



**Docket for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Gathering  
of Living Skies Regional Council  
June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001  
ZOOM**

**Living Skies Regional Council**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Gathering**

**Draft Agenda**

**Day 1, Friday June 4: 7:00-9:00PM**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
6:30PM	Open room
7:00PM	Opening and Introductions,
7:15	Opening worship
8:00	Enabling motions
8:05	Proposal presentations: Justice Committee Spiritual Care
8:15	Discussion / questions for clarification ( breakout rooms )
8:40	Plenary Discussions
9:00	Benediction

**Saturday June 5, part 1: 9:30AM-11:30AM**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
9:00AM	Open room
9:30	Worship
9:50	Reports
10:10	Reports
10:55	Lydia Gruchy Anniversary
11:15	Nominations / Voting for Commissioners
11:25	Announcements / Grace

**Saturday June 5, part 2: 1:30-4:00**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
1:30PM	Voting on proposals
2:15	Anti-Racism Learning time
3:10	Announcements
3:15	Closing worship
4:00	Closing

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL  
June 4 and June 5, 2021 on ZOOM**

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>CATEGORY</u></b>
	Agenda
A	General Information
B	Report of the Regional Council
C	Reports of Commissions and Committees
D	Reports of Networks and Task Groups
E	Friends and Partners of Living Skies Regional Council
F	Nominations
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Minutes from the 2020 Regional Gathering	
Pastoral Relations Commission Summary Report to May 14, 2021	

## **REPORT OF THE CONVENOR OF THE REGIONAL GATHERING**

Welcome to the 2021 Regional Gathering of Living Skies Regional Council! On behalf of the Planning Team, I thank you for the commitment of your time and energy to attend and participate in this online gathering.

In the fall of 2020, the Regional Gathering Planning Committee recommended to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive that, because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic and its associated uncertainties, no in-person Regional Gathering take place in 2021. The recommendation was approved, which meant that the Planning Committee would be tasked with planning for a second online Regional Gathering, sometime in 2021.

The dates of the Living Skies Regional Gathering were set as June 4 and 5, 2021. These dates were selected to honor the commitments of our staff who serve multiple Regions, and to allow some leeway ahead of the General Council's June deadline for naming Commissioners to General Council 44 (2022).

Once again, our Regional Gathering will take place using the ZOOM platform. The Planning Team appreciates that meeting by ZOOM is not even remotely close to meeting in person, however, it does allow us the opportunity to meet. We are ever-grateful for our Living Skies staff and volunteers who work behind the scenes to make this meeting experience as accessible and meaningful as possible.

In an effort to respect the present concerns related to ZOOM fatigue, the Planning Team has chosen to focus the Regional Gathering on emergent and urgent business. The three blocks of meeting time will include worship, created and led by a variety of people from across our Living Skies Region. The business pieces, such as proposals, will be presented and engaged following the model used at General Council, where there will be three intentional times, one each for listening, discussing and deciding. Our online time together will also include recognition of significant passages of individuals and Communities of Faith, connected to our Region.

While the Planning Team decided that it was unnecessary for our 2021 Regional Gathering to have an express theme, there is work underway to begin the conversations about becoming an anti-racist church. In addition, the Planning Team is working on an online Town Hall-style series intended to support the Community Ministries of Living Skies Regional Council.

As for the future of our Regional Gathering, it is impossible to answer any questions about it, with any sense of confidence. Such is the uncertain nature of living in the time of a global pandemic. For now, on behalf of the Planning Team, I thank you for being here and taking part in the life and ministry of Living Skies Regional Council.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Rob Reed, Diaconal Minister,  
Convenor of the Regional Gathering

**People with whom we are Celebrating  
at the 2021 Annual Event of Saskatchewan Conference**

**ORDINAND**

Jonathan Worrall

**ADMITTAND**

Emily Carr

**Those Retiring**

Brian Maitland Ron McConnell Mathias Ross	Yvonne Terry Mark Wartman
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**Those Celebrating Anniversaries**

<b><u>65 YEARS</u></b>	Howard Hanson	<b><u>35 YEARS</u></b>	Elaine MacLaughlin Russell Mitchell-Walker Matthias Ross
<b><u>55 YEARS</u></b>	Bill Dearborn Wayne Knouse Bill Wall	<b><u>30 YEARS</u></b>	Marjorie Keyser Roland Legge
<b><u>50 YEARS</u></b>	Robert Brown	<b><u>45 YEARS</u></b>	Jo Anne Knobbe Rick McCorrister
<b><u>40 YEARS</u></b>	Greg Grace Tony Thompson	<b><u>25 YEARS</u></b>	Peter Calhoun Doug Ponto
	Holly Schick Mike Williams		Darilyn Grigg Linda Stumpf

**Those for whom we mourn:**

Ronald Evans Eric Pullam Allan Shaw Alma Packrandt	Marylynn Dumont Betty Powell Earl Grigg Joan Farquharson	Ivan Fulford Jack Millar Chuck Alton
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**CONVENOR OF THE REGIONAL GATHERING  
ROB REED, DIACONAL MINISTER**

I live in Carnduff, Saskatchewan, with my spouse, Susan, who ministers there, with the people of St. Andrew's United Church. I have two grown children who live in Camrose, Alberta, which is my hometown. Besides the church, my passions include music, reading and writing, gardening, and walking.

I returned to the church as an adult, with a young family. Early in that return, I was enchanted by the music of handbells and a sermon that seemed to speak directly to my life (I can't remember if it was Luke 15:11-32, or not). My involvement in my home congregation and Coronation Presbytery was fast and frenetic: I joined choirs, served on committees, led Youth Groups, and chaired the local church Board.

When significant changes occurred in my professional and personal life, my relationship with the church also changed. Feeling a call to ministry, I became a Staff Associate with Sherwood Park United Church. During this five-year appointment, I began discernment, which led me to the Centre for Christian Studies. I was commissioned to diaconal ministry in 2010, through Alberta and Northwest Conference. As part of that process, I was transferred to Saskatchewan Conference, and settled to the Gainsborough-Carievale Pastoral Charge, where I had served as a student, since 2007, and continue to serve, today.

**CHAIR OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL  
TRICIA GERHARD**

Tricia is in ministry with the people of Sunset United Church in Regina. A Vancouverite by birth but a Prairie girl by choice, Tricia has been in Saskatchewan for 16 years working in various pastoral charges both rural and urban. She has had various roles in the Region (Conference) and Presbytery (when it existed), but the role of Chair of Executive has been the most challenging and intriguing so far. She is married to David, and mother to Sophia and Jacob. When there are moments of free time in life, Tricia enjoys reading, crafting, and baking.

**GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE  
ALAN HALL**

Alan serves as the Executive Officer for Ministry and Employment for the United Church. In this role he is the registrar of and senior staff resource to the Board of Vocation, has oversight of human resources and compensation for the denomination, and is responsible for the governance and administration of the pension and group health plans of the church. A graduate of Mount Allison University and Emmanuel College, and ordained by the Maritime Conference, Alan has served The United Church of Canada in Saskatchewan (Wynyard and Eflros), East Africa, Manitoba, and Ontario. He lives in, and since covid works from, the Beach neighbourhood of Toronto.

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

### Friday evening worship – planned / edited by Hoeun Lee

**Hoeun Lee** serves St. Paul's United Church in Tisdale, Treaty 6 territory. His intercultural journey started in the summer of 2017, which has come along with the community of St. Andrew's College, Coteau Hills Pastoral Charge and St. Paul's United Church. As a Ph. D. candidate in Theology of Culture, he is broadly interested in cultural phenomena and their theological implications. His experiences as a racialized migrant has led him to his commitment for an anti-racist church. He enjoys video making and playing with his 10 month-old-baby.

### Leadership:

**Jordan Cantwell** is in team ministry at St. Martin's United Church on Treaty 6 territory in Saskatoon. She has long been a passionate advocate for social justice. More recently, she has been learning the need to bring humility, deep listening, and an open mind and heart into the spaces where conflict and passions run high. She's also a total bible-geek.

**Sarah Tut** is a South Sudanese Governor Canadian. She served as a Co-Chair of the Council of the Grosvenor Park United Church in Saskatoon. She is a social activist and co-organizer of Black History Month Saskatoon SK.

**Mitchell Anderson** serves as lead minister for St. Paul's United in Saskatoon. He also serves on the Executive of the General Council for the United Church and the pension board for the United Church pension plan. Mitchell is dēnesulīné and a member of the English River First Nation in Treaty 10.

**SunDo Hyun** was born and raised in South Korea and has been in congregational ministry in The United Church of Canada since 2014. Currently serving at Grace United Church in Meadow Lake, he is passionate about working toward Truth & Reconciliation in Canada, welcoming people of different cultural backgrounds & LGBTQTT2S+ people, helping young generation find home in Christian faith and community, and making wider community a better place for everyone.

**Nobuko Iwai** (she/her) is a 1.5 generation (born in Japan & raised in Canada) Japanese Canadian woman. During the pandemic, she has learned to make homemade bread and maki-sushi (rolled sushi). She has lived in Japan, Alberta, Quebec, and Ontario before moving to Saskatchewan. Her Masters of Sacred Theology thesis was titled: *With Almond Shaped Eyes of Faith: Towards an understanding of Church and Community for Third and Fourth Generation Japanese Canadian Women*. She has been amongst other things, a life partner to Rev. Douglas Ponto, an Interim Minister, a Presbytery Chairperson, Saskatchewan Conference President, and a caregiver to her parents. Since 2015 she has ministered with the good people at Grosvenor Park United Church, in Treaty 6, in the city of Saskatoon.

**Cindy Jordison** has been a member of St. Paul's United Church in Tisdale since moving to Tisdale in 1996. She has been church secretary, Sunday School teacher and has been on numerous committees. Currently she is Board Chair, and a member of our Media Team and our Worship Committee. She is also a Licensed Lay Worship Leader. In retirement, besides church involvement, she enjoys pastimes such as reading and gardening and is hoping to get more time with family and friends as COVID restrictions loosen!

**Deanna Gruending-Hallman** is a retired teacher-librarian who has taught in Melfort, Tisdale, Sandy Bay and Kitsakik School outside La Ronge. She grew up and was schooled on Saskatoon's west and east sides, the University of Saskatchewan and University of Calgary. She travelled extensively (after each degree), but chose to raise

her children in rural Saskatchewan, though she still loves the diversity and arts communities of Saskatoon. She is presently reading as many of her late husband's papers and acquired books as is humanly possible as well as participating in the life and work of St. Paul's, Tisdale.

**Judy Shire** is a member of St. Paul's United Church in Tisdale and is on the Christian Education Committee. She is a retired teacher-librarian who enjoys reading and learning. She has been participating in the Anti-Racist study group and it is through the readings and discussions she hopes to gain a better understanding on issues related to racism.

#### **Saturday morning worship - Lorna King and Emily Carr**

**Lorna King:** After years of ministry in communities of faith, I retired briefly before accepting the appointment as half-time chaplain for the South Sask Hospital Chaplaincy, providing care for patients in Sask Health Authority facilities in Regina. This ministry, in the best of times, fulfills my calling to provide pastoral and spiritual care. In the challenging times of a pandemic, the ministry calls me to patience and improvisation. My gifts and skills do not include mind-reading, so if you or a family member or friend or someone from your church community is in hospital, please let me know - cell: (306) 551-7755

**Emily Carr:** I am an Anglican priest currently in the process of transferring to The United Church of Canada. Currently, I am working in a combination of part-time ministries, as the chaplain with the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, with Knox United Church in Langham, and as a chaplain at Kilburn Hall Youth Centre. I absolutely love my current work walking with patients in the hospitals in Saskatoon, meeting outreach teams and prayer shawl groups from across the province, and ministering with and among the faithful and fun people of Knox Langham. I can be reached at 306-220-9964

#### **Saturday afternoon worship - Jen Dresser and Shelly Manley-Tannis**

**Jen Dresser** (she/her): I am a Diaconal minister currently serving with the folks at St. Andrew's in Yorkton. I live with my partner Roland and our elderly beagle Abby. This summer, I am looking forward to lounging in the backyard with a good book. For adventure, I am planning virtual holidays to exotic places: trying local recipes, online tours and streaming music. Last summer I travelled to Morocco without leaving the comfort of home. I am looking forward to crafting worship for us to share.

**Shelly Manley-Tannis:** I am celebrating my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination this spring. I trained at Queen's Theological College in Kingston, but have lived West of the Ontario border ever since. I live in Saskatoon (Treaty 6 Territory) with my partner Richard and our two dogs, and work in ministry with the folks at Mayfair United Church. I am also a spiritual director (Jubilee Associate), a student in the Winnipeg Holistic Expressive Arts program and someone who loves nature, creative pursuits, music and all things Celtic.

#### **Prepared Sunday service for May 6, 2021**

Westminster United Church in Humboldt in partnership with St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Humboldt and Quill Plains United Church Pastoral Charge in Watson and Quill Lake have created a worship service in a spirit of collaboration. A variety of lay and ministry people from these 3 partnership groups will provide a service of prayer and scripture readings, music and reflections inspired by the Prairie Center for Ecumenism "Recipe for Unity". By joining hands and hearts with our friends and neighbours across barriers and boundaries we share our joy in this gathering of God's faithful people as we continue to learn what it means to worship and work together in new ways.



## **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 2021 Manual Appendix pg. 190-194  
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.

