share with you.

Respectfully,
Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell
Academic Dean (rfennell@asttheology.ns.ca)

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT
Financial Stewardship - Financial Development Officer

**Stewardship and Gift Officer for the Northern Spirt,
Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regions
Philanthropy Unit, General Council Office**



Generosity is a practical expression of love. Gary Inrig.

Friends,

I am a member of the Philanthropy Unit, also known as the Giving and Generosity Team. We provide consulting, resources and support for individuals and congregations and other communities of faith in the areas of:

- congregational giving & stewardship,
- Mission & Service,
- planned and major giving, and
- the work of The United Church of Canada Foundation.

Working with others like you, we invite people to make generous use of all the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent, our money – to make a difference in the world by helping to carry out God's mission of loving, forgiving, healing, evangelism, justice and peace. *Thank you* for your part in that.

We are in a time of change ... or should I say more change! But what has not changed are the needs of the people we support across Canada and around the world through our global ministry, community and justice work, theological education and ministry work, faith formation, support to local ministries and aboriginal ministry. In fact, the need - and your generous support - is greater than ever. Now that the new assessment model is in place there is some misinformation "out there" about what Mission & Service does and does not do.

To be clear, gifts to Mission & Service will fund only mission and ministry.

So *please*, educate yourself and those in your community of faith and make sure you take advantage of the resources explaining the new funding model.

And let me say one more time ... *thank you* for your gifts to Mission & Service, and for helping to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

I am retiring July 1st. Borrowing from Prairie to Pine's meeting theme, *Walk with Me*, **thank you** to the congregations, Presbyteries, Conferences, other communities of faith and individuals who invited me to walk with them, and who accompanied me on my journey, to a deeper theological and practical understanding of giving, generosity and gratitude. And **thank you** to the Presbytery and Conference/Region Staff - past and present - who in October 1999

immediately welcomed me as a colleague and – to the best of my recollection - never said “no” to anything I asked! This work has been a gift to me and has changed me and my life for the better. ***Thank you.***

Respectfully submitted ... for the last time,
Kathryn Hofley

PS: And where do you go for all things “stewardship” ... www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca of course!
(Sorry, I couldn't help it! ☺)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It is moved that the Living Skies Regional Council name those persons listed on pages F 1-2 of the 2019 – 2020 Living Skies Regional Council Docket including those who have been reported at this meeting to have been nominated and/or elected, to the positions listed for the region year 2019-2020:

Regional Council Executive:

Chairperson:	
Treasurer:	Donna Brown (L) (1 term) 3-year term
Member:	Dave Whalley (DLM) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Brian Maitland (OM) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Ron Brandow (L) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Tim Ellis (OM) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Cam Fraser (DLM) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Tricia Gerhard (OM) (1) 2- year term
Member:	Eujune Oh (L) (1) 3-year term

Regional Meeting Planning Committee:

Convenor:	Barb MacNaughton (DLM) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Convenor of Regional Gathering (1) 1-year term
Member:	Darrell Reine (DLM) (1) 1-year term
Member:	Hoeun Lee (OS) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Vacant

Property Commission:

Convenor:	Annette Taylor (OM) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Jim Pulfer (L) (1) 3- year term
Member:	George Thurlow (L) (1) 2- year term
Member:	Jim MacNaughton (DLM) (1) 2- year term
Member:	Bev Kostichuk (L) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Daryl Woods (OM) (1) 3-year term

Nominations Committee:

Convenor:	Vacant
Member:	Carolyn Conarro (DLM) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Beth Baerwald (L) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Jeannette Warrian (L) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Susan Reed (DM) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Vacant

Grants Committee:

Convenor:	Leslee Whalley (L) (1) 3-year term
Member:	Cindy Goodman (L) (1) 2-year term
Member:	Herb Conrad (L) (1) 2- year term
Member:	Barry Balls (L) (1) 3-year term

Pastoral Relations Commission:

Member: Marvin Mackie (L) (1) 2-year term
Member: Janelle Shaw (OM) (1) 3- year term
Member: Miles Russell (OM) (1) 2-year term
Member: Jen Dresser (DM) (1) 3-year term
Member: Donna Rumpel (DLM) (1) 3-year term

Committee on Lay Leadership Support:

Member: Faye Ford (OM) (1) 2-year term
Member: Sheila Ivanochko (L) (1) 3-year term
Member: Patti Sawchuk (L) (1) 3-year term
Member: Andrew Hecker (L) (1) 2-year term

Committee on Ministry Personnel Leadership Support:

Member: Rick McCorrister (OM) (1) 3-year term
Member: Michele Rowe (OM) (1) 3-year term
Member: Merle Sherwin (L) (1) 2-year term
Member: Koshy David (OM) (1) 2-year term

Committee on Community of Faith Support:

Member: Deborah Smith (OM) (1) 2-year term
Member: Bill Pollock (L) (1) 3-year term
Member: Sheila Deforest (L) (1) 2 year-term
Member: Hyun Heo (OS) (1) 3-year term
Member:

Task Group for Clusters/Networks: March 2019 to June 30, 2020

Member: Kevin Sprong (OM)
Member: Margaret McCallum (OM)
Member: Elaine Little (L)
Member: Karen Mitchell (OM)
Member: Vicki Nelson (L)

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Convenor of the Regional Gathering

Chair of the Executive

**NOMINATIONS FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
ON THE PICK UP TABLE
OR FROM THE FLOOR MANAGER**

For Information only:

Liaison Officers:

Appointed by Living Skies Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission:

June Blau	Shirley Crone	Lyall Campbell
Lynette Callfas	Cam Fraser	Keith Hall
Jo-Ann Hills	Glenn Honig	Eunkyu Ji
Brian Mee	Darrell Reine	John Sellwood
Bill Unger	Dave Whalley	

Liaison Officers:

Appointed by Living Skies Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission:

These appointments are short term to complete pastoral relations work that is in progress

Jim Balfour	Sue Bernier	Ron Brandow
Lorna Brick	Ian Coultard	Maureen Donald
Janice Edwards	Duane Filson	Susan Griffith
Liz Ivanochko	Kathleen James-Cavan	Jim MacNaughton
Charles McKenzie	Karen Mitchell	Dave Moors
Louise Robson	Michele Rowe	Jeanette Stevenson
Nora Vedress	Jeannette Warrian	Michael Webster

2019 PROPOSALS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1) The Brief | Local-Global Advocacy Network |
| 2) Regional Mission Staffing | Local Global Advocacy Network |
| 3) Refugee Liaison | Local-Global Advocacy Network |
| 4) Saskatchewan Council for
International Cooperation | Local-Global Advocacy Network |
| 5) Protecting Rural Communities | Local-Global Advocacy Network |
| 6) Korea Peace Now! | Local-Global Advocacy Network |
| 7) Access to Sacraments | Maple Creek United Church |
| 8) Affirming Ministries | The InterCultural Network |
| 9) Funding for Outreach Ministries of
Living Skies Regional Council | Outreach Ministries Network |

PROPOSAL NO. 1

Title: **THE BRIEF**

Originating Body: Local-Global Advocacy Network

1. What is the issue?

- We believe the Spirit is calling us as Living Skies Region, to live into our creed “to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil”.
- We need a way to bring our societal concerns to those who have the power to make changes.
- The Brief has been an effective way to do this.

2. Why is this important?

- The history of The Brief: For many years the former Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada brought resolutions and proposals to their Meetings especially the Annual Meeting to address issues of common concern that were out of the scope of the Conference. These concerns were then taken to the provincial government in the form of a “Brief” by designated members of the Conference. In this way those concerns could be made known and shared in the hope of impacting decisions made.
- The Brief provides a united voice on issues of concern that would have more impact than that of a few individual faith communities. This was unique to SK Conference. We feel it is an important practice to maintain going forward.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council respond to this issue?

- It is proposed that Living Skies Regional Council continue to prepare and present a Brief containing proposals from the Living Skies Regional Council pertaining to provincial decision making and that a working group to do that work be formed for each meeting in the most efficient manner possible.

4. For the body transmitting this proposal to Living Skies Regional Council:

- Comment: We suggest the working group be composed of representatives of those who brought forward the proposals plus one or more people who have had experience with presenting the Brief.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

Title: REGIONAL MISSION STAFFING

Origin: Local-Global Advocacy Network

1. What is the issue?

- We believe the Spirit is calling us as Living Skies Region to live into our creed, “to live with respect with Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil”.
- To inspire and to coordinate actions of communities of faith to do these things, it is important that Living Skies Region employ a staff person for mission work.

2. Why is this important?

- There are many needs to be addressed in this Region; issues of reconciliation, justice, respect for creation and many others. Although individual Christians and communities of faith try to hold the community vision of God’s holy mountain (Isaiah 56), there needs to be a coordinator who can draw us together in a vision of hope and healing.
- Faith communities have, in the past, often needed the help of a resource person to enable them to do this work (eg. Providing links to resources, developing workshops, etc.) Communication is an important aspect of this work.
- A staff person focused on mission work has in the past set up conference calls and helped coordinate the work of various groups to prevent overlapping or conflicts. Without such a staff position, our mission will be reduced and ineffective.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council respond to this issue?

