

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 38

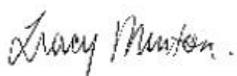
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! Winter has definitely arrived and with it, thoughts of Advent and Christmas. Where did fall go?! Here is an update on the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council.

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – the work of this Committee is an important means of support and resources for the ongoing functioning of your community of faith. We will be assessing the practice of reviewing annual reports and follow-up from self-assessments in anticipation of annual meetings in 2023. If you have an interest in this work, please talk to me about it!
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – It is a gift to listen to the experience of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders in our Regional Council. As the Committee concludes this round of re-licensing interviews, we express gratitude for the assistance of Jordan Cantwell, Sheila Lavender, Jim Tenford and Brian Walton for their participation in the interview process. Our next project is follow-up from General Council.
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – The Committee hosted 4 retreats for active ministry personnel around the province. Gratitude to Heritage in Regina, First in Melville, Grosvenor Park in Saskatoon, and St. Paul's in Kindersley for the hospitality and warmth. The opportunity to gather in person was a blessing for everyone and we look forward to other ways to offer support to all of our ministry personnel.
4. **A note for M&P Committees** – Please ensure that the most accurate data for salary is being used to calculate both visiting ministry personnel amount (\$232) and travel (\$0.55/ km) as you budget for 2023. This is in addition to the annual cost of living adjustment of 3.4% increase. The full minimum salary document is [found at this link](#).

A further reminder that the Pastoral Relations Commission generally meets on the first Thursday of each month; therefore, we require any paperwork to be submitted to Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca) the Friday before.

As we anticipate the beginning of Advent in 10 days, I invite you to take a moment to prepare for the journey to the light. As communities of faith continue to find ways to worship and gather in the midst of concerns related to the health of our friends and family, we are grateful for the witness of ministry personnel and lay leaders who support and nurture our spiritual practices in this season. May your Advent journey include moments of prayerful contemplation and faith-filled anticipation of the one we call the Christ.

Blessings and peace,



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