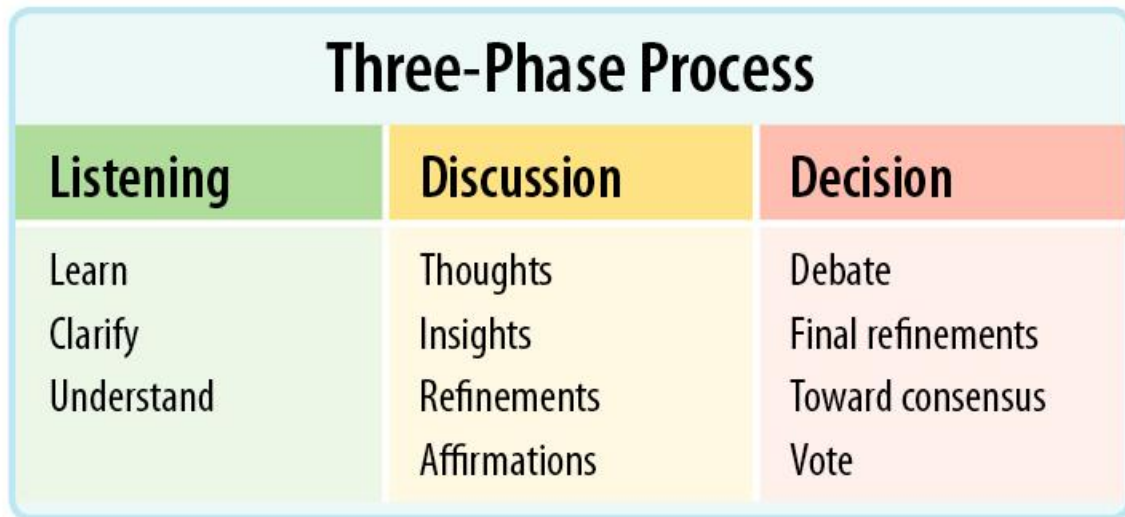
Point of Information Any person can go to a microphone (raise their hand), interrupt debate and ask for information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is speaking?".

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

- **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.



- **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

### 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 Docket deadline will be included in the Docket. Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Docket 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.

Due to limitations of electronic online meetings any proposals received during the meeting or prior to the listen session prior to the meeting will be automatically referred to the Regional Council Executive.

2. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
  - i. The Convenor 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. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
  - vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the stated deadline. 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. (The Manual 2021, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d))*

## 2021 REGIONAL GATHERING OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL ENABLING MOTIONS

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Annual Regional Council 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. (The Manual 2021, C.1.1 & C.1.2)
  - iv. members-at-large, lay members within the Regional Council who have been appointed members as necessary for the work of the Regional Council by the Regional Council Executive and who have not been elected by their community of faith.
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:** that the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.
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. (The Manual 2021; 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 Convenor.
6. **Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this Regional Gathering be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee.
7. **Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2021 (pages 190-194); and that, for any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.
8. **Proposals to the General Council:** that, if the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal where the General Council is the court of action, it will not be sent on to General Council unless a separate motion to send it on is made and passed.
9. **General Council Commissioners:** that the Living Skies Regional Council Executive will have the authority to elect additional commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council (2022), if necessary, in order to fulfill the slate of sixteen (16) Regional Council-elected Commissioners, as set by the General Council.
10. **Unfinished Business:** that unfinished business be referred to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive.
11. **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Gathering of the Living Skies Regional Council be approved as distributed in the online docket.
12. **Reports:** that the verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.

## **MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE – 2020 - 2021**

Chairperson	Tricia Gerhard	Treasurer	Donna Brown
Member	Ron Brandow	Member	Tim Ellis
Member	Cam Fraser	Member	Linda Gunningham
Member	Brian Maitland	Member	Yujene Oh
Member	Dave Whalley		
Convenor of the Regional Gathering	Rob Reed		
Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy		
Program Assistant	Jamie McKay		

## **LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT**

This past year has been a mix of challenge and success with the Executive continuing to navigate leadership and decision making during the on-going Coronavirus pandemic. To be honest, we had been hopeful that life would return to a closer semblance of normal by the time we would need to gather for our Regional Council Gathering, but as we well know, that is not the case. However, pandemic or not, the work and ministry of the Regional Council, and in particular the Executive, has continued.

The Executive continues to meet virtually once a month to do the work of the Region. Over the past year, we have continued to uphold the dedication of the Region to its Community Ministries through ongoing work to find ways to not only financially support their work through grants but also to work together toward continued and independent sustainability so that the Community Ministries can continue offering their needed and important service and ministry well into the future. This process is on-going, with a task group of the Executive looking at how to offer this support in partnership with the ministries.

During the past year, the Executive has worked along side several committees and commissions to ensure that the pastoral health of our communities of faith and their leaders - both clergy and lay – continues to be supported; that property, grants and nominations decisions are recognized and honoured; and that the on-going work of task groups and planning teams are supported.

The past year has brought many issues for the Executive to discuss and find ways to either offer response or education. Some of the issues that came to the Executive in 2020 include:

- The United Church Remit regarding the movement to gender neutral language in the Basis of Union
- Communication needs of the Region in particular the establishment and launch of the Living Skies Website
- Financial status of the Region
- The homophobic vandalism of churches in Saskatoon
- The Regional Assessment of Communities of Faith
- Pandemic response and support
- Universal Living Wage
- Racism and anti-racism within the church and the movement to becoming an intercultural, anti-racist church
- Increased health insurance premiums faced by retirees



This is just a small glimpse of the work of Executive. As you can imagine the Pandemic and our response to it has taken up a lot of time and has slowed down a lot of the work done in the Region.

There are many things that we haven't been able to get to. We are sharply aware of the need for a Regional mission and vision statement. We are aware that we need to discern practical and supportable ways to function as a Region given the reality of decreasing National Church funding. We know that there will be much on the horizon for us to wrestle with as we live into the reality of a post pandemic church.

There are days, I admit, where it feels like we are just hanging on. That the Executive is too busy trying to "keep the lights" on to give time to dreaming and visioning. When these moments threaten to pull me under, I find that taking a moment to give thanks helps to refocus my thinking. When my thinking is refocused, I am better able to see the work of the Executive and the Region in light of the justice seeking, life affirming decisions made.

So I want to end my report with gratitude. I am deeply grateful for the continued dedication, wisdom and passion of the Executive members. Yujene, Dave, Brian, Tim, Linda, Cam, Ron, and Donna have worked hard and with deep integrity over the past year. This Executive, this group of leaders, continue to gather and to work together to make sure that our Regional Council lives out its truth and its ministry. Did you know that we've never met in person? We only know each other as a virtual gathering! I am deeply thankful for the gentle, calm presence that Rob Reed brings to our meetings. In his role as Annual Gathering Convenor Rob gracefully navigated the challenge of a virtual gathering. Most importantly, I am grateful for his support and care throughout this last year. Together Rob and I work to represent the Region pastorally and administratively.

This Executive works with the finest Regional Staff in the country: Jamie, Bev, Kent, Heather, Tracy, and Julie. This Region and the Executive are continually blessed by the gifts these folks bring to the work they do. There are not enough words to truly express the gratitude that the Executive and I have for our staff. All of them have shifted and adjusted to the changing dynamics of the church during this pandemic year with grace and integrity. The creativity, compassion, and dedication each of them has given to their work and this region is incredible. This past year has not been easy for any of them, and the workload is immense. "Thank you" does not cover the gratitude we hold for each of you.

Our Executive Minister, Shannon McCarthy, has the joy of not only working with Living Skies Region. Shannon has the unenviable task of dividing her time across three regions. Even though travel has not been possible this year, Shannon has maintained her connections with each region in endless zoom calls, phone calls, webinars, and text messages. In the past year, Shannon has continued to offer us strong leadership and incredible presence. Her knowledge, support and patience (and her sense of humour) are so appreciated, not only by the Executive but also by me.

Living Skies Regional Council and the Executive continue to show me what it means to be resilient. The church is important to the people of Living Skies Region. It is my honour to be the Chair of Executive and in my role, to represent this Region in the province and the country. I celebrate you, your faith, and your prairie resilience. May you always know that the Executive and it's Chair are here to support you, and to walk beside you as we do this thing called faith together.

Respectfully submitted with gratitude and love,  
Rev. Tricia Gerhard,

## EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

Here we are at another Annual Meeting, and once again it is online, it goes without saying that this has been a year like no other in our world or for the church. It is hard to believe that we have been through two 'pandemic' Easter seasons now and we are doing the work and worship of the church in ways that we never have before, we are learning and refining, discovering and connecting in new ways. As we reflect back on this time I believe that we will see that this pandemic has shifted some of our work patterns permanently.

Since our last gathering I have been asked to preach and send greetings in worship services I might not have been able to if the services were held in person and that has been a gift. I have been able to enjoy the worship leadership of so many more of you than I was able to do previously and that has been a pleasure.

Technology has continued to make the work of our Regional Council Executive, commissions and committees possible through the various lockdowns and distancing restrictions. However, as many of you can attest zoom fatigue is real and we need to take deliberate time away from our screens for our own physical and mental health. The Executive has worked hard to make good decisions and to build relationships, to discern and discuss. I want to thank them for their work, it hasn't always been easy but they have done it with grace and patience. I particularly want to thank Tricia Gerhard, Chair of the Executive, for her dedication to this work, and for the strong voice she shared representing our Regional Council at the Provincial level, navigating the health of our congregations with government and other religious leaders. Thanks as well go to Rob Reed, Convenor for his leadership. We wish Rob well as he finishes his term as Convenor at this Annual Meeting, I have appreciated his sense of humour and patience as we navigated doing our Celebrations of Ministry in unprecedented times.

Your Regional Council staff have continued to work through the pandemic, to provide resources and advice, to offer council and support. I want to thank them for their continued dedication to their work, their persistence in difficult times, and their patience in navigating the shifting sands of the pandemic.

As we look towards fall 2021 and 2022 I hope that we can celebrate together all that we did to continue worshiping and working together as the United Church in Living Skies Regional Council, to take pride in new skills learned, difficult times shared, and the shared commitment to keeping our members and communities safe.

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

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

### **Regional Council Planning Committee:**

Convenor	Darrell Reine
Convenor of the Regional Gathering	Rob Reed*
Member	Hoeun Lee
Member	Bonnie Morton
Member	Barb MacNaughton
Staff - Admin	Bev Diebert

\*Note: The Convenor of the Regional Gathering is intended to be one year term. Because of the need to cancel the face-to-face Regional Gathering planned for 2020, Rob is now into his second year of serving in this position.

### **Property Commission**

Convenor	Annette Taylor
Member	Bev Kostichuk
Member	George Thurlow
Member	Gayle Wensley
Member	Daryl Woods
Member	VACANT
Staff – Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy

### **Grants Committee**

Convenor	Leslee Whalley
Member	Cindy Goodman
Member	Herb Conrad
Member	Barry Balls
Staff - Minister: Justice / Communication	Julie Graham
Staff – Financial Administrator	Heather Dootoff

### **Nominations Committee**

Convenor	Susan Reed
Member	Jeannette Warrian
Member	Yvonne Terry
Member	VACANT
Member	VACANT

### **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	Sheila Deforest
Member	Bill Pollock
Member	Deborah Smith
Member	VACANT
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

**Committee on Lay Leadership Support**

Member	Faye Ford
Member	Andrew Hecker
Member	Sheila Ivanochko
Member	Patti Sawchuk
Staff – Pastoral Relations Minister	Tracy Murton

**Committee on Ministry Personnel Support**

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

**Refugee Liaisons**

Liaison:	Jim Tenford
Liaison:	VACANT

**Affirming Process Task Group**

Member:	Cindy Bourgeois
Member:	VACANT
Member:	VACANT
Member:	VACANT
Member:	VACANT
Member:	VACANT

## **REGIONAL COUNCIL GATHERING PLANNING COMMITTEE**

As many of you are likely aware, the term of Convenor of the Regional Gathering was intended to be one-year. When our lives and the lives of our church and our communities and our world were subjected to the vagaries of a global pandemic last March, the decision was made to extend this term, because of the unprecedented circumstances. This is why I will be in the chair a second time, when the 2021 Regional Gathering of Living Skies Regional Council convenes online, on June 4, 2021.

Since the online Regional Gathering of October and November 2020 the tasks I have assumed, as Convenor, include attending meetings of the Regional Council Executive as a corresponding member, attending meetings and participating in the work of the Regional Gathering Planning Committee, and what I call ambassadorial duties, as these have arisen.

To the members of our Executive, I extend my deep gratitude. I have witnessed and appreciated the time and energy and faith that you have contributed to fulfilling your duties and responsibilities. I am grateful to spend that time and space with you...

To the members of the Planning Team, I also want to offer my deep thanks. The task of imagining an event that is so vastly different from what we are familiar with is filled with challenges. Your ingenuity and collegiality have served our Region very well...

As for the ambassadorial duties, there was one, which I was delighted to participate in: the writing of a letter of congratulations to Bonnie Morton and Peter Gilmer, on receiving Doctor of Divinity honoris causa degrees from St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, which I co-signed with Rev. Tricia Gerhard. Congratulations, Bonnie and Peter!

Since we last gathered as a Regional Council, I have witnessed some pretty amazing expressions of faithful service by folks who are entrusted with leading our Living Skies Region, and providing us with guidance and support. So, I want to acknowledge a few of these...

Tracy Murton... Thank you for hosting the Tuesday afternoon clergy gatherings. These have filled and nourished and restored weary souls. And thank you for all the behind-the-scenes ministry (I thought that I was an early riser!)...

The Committee on Ministry Support... Thank you for your care of our clergy – for the retreats and resources. Thank you for listening...

Shannon McCarthy... Thank you for your wisdom. Thank you for the joy you bring to your work (Although, some of that joy has come from Mari!)...

Jamie McKay, Bev Diebert, Heather Dootoff, Kent Mohn, Julie Graham... Thank you for EVERYTHING you do on our behalf. Your skills and abilities and commitment are AMAZING...

Tricia Gerhard... I wish that "Thank you," could be enough, but it doesn't feel like enough. The energy and time that you have given to representing us with the Faith Leaders Group working with the government on churches responses to living faithfully during this pandemic – there are no words that seem enough. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do, as the Chairperson of our Executive...

Good people of Living Skies Regional Council, we are blessed in so many different ways. Yes, we face challenges. But I hope we can appreciate all the ways in which we are nurturing God's realm in this place, at this time. As I close, I encourage you to remember to thank your ministers and your staff... Remember to thank the people who show up every Sunday for

worship, in person or online... Remember to thank the people who lead and participate in education events and service opportunities... Remember to thank God, that in these strange and unprecedented times, we are not alone.

Blessings,  
Rob Reed, Diaconal Minister.  
Convenor of the Regional Gathering.