- THEREFORE, IT IS PROPOSED that the Living Skies Regional Council hire a mission staff person to communicate and coordinate mission actions.
- THEREFORE, IT IS PROPOSED that the Living Skies Regional Council explore ways to finance the position of mission staff person

PROPOSAL NO. 3

Title: REFUGEE LIAISON

Origin: Local-Global Advocacy Network

1. What is the issue?

- We believe God is calling us to welcome the stranger. Jesus gave his disciples the commandment to love one another. There are many people who are fleeing dangerous conditions in their home countries who need a safe place to live and create lives that will enable them to be the best they can be and contribute to the greater good of the country where they live.
- Living Skies Region needs a person or persons who can facilitate our answer to that call.

2. Why is the issue important?

- The number of people fleeing their countries of origin is increasing.
- Many of these people came away with very few possessions. They have spent time in Refugee Camps with little health care and poor nutrition. Most of them have very little knowledge of the English language. It is important that they have support when they arrive in Canada.
- We can provide that support but we need help, too, in learning how to do that and in making connections with refugees in need. It is hard for the folk at General Council to keep up with the demand.
- Up to the present time, Saskatchewan conference has had one Refugee Liaison Person facilitating this work. Two or three persons sharing this role would be more effective, because the work can be overwhelming for one, and they can provide support for one another.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council Respond to this issue?

- IT IS PROPOSED THAT the Nominations Committee of Living Skies Regional Council find 2 or 3 people who would be willing to take on this role in a 3 year term renewable once.
- IT IS ALSO PROPOSED that present Refugee Liaison, Darren Wooff be asked to train those taking on this role.

4. For the body transmitting this proposal to Living Skies Regional Council:

Proposed Job Description

- Promote the private sponsorship of refugees program in United Churches within Living Skies Region
- Answer questions about the private sponsorship program from United Churches in Living Skies Region
- Liaison with other Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) in Living Skies Region (e.g. Mennonite Central Committee, Roman Catholic and Anglican dioceses)
- Maintain contact with the Refugee office of the General Council and the Refugee Advisory Group – liaisons from other Regional Councils. Monthly conference calls.
- Attend the yearly SAH Conference held in different areas of Canada (cost provided by federal government)
- Participate in refugee settlement advocacy, as desired

PROPOSAL 4: SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Origin: Local-Global Advocacy Network

1. Issue:

- We believe that God the Creator is calling us to work in cooperation with other faith groups and secular organizations for the good of society.
- We want to live in a Saskatchewan where our citizens are engaged global citizens, where equality, peace, and justice are the motivating principles pushing Saskatchewan towards an equitable societal shift.
- The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) is an organization that carries out this mission, and a connection with SCIC has the potential to help Living Skies Region to do the same.

2. Why is this issue important?

- **Background:** The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) is a coalition of organizations and individuals working to advance sustainable global development. SCIC was formed in 1974 by international development and emergency relief agencies active in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Conference United Church of Canada has been a member of this coalition which includes international development agencies, the peace-building and humanitarian bodies of other major faith groups, educational organizations, solidarity groups, local community organizations, and local individuals committed to SCIC's mission, vision, and principles. The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) builds momentum towards a just, equitable, and sustainable world by enhancing the capacity of our members, educating and inspiring the public to take action, and creating connections among those we serve.
- It is important for the United Church to maintain its relationship with this organization, and for the relationship to become more active, so our communities of faith will know about and benefit from the resources of SCIC. The United Church has a long history of working in cooperation with other faith groups and secular organizations for the good of society.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council respond to the issue:

- THEREFORE, BE IT PROPOSED that the financial commitment from Sask. Conference be maintained through Living Skies Regional Council to SCIC, and that connection be maintained and encouraged.
- BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that Living Skies Regional Council appoint 2 people to the SCIC and the Nominations Committee of Living Skies Regional Council find two people who would be willing to take on this role for a 3 year term, renewable once,
- BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED Living Skies Regional Council appoint Dan Beveridge (if he is willing to continue) as one of these people

PROPOSAL 5: PROTECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Origin: Local-Global Advocacy Network

1. What is the Issue?

- We believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to support marginalized communities, and therefore to respond to the challenge of the recent Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) ruling “requiring all body shops in the province to take part in specialized training and purchase specialized equipment which can cost up to \$100,000.” (Estevan News) SGI called for the proposed upgrading to take place within one year.
- This requirement would jeopardize shops in small communities, who would lose their accreditation if they cannot upgrade, and would make life more tenuous for people who live in these communities.

2. Why is the Issue Important?

- The Saskatchewan Crown Corporation, Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) was established in 1945 to provide affordable, quality insurance to Saskatchewan people. SGI also administers the Saskatchewan Auto Fund, the province’s compulsory auto insurance.
- A close relationship has developed between autobody shops in communities in Saskatchewan and SGI. Most shops rely on a share of SGI’s 80,000 claims each year for the bulk of their income. Autobody shops are important businesses in small communities, bringing necessary services to the Saskatchewan rural community.
- The proposed rapid accreditation system will harm our rural communities and inhabitants of rural Saskatchewan. Autobody shops need for time to accommodate this upgrading.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council respond to this issue:

- THEREFORE BE IT PROPOSED that Living Skies Regional Council, advocating for rural communities, call on the Saskatchewan Government to recognize that not all autobody shops in Saskatchewan need to have this upgrade for accreditation within one year in order to enable them to do the work they already do.

PROPOSAL 6: KOREA PEACE NOW!

Origin: Local-Global Advocacy Network

1. What is the issue:

- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Jesus, the Prince of Peace is calling us to support our international partners in peacemaking.
- Our partners in Korea ask that we support peace initiatives in the Korean Peninsula.
- There is a need to normalize the relationship between North Korea and Canada, so that the way will be opened to the signing of a peace treaty and the opening of free relations between North and South Korea.

2. Why is this issue important:

- Since the late 19th Century, The United Church of Canada has been committed to God’s mission of peace, justice and reunification in the Korean peninsula.
- The United Church is in long-term global partnership with the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK).
- Moreover, Canada was involved in the Korean War by sending over 26,000 military personnel as part of the UN forces, during which 516 Canadians lost their lives. The war is not over, but maintained as the result of an Armistice. As Canadian citizens, we are obliged to address the aftermath of the ceasefire and the ongoing suffering of Korean people as a result.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council respond to the issue?

- IT IS PROPOSED that a letter be sent from the Executive of Living Skies Region to the Canadian Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, urging the restoration of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea), and that economic sanctions against DPRK that have grave consequences against the general population and the most vulnerable people of North Korea be lifted.
- MOREOVER, IT IS PROPOSED that members of faith communities of Living Skies Region be encouraged to add their own communication to the federal government for Korea Peace Now.

PROPOSAL 7: ACCESS TO SACRAMENTS**Origin: Maple Creek United Church****1. What is the issue?**

In an age of increasing distance between communities, and increasing reliance on technological solutions, there is a real risk that we may neglect the things that simply cannot be done through telecommunication. Within the presbytery structure we had defined mechanisms for ensuring that congregations, pastoral charges, communities of faith, and other parts of the body of the church could receive Communion. A presbytery could, for example, license a retired Designated Lay Minister to administer sacraments, and that DLM may have been called upon to serve Communion at several vacant charges. The presbyteries and conferences also had the authority to license Sacraments Elders, which ensured that a congregation would be able to receive Communion in the case of a long-term vacancy.

With the dissolution, or amalgamation, of presbyteries and conferences, these arrangements are uncertain.

2. Why is this issue Important?

As members of one church, and all of us children of God, we cannot neglect our duty of faith and care to those of our church family who, for whatever reason, do not have access to an ordered minister or appointed DLM. To receive Communion and the other sacraments is a *right*, which we all have a duty to uphold, facilitate, and enable.

3. How might the regional council respond to the issue?

Living Skies Regional Council would:

- a) Commit to the continuation of the Licensed Lay Worship Leader and Sacraments Elder training programs by:
 - acknowledging the need for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and Sacraments Elders;
 - ensuring a place for the aforementioned programs, and those licensed by them, in the polity and structure of the Region; and
 - assigning administrative resources to facilitate regular and accessible participation in these programs.
- b) License retired DLMs to administer sacraments.

PROPOSAL 8: AFFIRMING MINISTRIES

Origin: The InterCultural Network

1. What is the issue:

We believe that our faith in God is calling us to have Living Skies Regional Council become an Affirming Ministry.

2. Why is this issue important?

- One of the predecessors of Living Skies Regional Council, Saskatchewan Conference, was an Affirming Ministry.
- Some of the Presbyteries were Affirming, some were not.
- Our new structure is a combination of these and may include Indigenous Congregations who may choose to join this new body.
- The InterCultural Network believes that being a witness to the Good news of Jesus Christ is inclusive and diverse.
- We believe the Spirit calls us to be ever more inclusive in our work and witness.
- We believe that being Affirming requires us to be Public, Intentional and Explicit in our support for all people, in particular to those whose gender identities and sexual orientations are considered to be diverse.
- In order to share this proclamation, we need to do the work of exploring whether or not we wish to be Affirming.

3. How might Living Skies Regional Council respond to this issue?

Our proposal is:

- That the Living Skies Regional Council create a small task group with the members appointed through the Nominations process adopted by Living Skies Regional Council to create a process for the Region to begin the Affirming Ministries exploration which task group will report to the Regional Executive by March 2020 so the report may be circulated,
- That the task group create or adapt an educational process with respect to Living Skies Regional becoming an affirming region
- That time be allotted at the 2020 Regional Council Meeting to participate in an Affirming Ministries discussion culminating with a vote on the issue after an education process has been completed.

4. For the body initiating this Proposal.

Although Living Skies Regional Council is a new entity in a new structure, some of our work of justice-making remains the same. The InterCultural Network thanks the Region 4 Commission for the permission to continue our work until the rise of the Living Skies Regional Council Meeting.

