

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 40

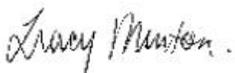
Greetings from the Pastoral Relations desk! As Rev. Hoeun Lee taught me to say about Lunar New Year, may you receive abundant blessings in the new year. Here is an update on the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council.

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – One of the ways that we engage in the work of accountability in the Regional Council is the review and assessment of information from communities of faith and pastoral charge supervisors. We are looking for people willing to help with the task of reading annual reports. There are only 2 members on the Committee currently, which means they would need to read over 75 annual reports each! If you had some time between now and the end of April for the delightful task of learning about ministry around the Regional Council as a reader, please let me know – support is offered for the task!
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – As mentioned in the Rambler, the committee is hosting an online Sacraments Elder training session this spring. We are also revising the policy for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders in light of the feedback from both leaders in our Regional Council and the recommendations from the General Council meeting last summer. Stay tuned for more information about support for these important folks in our communities of faith!
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – The opportunity to gather in person last fall was a blessing for everyone and we look forward to other ways to offer support to all of our ministry personnel. We are exploring hybrid models of connection as well as encouraging folks to gather with one another locally.
4. **A note for M&P Committees** – Please ensure that the salary amount being included in the annual budget for ministry personnel for your community of faith is accurate. The salary amount as of January 1, 2023 should be the same amount paid for the whole calendar year, regardless of whether the cost of living group for your community of faith has changed. If you have questions, please contact me.

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 begin the new year, let us find moments of beauty and wonder amidst the cold of winter. As you prepare for annual meetings, an opportunity to recognize the ministry of your community of faith in 2022, take some time to celebrate moments of deep faith, compassion, and generosity, and use the challenges as opportunities for growth. Collectively, the ministry of Living Skies Regional Council is varied, courageous and spirit-filled. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Blessings and peace,



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