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION**

The Pastoral Relations Commission meets regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month September to June via Zoom. Between regular meetings, the Commission uses a variety of platforms including phone meetings, email polls and special Zoom meetings to conduct emerging business. The deadline for submissions from Communities of Faith or ministry personnel is the Friday previous to the meeting, although in extenuating circumstances requests may be entertained at short notice. Following an initial appointment, the five members of the Commission were given renewals of two or three years in order to achieve some continuity in the event of changes in membership.

An important duty of the Commission is to receive Community of Faith Profiles which are submitted for its approval prior to posting on ChurchHub. Typically, these Profiles are discussed and often clarification is requested from the Community of Faith, especially with regard to financial viability and requirements of ministry personnel, before they are finally approved. If less than a full-time ministry position is required, a plan detailing work expectation is necessary.

The Commission appoints Supervisors to those Communities of Faith that are without settled ministry personnel; Liaisons to those Communities of Faith that are in the process of developing Profiles and Liaisons to assist Search Committees of Communities of Faith. The Pastoral Relations Commission also deals with a variety of requests including change of pastoral relations, retirement, approval of calls and appointments, etc.

During 2020-2021, the Commission developed several Policies: Temporary Marriage License Policy, Appointment Policy (specifying maximum length of appointments for various streams of ministry), Pastoral Charge Supervisor Guidelines, and Voluntary Associate Minister Policy (for retired ministry personnel living in the Region). All of these policies can be found on the Living Skies Region website. They are also reported in the "Pastoral Relations Ponderings" section of the "Regional Rambler."

To accomplish these tasks, the Commission relies heavily on the expertise of the Pastoral Relations Minister, Tracy Murton and the capable administrative skills of our go-to person, Bev Diebert. Without their guidance, our job would be much more difficult.

Respectfully submitted  
Marvin Mackie  
Chair Pastoral Relations Commission

## PROPERTY COMMISSION

### Background

The purpose of the Living Skies Regional Council Property Commission is to make decisions related to property matters on behalf of regional council. The commission makes these decisions within the scope of regional responsibilities as set out in C.2.6 of The Manual and property policies adopted by the regional council. The commission also make recommendations to the regional council (or its executive) for new regional policies related to property matters. In addition, in September 2019, the regional council executive gave the property commission the authority to approve the disbanding of congregations.

This report includes the work of the property commission from May 2020 to April 2021. During the year, the commission has met via video conferencing fourteen times. In May 2020 the commission was comprised of Annette Taylor (chair), Bev Kostichuk (secretary), Jim MacNaughton, George Thurlow (chair of cemetery sub-committee) and Daryl Woods. Within a couple of months we regretfully accepted the resignation of Jim MacNaughton. We welcomed Gayle Wensley to the group in October, 2020 and Jonathon Zacharias in April, 2021.

### Property Handbook and Policies

A revised *Handbook on Church Property* was approved by the Living Skies Regional Council Executive in May, 2020 and received slight modifications in July, 2020. The *Property Policies and Processes* document was also revised and the latest version was approved in October, 2020. In January 2021 a new Property Fund Policy was approved by the Property Commission and ratified by the LSRC Executive. These documents are all available on the *Policies & Guidelines* page of regional council website

<https://livingskiesrc.ca/governance-admin/policies/>

### Communities of Faith – Property/Disbanding Decisions

The property commission is keeping a working list of communities of faith that are considering property transactions (sale, purchase, rental, etc) and/or are requesting to be disbanded. As of April 30, 2021, the commission is in communication with thirty-two communities of faith. Eight communities of faith have already received approval to list or tender their properties. At least twelve congregations are in the process of disbanding.

Since May 2020 the property commission has approved the following decisions regarding properties belonging to communities of faith:

#### Approval of Rental Agreement:

- Wesley United Church in Regina – November 13, 2020 (partnership agreement with Uganda Canadian Association of Saskatchewan Inc.)

#### Approval of Crown Resource Land Lease

- Camp Tapawingo – April 15, 2021

#### Approval of Renovations

- Calvary United Church in Prince Albert (\$203,000) – February 12, 2021
- Grosvenor Park United Church in Saskatoon (\$93,000) – March 12, 2021

#### Approval of Acquisition by Foreclosure

- Third Avenue United Church in Saskatoon – February 4, 2021

Approved Sales - date sale approved / date transfer completed

- Stoughton Manse (\$150,000) - May 29, 2020 / June 29, 2020
- Earl Grey United Church (\$15,000) – June 20, 2020 / August 5, 2020
- Gravelbourg - St. Stephen's U.C. (\$20,000) – June 25, 2020 / July 14, 2020
- Semans Manse (\$67,500) – June 25, 2020 / July 30, 2020
- Abbey Manse (\$10,000) – June 25, 2020 / August 12, 2020
- Redvers – Knox U.C. (\$55,000) – August 22, 2020 / October 1, 2020
- Brithdir U.C. (empty lot for \$1 to neighbour) – Sept. 15, 2020 / Oct. 28, 2020
- Milestone United Church (\$45,000) – September 25, 2020 / October 9, 2020
- Milestone Manse (\$175,000) – October 16, 2020 / November 23, 2020
- Manor – Knox U.C. (\$2,000) – November 13, 2020 / January 19, 2021
- Prairie River – Robert Hall Mission (\$1 to museum) – Nov. 30, 2020 / April 27, 2021
- Nokomis United Church (\$43,000) – January 8, 2021/February 5, 2021
- Senlac United Church (\$1 to village) – April 15, 2021/TBD
- Spiritwood Manse (\$125,000) – April 15, 2021/TBD

Since May 1, 2020, nine congregations have officially disbanded:

- Lone Rock United Church – May 8, 2020
- Mossbank United Church – November 13, 2020
- St. Stephen's United Church in Gravelbourg – November 13, 2020
- Rouleau United Church – January 8, 2021
- Mortlach United Church – February 12, 2021
- Brithdir United Church – March 12, 2021
- Brock United Church – March 12, 2021
- Earl Grey United Church – April 15, 2021
- Third Avenue United Church – April 22, 2021 (by LSRC Executive)

**Abandoned Properties.**

The property commission is continuing our work to sell or transfer abandoned properties within the regional council. Some are being transferred to the village or rural municipality and others are being sold to neighbouring landowners. We currently have a list of about 40 properties.

Sales Approved – date sale approved / date transfer completed

- Tuberoose (empty village lot to RM of Lacadena) – June 5, 2020 / TBD
- Wartime (empty village lot to neighbour) – June 5, 2020 / April 22, 2021
- Lemsford (2 empty lots to RM of Clinworth) – July 10, 2020 / February 16, 2021
- Dewar Lake (2 empty lots for \$500) – September 3, 2020 / March 23, 2021
- Viceroy (2 lots with building to RM of Excel) – October 26, 2020 / TBD
- Coderre U.C. (1 lot with building for \$300 to neighbour) – Nov. 13, 2020/ February 1/2021
- Crestwynd (empty lot for \$1000 to neighbour) – Feb. 12, 2021 / April 28, 2021
- Dunblane (empty village lot for \$1 to RM of Coteau) – March 12, 2021 / TBD
- St. Boswell (two empty village lots for \$500 to adjacent landowner) – April 15, 2021/TBD

Request that United Church of Canada Transfer Property

- Ruddell (empty lot to Village of Ruddell) - June 5, 2020 / TBD

**Cemeteries**

We are working with a list of close to fifty abandoned cemeteries within the boundaries of this regional council. Where possible, we are attempting to transfer responsibility to the rural municipality. If the rural municipality is unwilling to take responsibility and no one is currently



caring for the property, then we endeavour to find someone to cut the lawn for a fee. There are many cemeteries that are currently being cared for by local individuals or organizations and we are working to set up protocols for oversight of these properties.

Since May 1, 2020, the following decisions have been made:

Approval for Transfer of Cemetery

- Rosewood Cemetery to Village of Dorintosh - May 3, 2020 / TBD
- New Ottawa Cemetery (lot previously belonging to Speers UC) to RM of Douglas – October 26, 2020 / TBD

Request that United Church of Canada Transfer Cemetery

- New Ottawa Cemetery (lot previously belonging to the Methodist Church) to RM of Douglas – October 26, 2020 / TBD

**Conclusion**

On behalf of the members of the property commission I want to acknowledge what a privilege it is to work with communities of faith during these difficult times of transition and closure. I also want to recognize the large workload that this small group of people has undertaken. A huge thank you to all the members of the property commission for your dedication and compassion as you work to support congregations through a process that is often emotionally, mentally and even physically challenging.

Respectfully Submitted by

Annette Taylor

Chair, Living Skies Regional Council Property Commission

**GRANTS COMMITTEE**

The Grants committee met three times by Zoom since the last Annual Meeting.

Members of the committee are Leslee Whalley, Chair, Herb Conrad, Barry Balls, Cindy Goodman, Secretary, and staff support Julie Graham, Heather Dootoff.

The Mission Support grant money for 2021 had just been allocated before the 2020 annual meeting and was not available for the docket. The Mission and Service grant allocation from General Council to the Region for 2021 was 15% less than the previous year. The Living Skies Executive was able to find funds from other areas due to savings from Covid restrictions to maintain the Mission Support grants at \$125,000.00, the same as in 2020. The grant amounts allocated for 2021 are listed at the end of this report. Applications for 2022 are now being accepted until the August 31 deadline. The application form information is posted on the Living Skies website.

The proposal passed at the last Annual Meeting cancelled the Regional Assessment for 2021 which was meant to support Mission Support groups. The Executive assessment task group has continued to meet and discuss how to allocate the assessment fund monies collected from 2020. The task group consists of Tim Ellis, Brian Maitland, Julie Graham, Heather Dootoff, and Leslee Whalley. A Zoom meeting was held April 22, 2021 between the task group and the Mission Support recipients, with Carla Leon making a presentation from EDGE. EDGE is a Network for Ministry Development which began in 2011 as a three-year project focused on new and renewing ministries across The United Church of Canada. In 2014, it was integrated

into the periphery of the Church in Mission unit of the General Council Offices. EDGE works with congregations, regional councils, and ministries across Canada in areas of new ministry, renewing ministry, property, and innovation. Carla gave a presentation as to services available through EDGE. There is a Sustainability Cohort Zoom program through EDGE which many of the groups have already attended, at no cost. The next step would be for groups to have further discussions with EDGE which could be funded through the Regional Assessment Fund. The Regional Assessment Fund grant is also available to community ministries for initiatives of sustainability not developed through EDGE. The meeting was also an opportunity for the various groups to discuss issues around funding as well as get to know each other.

The Living Skies Executive also formed a task group to develop funding information for the website, consisting of Julie Graham, who spearheaded the group, Heather Dootoff, and Leslee Whalley. The page is complete but it will continue to be updated as needed. It can be found under Resources > Funding on the website. The information provided is for grants available through the National Office, Mission Support, and Living Skies Regional Council. Regional Council funding is from monies left to the region by various former presbyteries, Saskatchewan Conference, and other groups.

Information on forms for the various grants is also posted on the funding page. There is a great amount of information about grants available for any community of faith.

The Grants Committee continues to work with the executive in getting the information out regarding grants. Please contact Leslee Whalley with any inquiries about Living Skies funding.

#### Allocation of M & S Grants for 2021 totalling \$125,000

Lumsden Beach Camp	\$ 1,000
Camp Tapawingo	\$ 2,000
Wellman Lake Camp	\$ 500
South Sask Hospital Chaplaincy	\$20,000
North Sask Hospital Chaplaincy	\$25,000
Regina Anti-poverty Ministry	\$30,000
Riverbend Integrated Community Ministries	\$20,000
LaRonge United Church	\$14,000
U of S Chaplaincy	\$ 7,400
Micah Mission	\$ 2,000
Parkland Restorative Justice	\$ 2,100
Prairie Center for Ecumenism	\$ 1,000

Submitted by  
Leslee Whalley, Chair  
Mission and Support Grants Committee  
[ldwhalley@sasktel.net](mailto:ldwhalley@sasktel.net)

## **NOMINATIONS**

The work of the Nominations Committee is to “gather a slate of nominations for the officers of the Regional Council and its executive, commissions, committees, task groups, steering committees, or teams. It also provides nominations for unexpected vacancies or new positions which occur during the year.” (*From the Structure Document of the Living Skies Regional Council.*)

Throughout the last year, the work of our committee has mostly been to try and fill vacancies within the structures of the Regional Council, as well as to put together a slate of Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners for General Council 44, which will take place online in July of 2022. We are working hard to try and ensure some diversity among the membership of the various groups, and also to look for folks as widely as possible within our Regional Council.

We would like to thank all those of you who agreed to take on new roles this year, as well as those of you we asked, who took time to discern, even when the answer was no. We'd like to thank those of you whose terms are coming to an end with the rise of this Regional Gathering, and those who are concluding roles you've been in. We deeply appreciate your time, your gifts, and your dedication to the work of the Living Skies Regional Council. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Regional Council staff Bev Diebert and Julie Graham for all of their support in our committee's work.

At the time of the writing of this report, we still have quite a number of vacancies and opportunities to serve within the Regional Council. We will keep our lists of vacancies updated on the Nominations page of the Regional Council website. And if you are interested in a particular role, or know someone else who might be, we would be happy to hear from you anytime! We will continue to contact individuals to see if you might be willing to take on particular roles, but we also invite you to submit your own expressions of interest, if you see a role you might be interested in. You can find our nominations form on the Regional Council website, and it can be filled in and submitted online. Once we receive the forms, our committee then makes some decisions, and forwards names to the Regional Council Executive for consideration. We hope you'll have an opportunity to check out our Slate of Nominations, and consider the vacancies and opportunities which are available.