To recap who we are--

This network encourages all people from various cultures in church and society to be transformed through cross-cultural interactions where similarities and differences are acknowledged and honoured. In particular, this network aims to address cultural imbalances and advocates for those who fall outside majority culture.

Brian Mitchell-Walker and Nobuko Iwai have co-Lead this network and the work is done by so many people. Thank you all. We have appreciated the opportunity to be part of this work, which includes the work in the previous structure(s) of the Affirming Ministries Committee, the Ethnic Ministries Coordinator, and the Women in Ministry Committee.

We look forward to new expressions of justice-promoting, justice-seeking, justice-making, justice-living, in Christ's name.

We celebrate this work completed and to come:

- Affirming Ministries day was named May 5, 2019. We thank Calvary United Church, Prince Albert for their work on providing Resources for this day.
- InterCultural Network requested and prepared a proposal to begin the Affirming Ministry Process for the Living Skies Regional Council.
- Planning is underway for a fall Affirming/Affirming Curious workshop.
- After a Successful Be Bold 2018, and a request to hold another event, Be Bold 2019— Good News/Real News has been organized and will be held as a pre-Regional Council event with leadership from Charlene Burns, SunDo Hyun, Nobuko Iwai, amongst others.
- A women in ministry caucus gathering is planned for the Living Skies Regional Gathering Meeting.
- We participated in a conference phone call with friends from the two Regions west of us involved in InterCultural Work: Northern Lights & Chinook Winds, and Living Skies Regional Council members have been invited to participate in a fall event in Calgary, Alberta (late October 2019) with speakers (Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park & Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law)

**PROPOSAL 9: FUNDING FOR OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF LIVING SKIES
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Origin: Outreach Ministries network

1. What is the issue?

- The outreach ministries of the former Saskatchewan Conference have contributed to the compassionate mission of Jesus by visiting people in hospital (Hospital Chaplaincies), supporting young adults attending university (Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Saskatchewan), developing community and advocating for people living in poverty in Saskatoon and Regina (the Integrated Community Ministry ICM and the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry RAPM), making contacts between different Christian denominations (the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism), providing a witness for inclusive theology in La Ronge (La Ronge United Church) and providing a place in nature for children and youth to connect with God through God's creation (United Church Camps in Saskatchewan).
- The funding of these ministries has recently been reduced drastically, due in part to the recent structural changes that eliminated presbyteries and conferences. These changes have affected outreach ministries in Saskatchewan more than other regions.

2. Why is the issue important?

- These outreach ministries provide a way for communities of faith to engage in the compassionate mission of Jesus, as well as serve United Church members and adherents who need comfort in hospital, support while at university, and spiritual programming during summer months.
- Historically these ministries have been funded by the Mission and Service Fund (M & S) and by local presbyteries. Local presbyteries no longer exist, and M & S grants have been drastically reduced. Saskatchewan Conference and its presbyteries have been shielding these ministries from the effect of reduced M & S grants, so it was a shock to the boards of the outreach ministries. Boards have been scrambling looking for alternative sources of funding.
- Without some additional funding some of these ministries may cease to exist, and once disbanded would be very difficult or impossible to re-establish.
- The Regional Commission organized a meeting with a United Church fundraising expert from Winnipeg for the outreach ministries. While this was helpful in creating a different mindset about how to fund these ministries into the future, some work needs to be done to explore these practices.

3. How might the Region respond to the issue?

- We propose that the Living Skies Region assess its communities of faith to provide funding for outreach ministries.

Ministry	Type	M&S 2018	Presbytery 2018 (and Conference if applicable)	M&S 2019	Total resource deficit
Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry	Poverty advocacy	\$23,050	\$75,500	\$30,650	\$67,900
Camp Christopher	Camp	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Integrated Community Ministry (ICM)	Building relationships in the core communities	\$34,050	\$31,000	\$36,150	\$28,900
North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy	Hospital chaplaincy	\$10,000	\$38,700 Note: this amount was supplemented by one time funds	\$11,500	The 2017 amounts are more accurate since they did not include one time funds
		2017: \$16,300	2017: \$66,000	2019: \$11,500	\$70,800
South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy	Hospital chaplaincy	\$13,150	\$56,703	\$14,650	\$55,203
Prairie Centre for Ecumenism	Ecumenical gatherings and education	\$0	\$4000	\$0	\$4000
U of S Ecumenical Chaplaincy	University chaplaincy	\$6900	\$6000	\$8500	\$4400
Micah Mission	Prison support ministry	\$3300	\$0	\$4500	(\$1200)
Lumsden Beach Camp	Camp	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Parkland Restorative Justice	Prison and restorative justice	\$2800	\$2000	\$4500	\$300
TOTAL RESOURCE DEFICIT					\$270,303

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

ORDAINED

MITCHELL ANDERSON

I was born and grew up in Meadow Lake, where my mother Rochelle, a member of the Métis Nation and of Mennonite ancestry, and my father Brandem, dēnesulīné and a member of the English River First Nation and of British ancestry, raised me. I began to follow Jesus in my teenage years after being born again while I was coming to terms with being gay. I began to attend Grace United Church in Meadow Lake, where I was baptised and confirmed as an adult.

I moved to Saskatoon and joined Grosvenor Park United Church where I discerned a call to ministry. I attended the University of Saskatchewan earning a bachelor of arts in sociology and women's and gender studies and a master of business administration. I worked for the University of Saskatchewan in real estate before returning to St. Andrew's to finish my master of divinity. During these times I was accompanied by the communities of faith of Grosvenor Park United, St. Paul's United, Calvin-Goforth Presbyterian, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, in Saskatoon, and Grace United in Meadow Lake, where I had the opportunity to provide worship leadership. I have served the people of God of Knox United in Lanigan and Nokomis United in Nokomis during my St. Andrew's ministry residency since 2017.

The mission of God extends both within and outside of the institutional church. Outside of the church, I have sought to build more inclusive communities, whether serving on the boards of charitable organizations like Family Service Saskatoon or the Inspirit Foundation, in the cooperative system with Affinity Credit Union and Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, or in politics through the New Democratic Party. Within the church, I have worked for the Go Project, co-chaired the planning team for Rendez-vous 2011, served on the communities in ministry committee of the General Council, helped develop the United Church's national youth strategy, and currently serve on the executive of the general council and the pension board of the United Church pension plan. I look forward to continuing to serve the mission of God who is making all things new in a variety of ways both within and outside of the Church.

Today, I make my home with my partner Jordan in Saskatoon

COMMISSIONED

KEITH HALL

As I reflect on my recent education pathway I am aware that I have been drawn to the church from an early age. My parents were founding members of our home congregation and through their expectations and my desire to be involved at every level of the church I became a dedicated "church geek." As a lay person, I was heavily involved in children's and youth music ministries in the church, sang in several adult choirs, sat on the board and worked for presbytery. I would say that these times sowed the seeds of my call to ministry which grew despite my concerted efforts to ignore it.

I was strongly encouraged by a number of people including youth, congregation members and ministry staff to pursue my gifts for ministry through the discernment process and despite a lucrative health career care and other good reasons not to, I entered discernment. I was very drawn to examining the possibilities.

The process followed by my committee over a period of 12 months concluded in June 2002. At the end of the process I discerned to, what was called at the time, a staff associate position. At the beginning of the process, I couldn't even conceive of leaving my health region career. In August 2002, I did exactly that, taking a leave and beginning work as a staff associate.

In my work, I experienced the faith of others in action and these experiences fueled a strong inward call to learn and experience more. I began to consider candidacy for ordered ministry. I was fortunate to have my former discernment committee reassigned for a second discernment process looking at options for ordered ministry. The recommendation from that process, which ended in June of 2004, was to pursue an ordination stream of study. As I processed the first few classes I began to feel more and more that I wasn't on the right path. Through the wise counsel of conference staff, colleagues and friends I decided to request a third discernment process to look at my call again and to sort out my issues related to furthering my education. This began in December of 2009 and was completed in December of 2010. The recommendation was to pursue the educational stream for Diaconal Ministry which began in June of 2013. Through my training at the Centre for Christian Studies in Diaconal Ministry my call has become louder and louder...almost deafening. I am confident that the place I find myself in at this time is exactly where I am called to be in ministry.

Diakonia means service among others, and first appears in the New Testament (Philippians 1:1 and Timothy 3:8-13). Grounded in this tradition, my concept of ministry is one of following Jesus into community, building relationships between the church and world. The gospel of Jesus invites all to this ministry: to offer compassion and accompaniment, to work for liberation and justice, to be allies for the marginalized and to act as advocates of creative transformation.

Based on this concept and Jesus's example, my theology of ministry is that through education, service, social justice, and pastoral care, diaconal ministry encourages and accompanies congregants and others to grow their faith, speak truth to power, seek mutual empowerment, proclaim prophetic hope, nurture life-giving community, foster peaceful, right relationship, within the church and in the whole of creation wherever the Spirit may lead. With God's presence and the example of Jesus' ministry I seek to accomplish this with humility, grace and hopefully a sense of humor.

I have received remarkable support through this process from many within and outside of the church.

I must acknowledge, St. Martin's United Church, River Bend Presbytery, the UCW, St. Andrew's College, Emmanuel St. Chad's and the Center for Christian Studies for the significant financial assistance I have received.

To St. Martin's United, I must acknowledge the gift of time, study leave to attend learning circles and latitude in my work to complete required readings and assignments. This was administered by a thoughtful and supportive M&P committee chaired by Beth Williamson.