Thank you, and blessings,  
Susan Reed, on behalf of the Nominations Committee  
Email: [lsrcnominations@gmail.com](mailto:lsrcnominations@gmail.com)  
Phone: 306-482-3932 (Susan – church office)

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS STAFF REPORT**

There is a photo that I often use as my background frame on Zoom calls. It is a picture of the beach I was on when the pandemic really began to be a global issue and calls were made for travelling Canadians to return home. I keep using it as a reminder of both the things we took for granted (the privilege of travel), and our hopes for things to return to the way they were (the privilege of working in an office). As the vaccine rollout continues to reach more people, the vision of a return to "normal" becomes clearer as communities of faith yearn for opportunities to pass the peace, to sing heartily, and to share meals together. We have all worked hard to carry on being the church in this Regional Council throughout the past 14 months, faithfully caring for our neighbours, supporting people in our communities of faith, and offering a glimpse of the Holy to those we meet. We have learned to do this as restrictions constantly shift regarding in-person worship and gathering sizes, and we have adapted to more time online and more time missing those we love. The task now becomes assessing which of the adjustments we have made over the past year will continue to sustain our mission as a people of faith.

As you read in the report from Marvin Mackie on the Pastoral Relations Commission and in the reports below, there are many ways that the regular responsibilities of the wider church have continued through this pandemic, supporting the important work of local communities of faith and those who offer leadership within them. I think you will agree that there is much to celebrate and be thankful for.

### **Committee on Lay Leadership Support**

This group of people have faithfully and thoroughly supported the process for the invaluable contribution of lay leaders involved in worship leadership, especially in communities of faith without called or appointed ministry personnel. In terms of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, this involves participating in interviews and subsequent conversations of discernment to make recommendations to the Regional Council Executive regarding suitability. Since the last gathering of the Regional Council, 5 people had their licenses renewed, and 1 person was approved for initial licensing. A further group of people are in the process of being interviewed this spring. This work would not be possible without the assistance of volunteer interviewers who partner with the Committee members, and so we would like to recognize Jordan Cantwell, Thom Carnahan, Sheila Lavender, and Brian Walton for their patient and faith-filled participation. The Committee members have also initiated support for this group of lay leaders through offering online retreats with Marg Janick-Grayston as facilitator – one in preparation for Advent and the other in preparation for Lent. Both retreats were greatly appreciated by participants as an opportunity for learning, as well as important connections with colleagues. The other component of the work of this Committee is the ongoing licensing and accreditation of Sacraments Elders. This is an annual process that will be completed for the end of June. Finally, a general sacraments policy was developed by this committee and approved by the Regional Council Executive for use both with Sacraments Elders and Candidates.

### **Committee on Ministry Personnel Support**

Support for ministry personnel continues to be a priority throughout our Regional Council. The Committee recognized the deep sense of isolation experienced by active ministers as the pandemic continues to impact our lives and responded in a few key ways: supporting an online retreat for ministry personnel before both Advent and Lent, with leadership from Marg Janick-Grayston, and conducting a wellness survey in early February. The results from the survey confirmed a number of things – ongoing changes to restrictions are stressful both personally and for the communities of faith, ministers are feeling weary yet hopeful, support comes from a number of different sources, and there are many ways that ministry has evolved over the last 18 months. This includes offering pastoral care in new ways and adapting worship rituals to accommodate health guidelines; for many, this has meant worshipping online since March 2020. The data from the survey prompted the creation of an online retreat with leadership from Diane Strickland, traumatologist and compassion fatigue specialist, and in collaboration with St. Andrew's College. This was open to ministry personnel from the tri-Region (Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils) and was attended by about 40 individuals. Much gratitude to Diane Strickland, Lynn Caldwell, Janet Clark, and Becca Whitla for volunteering their time for workshops, and to the members of the Committee who prepared a worship service that ministry personnel might use for the Sunday following the retreat. The Committee also delayed the implementation of the Voluntary Associate Minister policy until after Easter; this work has now begun. Another initiative from this Committee was engagement with retirees and pensioners, in particular with reference to an annual increase of 13.7% to premiums for benefits. Conversations amongst this group of people, and with General Council Office staff, have led to additional consultation through an online survey. Results from this survey will help inform next steps moving forward for support to this important group of people. The initiative and passion from the members of this Committee has been greatly appreciated by both active ministry personnel and retirees, and has been an inspiration for similar initiatives in other Regional Councils.

### **Committee on Community of Faith Support**

The primary duties of this Committee involve reviewing annual reports, reviewing covenants, and reviewing proposed changes to governance structures. This Committee has diligently and patiently undertaken this task, and can report the following statistics since the Regional Council gathering in November: 81 Community of Faith annual reports, 22 covenants, and 3 governance structures were reviewed. The Committee recommends covenants and governance structures that meet the criteria in *The Manual* to the Regional Council Executive for approval. In addition, standardizing the criteria for reviewing annual reports has helped to identify which communities of faith might benefit from specific support. The covenants approved since November will be celebrated at the gathering in June. The task of approving covenants and governance structures has been a learning opportunity for everyone as discernment is made regarding meeting the governance requirements in *The Manual* while supporting the capacity for contextual differences. The provision from the General Council Executive to suspend the requirement for an annual meeting until December 31, 2021 has meant that there are a number of communities of faith opting not to write an annual report and have a meeting. The Committee developed a condensed means of reporting to help support accountability but not present an obstacle to communities of faith. The next task will be developing a process for communities of faith to engage in self-assessment of their covenants.

### **Final words**

I am grateful for the opportunity to support this work and the privilege to be able to safely do so from home. The task of walking with ministry personnel, lay leaders, and community of faith members offers a glimpse of the very fabric of our denomination, and I am richly blessed to travel this path with others. The members of these support committees and the pastoral relations commission, the Regional Council Liaisons who support the pastoral relations processes, and the many pastoral charge supervisors all sustain and enhance the work of pastoral relations – we are truly not alone. I continue to be amazed by the resilience and faithfulness of the ministry personnel who are offering leadership in styles and contexts that were unfamiliar 18 months ago, and doing so with grace and patience. I encourage you to express your gratitude to them for their ministry in this pandemic church. I have also had the honour to encounter many faithful and resilient lay leaders who are participating in M&P Committees and Search Committees and Property Committees and Stewardship Committees and governing bodies – the list goes on and on – these folks are the backbone and the heart of this United Church of ours. I encourage you to express your gratitude to these folks, as well! I want to offer gratitude to Bev Diebert whose patience with my early morning and late-night requests and tolerance for my silly jokes, has sustained this work throughout the pandemic, and to the rest of the Living Skies staff team who offer support and humour in the Zoom staff room. To quote one of my favourite mystics, Julian of Norwich, who essentially thrived in lockdown, “all shall be well, and **all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.**” **May it truly be so.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister

### **YAYAC: YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**

In some ways, this feels a bit like “*Annual Report 2.0: The Covid Year*” following up on the re-scheduled Regional Gathering last fall. Over the last year, there have been some significant pivots to innovative online ministry & programming throughout the Region. There have been some successes to build upon, creative ideas to share with each other, and plenty of learning along the way.

### Faith Formation & Ministry with Youth & Young Adults

- 1) **Region-wide ministry programming with Youth & Young Adults** has been a challenge throughout the pandemic. In-person connections are an especially integral part of relational ministry with young people. The regional focus has been almost exclusively on resource & support for local communities of faith in developing/strengthening their relationships with young people.  
<https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yayac/>
- 2) Speaking of innovative, let's recognize and appreciate the **YAYA Ministries in local Communities of Faith** who have maintained regular zoom and/or physically distanced programs, confirmation programs, weekly Zoom Gathering for Young Adults (age 18-35), etc. <https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yayac/yayac-network/>
- 3) **UCC Camps & Outdoor Ministries** each have unique operational & staffing structures which affect their ministry options. Some will offer daycamps this summer while others have decided to cancel on-site programming for 2021.  
<https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yayac/camps/>
- 4) **Ecumenical Chaplaincy at University of Saskatchewan** has recently engaged with the Lutheran Campus Ministry for chaplaincy coverage. The Chaplaincy is exploring sustainability options due to anticipated ongoing reductions in Mission Support Funding.  
<https://www.facebook.com/EcumenicalChaplaincyUniversityOfSaskatchewan>
- 5) **CGIT Saskatchewan** for girls aged 12-17 continues with programming & fundraising initiatives in accordance with provincial health guidelines.  
<https://saskatchewancgit.wordpress.com/>
- 6) The selection process for youth delegates (age 15-18) to the virtual **Youth Forum at GC44** (July 2022) has been extended to the fall of 2021. Application & Selection criteria will be posted as soon as it becomes available.
- 7) Recommendations, updates and links for **Faith Formation Resources** are part of the Region's website. The goal, as always, is to share resources and insights with each other as a wider church community. <https://livingskiesrc.ca/resources/faith-formation/>.
- 8) Similarly, Communities of Faith are encouraged to link with the **Living Skies Region's YouTube Channel** to share resources and broaden our online worship & faith community together.  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQumvdyab1\\_LIPlluOPgArg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQumvdyab1_LIPlluOPgArg)

### Other Ministry Programming & Online Events

- 1) **"Practically Prophetic" Webinars** focus on tools & tips related to various areas of applied ministry each month. With much thanks to our presenters for sharing their knowledge and expertise, recordings of the webinars are posted on the Region's YouTube Channel. This has been an intentional collaboration of Living Skies Region Faith Formation, St. Andrew's College, and the Centre for Christian Studies.
- 2) The virtual **Advent Concert** (Dec 2020) & **Spring2Life Concert** (Apr 2021) are available on the Region's YouTube Channel. Each event was a celebration of music

& community, raising a modest amount of money in support of mission-supported ministries and local communities of faith.

Looking ahead, there will be challenges for many of our ministries as we emerge from Covid. At the same time, we've gained experience and discovered hope-filled, creative opportunities for growth as church together.

Hopefully it's not too presumptuous to speak on behalf of the entire church in order to particularly acknowledge & thank the many disciples called to ministry with youth, young adults, children, and families. It has been a very difficult time, and we sincerely appreciate all that you offer as the kind voice, attentive ears, and all-encompassing-bear-hug of Christ with young people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kent Mohn [kmohn@united-church.ca](mailto:kmohn@united-church.ca)  
306-221-5529

### **OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER**

Well another year has passed in the life of the church; and what a year it has been for us all. Lent has felt like it has lasted a life time and yet I continue to see signs of hope all around me. The adaptability of my colleagues who are in pastoral ministry has been inspiring. Being able to join worship across the country and even the world in ways that we might done before has been wonderful. I'd also like to thank Northern Spirit and Prairie to Pine Regions for inviting me to preach at regional worship events, it was a great honour to join with you in praise of God.

The work of the Office of Vocation has also continued through this past year in new ways. No longer does my suitcase sit permanently half-packed ready to go to the airport for my next flight. Rather I have been engaging my work, as so many of you have done, online. The new routine has given me more time to chat on the phone or via email exchanges with the ministry personnel in the three regions I work in, which has been a real blessing.

God is continuing to call forth new leaders for the church as the candidacy board continues to interview with inquirers and candidates via zoom. I would like to thank all of the members of the board for their willingness to adjust to this new way of working, although I think we have all agreed that we cannot wait to have an in person meeting again. What we have been missing, is the palpable joy we experience when someone is approved after an interview, and sharing a cup of coffee or meal with these future leaders in the church.

- Completed Promise interviews: 9
- Completed Suitability for Candidacy: 5
- Readiness for SME: 8

The Office of Vocation continues to work in the areas of credentialing and mandatory training to ensure we have excellent qualified clergy for a long time to come.

Submitted by  
Rev. Dr Karen Medland  
Office of Vocation Minister for Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions  
[kmedland@united-church.ca](mailto:kmedland@united-church.ca)

## **NETWORKS AND TASK GROUPS**

### **Chinook Ministry Support Cluster**

**Contact:** Carolyn Conarro

### **Chinook Worship Circle (Cluster)**

**Contact:** Elaine Little

### **Korean Ministers Cluster**

**Contact:** Rev. Hyun Heo

### **Former Twin Valleys ministry personnel gathering**

**Contact:** Susan Reed

### **Reconciliation United (Saskatoon area)**

**Contact:** Jordan Cantwell

### **Refugee Networking**

**Contact:** Jim Tenford

### **Regina and Area Cluster**

**Contact:** [ReginaAreaCluster@gmail.com](mailto:ReginaAreaCluster@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2205391406391275/>

### **Saskatoon and Area Cluster**

**Contact:** Gary Storey

### **United Church Sask Camps Network**

**Contact:** Vicki Nelson

### **Western Intercultural Ministries Network**

**Contact:** Mathias Ross and Salesi Takau

### **Women of the United Church Network**

**Contact:** Susan Dokken or Mary Mohn

For more information about networks, task groups and clusters, please contact Julie Graham at [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)



## THE REFUGEE ADVISORY GROUP

This past year I began my role on the Refugee Advisory group and so far, I've mostly been trying to figure out what the job entails as well as answering many questions from people involved or interested in sponsorship. There have also been frequent meetings, articles, and webinars discussing sponsorship and how quickly everything is changing. Of course, like everything else, COVID19 has had a dramatic effect on Canada's efforts from overseas visa offices needing to be shut down (and recently reopened at least to limited capacity) to constantly changing quarantine measures for newcomers arriving in Canada.

I've also posted to YouTube a church service promoting sponsorship that can be used by anyone who wishes. This could be used as pulpit supply on a Sunday your minister needs a break - and trust me, your minister needs and deserves a Sunday off! The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/o9uRKakGGGk>

Moving forward, I'll be attempting to keep up to date on policies and regulations so that I can offer you as much assistance as I can. If it's wanted, I was thinking of yearly (or twice yearly) meetings over Zoom (or dare we hope for in person?) for mutual support and idea sharing. There is also talk of bringing a second person into this position to help share the load but specifics are not yet in place.

If your congregation is involved in this rewarding, deeply Christian work, or if you're interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact me.

God's blessings on your ministries,  
Rev. Jim Tenford

## Regina and Area Cluster

### Background

The Regina and Area Cluster was formed at the final meeting of Wascana Presbytery in the fall of 2018 at which time a Coordinating Committee was appointed, seed money from the assets of WP were set aside, and a staff resource person was hired on a 1-year contract.

During 2019, the Cluster Coordinating Committee met monthly with Catherine Barnsley, our contracted staff person. The first year of the Cluster produced the following:

- Articulated a vision statement
  - To be a container / incubator for Communities of Faith / individuals to do work in this area
  - To be a facilitator of conversations about the future of The United Church of Canada in this area
  - To be a space wherein Community Ministries can communicate with Communities of Faith (COFs)
  - To link Communities of Faith in this area to the broader United Church.
- Established a Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/reginaandareaclusterucc>
- Created an E-Newsletter which went out 10 times in 2019
- Held 3 discussions with both lay and ministry personnel leadership about the future of Urban COFs in Regina exploring possibilities for collaboration and potential shared strategic planning. The final of these 3 included community ministries.
- Held 2 gatherings for rural COF to discuss blessings and challenges of ministry in their context and to discuss possible shared work.

- 2 gatherings were held for anyone involved in rural or urban COF for social and connection purposes.
- A fall gathering was held at Lumsden Beach Camp (LBC)

### **Activity in 2020**

2020 activity began with a clear focus but due to the COVID-19 pandemic several activities had to be adjusted.

Early in 2020, the Cluster Coordinating Committee met with Carla Leon of the EDGE Network to receive advice and guidance on the work accomplished in 2019 and what was being planned for 2020. Exploring best-practices, the Coordinating Committee decided to have a two-pronged focus attempting to refocus strategic planning on shared ministry possibilities for Urban COF and also initiating intentional conversations around rural strategy with these two projects being in conversation with one another. Separate leadership was appointed to work on each of these projects with an intention that both groups would coordinate through the Cluster Coordinating Committee.

It was decided that the Cluster would encourage Communities of Faith to instigate community building programming and would act as a facilitator in this regard. An initial goal for 2020 was to work on intentional connections between COF in Regina with the ministry of The Rev. Deb Anderson-Pratt and the Regina Native Outreach Ministry (who was ordained at Wesley United Church in September 2020 – congratulations Deb).

The beginning of the pandemic in March ceased all work on the urban COF project but the Cluster was able to apply for and receive a grant from the EDGE Network to pursue the rural work which was able to continue even amidst pandemic restrictions, largely occurring on Zoom.

The Cluster maintained the Facebook Group and E-Newsletter throughout 2020 as a way to connect COFs doing online ministry. A shared Pentecost Service was planned, recorded and streamed which featured each COF that is a congregation, each Community Ministry and a special message from the Moderator.

The Clergy of Urban Churches met occasionally via Zoom for mutual support and a gathering to intentionally discuss the need to build competency around anti-racist worship and liturgy.

A group of grassroots leaders within Rural COFs within the Cluster met several times to continue their work which was presented to the Coordinating Committee early 2021 with a hope to continue explorations into 2021.

A second fall event at LBC was planned in a way that would accommodate public health restrictions and best practices but was cancelled due to inclement weather (safe procedures depended on the ability for the whole event to occur outdoors).

### **Presented by the Cluster Coordinating Committee:**

Joy Cowan, Kent Stewart, Linda Gunningham, Cam Fraser

## THE SASKATCHEWAN UNITED CHURCH CAMP NETWORK

The Living Skies Regional Council is blessed to have five camp ministries in its boundaries. As you can imagine 2020 and the pandemic had a deep impact on these places, the staff and campers. Below can you read a short update from four of the camps. If you would like to support any of the camps—with your time, energy or treasure—please contact [info@lumsdenbeachcamp.com](mailto:info@lumsdenbeachcamp.com) and get connected with these vital and energetic ministries.



**Camp Shagabec** - We did not offer any in person camps at all for the 2020 camping season. We offered a virtual camp experience, "Shagabec at Home", that was quite successful, all things considered. There was a short video posted each day; each relating to a different element of camp: crafts, activities, made a camp recipe, songs, nature photo challenges, etc. It was well received and allowed a number of past campers to get involved as well. We had a number of parents donate part of the camp registration fee back to us when we cancelled the camp for the season, and this certainly helped to pay the bills for the camp. In 2021

Shagabec will be offering Day Camps.

**Lumsden Beach Camp** - Like every other organization, spring 2020 was a roller-coaster for the camp. The unknowns and anxiety of March & April, turned into the disappointment and grief of cancellation for overnight camps in May. With no rental income, no campers, and a number of fixed costs, things looked gloomy for this United Church Camp. In mid-June, when day camps were allowed to run, sixteen, mostly youth and young adults, worked together to create week-long programs that would engage and delight campers ages 5-15. Sessions were kept small, cleaning was amped up, masks were worn, and so much joy was experienced. Throughout the summer 243 campers connected with each other and the land. They canoed, swam, crafted, hiked, played and more. For summer 2021 LBC will run day camps once again.



**Camp Christopher** was unable to run programming in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The camp had a few rentals, and spent a great amount of time updating the camp and getting many repairs done. Our water system was redone with a new deck component added. We painted our kitchen, dining hall, and cabins - thanks to lots of work by volunteers. We also reshingled our lodge roof and removed the chapel that was full of mold. We are looking at finishing some of our painting and building a new boat house in 2021 as camp will not look the same this year. For 2021 we will be trying something new called Camp in a Bag - to reach many of our inner city campers in Prince Albert - but will be available for others if wanted.

**Camp Tapawingo** - We were so disappointed that our popular camping program was canceled due to the global pandemic. Instead, we offered on-line camping activities and special merchandise. But it wasn't the same, was it? Our faithful volunteers took advantage of the down time this summer to do some great upgrades of the camp buildings. Some of the work included: new windows in the mess hall, cleaning the beach and site of garbage and debris, painting the interior of cabin 7 and more! Summer 2021 has also been cancelled, but all the leadership at Tapawingo are hopeful that in-person camp can resume in 2022.



## WESTERN INTERCULTURAL NETWORK

**The Western Intercultural Ministry Network includes the people of, and leadership from, Pacific Mountain, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.**

The Western Intercultural Network is a relatively 'young' network of communities in The United Church of Canada committed to a fully inclusive and intercultural church, covering the five Western Regional Councils.



The network holds gatherings and online conversations that focus on intercultural discussions. Network members are engaging in and promoting action in their regions towards living out the UCC's vision of being an intercultural church ([Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](https://www.united-church.ca)), and come together occasionally for educational events and other opportunities for dialogue. An executive from the five Western Regional Councils of the United Church offers us leadership.

Our vision of becoming an intercultural United Church encompasses:

- Racialized people and communities, which includes ethnic churches within the United Church, racialized lay leaders and ministry personnel, and more.
- Indigenous people and communities, within the United Church and beyond, of all traditions.
- People with disabilities.
- LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people and communities.

We honour these identities, and the spaces where they intersect. Our ministry includes courageous (and awkward!) conversations about our diversity, and about the social privilege and history that hinder right relationships. We believe the Good News of Jesus Christ calls us into such conversations and relationship.

### 2020-21 Activities

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic required the WIMN's Interim Executive to change its plans for holding an in-person education event in September. We instead offered a highly successful online event – **New Wine: Western Intercultural Ministry Gathering** over three Fridays - September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2020. The gathering focussed on presentations and discussions on creating missional, sustainable, intercultural ministries together, with

leadership provided by Rev. Tony Snow, from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and Coordinator for Indigenous Right Relations, Chinook Winds Region, and Rev. Dr. Eric Law, Founder/Director of the Diverse Leadership Inst., Los Angeles, California. The online format allowed us to expand the reach of this education event and we had over 60 persons attending the sessions on each day.

### **Annual Meeting**

WIMN hosted its Annual meeting on November 17, 2020, in conjunction with one of its Chai/Coffee Sessions.

At that meeting the members of the Interim Executive that had guided the Network's activities for 2019-20 were pleased to welcome new members to lead the Network.

The new Executive for 2020-21 comprises:

*Co-Chairs:* Deborah Richards (Pacific Mountain) and Kurt Katzmar (Northern Spirit)

*Secretary:* Kathy Yamashita (Chinook Winds)

*Elder:* Kay Quon

*Chinook Winds:* Alwin Maben (past chair)

*Northern Spirit:* Chelsea Masterman

*Living Skies:* Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau

*Prairie to Pine:* Kwang Beom Cho, Damber Khadka, Bill Millar

*Staff support:* Julie Graham, Chris Mah Poy, and Emo Yango (General Council).

The Executive meets monthly for about 90 minutes, and this provide an opportunity for us to connect about activities in our region, as well as engage in planning discussions. The sessions are lively!

### **Looking forward**

The new Executive has been discussing how the Network will engage in supporting and living out the call within our regions to be an Intercultural Church, as well as how we build intercultural social values and communities by working with other organisations in our provinces like Multicultural Councils and Multifaith bodies. Those discussions will continue throughout the year and we hope to find ways to engage the network in these engaging conversations. We have been heartened and energized by the engaging conversations that we have had during our New Wine intercultural gathering in fall 2020 and various Network Chai/Coffee times held in 2020 and early 2021.

The following decisions have been made about Network activities for 2021:

- Given ongoing uncertainty about in-person gatherings and church building re-openings this coming fall, we have decided not to hold a longer in person or online gathering in 2021. Instead, shorter programs and other opportunities will be the focus. We pray that in 2022 we will be able to be together again in a larger in-person gathering.
- The Network's Intercultural conversation (Chai/Coffee) times will continue through 2021. Our hope is to have 3 or 4 such conversation times during the year. In February we enjoyed a really rich national and intergenerational conversation focussed on the question 'Who do we want to be as we re-open our communities?'

### **Upcoming Events**

Our next Chai/Coffee gathering in this series will be **Thursday June 3**, likely at 9:00AM Pacific, 10:00AM Mountain Daylight (AB)/ Central Standard (SK), 11:00AM Central Daylight (MB and NW Ontario), and noon Eastern.

### Contact Us

If you would like to be contacted about WIMN events you can [sign up for occasional updates here](#); you can unsubscribe at any time, and we don't share your information with anyone else.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kurt Katzmar and Deborah Richards

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Executive of the Western Intercultural Ministries Network

### THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH NETWORK

It is unfortunate that the Women's Retreats and a province wide Meeting were postponed in 2020, necessitated by the restrictions due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Extensive planning was completed for the postponed April 24 to 26, 2020 Gathering in Prince Albert, refunds of deposits and cancellation of presenters were completed.

Tentative plans are being made for a Sask UCCW Gathering/Meeting in September 2021 if an in-person meeting can be held. Otherwise, a Zoom Meeting of Saskatchewan members may be arranged.

The Executive consulted by telephone and e-mail. It met in person by October and December 2020 Zoom Executive meetings.

Dawn Weber, 1st Vice Chair and Barbara Byers Bradley, Secretary represented Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women at the National UCW Annual Meeting held September 28 to October 2020 by Zoom. Our unit was assigned to provide Morning and Evening Meditations. National UCW Elections have been postponed as was the transfer of duties to President elect Nancy Risto from Horseshoe Falls Region. The UCW Handbook Committee Manual update is proceeding. Rev. Michael Blair's special closing worship service with communion was open to anyone wishing to register via Zoom. Rev. Blair assumed the new General Council Secretary position November 1, 2020. Full report of the NUCW Zoom Meeting is available. Due to the illness of President Beulah Hayley, a follow-up NUCW zoom meeting has been postponed. The representatives are to consider a draft letter to General Council recommending UCW recognition as a constituent member of The United Church of Canada.

The 60th anniversary of UCW is set for July 11 to 15, 2022 at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Due to reorganization at the General Council Office, Carol Owegi is our new UCW support person at head office and can be emailed at [COwegi@united-church.ca](mailto:COwegi@united-church.ca).

Monthly newsletters have been written, distributed by email and mail by Mary Mohn, Editor. She is our representative to the National UCW In Touch Newsletter [formerly Keeping In Touch]. The Sask UCCW Newsletters and revised Statistics Form are posted online at the Living Skies Regional Council website: [www.livingskiesrc.ca/programs/UCW](http://www.livingskiesrc.ca/programs/UCW) under Programs>Women's Network]. Mary Mohn has been appointed as Sask UCCW Communications Officer and contact person for Sask UCCW on the UCW webpage.



The Statistics Form 2020/2021 has been revised and circulated with a deadline date for returns by March 1, 2021. As at March 2020 there were 718 Saskatchewan UCCW Members. A 2021 project is planned for Dawn Weber and Barb Byers Bradley to personally contact all Living Skies Regional Council pastoral charges and community of faith members and/or women's groups including UCWs to ensure we have correct contact information for Newsletters, Announcements, Gatherings, Meetings and Camps. Sask United Church of Canada Women is a "Network" that includes all UCW, and all women and individuals in the entire Province of Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan UCW Bursary Fund Committee members are Mary Mohn, Susan Dokken, Chantal Ntibategera, Allison Irvine, Joan Brown. The Bursary Fund Application Form and Pamphlet were revised, with thanks to Bev Diebert, to reflect the regional structure. Persons who are members of Living Skies Regional Council United Church community of faith and who are participants in a recognized program of preparation for pastoral ministry in The United Church of Canada may apply. Applications will be considered twice yearly, at the end of February and the end of October. Applications may be submitted once per year per person.

Four Bursaries were awarded totalling \$5,600.00. The Bursary Fund balance at year end, December 31, 2020, is \$8,461.00 including donations received in 2020 of \$7,247.00.

The United Church Women of Living Skies Regional Council gave \$50,402 to Mission and Service in 2019. In total, UCWs across Canada and Bermuda gave \$1,020,034.00 to Mission and Service in 2019.

For the year 2020 an Election and Installation of an Executive has not been held because of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women  
*Susan Dokken & Chantal Ntibategera, Co-chairs, Mary Mohn, Past Co-chair,  
Dawn Weber, 1st Vice-chair, Wilma Will, Treasurer, Barb Byers Bradley, Secretary and  
Phyllis Robinson.*

## **REGIONAL MINISTER: JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

**Communications** work continues in partnership with Bev Diebert, and includes the newsletter, regular website posting and upgrading, Facebook, Nominations-related communications, and contact list development. List development in particular is proving both important and difficult, and makes me miss presbyteries, and the immense amount of often unrecognized connecting and relationship they offered the church. A special thank you to the members and admins for the three Facebook groups that help us all keep in touch.

My **newsletter and social media content** prioritize some emphasis on the wider church and its resources and learning spaces. I hope this is a good accompaniment to news about the Region and its communities of faith; feedback on what you'd like to see about the wider church and partnerships (and how much) is always welcome.