I must acknowledge my ministry colleagues, Brian Walton, Michael Webster, Brandy Emmerich, more recently Jordan Cantwell, and particularly Darren Wooff who have absorbed additional work, on occasions, to accommodate my educational deadlines. There have been many congregation members and others who have supported my education and have acted on my discernment and local learning committees...Murray Tempel, Terry Clarke, Jean Nahachewsky, Carol Nagle, Muriel Baxter, Kathy Schmidt, Laurel Piot, Nicole Kenney, Jill Carey and Eileen Gudmundson.

To my classmates, Marion Martin, Tammy Bleue, Lynn McGrath, Barb McGill, Karen Orlandi, Lisa Byer-De-Wever, Tif McNaughton, Christina Crawford, Kim McNaughton and Meghan Gilholm thanks for your accompaniment and for engaging with me in the transformation that learning in community brings.

I have been blessed by significant mentors including Pat Stuart, Blanche Johnson, Dayle Armstrong, Ron McConnell, Debra Berg, Michael Webster, Gerardo Debbink, Darren Wooff, Brian Walton, Brenda Curtis, Sheila Lavender, Diane and John Lewis, Ann Naylor and Janet Ross.

Finally, to my partner Christian, my children Adam and Jordyn and their partners Stephanie and Brad and my grandsons Gabriel, Eli and Quinn, thank you. Thank you for listening to me, holding space for me, phoning me at just the right time, sending me cool cards, supporting me and lifting me in prayer. I am indeed blessed to have you all in my life.

So many have contributed to my success in this endeavor... I am humbled and grateful. Thanks be to God

ADMITTED

YONGSEOK BAEK

I should start with the same first sentence of my address to the Court. I cannot believe I'm here. This is because I had not thought to settle down in Canada and United Church.

The more I learned about the spirituality, history, and theologies of the United Church, I realized that these fit with me, especially the church's and people's desire to seek justice and peace. At that time I had an idea that it would be great to be a small part of the United Church. That was the first step to my ministry in the United Church.

I believe that God has given me a new calling through my experiences in the United Church and studying at St. Andrew's College. I believe it is time to confirm the calling.

I would like to express my gratitude to all who have supported and encouraged me and my family. Special thanks to all the people I met at St. Andrew's College, Grosvenor Park United Church as my second hometown church, my wonderful two congregations, Wilkie and Cut Knife United Churches and my beloved family, Yujene, Soul, and Dana. I could not be here without you and all the good memories I have that we made.

I will return the love and support I have received through my ministry in the United Church. I also believe that your support will keep continuing with me. Once again, thanks to all those who have given me this opportunity.

And Thanks be to God.

RETIREES' BIOGRAPHIES

CATHERINE CHRISTIE

My journey of ministry began in Nova Scotia, growing up there, part of a warm congregation, involved in all its aspects. Then off to university, marriage, and children. I married an Anglican priest who had a parish on Labrador coast. As the parish was large, he would go away regularly to other areas, and I would carry out the ministry at our town. It felt good and right, so when our time there was over, I enrolled in Atlantic School of Theology. My mother's comment was, "I wondered when you would do this, you always said you would be a minister". I graduated in the historic year of 1988, ordained by Maritime Conference and was settled in Redcliff of South Alberta Presbytery. Five years there, 3 in Lethbridge, then a divorce, and I answered a call to Abbey-Lancer-Portreeve. I found there a wonderful home, and served there in ministry for 13 years. One valuable opportunity that came our way was an exchange with the minister of Daringbadi, Odisha State, India for 3 months. After returning with a new view of the world, I told the congregation I felt drawn to overseas ministry. So a few years later, I applied and was commissioned by Chinook Presbytery in 2010 to serve with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea. Seven wonderful years were spent in Korea, returning to retire in 2017, coming back to Abbey to live. My life now is divided between traveling to visit children and grandchildren in Calgary and London and honorary children in Korea and participating in the SouthWest Cluster and Worship Circle.

SHELBY KINRADE

The Spirit was there to hear my morning cry June 25, 1953 in Winnipeg, MB. Moved by the Spirit my parents presented me for baptism at age 8 (I still sometimes use my KJ Bible) gifted to me. At age 30 the Spirit moved me to confirmation at Westminster United Church in Regina led by Revs. Ross Williams and Paul Campbell. Involvement and participation in church opened my ears to a calling however I wasn't ready to follow — I misinterpreted the early call as God calling "the cat". Denial that I could qualify to follow the call I continued working within the Qu'Appelle United Church in children's programs, VBS, and UCW. In September 1994 I accepted a position I called "a holy COW—church office worker" at St. Andrew's United Church Indian Head. Working with the folks and Rev. Everett Hollis and LPM Sheila McLeod my eyes were opened to the possibility that the Spirit does not give up but awaits patiently until we are ready. Twin Valleys Presbytery and a Committee of St. Andrew's folk walked with me as I began a discernment journey. My heart began opening up to understanding "God doesn't call the qualified; God qualifies the called. In September 1996, at age 40 I entered into the LPMIT (Lay Pastoral Ministry in Training program) — intense studies for 4 years at United Theological College (part of McGill University Montreal under guidance of Phil Joudry and many wise educators. Bob Wallace of General Council asked me each year to consider transferring to the MBOP (Ministry based ordained program). I declined as I believed my calling was to Pastoral Ministry not Ordered Ministry. My 4 years as LPMIT included working 1/2 time on the Radville Pastoral Charge supported by an Educational Supervisor Carolyn McBean and Twin Valleys educational team and a Pastoral Charge lay supervision team.

In June 2001, I stood at the Saskatchewan Conference AGM held in Arcola, SK and spoke of John the Baptizer being a Biblical character I related to. Making my commitment to minister as a LPM (lay pastoral minister), receiving my stole and blessing in ministry I was presented with a NSRV Bible. One of my first ministry works was to serve communion at the service of worship and praise with a dear, wise friend Al Driver. Did the planning committee realize how

special it was for Al (6 ft plus) and me (5 ft) to be united in this shared sacrament? The Spirit knew.

Ministering on the Radville Pastoral Charge (Radville, Ceylon-Hardy, Minton-Gladmar) from 2001-2007 followed by accepting a ministry position as a DLM, Recognized (name change—same work) on the Climax Pastoral Charge (Climax, Frontier, Bracken and Grace Val Marie) from 2007 to my retirement at age 65 in July 2018. For the years 2016-2018 my ministry on the Climax PC was changed to 1/2 time which enabled me to accept the addition of 1/2 time ministry with Pine Cree Pastoral Charge (Shaunavon, Eastend) for 2 years. This change definitely provided me with many teaching and learning opportunities as we began developing changes in rural less than full time ministry and worship teams.

Changes, growth, new ideas and challenges bring new life.

The Spirit qualified me to follow the call to follow Jesus and opened my lips to proclaim God's Love.

With gratitude and grace.

MARILYN LEUTY

Marilyn has roots in southern Ontario and Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. She grew up in Islington U.C., teaching Sunday school by age 12 at one service while attending at the other. She enjoyed C.G.I.T. and youth group there and acknowledges the wonderful teachers and leaders she had as major influences on her life and faith.

At the University of Guelph, Marilyn studied Agricultural Resource Management, which has led to a lifelong commitment to caring stewardship of God's good Creation. At Guelph, she met her future spouse, Rod Leuty; who invited her to church at Harcourt U. C. There, Marilyn was a member of the Board and a C.G.I.T leader. Rod and Marilyn married while in school; after graduation, they moved to Ottawa for work on Agriculture Canada research projects. They were active members of Emmanuel U. C., while the minister, Wilbur Howard, was Moderator and later Moderator, Anne Squire, an active influence. In 1980, the pull of faith led Leuty's to become the managers of Friendly Acres Camp near Orangeville ON (owned by St. Luke's U. C., downtown Toronto), a year round facility, hosting seniors and adult challenged people in the summers, and a wide range of groups the rest of the year. Son, David, was born while there, and the family were active in Alton U.C. Here also began Marilyn's work for the wider church on various Committees of Toronto Conference. Next, the Leuty's moved to Markdale ON; the family made maple syrup on a small scale, designed and built a passive solar house, and Marilyn was a Staff Associate at Knox U.C., Owen Sound. When the minister of Knox died suddenly in 1989, Marilyn was propelled into the pulpit and hasn't really left until this year. "Testing the waters" with a summer course at the Toronto School of Theology, Marilyn became a candidate and completed a M.Div. in 1994, while ministering at Knox, then at Walter's Falls/Temple Hill. After ordination, she continued at the latter for 6 years. During this time, she was also the editor of the worship publication "Gathering" for 5 years, and chaired Toronto Conference. In 2000, Marilyn was a nominee for Moderator. She then "did supply" in Grey Presbytery, moving on to Centennial U.C., London ON, where she helped the congregation discern a future path and lead them into a healthy amalgamation. Marilyn served on a committee of the Canadian Council of Churches from 1996 to 2006. The 2006 move was to Trinity United, Grimsby ON, where proximity to aging parents was important along with congregational life and Presbytery work. In 2012, the Leuty's decided to join their son and his

family in Saskatchewan. Marilyn was called to St. Paul's, Assiniboia, and in 2014 began to also serve Coronach, and Wesley, Rockglen. Rod's help with music at St. Paul's in his retirement has been much appreciated.