**Proposals template:** To help people work through the mysterious process of writing a proposal, I wrote a template and checked it out with people who practice the gold standard of having a print copy of The Manual. [Available here](#).

**Nominating Committee connections:** It has been a privilege to work more closely with this very busy committee, and to see again and again how they respond to the challenging reality of communications networks that were seriously disrupted by the restructuring. We have focused on regular newsletter and [website communication](#), and on job descriptions, invitations, and other tools that help explain the wide range of needs and opportunities available to the people of this Region. Special thanks to chair Susan Reed for all of her work in the midst of rebuilding networks.

**Website:** we continue to correct old material and wrestle with some technical problems. We hope to have an archive of all approved Executive minutes and related Pastoral Relations and Property Commissions decisions on the website before the annual meeting.

**Clusters and Networks** remain vital to how we do ministry, and at the same time a source of struggle. It's hard to track groups that are often very new and are not considered part of governance. Assembling even a small list has taken time and multiple staff. Bev included all Network and Cluster contacts in an invitation to submit a report to the Regional Gathering Docket, and thank you to all those who submitted your stories. The updated list of Living Skies Networks and Cluster is posted here, on the [Networks and Clusters page](#). It is a constant work in progress. Don't see your crew listed? Please contact me or Bev.

Clusters in particular are often struggling to hold together, or begin, through COVID, and may feel cut off from the wider church. National conversations have confirmed that this is a church-wide struggle. The community Clusters offer is vital, and I hope the Region can continue to work at finding ways to support them. Networks have an advantage of a more geographically widespread base, and many have adapted more easily to living on Zoom. But they too sometimes find it difficult to maintain energy and focus. When we emerge from this difficult time, we will have plenty of learnings to sort through, as we continue to make this new part of the structure work for us.

### **Justice work**

**Missions ministries and assessment task group:** The Regional Assessment Task Group has continued its work, and hosted a meeting with mission-supported ministries and EDGE on April 22. A number have already been working with the national church's EDGE Network, and some will be taking a next step by working with EDGE's more tailored coaching/ sustainability/ planning for the future program. Next steps for the task group will include developing criteria for the \$150,000 fund from the 2020 special regional assessment. The Grants Committee has updated its main application form and the webpage detailing available grants, making it easier for it to add a section for applications to the Assessment fund (and/ or the more permanent fund proposed after the 2020 regional annual meeting.)

I continue to be in touch with ICM, RAPM, Parkland Restorative Justice, and Micah Mission. We hope to plan a public event for November 2021's Restorative Justice Week. Members of the Region and communities of faith are invited to make connections with any of our [community ministries](#), [camps](#), and [chaplaincies](#). Your support and care are gifts that are deeply appreciated.

**Affirming work:** (Our Affirming news and homepage [are here](#).) Thanks to an enormous amount of work from the Nominations Committee, we may yet get an Affirming Task Group going in 2021, to guide the Region in its formal Affirming journey. In the meantime, others have stepped up to offer space. Thanks to Trisha Little and her excellent leadership, we held Region-wide Affirming check ins in February and May, to help support both individuals and Affirming/ in-process/ curious ministries, and to share ideas about Affirming work during a pandemic.



At the fall 2020 regional meeting, delegates voted overwhelmingly that the Regional Council should convey its opposition to conversion therapy to the provincial government, and call for a ban. At the same time, communities of faith in Saskatoon and Regina have offered leadership and crucial Christian public witness in favour of municipal conversion therapy bans. The provincial letter from the Executive has gone to the government and is [up on the website](#). I'm sending it to community allies and working on a short guide to help communities of faith write to their MLA on this.

In April I worked with colleague Pam Rocker (Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds) to hold a five-Region Affirming task group check in. All of the Western Regions are Affirming (Prairie to Pine) or in the process and feel ongoing connection could help them in the sometimes-difficult task of imagining what an Affirming Regional Council might look like, and how to get there.

**Refugee sponsorship and advocacy:** Thanks to Jim Tenford, we now have a refugee liaison person, with others offering to join in the work of connecting communities of faith that are sponsoring, want to sponsor, or want to take on advocacy work. In May we had a first gathering, and will see if a Network might emerge, despite the enormous uncertainties and difficulties COVID has imposed those seeking refuge, and on their ability to arrive safely in Canada.

**Intercultural:** ([Homepage here](#).) The Western Intercultural Network continues its work, which includes Mathias Ross and Salesi Takau as Living Skies reps on the executive. More LS people are always welcome! The Network will not hold a fall 2021 event, instead taking a break from big online events. However, it will continue with at least quarterly open, 90 minute intercultural "coffee/ chai" learning and conversation events. I maintain the Network list and send out occasional updates, and feel privileged to be part of this vibrant and diverse group of leaders.

**Right relations:** We lack a formal network for this work, and as we live into the new structure, I hope one can emerge. Many communities of faith have their own local connections and learning commitments, but a province/ SK Treaties-wide network would be good. In April Jordan Cantwell and I were involved with an ecumenical Alberta and SK event focused on [diverse Indigenous perspectives on Bill C-15](#), intended to implement the UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights, but the focus of concerns from a number of Indigenous groups and advocates. Powerful speakers and 250 attendees from many backgrounds made for a rich event and follow up talking circles.

**Treaty Land Sharing Network open letter calling for a halt to the private sale of "Crown" lands:** The Executive signed on to this multi-group open call in April, in keeping with treaty commitments and past SK Conference concerns expressed about this provincial government practice. This news was [posted](#) and congregations invited to sign on.

**Emerging Network connections** include Guaranteed Livable Income, and action and learning related to this; the beginnings of some climate justice connection through For the Love of Creation; and possible racial justice connections. These are all experimental works in progress that use local, regional, and national connections to identify areas of common concern and interest and build local capacity that draws on wider resources and connections.

**Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) vigil:** On April 8 a nationwide vigil series was held to coincide with the Liberal convention. This work continues to be an important topic and moment, and leadership from Regina Anti Poverty Ministry and others has been very important, but the number of people actively involved is relatively low. This may point to

networking struggles rather than a lack of support or interest. We hope a Region-wide learning event on GLI, to coincide with RAPM's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be something in the works for June or the fall.

**Climate justice:** United reps to KAIROS Regina continue to engage with For the Love of Creation, the national ecumenical initiative of which the UCC is part, offering a number of learning opportunities for the Region.

I look forward to being in continued community with the people and ministries of Living Skies, and hope to keep meeting and greeting you virtually until that happy day when I can meet many more of you in person. Please don't ever hesitate to be in touch: [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca) and 306-244-2157.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Graham

## ARCHIVIST

It may come as no surprise to hear that 2020 was a bit of roller coaster for the archives program – a feeling likely shared by many in Living Skies Regional Council. After little over a year in a new office and new regional structure, requiring a number of changes to everyday activities, 2020 brought new challenges. Most were manageable but did slow things down. Many thanks go out to the individuals and congregations who patiently waited to transfer materials or hear back about requests for information.

Due to events unrelated to the epidemic, 2020 also turned out to be an unusual year for our collections. After preparation by region staff, our archival records are housed with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS), thanks to an ongoing partnership agreement. As part of a larger 2019-2020 project by PAS to bring together records from their various spaces into a single site, our UCC records were moved to the new location in August. The building includes a spacious reference room for visitors and well-secured storage areas, equipped with climate control and fire suppression systems designed to protect archival records long term. The relocation of UCC collections greatly simplified our day-to-day activities and opened the door for some necessary updates to our research tools, inventories and insurance coverage.

As of 2020, our current collections (processed and housed at PAS) include:

- approx. 260 linear metres\* of textual records, incl. registers, rolls, reports, minutes, histories;
- about 2,000 photographic prints and 900 slides and negatives showing church events, people and other topics related to the history of the UCC in the region;
- more than 270 architectural plans and blueprints of churches, manses and other sites.

\*Note: This means that if we lined up the documents and volumes (as you would in a file cabinet), the line would stretch for a length of 260 metres, or nearing twice the length of a Canadian football field.

Transfers from congregations and processing of new records – including describing and re-housing materials into acid-free folders and protective boxes – were limited in 2020, due in part to COVID precautions. Items that could not wait were still accepted though and inventory work uncovered gaps in our finding aids. Updates are ongoing, to make more of our records discoverable for research.

Reference activities continued at a relatively normal rate in 2020: approximately 146 requests for information were completed from January 1 to December 31, including 115 relating to baptism, marriage, burial, and memberships (for personal and genealogical purposes) and 25 for other historical topics (property, minutes, church histories, etc.). Requests for information from registers and rolls usually require less time to complete than other topics, though the reverse may also be true in the case of searches for records from elusive congregations, or simpler research topics. Most requests were handled via e-mail and a few by phone. In-person access to historical records was limited for much of the year.

Anyone looking for guidelines, forms and other written help for those requesting information or transferring / donating records should check our webpage, at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/resources/archives/> – this is our main jumping-off point for links, contact details, news and tips, so stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,  
Madeleine McLuhan-Myers  
Archivist

**FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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



Dear friends of the Living Skies Regional Council,

Greetings in name of the Crucified and Risen One.

Another year has come and gone since our last Council Gathering, and still we find ourselves in the midst of the pandemic. In the year that has been, so much has changed. With the swift advent of vaccines there is finally light at the end of the tunnel. With God's help, many of the disciplines and restrictions we have endured together are loosening. There is much vigilance still required, but it feels as though a corner has definitely been turned.

The year of the plague has left no one untouched, and St. Andrew's College (like so many other venerable institutions) has been buffeted by the storm. On top of covid, the College has also experienced the unexpected withdrawal of the University of Saskatchewan from a 40+ year lease relationship and the termination of pay-for-fee-services. These emergent financial challenges have resulted in a massive loss of revenue. As we begin to evaluate and seek new tenant relationships, it will take some time (probably no less than three years), before that revenue stream is renewed. With this reality in mind, the Board of Regents gathered in late February to make some very tough and prayerful decisions. Closure was seriously considered. In this time of discernment, the college was able to rely on the fall 2020 approved strategic plan. With this resource in hand, it is clear that the College still has a role to play in God's ongoing mission here on the prairies, and beyond.

The gut-wrenching decision was also made to inform all five faculty that, owing to the end of the academic program in June 2023, all positions will also end. New positions will be developed for the new program, but the number will be reduced to two faculty and one education director. As you can imagine, this has been a hard reality for all of us to come to terms with, especially faculty, who are much beloved in the College community.

The course of action which the Board chose was a path of radical renewal. The financial reserves of the College will be utilized for bridging to 2023, at which time a new academic collaborative curriculum with the Saskatoon Theological Union and increasing our commitment to continuing education will be implemented.

While we do not yet know the final shape of the academic environment, we know that it will include closer cooperation with our Saskatoon Theological Union ecumenical partners, it will entail a shift to intensive courses and a hybrid delivery model that will expand the College's reach for distance students, and it will include a major enhancement of the life-long learning and community education program. This latter feature may prove to be the most significant, as we seek to reach out into other communities beyond the church. SBNR (*spiritual but not religious*), social justice, and secular professional development and leadership programs will be fleshed out. The College will seek to re-engage with the local grassroots church to provide responsive programming for lay and clergy leaders, filling a void left by the closure of Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC) a number of years ago.

The take-away is that though these are challenging times, they are also exciting times for the College. New members of our Development Committee are bringing fresh ideas and energy around international recruitment abroad and intercultural engagement here at home. The hiring of a Recruitment Officer last year has galvanized a commitment to expand beyond the familiar catchment areas into the wider world, and to review every aspect of what the College does through the lens of recruitment (otherwise known as evangelism!) And the agility with which the College shifted during this past year into offering remote learning, worship, and community-building bodes well for our continued mandate of providing *theological education to embody compassion, hope, and justice*.

So, in the midst of loss, there is new life! The College is relying heavily on our Strategic Plan. Though the timelines have been accelerated by the pressures of the past year, we are sticking to the course upon which we believe Spirit has been inviting us. To that end, we are happy to provide the Regional Council (and its Communities of Faith) opportunities to support the vital work which we do. Here are several concrete development programs we would like you to consider and share widely:

- The 2021 #NoGalaGala  
This year's event features our own Registrar, Greg Torwalt. Greg is not only a wizard of a registrar, but he is also a successful recording artist and founding member of the band Too Soon Monsoon. This concert is available online for exclusive viewing by ticketholders, and contains music, conversation, and guest appearances that include student reflections and an introductory meditation with our Pastor in Residence.  
<https://bit.ly/39ShU2T>
- Companions of the College  
This new initiative of St. Andrew's College builds upon its ongoing commitment to develop deeper relationships with supporters and friends. College Companions are those who have committed to support the college, on an annual basis, at one of two initial tiers:
  1. Cypress \$500/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 10% annually; and,
  2. Tamarack \$1 000/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 5% annually.

This initiative invites new donors to give at these levels; existing supporters, at either of these two-tier levels, are invited to commit to the annual increase. Each tier will have access to ongoing new digital content, which the college has and will continue to create:

1. Cypress: This donor level will have access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library. This resource allows individuals and faith communities to download and/or stream full worship services developed by members of St. Andrew's. Currently there are 6 worship services, which range from thematic to stand-alone. The college will be adding at least 2– 3-year new worship experiences per year; and,
2. Tamarack: At this donor tier, supporters will receive access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library and exclusive access to all previous and future #NoGalaGala events. Currently the college has hosted two online premieres and intends to have 1-2-year.

If you or your faith community want to know more about this exciting initiative and the digital resources which accompany the tiers, please contact Melanie Schwanbeck, College Secretary, [melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca)

- College Sunday Digital Library

St. Andrew's College has a long tradition of visiting communities of faith, large and small, to bring greetings, share the Gospel, and strengthen our bonds with the wider church. The covid era has invited us to consider innovative ways to continue that tradition, and so we are pleased to offer our new College Sunday digital resources. These include a growing digital library of full worship services, including sermons, hymns, liturgical notes, and conversation-starter questions. Current themes include leadership, stewardship, compassion, vocation, humility, and much more.... For more information, contact Melanie Schwanbeck at the College office ([melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca)).