A disheartening part of Marilyn's ministry was the need to help 4 congregations through the effects of thieving (3) or seriously procrastinating (1) treasurers. Unfaithful stewards suck resources out of congregations, which could be used to better purpose. Advice to all: if you are going to accept charitable status, have proper checks and balances in your church finances; no excuses!

Blessings in ministry include: the privileged access granted into people's lives, sharing their joys and difficulties in the light of the gospel; meeting people across Canada in the United Church and Canadian Council of Churches; inspiring courses and worship; and the privilege of being paid to study and reflect on scripture. Thanks be to God: Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit.

DAVID MAXWELL

David James Maxwell was born a preacher's kid, which meant he moved around a lot, a habit he's retained to this day. Born in Hamiota, Manitoba in 1953, he lived in McConnell, Glenboro, Boissevain, Crandell, St. Charles, Birtle, and Watrous. He attended Swift Current Bible Institute (1974-76), The Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg (1977-80), and University of Manitoba (1980-83) where he attained a B. A. in History. While in Winnipeg David sang in the choirs at St. Stephen's Church-Broadway, Norwood United Church and Knox United Church. He also sang professionally in five operas with the Manitoba Opera Society. He read tarot cards professionally for six years along with his professional singing. In 1998 he attended St. Andrews College, graduating in 2001 with a Masters in Divinity. His first pastoral charge was Alameda, Sk. where he served for 2 years. He then moved to Roblin, MB for 8 years before taking on his last pastoral charge in Grenfell, SK, where he stayed for 6 years. After he retired, he and his wife Debra moved back to Canora, SK where they now reside with 2 dogs and 2 cats.

DUANE MOHN

My involvement with the United Church began in 1958 at Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, when I was 13.

I was baptized, confirmed and taught Sunday School and attended youth group there. Then, in 1968, Mary and I were married there. Almost 51 years later, we are still here.

I retired from a career in media and communications in 2000, returning to build on land a few miles from Birch Hills. Both of us had been active in the church over the years, particularly at Rosemont in Regina, where we and our three children worshipped for 23 years.

My call to ministry came when our home church found itself without ministry personnel and in financial difficulty. I served several years as a volunteer worship leader, was accepted into the Designated Lay Ministry program in 2012, and was recognized in 2016.

The Birch Hills pastoral charge closed December 31, 2018. I will be eternally grateful that Mary and I were able to be with the people of the charge, and able to share fully in the love that abounded in it. It closed to the notes of "We Shall Go Out With Joy", not in sorrow.

JOAN RENNIE-LAING

Looking back on the beginning of my faith journey, there are many experiences that have shaped me.

As a young child, I remember my Grandma Logan. She would read to us from the bible every morning at breakfast. And when we left to go back home, with a big hug good-bye, she would say... "God Bless you my child." Those simple words have taken on such rich and deep meaning within me.

My Mom and Dad introduced me into a world of people of many different backgrounds and cultures. Through their actions I learned to treat others with respect, openness, acceptance and love.

When I was 10 years old we lived in Vienna Austria for two years. I remember while we were there, the Russians invaded what was then known as Czechoslovakia. There were parents who brought their children to the border to get them out of the country. As part of a faith community we met these families at the border, we gathered clothes for these children and safe homes for them until they could be reunited again.

In my time in Vienna we also did a lot of travelling around. We went to a concentration camp called Mauhausend. We also met a couple who as high school students had been lined up in a long line beside a huge grave and shot one by one by the Nazis. Being older, they had watched and tried to time their fall into the grave as the gun went off. They laid in the grave with their school mates until everyone had left. They were the most kind and generous people I have ever met.

These experiences and many more changed me forever.

Many people have crossed my path throughout my life time and it is their caring, their wisdom, that opened my heart to the journey into ministry.

I was told a story a long time ago that speaks for me of what I am called to do in ministry. Homer, not Homer Simpson, in case you are a Simpson fan... but Homer tells a story of an ancient King who had a small son whom he loved.

He called his faithful servant and asked him to bring up the boy, to act as a pedagoga to him. The king said, "I want you to teach my son. I want you to teach him of your commitment, your love, your honesty, courage, justice, confidence and servanthood. The name of that servant was Mentor.

It is with God's grace, I hope to have done that in my short years of ministry serving at Hillcrest United Church in Fort Nelson, BC and Bethel United Church in Moosomin, Sk. The people who I have served have filled me with their wisdom, their love, commitment, courage, justice and servanthood. I am grateful for the sharing of our journeys of faith.

KARL (JUNG-HYUN) SHIN

Jung-Hyun was born and raised in South Korea. After spending 9 years as a high school teacher (music), he obtained his Master of Divinity in 1982 from the *Presbyterian Theological Seminary* in Seoul, Korea, and was ordained in 1984 by *The Presbyterian Church of Korea* (PCK).

His experience in ministry is diverse. He has experience in new church development; after, he served as an assistant minister to *San-Sung Presbyterian Church* (PCK); prior to immigrating to Canada, he was an associate minister at *Young-Nak Presbyterian Church* in Seoul, Korea, which at that time was the largest Presbyterian congregation in the world with over 50,000 congregants.

Upon moving to Canada in 1991, he joined *The Presbyterian Church of Canada* (PCC) and served Korean congregations in both *Calgary and Toronto*. While in *Toronto*, he served as a moderator at the *Han-Ca East Presbytery* and delegated to the General Assembly too. He grew interested in The United Church of Canada and its stance in theology around this time.

However, in the year 2000, an opportunity arose for him serve a Korean congregation in the *United Church of Christ, USA* (UCC) he moved to *Rhode Island, USA*, he joined the UCC (USA) as a full member, and meanwhile, he studied part time at *Harvard Divinity School*.

Eventually, he came back to Canada in 2004, and joined *The United Church of Canada*. He served the Pastoral Charges in *Provost-Macklin, Nanton-Cayley and Blackie-Gladys, Alberta* until 2015. Since 2015, he has been serving the *Watrous-Young Pastoral Charge* in Saskatchewan, where he was further blessed to serve the *Christ Lutheran Church* in Young, Saskatchewan, through shared ministry.

Jung-Hyun has been married for 45 years to Jin-Ok, who is a dedicated social activist for *Global Environmental Justice, Women's Rights and World Peace (anti-nuclear power and anti-armory)*. As a founder of the "*Korean Federation of Environmental Movement*" she was awarded "*The Woman of the Year*" in 1990 in Korea. Primarily living in Canada, she has attended the *10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Busan, Korea* (2013), *COP 21 in Paris, France* (2015) as one of the representatives of South Korea.

Upon retiring to *Niagara Falls, Ontario*, he hopes to have more time for music (classical) teaching and looks forward to spending more time with family. He has two daughters, Christine and Catherine who both reside in Toronto, Ontario and has three granddaughters, Florence (14), Scarlett (9) and Beatrice (6).

HEATHER WYATT

I was born in Saskatchewan and have spent most of my adult life here. I am married to Bob Wyatt and have two adult children, one grandchild and two great granddaughters. My family keeps me grounded and honest.

I was part of the first Western Based Diaconal Program offered by St. Stephen's College, in Edmonton. From St. Stephen's I received a Diploma in Diaconal Ministry and a Bachelor of Theology in Diaconal Ministry. While attending St. Stephen's, I did my first three years of field work at Wesley United Church, Prince Albert, SK. In 1992 I moved to La Ronge continuing to work on the Diaconal course requirements as well as $\frac{3}{4}$ time ministry with the congregation at

La Ronge United Church. In 1995 I was commissioned into ordered ministry by Saskatchewan Conference and began full time ministry with La Ronge United Church. I was honoured to receive a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) from St. Andrew's College in 2017.

La Ronge has been our home for 27 years. I enjoy the north and its people and the variety of ministry that happens here. Over the years I have developed a good working relationship with the other clergy in our community. Together, we try to address some of the challenges our community faces. For the past eight years I have been the chaplain of our RCMP Detachment. I have served on the Palliative Care team of our local Health Care Facility, been involved in the Piwapin Outreach Center whose work includes operating the Piwapin Women's Shelter and have planned and participated in Sisters of the Spirit events, focusing on missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls. As our country and church has focused on reconciliation, I have been privileged in attending the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in La Ronge and the healing events which continue to be held as a result of the hearings.

For many years I was the Tamarack Presbytery Officer to the Saskatchewan Conference Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Committee. I have held several positions in Tamarack Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference. I served as Conference co-chair of Education and Students for three years, and a term on the Conference executive. I have been a commissioner to two General Councils.

Ministry in La Ronge has enabled me to work in many areas, from community development and wellness, issues of violence and substance abuse, grief and living with cultural diversity. I have appreciated the friendship and wisdom of my neighbours of the Lac La Ronge First Nation. From them I have experienced the resilience and strength of their community. I have been welcomed at their events, celebrations and ceremonies as history, culture and visions for the future have been shared. I have had the privilege of working with elders, traditional healers and teachers and others who are bringing positive change to our community.

The congregation of La Ronge United Church has been my joy. They have encouraged, challenged, celebrated and worked beside me in all that we do in our church and community.

IN MEMORIAM**NEIL DOUGLAS WESTCOTT****September 13, 1944 – June 16, 2018**

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden but peaceful passing of Neil Westcott on June 16, 2018. Neil Douglas Westcott was born on September 13, 1944 in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He was the youngest child of William and Grace Westcott. Neil was predeceased by his wife, Linda, only six short months ago. He is survived by his daughters and their families - Sarah (Martin Leuschen, Thea and Adri); Catharine (Robert Topping, Luke, Noah, and Ella); and Barb (Nicole Mewis, Holden); his brothers Terry (Anne) and Brian (Marietta); his brothers-in-law Jerry (Rosemary) and John (Barb); and nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Neil met Linda Strand when they were students at the University of Alberta, where he graduated with a chemistry degree in 1966. When Neil could not travel to their 50th class reunion, it was much appreciated when his honours chemistry friends visited Saskatoon in 2016. Neil and Linda married on August 27, 1966 in Lamont, AB. They moved to Vancouver where Neil defended his PhD in Chemistry in 1970. In Vancouver, they enjoyed the company of Neil's father, aunts, and uncles. Neil and Linda then lived in Cambridge, MA and Cambridge, England while Neil did post-doctoral chemistry work. Neil worked at Agriculture Canada in Saskatoon from 1973 until his retirement in 2008, earning various awards throughout his career. He studied grasshopper control, and then medicinal extracts from flaxseed. He edited a book about flax and was awarded several patents for that work. Neil was an active volunteer with The United Church of Canada at both the local and Presbytery level as well as serving on the Board of Directors for Sherbrooke Community Centre, and volunteering at Briers and within the local sporting community. He enjoyed recreational curling and organized curling draws for the Monday night faculty league. With a group of treasured friends, he made wine. Neil and Linda loved their travels within Canada and the US, as well as to Russia, Greece, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia, to name a few. He enjoyed photography, both on these trips and chronicling his family. His grandchildren were his greatest accomplishment and he loved his time with them, watching their activities, taking them to the park, seeing them on Facetime and getting email updates. Dad is free now from his struggles, he is reunited with Mom, and his brilliant mind and sharp wit have returned.

WESLEY DUNCAN ASHWIN**July 1, 1924 – July 15, 2018**

Born July 1, 1924, in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and passed July 15, 2018, in Saskatoon following a brief illness. Wes and his wife Doreen, enjoyed 72 years of happy marriage. Surviving are Doreen; sons- Jeff, Jon (Adeline); daughters - Beverly (Terry Beaulieu); Patricia (Todd) Vogelgesang; grandchildren - Jason (Anna) Ashwin, Kristin (Brad) Zurevinski and Tanner Vogelgesang; brother Patrick (Hamilton); sister-in-law Myrtle Ashwin (Victoria); great granddaughters Gemma Grace, and Ava Jade Ashwin (Calgary), Kendall Marie and Sloane Adeline Zurevinski (Saskatoon); great grandsons- Noah Luke and Jake Cruz Ashwin (Calgary); five grand dogs Lenny, Sally, Bailey, Annie and Flower;

as well as many nieces and nephews. Wes is predeceased by brother Jim and parents Guy & Edith.

Wes served in the RCNVR during WWII as a Visual Signaller on the Minesweeper HMCS Caraquet. Wes took part in the D-Day (June 6, 1944) invasion of Europe.

A graduate of the College of Engineering, U. of S., and of St. Andrew's College, he served The United Church of Canada in several Saskatchewan communities. From 1978 to 1982, he was employed by the Government of Saskatchewan as Deputy Rentalsman for Northern Saskatchewan.

During the International Year of Older Persons, 1999, Wes was Chairperson of the Provincial Advisory Committee for Older Persons and also served as Saskatchewan Representative on the National Coordinating Committee for IYOP '99. In 2002, Wes was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal through the Office of the Governor General. In 2011, Wes was awarded the Golden Heart Award by the McClure Place Foundation.

In recent years, Wes was a member of St. Thomas Wesley United Church. He enjoyed family gatherings and parties, the summer cottage - "Tether's End" at Buffalo Pound Lake, writing, drama, clown ministry, golf and community life at Villa Royale.

BEVERLY ANN FAWCETT

November 8, 2018



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of **Beverly Ann Fawcett**, aged 65 years of Parkbeg, SK on Thursday, November 8th, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer. Bev grew up in the Chaplin district. Bev had a Business Administration degree from STI and a Local Government Administration diploma from U of R. Bev worked at St. Andrew's United Church (Moose Jaw) for several years, then went to the United Church Conference Office in Regina for 17 years. She was predeceased by her father, Douglas Hughes (1996); mother, Marlene (2015); and in-laws, Percy (1988) and Dorothy (2017) Fawcett. Bev is survived by her husband of 45 years, **Gary** Fawcett; loving mother to daughter, **Tanya** Dalgarno and son, **Wade** Fawcett; amazing granny to grandsons, Douglas and Daniel Dalgarno; brothers, Stuart (Denise)

Hughes and Randy (Tracy) Hughes; sister, Connie (Roger) Hope; sisters-in-law, Teresa (Cliff) Stevenson and Brenda (Lorne) Hamilton; twelve nieces and nephews, fifteen great-nieces and nephews, and one great-great-niece; as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Bev enjoyed reading, gardening and flowers, curling, her community and her church. Family and friends were very important and special to Bev and we will miss her.

ROWENA McLELLAN

November 22, 2018

Faithful Servant of Christ, died November 22 at Saskatoon, aged 93. Rowena was predeceased by her parents Gerald Smith and Eva Young, her husbands Rev. Robert McLellan in 1978 and Rev. Bert Mather in 2007 and her daughter Jane Elford in 2007. She is

survived by her children: son James (Pat) and their children Robert and Derek, daughter Jane's three children Susan, RJ and Megan, son David (Cathy) and their children Kari, Stacey and Cassaundra, and daughter Marnie (Jim) Farn and their children Alex and Amanda. She is also survived by six great grandchildren, Sadie, Carson, Faith, Hope, Allan and Jane.

Rowena was born at Napanee, Ontario. At age 17, she left Napanee to study at the University of Toronto, where she obtained a B.A. and an M.S.W. During her young adulthood, she was employed at the Y.W.C.A. in Weston, and taught at Ontario Ladies College. In 1952, she married Robert McLellan, and together they started a life of service to the United Church in Saskatchewan, first in Hudson Bay, followed by Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon. One highlight of her life of service was receiving the Citizen of the Year Award in Prince Albert in 1962, for her work in the establishment of the Friendship Centre. Other volunteer work included Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Canadian Girls in Training, and countless committees of her Church.

Rowena had been widowed for 27 years before she married Bert Mather. Their marriage lasted two years, before Bert died in 2007.

Rowena's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are grateful for her constant love and support.

NEIL ALFRED MILLARD

June 18, 1938 – November 24, 2018



It is with both sadness and love we announce the passing of Neil Alfred Millard, 80, of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan who left us peacefully surrounded by family on November 24, 2018 in the Dr. F. H. Wigmore Regional Hospital. Neil was born on June 18, 1938 in Canwood, Saskatchewan. He was predeceased by his parents Betty and Otis Millard; his loving wife of 45 years, Jean (née Burwell); parents-in-law, Robert and Marjorie Burwell (née Mather); sister-in-law, Judy Burwell; and brother-in-law, Thomas Burwell. Neil is survived by his son, Ken (Rosa-Lea) and their children, Jacqueline and Nicholas; daughter Jennet (Patrick) Wilson and their son, Spencer; and son Robert (Charlene); sister, Fernelle (Larry) Fjerwold; sister-in-law, Betty Burwell (née Collyer), cousins, nieces, nephews and many cherished friends.

Neil faithfully served as a United Church minister for 33 years in La Ronge, Star City, Birch Hills, and Biggar. He coached baseball, actively supported Camp Tapawingo and Camp Outlook, and volunteered for many other groups. He retired to Asquith in 2003 with Jean and later to Moose Jaw. Being a grandfather to his three grandchildren, Jacqueline, Nicholas, and Spencer, brought him immense joy and pride. Everyone who knew Neil couldn't help but notice his infectious laugh and enthusiasm for life. He loved to share his interest in Ford vehicles, trains, and his Diefenbaker impersonation. His true passion was baseball, and he eagerly infused baseball lingo into his conversations. He was a fan of the Blue Jays but his true loyalty belonged to his childhood favourite, the New York Yankees. Neil made friends everywhere he went and will be forever remembered as a man who selflessly shared his love, laughter, and faith.

ESTHER FLORENCE PAULL

December 26, 2018

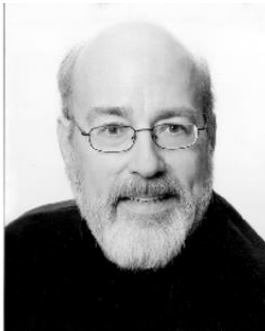


It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Florence Paull aka Crazyheart our precious mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, on December 26, 2018. Florence was predeceased by her husband Morley. Florence is survived by her sister Marg (Cliff); her kids Tracy (Jeff), Brett (Cherylee), Carla (Dean), and Jay (Angie); grandchildren Sarah (Mark), Chris (Aislinn), Justin (Christine), Sheldon, Paige, Teanna (Kyle), Caiden and Aria; great-grandchildren Violet, Kaya, Bella, Grayson, Mason and Aleena. Florence was born and grew up in Swan River, MB. She met Morley, got married and settled in Regina to start their family. Florence made a positive impact on everyone in her life with her positive energy, her humor, her traditions and her laugh. She was a fighter that fought day in and day out over the past 7 years. She was the glue that kept this family tight and she will be missed every minute of every day.

Florence was a Staff Associate at Westminster United Church (Regina) from 1996 to 2005.