- Classroom Enhancement Initiative

As the college prepares for renewal over the next few years, we are also continuing to update our classrooms to offer hybrid learning. This will allow students to learn together whether onsite or remotely. Please consider giving to the College's *Second Century Fund*.

Above all, we would ask for your continued prayers. St. Andrew's has been a vital part of the United Church landscape here in your Region for over a hundred years. During that time, three things have remained constant: challenge and change, the resilience of prairie folk to adapt and endure, and the faithfulness of the Creator to see us through. The College shares in the same burdens and joys which mark the reality of our Communities of Faith ... we do not stand apart in some famed ivory tower! We know what it is like to have to make tough decisions about existential questions, and to listen for the Spirit's guidance on the long journey of faith. So please continue to pray for us, as we pray for you.

And may the peace of Christ dwell within you richly, this day and always. Amen.

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis  
Principal

### **Designated Lay Ministers Program**

For the students and program team of the Designated Lay Ministry program, the Rev. Mary-Jo Tracy and Marc Grenon, the two learning circles of 2020-2021 have required creativity, adaptation, and patience. Our ten-day learning circles have been conducted synchronously on Zoom over five time zones. Sixteen students are currently in progress. Since June 30, 2020 four students have completed their programs, one has transferred to a different program, and seven have begun (four in October and three in March). The pandemic has not diminished enthusiasm for ministry preparation through experiential learning as I continue to talk with prospective students at various stages of the Candidacy Pathway process.

### **Rewards of On-line Learning**

The rewards of teaching fully online include learning from experts across the country without burdening their schedules or our budget with travel and accommodation. For instance, in October 2020 ("Organizing Community" Learning Circle) we had speakers from Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, and Saskatoon, including the Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, the Rev. John Pentland, and the Rev. Alf Dumont. In March 2021 ("Leading in Community" Learning Circle) the teaching was shared by St. Andrew's faculty, the DLM director, and Tracy



Murton, but we also had sessions on empathy with Dr. Cindy Wallace, a professor in English from St. Thomas More College, (University of Saskatchewan) and the Rev. Robin King (Rising Spirit Ministry, Bashaw and Ponoka, AB) who spoke about maintaining community through on-line worship. The Faculty of St. Andrew's College have generously offered to assist in the fall 2021 learning circle "Living Diversity in Community" when we engage in such topics as ecumenism, the intercultural church, anti-racism, social justice, and right relations. Because students come from the Maritimes to BC and everywhere in between and must make travel plans well in advance, the mode of delivery in the fall of 2021 is likely to be online again.

### **Challenges Ahead**

Despite lively interest in the DLM program, the message about the termination of faculty positions at St. Andrew's College has caused confusion among potential applicants. While the program and the position of DLM director continue at St. Andrew's College until December 2022, I anticipate seeking more subject experts from outside the college as St. Andrew's faculty wind down their work with students in other programs.

### **Gratitude**

A teaching ministry of the United Church of Canada, the DLM program is primarily funded through your giving to the Mission and Service Fund. In addition the national church contributes to bursaries for travel and tuition for DLM students. This support is deeply appreciated. Beyond finances, the program is also blessed by the volunteer program team, Marc Grenon and the Rev. Mary-Jo Tracy, whose tireless efforts make the program possible.

Although we live in uncertainty, I feel enormously privileged to contribute to the education of our designated lay ministers. I am inspired by their dedication to their call through serving their communities of faith while learning to be servant leaders.

Respectfully submitted,  
(The Rev. Dr.) Kathleen James-Cavan,  
DLM Program Director

## **CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES**



A Year of Imagining Everything Differently

### **Pandemic - *The pandemic (re)shaped everything in 2020*** **Spring - onset**

With the pandemic onset in Canada, within days we went from wondering whether our plans would be impacted to making the decision to move all circles and events online. Our staff began working from home as cities shut down. It was a time of enormous uncertainty. Students and staff plunged into online life. Our spring learning circles were creatively and quickly adapted for online gathering. Our Banquet and Annual Service of Celebration in person events were cancelled, and graduation instead marked with a Virtual Tea.

### **Summer – space to breathe**

Online learning continued with the Relationship learning circle. Our Learning on Purpose circle was cancelled; and new students were invited to participate in a LOP-Lite orientation program. Woodsworth House re-opened to staff.

### **Fall – second wave**

Staff continued to flex working from home or at the school. Our learning circles continued to be online, including: Integration Year, Ministry as Listening, Eco-Justice, Ministering by Word and Example. Some students proceeded with field placements, while others focused on external courses, which were widely available online.

## **Progress – *Sometimes just pressing on felt like progress, but we did more...***

### **Education**

We continued to innovate online pedagogy. In April we held a series of pandemic responsive workshops on topics such as Online Annual Meetings and Trauma Informed Pastoral Care. We held 10 Learning Circles online, including three new one circles: Power and Privilege Circle, Eco-Theology Circle and Ministering by Word and Example Circle. We continued with free-of-charge public workshops with our CCS Fridays series, exploring topics including Queer Biblical Interpretation, Apocalypticism and (the still popular) Online Annual Meetings. Members of our learning community presented and participated at conferences including the Christian Left Conference (Emmanuel College), Competency Based Theological Education Conference (Competency Based Education Network) and Liberating Our Bodies: Sexual Politics, Queer Resistance and Religious Alliance Today (Jakarta Theological Seminary).



### **Justice**

2020 started with Indigenous blockades of rail lines that brought an early silence Winnipeg from absent railcars. A deeper silence accompanied the first months of the pandemic, along with stark truths about who was vulnerable in our society. The silence was broken in the summer by Black Lives Matter protests raging against George Floyd's murder. CCS renews our affirmation that Black Lives Matter, our commitment to right relationship with Indigenous Peoples and stands against anti-Asian racism and violence.

### **Transformation**

In the midst of change, challenge and response, we learned more about the resilience of field based education – students have continued to learn with local committee and in local context, including field education. Our networks of connection were strong and flexible enough to hold us together through isolation. We found this to be true for our staff team as well – practices of connection with out-of-province staff proved invaluable when everyone was dispersed and isolated at home.

Our new social media partnership with Strategic Charm has refreshed our online presence, connecting us with old friends and reaching new folks.

One of our actions arising from our commitment to #BlackLivesMatter has been revising assigned reading lists with an anti-racist, decolonial lens. We are more stringently assessing the whiteness of our assigned authors, and making changes, circle by circle.

**Planning - *while trying to plan for the future in 2020 often felt like gazing into a foggy crystal ball, some things became crystal clear...***



### **Recruitment**

Theological schools can no longer rely on a steady intake of students being identified and encouraged through denominational processes of call and discernment. We will be moving forward with hiring a part time Recruitment Coordinator in 2021 to connect with potential diploma, certificate and continuing education learners.

### **Sustainability**

A longterm future for the Centre must include financial sustainability. Denomination funding is decreasing. CCS donors remain committed to diaconal education, and blessed us with extraordinary generosity in 2020. Our investment in Development education resulted in large fundraising increases.

### **Partners**

We are blessed with collaborative, generative partners, including:

- Anglican and United Churches
- Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
- Anglican Deacons
- Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean
- Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members,
- Council and Committee volunteers
- St Andrew's College
- St Stephen's College
- Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
- Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Year Book, Financial Statements and Annual Report may be found at:

<http://ccsonline.ca/event/ccs-annual-general-meeting-2021/>

Michelle Owens  
Principal

## **ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

Greetings from Atlantic School of Theology!

As it did for every other organization under the sun, 2020-21 brought many challenges for Atlantic School of Theology. The shift to online-only learning in our summer, fall, and winter terms required us to stretch and grow our technological and pedagogical muscles. Our students also worked with great faith and diligence to adapt. It was especially difficult for those with pastoral charge and family responsibilities, or with healthy challenge. We're very proud of them and grateful for them. We all did our best to support one another and to keep in touch. Nothing about "ALL THIS" has been easy! Yet we persevere, in the hope that our attention to and cooperation with God's leading will help us to make good decisions and to continue to serve faithfully.



AST's total enrolment was down slightly, to about 180 students, but the total number of courses taken by those students was up. We decided to wind down our Diploma in Youth Ministry program due to a lack of demand, but we are about to launch our new Diploma in Missional Leadership. The first cohort of this part-time program will begin in June and travel together as learners for two years. Warm thanks to the General Council Office and the United Church Foundation for their support and partnership in this new initiative.

After 12 years of exemplary teaching, research, and leadership, Rev. Dr. Susan Willhauck has decided to retire at the end of June. We shall miss her very much! She has been a very inspiring and encouraging professor and colleague. In July, we will welcome Drs. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, Andrew O'Neill, and Evangeline Kozitza Dean into tenure-track faculty positions. We're excited about what each of them will bring (and continue to bring) to AST's mission of learning and faith.

With lockdowns and limited movement the norm in so many places, we offered several series of online Continuing Education programming, including "Field Notes" and "Decolonizing Theology." As the summer term approaches, we will once again have all our courses online. Several of them are available to lifelong learners, including "Transitional Ministry Skills," "Mysticism and Monasticism in Context," "Evangelism Rediscovered," "Dying, Death, and Bereavement," and more. We would be delighted to welcome you to these online programs in June and July of this year. Similarly, we invite you to discover our emerging Leadership Learning Initiative and its promising array of programming.

It is an honour to share the work of theological education with the many supervisors and lay support teams who work with our students across Canada and beyond. As one of the theological schools of The United Church of Canada, we remain committed to sharing in mission with all the congregations, regions, and the General Council. Thank you for your support and friendship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell  
Academic Dean

## EMMANUEL COLLEGE



**EMMANUEL COLLEGE**  
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Office of the Principal  
75 Queen's Park Crescent  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7  
ed.office@utoronto.ca  
www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca

Dear Friends,

I pray for God's blessings on your regional meeting and bring greetings from Emmanuel College. As the end of my term as Principal approaches, I write to share some exciting developments at the College.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has handed us the unexpected opportunity to dive head-first into online teaching and learning.** We are currently discerning a distance model for the Masters of Divinity (MDiv) program, which may interest candidates in your region, for whom moving to Toronto would have been an obstacle. Students starting the program this fall can expect access to online courses, with opportunities for community and spiritual life both online and in person. Our John W. Biles Grant affords 100% tuition support for United Church of Canada members enrolled full-time in the MDiv and engaged with the candidacy pathway process. We also offer ample bursary support, which has been bolstered during the pandemic by Annual Fund gifts from generous alumni donors.

**Emmanuel College recruits and educates leaders to be attuned to the changing context and mission of the church in Canada.** We have broadened ways that courses, continuing education, and community life implement the calls to action delineated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With the appointment of Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo as Special Advisor on Indigenous Issues and teaching-stream Assistant Professor of Theology, the College now offers courses on Indigenous theological worldviews; Indigenous ways of relating to faith, church, and the community; and the legacy of residential schools. We have also increased the presence of Indigenous Elders in ceremonies and as guest lecturers. New Canadian faculty have joined us, with expertise in postcolonial and decolonial theories and practices. As a result, we have instituted an innovative curricular requirement in Coloniality and Power for all basic degree students. Our pluralistic context and our multireligious Master of Pastoral Studies program also enhance the MDiv. Students become more deeply rooted in their own religious and spiritual traditions as a result of engaging one another across difference. Each of these distinctive emphases prepares our UCC candidates for contemporary ministries.

**Our continuing education partnerships with the United Church emphasize leadership in diverse settings.** We are currently co-sponsoring a multi-year Innovative Ministry Project with the Toronto United Church Council. In early March, General Secretary Michael Blair delivered our Gandier Lecture, addressing the current reality of anti-black racism, the church's historic complicity with practices of exclusion, and the UCC's commitment to transformative discipleship as the beloved community. This summer, our Centre for Religion and Its Contexts will gather a preaching symposium, and we will also host the second annual Christian Left Conference with Trinity St. Paul's UCC, EDGE, and other sponsors. Please consider joining us at these events, online and free of charge. Future initiatives will integrate the training of candidates for ministry with workshop opportunities for ministers, including a series of workshops that draw on the College's strengths in mental health education.

**Our faculty contribute theologically to the United Church of Canada.** We are thinking through emergent theological issues that matter to congregations and their ministers. Recent publications include Pamela McCarroll's volume, *Christian Theology after Christendom: Engaging the Thought of Douglas John Hall*; and *Postcolonial Preaching: Creating a Ripple Effect* by Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching, HyeRan Kim-Cragg. Our faculty and students continue to join your congregations as guest preachers via Zoom.

Looking back over my three years as Principal, I have been grateful to participate in each of these facets of our engagement with the United Church of Canada. I look forward to new ways of connecting after June 30, under the leadership of our soon-to-be-announced Interim Principal. On a personal note, I look forward to continuing my journey as a member of the Emmanuel College faculty and as a person in ministry in the Admission process with the UCC.

This concludes my report to you as Principal, but it is not "goodbye."

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Michelle Voss Roberts  
Principal and Professor of Theology

## STEWARDSHIP AND GIFT OFFICER REPORT

Vicki Nelson

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



*Generosity is a practical expression of love.* Gary Inrig.

Greetings,

My name is Vicki Nelson and I am the new Stewardship Animator serving Living Skies Regional Council. I live and work from Regina, and am looking forward to the opportunity to get to work alongside the people and communities in Living Skies.

My role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of stewardship, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](mailto:vnelson@united-church.ca) ([vnelson@united-church.ca](mailto:vnelson@united-church.ca)) .

One way we may connect is through an online learning program, **Called to be the Church: The Journey**. These trainings are designed for congregational leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase giving and deepen connections within your community of faith. Cohorts are currently being assembled for Module 1: Stewardship Best Practices. After 4 weekly gatherings, participants will have developed a custom stewardship plan for their community of faith. Following that we will work together to realize this plan, inviting more people to make generous use of the gifts God has given and expressing gratitude for shared abundance. If this type of training would be valuable in your faith community, please [reach out](#) and we will find a time that works for you.