JOHN R. HAAS

January 1, 2019



John Haas, age 73, died in the first hour of 2019, after complications from appendicitis. His spouse of almost 30 years, Rev. Carolyn McBean, was at his side.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, John's early years were spent in Lincoln, Nebraska and Minneapolis, Minnesota. After his B.A. from U. of Minnesota, he served 2 years in the U.S. Army (1st Lieutenant at discharge); then, his calling led him to Chicago and joint degrees from McCormick Theological Seminary [M. Div.] and Rosary College [M.A. in Library Science]. Ordained in 1973 by the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., he was called to the staff of Christ Presbyterian in Edina, Minnesota. In 1980, he accepted a call to the Crosby Ecumenical Parish in Crosby, North Dakota, serving the (by then) Presbyterian Church, USA congregation in town and two rural Lutheran congregations (ELCA). In Crosby, his gifts of acting and singing helped bring to life 'Tevye' (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and 'King Arthur' (*Camelot*). Crosby merchants also cast him as the jolly man in a red suit and white beard!

He met Carolyn McBean in September 1987 at a church service in Bienfait, Saskatchewan. A cross-border romance followed. They were married on January 7, 1989; and, by July, moved to Gray, Saskatchewan, where John served the Riceton Pastoral Charge half-time for 2 years (while Carolyn commuted to Whitmore Park United in Regina); then, to St. Stephen's Presbyterian (Regina, 3 years); and, after John's admission to United Church ministry, in 1994, to Wesley United (Regina: 16 years until his 2010 retirement). As well as pastoral ministry, he served the wider Church in many roles over 27 years, locally and nationally, including Conference President; and, 16 years as Presbytery Secretary. In 1999, he was proud to receive his Canadian citizenship. In 2010, St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, awarded him the degree Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa*.

John's love of theatre continued in Regina: over 20 years acting in Regina Little Theatre; 24 years as a patron of Globe Theatre; and, ongoing support of young artists. John enjoyed bridge and crossword puzzles, Broadway musicals, traveling and reading, but his love shared with Carolyn topped the list.

John was pre-deceased by his parents, parents-in-law and a nephew. Cherishing his memory are his life partner and best friend, the Rev. Carolyn McBean [Regina]; brother C.W. "Bill" (Lois) Haas [Winchester, VA] ; nephews Carl (Judy) and Andrew [all of Sinking Spring, PA]; brother-in-law Jim (Gwen) McBean; nieces: Marnie Freer, Diana (Dave) Walls and nephew Dan (Dawn) McBean [all of Lambton County, ON] plus, nine great-nieces/nephews – 2 American; 7 Canadian.

MARY LOU ESTABROOKS

June 26, 1936 – January 17, 2019



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Mary Lou Estabrooks announces her peaceful passing on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at the age of 82. She died at home, surrounded by her family. She was predeceased by her mother and father, Ralph and Audrey Thorne, her brother Billy and sister Anne. She is survived by her loving husband of over 60 years, Art. She is also survived by daughters Cindy (Howard) Foote; Jill Euteneier; Susan (Jim) Mahoney; son Jeff and son-in-law Richard Euteneier. She had 6 granddaughters, who were the light of her life: Alison (Bryden), Carly (Trevor), Kristin (Luke), Amanda (Andrew), Stephanie (Dante), and Michelle. Her three great-grandchildren Madden,

Livie and Kingston, brought her immense joy. Mary Lou took pleasure in the simple things in life; baking cookies with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, playing cards and board games with family, and watching sports of all kinds. Her favourite sports were anything played by her grandchildren, and her beloved Riders. She was an avid member of the Lakeview Ladies Golf Club, even getting a hole-in-one in her late 70's. Her career was spent with the United Church Conference Office, where she worked for 27 years and made many lifelong friendships.

MARGARET ELNA ANDERSON

February 1, 1925 – January 22, 2019



Margaret passed away peacefully after a sudden illness, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at St. Paul's Hospital.

Margaret was born in Sault Ste. Marie, the first child to Alvin and Orell Virene. Marg attended school in the Soo and completed her education at Alma College. She worked as a secretary in Toronto and then returned to the Soo, where her relationship with Stewart Anderson flourished.

After Marg and Stew married in June 1952, they moved to Saskatchewan and Marg fell in love with the big wide prairies. Despite many opportunities to return to the east, she chose to stay in her beloved prairies.

She dedicated her years to supporting Stewart's work in the church, first in Macklin and then in Saskatoon. After Stewart's sudden illness she return to work at the University of Saskatchewan until she retired in 1986. The United Church and her faith were a huge part of her life. Marg was a founding member of McClure United Church.

She filled her retirement years with many trips around the world with special friends, summers and Christmas in her trailer at "The River" (the Kalancha family cabin), and trips to Penticton. She never missed an opportunity to swim, whether it was in Lake Superior, Lake Okanagan, the river, or any other body of water, right up until this past summer.

Margaret was a compassionate, giving and gracious friend. She was fiercely independent and fondly called the energizer bunny by her family. She will be remembered for her smile, perseverance and sense of style. A life well lived, right to the end, she was snowmobiling three weeks ago!

She is survived by her daughter Peggy (Don) Kalancha and son David Anderson, grandchildren Jared, Shauna (James), Kayley and Cara Kalancha, sister-in-law Eila Virene and many loved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Alvin and Orell Virene, husband Stewart Anderson and brother Thornley Virene.

ROSS DAVIS McMURTRY

November 22, 1926 - January 21, 2019



With heavy hearts, we say goodbye and celebrate the wonderful life of our Father and Grandfather who passed away peacefully in Weyburn, Saskatchewan at 92 years.

Born in Semans, Saskatchewan, he lived with his clergyman father and family in Ogema, Cupar, and Elstow. He attended the University of Saskatchewan studying Agriculture, Arts & Science and Theology. After summer placements as a student minister in Somme, Chelan and Flin Flon, he was ordained into The United Church of Canada in 1951. Dad had a passion for the ministry and, in partnership with Frances, served on charges in Wawota/Kelso, Humboldt and for over 30 years in Weyburn. Dad loved Saskatchewan. Everywhere he went in the province, he made enduring friendships that enriched his and others' lives. He loved

people and loved to have fun.

A dynamic speaker in the pulpit, he was well read and kept up with the best thinkers and theologians of the day. In 1951, before professional development was mandated, he travelled by train to New York City from Wawota to attend a course at Riverside Church for inspiration. Dad also combined attending education courses with many family summer vacations.

Always a supporter of people from all walks of life, he served on the Saskatchewan Minister of Health's Committee dealing with resettling the mentally ill and as a member for six years of the Alcohol Commission as chair of its Education Committee. He gave his time generously for decades to AA Support and Counselling. In 1989, he was the recipient of the Weyburn Chamber of Commerce Golden Spike award for community involvement.

Dad's interests were many and varied. Playing hockey and baseball as a young minister led to coaching his sons' hockey team and later to enjoy less-than-serious curling and golfing with

friends. Agricultural pursuits included raising cattle, pigs and chickens; beekeeping for fresh honey; and boarding the family horses on pasture lands generously donated by friends. Dad's love affair with horses spanned his lifetime. He rode roundup for many years on a PFRA pasture near Weyburn and made frequent visits to equestrian events at Spruce Meadows in Calgary. Fishing was also a passion which Dad fully enjoyed. For close to 60 years, he travelled north to Otter Lake, many times with family and friends in tow, to experience the north and to catch walleye fish. Other travels included trips across Canada and the United States, and to Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Hawaii and the countless Canadian highways to reunite with family.

After retirement, he was a regular at various coffee rows where he liked to "stir the pot" and impart his wisdom. In recent years, he was most proud of leading two statue projects honoring the accomplishments of Tommy Douglas and sacrifices of Pioneer Women.

Ross was predeceased by his first wife and life partner Frances and is survived by his current wife and companion Wilma. He leaves his children - Daughters - Elaine Mitchell, Marsha (Rand) Morsky, their children, Greg, Drew and Ellen; Sons - Les (Dagne) McMurtry, their children Kendra and Teagan, Ken (Sheila) McMurtry, their children, Russell and Maggie, and Bill McMurtry; Brothers-in-law Mac (Gerry) Houston, Norm (Pat) Henick, and Sister-in-law Joyce McMurtry. He was predeceased by his Brothers - John, Cliff (Betty) and Doug (Gwen, Grace); Sisters Marion (Bob) and Edyth and Sister-in-law Ruby (Jack) Faithfull.

"Our death is not an end if we can live on in our children and the younger generation. For they are us, our bodies are only wilted leaves on the tree of life." Albert Einstein

JACQUELINE "JACKIE" ADELLE STAPLES

February 17, 2019



Jackie passed away with loved ones by her side on February 17, 2019 at the age of 64. She was predeceased by her parents Jack and Adelle Staples; sister Linda Petersmeyer; brother Jim Guthrie, husband Bill Prescott and dear friend Sharon Davis. Jackie is survived by her brother Don Staples and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jackie worked at the Saskatchewan Conference Office for several years.

Rachel Balfour

February 5, 2019

It is with great sorrow that we share that Rachel Ella Martin Balfour, beloved daughter of Heather and Jim Balfour, treasured sister of Taylor, granddaughter of Walter and Jean Martin and Ella Balfour, passed away in Edmonton on February 5, 2019. We hold in our hearts and prayers, Jim Balfour and his family Heather and Taylor in the sudden death of their daughter Rachel.

CATHERINE “KAY” JEAN CAMPBELL

July 8, 1939 - February 5, 2019



With sadness the family of Kay Campbell announces her passing on February 5, 2019 at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan at the age of 88 years. Kay was born in Penzance, Saskatchewan on July 8, 1930 to William and Martha Donaldson.

Kay was predeceased by her parents William and Martha; sisters-in-law Gwen (Lionel) Brierly and Betty Olynik; brothers-in-law John (Pearl) Campbell and Ken Campbell. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband Donald of 64 years; daughter Sandy (Mike) Roberts; sons Don (Lorraine), Bruce and Alan Campbell; grandchildren Crystal (Drew), Traci (Brent), Trevor (Stacey), Kyle, Christopher and Alannah (Roland); great-grandchildren Marcus,

Isla and Jorja; brother David (Jill) Donaldson; sister-in-law Grace Campbell; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Kay was a busy wife and mother who enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening and canning; always making things special for her family and others. She supported the church and community in many ways, in all the towns they resided in over the years. Kay dedicated seventeen years to the United Church Chaplaincy through the hospitals in Regina. She was also a sports fan: football, hockey, curling, etc.!

Kay's kindness and caring created many lasting friendships. Touching numerous lives and hearts she leaves behind beautiful memories.

DOUGLAS WARD HALLMAN

July 28, 1948 – February 23, 2019



Not too many men can say that they entered life with one name and left it with another. On July 28, 1948, a seventh child was born into the Hazlett family in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, and they named him Walter Joseph Hazlett. Young Wally was fostered and spent the first nine years of his life in Crousetown, NS. He was then adopted into the family of Ward and Marjorie Hallman, where he chose the Christian name, Douglas, and joined siblings Brian, Cheryl and Shelley, living first in Kingston, NS., later in New Glasgow, and finally in Pictou, NS.

Young Douglas developed a passion for piano. He studied with Vesta Mosher and showed his musical excellence in music festivals. He also attended the first Baptist Church in Kingston, and later New Glasgow. Family times were spent with his grandparents in Waterville, NS, as well as on family camping trips. He visited cousins in Ontario frequently, and several summers were spent at Berwick United Church camp.

Music took Douglas to Acadia University in Nova Scotia, and then McGill, and he stayed to study theology at the Montreal Theological College. He and his wife, Dianne were able to spend a post-graduate year of study at the Faculte de Theologie in Montpellier, France. He returned to Quebec, where he was ordained in 1978. He is a graduate of McGill University,

Brock University and the Toronto School of Theology and has done additional post-graduate work at the University of Waterloo.

As a student minister, Douglas travelled west to Vegreville, Alberta, followed by a five-point charge in Kahnawake, LaSalle, Candiac, Ville St. Pierre and Delson, Quebec. From there, he went on to serve several parishes in Ontario: London, where son, Steven, was born, Oakville, Etobicoke, Dunnville, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Hamilton.

In 2009 he moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, to be closer to his son. Finally, in 2016, he arrived at St. Paul's in Tisdale, his last charge. He was honoured at Saskatchewan Conference in 2018 with serving 40 years in ministry.

Douglas's love of music never diminished and he performed piano concerts for many years. He wrote detailed on-line lectionary commentaries, composed a finely researched book on Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*, wrote for the *Moose Jaw Times Herald* and the *Tisdale Recorder*, lectured, and developed a huge library. Doug enjoyed many summers playing golf with his son in southern Ontario. During those summers, Doug shared his appreciation of classical music, philosophy and his sense of humour with Steven.

Doug's parents, Ward and Marjorie Hallman, as well as his foster sister, Jean, pre-deceased him. He leaves siblings Brian, Cheryl and Shelley, their partners and children; first wife, Dianne; son, Steven (Courtney), and wife, Deanna, as well as dear friends across the country to mourn his passing.

FREDERICK RUSSELL SELLER

1936 – 2019



Frederick Russell Seller, at Beach Grove Home, surrounded by family and friends on March 20, 2019. Born in Charlottetown, Frederick's childhood was filled with the joy of spending summers with his family in Keppoch. He began his lifelong love of swimming and the ocean during these early years. As a young man Frederick loved music and drama. He played piano, and his dramatic flair was expressed through performances in a variety of musical productions throughout his life. Gilbert and Sullivan were favourites. Frederick studied theology at Pine Hill Divinity School in Halifax and was ordained by The United Church of Canada in 1964. Never one to follow the status quo, after ordination he tended to his sense of adventure and traveled to Europe and Morocco before beginning ministry. Frederick then headed west to Saskatchewan where he met his wife Carol. After studying at Selly Oak College in Birmingham and traveling in Europe, they returned to the east coast where their children Stefan and Krista were born. The family settled in Saskatoon, where Frederick served as a congregational minister and later as a chaplain and social worker within Long-Term care. Frederick was a natural leader and team player. Colleagues loved his deep compassion, wisdom and sense of humour that he brought to the most challenging of situations. Throughout his life Frederick continued to nourish his passion for music. He sang in the Saskatoon Men's Choir, performed musical theatre with the Saskatoon Opera, and acted in numerous church dinner theatre productions. Frederick deeply valued his connections with family and friends in PEI. He maintained his strong Island roots through annual summer visits with his family to their cottage in Hartsville, where he and Carol later retired. They loved exploring the world together and enjoyed trips to Europe, New Zealand and Hawaii with their children. Frederick

and Carol established a strong community through their involvement at West River United Church and singing in choirs. Throughout his journey with dementia, the essence of Frederick's loving spirit remained strong. He was always quick to say "I love you" and remind us: "I will always be with you". Beloved husband of Carol Stevenson Seller, father of Stefan (Jane Lee), and Krista (Chris MacDonald); brother of David MacLeod Seller, uncle of Anne (Jochen Orth), Jennifer (Dave Steele), Jonathan (Julie MacDermott). Remembered by cousins, their families, and a wide circle of friends.

NOEL VICTOR STARBLANKET

September 26, 1946 – April 15, 2019



Noel Victor Starblanket, Kisikaw Piyesiwewin (Where the Thunderbirds Live), Pahpahtaywak Kihew (Spotted Eagle), began his journey peacefully at 72 years of age with his wife and family by his side in the early hours of April 15, 2019 after a joyful night surrounded by relatives and friends. Born September 26, 1946 at the Fort Qu'Appelle Indian hospital, he was predeceased by his paternal grandparents Allan and Marie Agnes Starr, maternal grandparents George and Victoria Keewatin, parents Victor and Mary Starr; brothers Willard, Gerry, Irvin, Fred, (in infancy) Frances and Clayton; sisters (in infancy) Eleanor and Darlene; adopted brothers Leonard Ratt and Henry Gardipy and a son in infancy Eagle Starblanket. Reverend Life Speaker, loving husband, cherished father, beloved mosom, uncle, capan, brother, cousin, mentor and friend, Noel will be missed but remembered fondly by many for his example, leadership and generosity. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Reona Brass (Maariu, Gabriel, Cypress, Aiden and Helana); sisters Edith, Lorraine (Maurice) and Ethel; daughters Starla, Stephanie (Jason), Vanea (Curtis), Brandi, Claudine; son Vaughan (Brittnee); (adopted children) Starlene, Cheryl, Wendal (Sonya), Kelsey (Margaret), Tammy Cyr, Kim Jonathan, Derek Starblanket, and Sheldon Poitras (Sherrie); (adopted) brothers A.J. Felix (Patsy), and Gary Alexson; and numerous nieces, nephews and other adopted family in the spirit of wahkotowin from around the world. Noel is survived notably by his most beloved and cherished grandchildren Sage, Colby, Cory, Cheyna, Jordan (Alyssa), Nathan (Whitnee), Madisyn, Ryder, Colin, Andrew, Autumn, Oki, Kimi, Pe, and Kelsey Jr.

BERNADEEN "BUNNY" FRANCES WIEBE

(1942 – 2019)



Bernadeen "Bunny" Frances Wiebe, late of Weyburn, SK, passed away on May 15, 2019, at the age of 77 years.

Bunny was predeceased by her parents, Peter and Frances Mayer; her step-mother, Kay Gillis; sister Pamela Lambillotte; and her grandchildren of the heart Richard and Clemens Gentzsch.

Bunny is survived by her husband Vic; daughter Christine (Jeff) Schick and grandsons, Lindsey and Curtis; her daughter Andrea (Adam) Batchelor and granddaughter Tristan; her son Kelly Wiebe; her Kiwi daughter of the heart Lila (Ray) Willis and children: Terri (Godchild), Braden and Rochelle, her Swiss daughter of the heart, Yasmine

(Michael) Gentzsch; her brother Terry Mayer (Antoinette Gagner) and his children Kimberly and Christopher; nieces, Terri Persing and Deanna Lambillotte.

Bunny was born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan, graduated from Central Collegiate, and took her training as a nurse at the University of Saskatchewan where she met Vic whom she married in 1964. They established their first home in Prince Albert, and resided there for 14 years during which time all of their children were born. She enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom, but as the children were approaching school age, she went to work as a teaching assistant which allowed her to keep the same work days and hours as the children. This became her work calling through to retirement in 2001 even as Vic's work took them to living in Regina, Thompson and Weyburn. Her enjoyment of working with children and youth led her to volunteer as a Sunday School teacher and a leader in other children's activities such as Brownies and Beavers.

She enjoyed singing in both church and community choirs, attending musical concerts and festivals and many years of extensive traveling camping-style. In her later years she was restricted in her mobility due to health issues, but continued to enjoy traveling and spending times with family and friends.

Closed and Disbanded Congregations/Pastoral Charges

Disbanded: Springside congregation of the Theodore, Springside Pastoral Charge.

Disbanded: Birch Hills Pastoral Charge