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, the Mission & Service Fund is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to save and transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we can do more than we can do alone. In 2020, Mission & Service funding supported life changing and life saving work in Living Skies Region. From *River Bend Integrated Community Ministries*, to *The Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry*, to *The Micah Mission*, the vulnerable are being cared for and their worth celebrated. Your Mission & Service also supported camping ministries—*Lumsden Beach Camp* and *Camp Tapawingo* had programs generously funded. And that wasn't all. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Living Skies, and around the globe. Thank you for your gifts.

Sharing stories about Mission & Service is an effective way to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage generosity in your community of faith. The pandemic has changed many things, including the way Minutes for Mission are distributed and told, however

they certainly have not gone away. New stories are frequently [posted](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos](#) that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you all. It has been a hard year, with lots of uncertainty, but you have persisted. You have found meaningful ways to be a person of faith during a dark time, and are still generously giving of yourself to provide leadership to this Regional Council. It is amazing. Thank you.

In gratitude,  
Vicki Nelson  
[VNelson@united-church.ca](mailto:VNelson@united-church.ca)  
1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Executive, Commission, Committee &amp; Task Group Members

Notes:

*-This listing reflects how the membership of the groups of the Regional Council will look effective the rise of the 2021 Regional Gathering. There are some people winding up their terms or leaving their positions in June of 2021, whose names do not appear on this list.*

*-All positions, except for task groups or unless otherwise noted, are three-year terms, renewable once.*

**Regional Council Executive**

Chairperson:	Tricia Gerhard (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Treasurer:	Donna Brown (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Dave Whalley (DLM)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	Brian Maitland (OM)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	Ron Brandow (L)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	Tim Ellis (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Linda Gunningham (L)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	Piotr Strzelecki (OM)	Term 1, year 1
Member:	VACANT	

**Regional Meeting Planning Committee**

Convenor:	VACANT	
Convenor of Regional Gathering:	VACANT	(*1-year position)
Member:	Hoeun Lee (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Bonnie Morton (DLM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Brian Tudor (L)	Term 1, year 1

**Property Commission**

Convenor:	Annette Taylor (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Gayle Wensley (DLM)	Term 1, year 2
Member:	George Thurlow	Term 2, year 1
Member:	Bev Kostichuk (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Daryl Woods (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Jonathan Zacharias (L)	Term 1, year 1
Member:	VACANT	

**Nominations Committee**

Convenor:	Susan Reed (DM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Jeanette Warrian (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Yvonne Terry (DLM)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	VACANT	
Member:	VACANT	
Member:	VACANT	

**Grants Committee**

Convenor:	Leslee Whalley (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Barry Balls (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	VACANT	
Member:	VACANT	

**Pastoral Relations Commission**

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

**Committee on Lay Leadership Support**

Member:	Sheila Ivanochko (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Patti Sawchuk (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Andrew Hecker (L)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	VACANT	

**Committee on Ministry Personnel Leadership Support**

Member:	Rick McCorrister (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Michele Rowe (OM)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	VACANT	
Member:	VACANT	

**Committee on Community of Faith Support**

Member:	Deborah Smith (OM)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	Bill Pollock (L)	Term 1, year 3
Member:	Sheila Deforest (L)	Term 2, year 1
Member:	VACANT	

**Refugee Liaisons**

Liaison:	Jim Tenford (OM)
Liaison:	Donna Nelson (L)
Liaison:	Judy Beck (L)

**Affirming Process Task Group**

Member:	Joy Cowan (OM)
Member:	Robert Hayes (L)
Member:	Allison Sarauer (L)
Member:	Tony Thompson (OM)
Member:	Jackie van't Voort (DM)
Member:	VACANT

**Rural Pastoral Care Task Group**

Member:	Frances Kitson (C)
Member:	Allan Gairns (DM)
Member:	VACANT

**2021 PROPOSALS**

- 1) Living Skies Regional Council Policy on Justice
- 2) Re-Instatement of Funding for Spiritual Care      North Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy &  
Throughout The Saskatchewan Health Authority      South Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy



**PROPOSAL NO. 1**

**Title: LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND POLICIES ON JUSTICE**

**1. What is the issue?**

We believe God is calling us to:

- commit ourselves to becoming an intercultural community.
- move toward anti-racist community.
- practice the life and work of the Regional Council with sensitivity of justice.

**2. Why is this important?**

- The United Church of Canada has its vision of becoming an intercultural and inclusive community with strong sense of justice and equity for all people both within the church and in wider society.
- There has been increasing awareness of racial justice in the wake of the movements of Black Lives Matter & Indigenous Lives Matter and also a sharp spike in anti-Asian hate crimes these days.
- The United Church of Canada has made a commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination ("[Towards an Anti-Racist Denomination](#)", the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council in June 2020), and hired a staff for the position of Anti-Racism and Equity Lead in the General Council Office to engage with anti-racist practices in all parts of the church.
- In our Region, St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon has recently adopted its own Policy on Justice that articulates its commitments, practices, and framework for understanding in the College's ongoing effort to engage in education and action toward justice in all of its own practices. Outreach and Collaboration' is part of the practices framed in the policy which makes it possible to collaborate with partners in our Region on the issue.
- It is important to set policies that provide direction and principles on the issue to all governing bodies (including Living Skies Regional Council Executive, Commission, and Committees), communities of faith, clusters, networks, and individuals in our Region.

Submitted by: Rev. SunDo Hyun, May 2021

**Living Skies Regional Council motion:**

**Moved by Darrell Reine/Hoeun Lee:**

That Living Skies Regional Council establish a Justice & Equity Committee to promote justice and equity for all people in all aspects of life and work of the Region Council, with the size of the committee and terms of reference to be created by the Executive. Terms of reference will include but not be limited to:

- That the Justice & Equity committee be able to ask for the creation task groups as needed to focus on particular justice issues (eg. Anti-racism)
- That there be a focus on education and resources for communities of faith
- That the committee encourage the formation of relevant networks and clusters

That the committee develop and recommend policies to the Regional Council Executive on justice based on anti-racist and anti-oppressive principles and the voices from Black, Indigenous, and Peoples of Colour, 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples, and people with the lived experience of poverty, disability, mental illness, and more; and drawing on past Saskatchewan Conference and present national church justice, equity, and intercultural policies as relevant.

**PROPOSAL NO 2****Title: RE-INSTATEMENT OF FUNDING FOR SPIRITUAL CARE THROUGHOUT THE SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Originating Body: North Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy & South Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy

**1. Statement**

As the official boards & ministry personnel of the South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (SSHC) and the North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (NSHC), we believe that God is calling us to support the spiritual well-being of patients and residents in Saskatchewan Health Authority facilities by petitioning the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority for the re-instatement of funding and support for Spiritual Care in the provincial health care budget.

**2. Background**

In March 2017, the Saskatchewan provincial budget eliminated health region funding for non-denominational Spiritual Care. This also led to the elimination of institutional patient lists used by denominational chaplains & spiritual care providers throughout the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Saskatchewan became and continues to be the only province in Canada that does not fund or administratively support Spiritual Care in health region facilities.

Evidence and experience show that Spiritual Care is an essential contributor to positive outcomes in healthcare, regardless of the patient's religious affiliation or lack thereof. Our opinion, supported by evidence from the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC) and members of the healthcare system itself, is that the removal of funding for Spiritual Care in 2017 was an error that must be corrected.

**3. Theological & Ethical Rationale**

As members of the United Church of Canada, we witness healing again and again in the scriptural narrative, and we are inspired by Isaiah 41:10:

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Further, we understand that an essential practice of Jesus Christ's ongoing healing ministry is to provide care for the spiritual and emotional health of all people, regardless of religious affiliation and background, particularly in times of crisis and stress.

Access to professional, qualified spiritual care is a right. Currently in Saskatchewan, Spiritual Care is limited to those patients and families who are not only connected to a formal faith community, but also to a formal faith community whose care providers are within visiting distance of the health care facility. In a just system, neither of these factors should affect a patient's access to Spiritual Care.

In support of this proposal, the boards of the SSHC and NSHC have compiled an information package including letters of support from multiple health care professionals. This package is available for delivery to decision-makers in the provincial government and health region.

Respectfully submitted May 14, 2021 by:

Daryl Woods, Chair of North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy

Randy Graham, Chair of South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy.

**Living Skies Regional Council motion:****Moved by Hoeun Lee/Darrell Reine:**

That Living Skies Regional Council issue a formal request to the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the provincial Minister of Health, and Premier of Saskatchewan for the re-instatement of funding and support for Spiritual Care programs in the provincial healthcare budget; and,

That Living Skies Regional Council encourage Communities of Faith and members/adherents throughout Living Skies Regional Council to contact their Members of Legislative Assembly with a request to re-instate funding and support for Spiritual Care programs in the provincial healthcare budget.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### ORDINAND

#### JONATHAN WORRALL



I grew up all over small-town Saskatchewan. Each community had two things in common: there was a rink and a United Church. Sadly, I did not take to skating, but my family and I did attend the church. The church remained prevalent in my youth. Some of the smaller towns would only have a Catholic Public School, and as a result, my faith and interaction with the divine was affirmed. Indeed, as my mother reminds me, as a child I would tell her that I wanted to be a priest.

Service was always stressed in my family. As a teenager, I was passionate about history, literature, politics and international relations. Following high school, I enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan, in the Political Studies program, with the hopes that I would be able to serve in some capacity in a governmental organization. Upon graduating there were little opportunities for employment. As a result, I worked a series of odd jobs until I gained meaningful employment with the Saskatoon Public Library, where I worked for a number of years.

My call to ministry was entirely unexpected, but it was a wholly welcome surprise. I was invigorated; I felt like I had a newfound purpose. I enrolled in the MDiv Program at St. Andrew's College, where the amazing faculty provided me with the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare me for ministry. Words cannot convey what the students owe to the talented, passionate, and intelligent professors. My success in ministry is due, in large part, to their tutelage.

Though the journey towards ordination has been challenging, it has also been affirming. Throughout the entirety of my educational process and my student-ministry, I have discovered that ministry is truly my vocation. Ministry is a source of indescribable joy. As a colleague once remarked, "there is no better employer than God."

Praise be to God.

**ADMITTAND**

**EMILY CARR**



Growing up on a dairy farm in Eastern Ontario, I was the sort of child who used to play church with my stuffed animals and dolls. When I was around five years old, my family made a move from our United Church, to the Anglican Church, because that year the Anglican Church happened to have a fantastic Sunday School program on the go. My love for worship and the Church never seemed to leave me, and in my 20s, I began the journey towards ministry formation in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and began studying at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. I moved to Saskatoon in the spring of 2009 to work as a youth a family minister at what was then called St. James Anglican Church. Here in Saskatoon, I completed my MDiv. at the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, was ordained to the diaconate and later to the priesthood in the Anglican Church. In this beautiful province, I have had the honour of serving a variety of ministries including congregations, university chaplaincy, community outreach in gang prevention, and chaplaincy with incarcerated youth. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors at The Micah Mission, and am the chaplain at Kilburn Hall Youth Centre. In October of 2020, I began working with the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy of the Living Skies Region of the United Church and at Knox United Church in Langham. On this admissions journey, I have a sense that I am returning home to the church where I was baptized and first introduced to the faith, but even more meaningful to me, is the opportunity to work with a community of people who are so sincere in their commitment to serve the world that God loves.

## RETIREES' BIOGRAPHIES

### BRIAN MAITLAND



Growing up on an acreage in a farming community near Edmonton, Alberta, Brian learned early about making do with what was presented to him, and fixing whatever was broken. Those early learnings helped him throughout his several careers, first as Regional 4-H Specialist with the government of Alberta, then as Social Planning Director for the City of Airdrie. The call to ministry came mid-career, and he attended St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, gaining his M.Div. in 2000.

Settled in Big River and Canwood in north central Saskatchewan, Brian spent ten years with two small town congregations, helping them navigate the parts of their history that saw them both define their vision, set priorities, sell their church buildings, one of them to close, and the other to find its way as a congregation on the move. Lovingly supported by these two communities of faith, Brian enjoyed a wonderful decade of ministry among those fine people.

In 2010 he was called to minister with the people of Knox United Church in downtown Saskatoon, a very different ministry environment. Still, he realized that many of the issues faced by this new congregation were fundamentally the same as his rural charges, and he brought small town sensibility to this congregation's situation. Brian focused on ministry in its community context, and helped the people of Knox look outside their walls to the community around, building connections with partner churches and community agencies. Engaging and progressive spirituality and worship was a dominant thrust for his ministry at Knox, and Brian has grown through a hugely enjoyable second decade of ministry there. His last two years have included an innovative ¾-time shared ministry partnership with another United Church colleague.

### RON McCONNELL



Born and raised in Winnipeg, MB, I have remained an unrepentant Blue Bomber football fan for all these many years. Thank you to the members of Rider Nation for their hospitality and *good-natured* ribbing of this stranger from a strange land who has sojourned among you this last while.

My home church was Fort Garry United, in Winnipeg. There, as a youth and young adult, I heard the gospel preached; experienced from others the gift of Christ-like acceptance even as I sometimes struggled with self-acceptance; was invited and given the opportunity to offer leadership in Sunday School, youth ministries, and the occasional worship service; and there I found friends, mentors and role models aplenty in Christian discipleship and service.

I am a graduate of Winnipeg's Vincent Massey Collegiate '74; received a BA from the University of Manitoba '85; and received a Certificate in Ecumenical Studies from the Graduate School of the World Council of Churches, Bossey, Switzerland, '83-'84; Then, returning to St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, where I had begun studies in '80, I graduated with an MDiv in '85.

I was fortunate to experience a year-long internship with the people of Knox UC, Roblin, and Tummel UC, in Manitoba. I had fought the call to ordained ministry, for many years. But, despite my resistance, these people were strong and insistent in their critiques and affirmations. Through them and by the grace of Christ, regarding this persistent call from God and the Church, I came to a place of peace within that I had not known before. I also met and married Michele Kines, of Roblin. This has been a lifelong blessing for me and, hopefully, not a total disaster for her.

Ordained by what was then the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario '85, I was settled on the Gilbert Plains-Ethelbert Pastoral Charge in Manitoba. There I served for four years '85-'89, and learned so much from these saints about church life and community dynamics. The joys and challenges, the ups and downs, both, were a life-changing and ministry-shaping gift. Fond memories remain of those in the youth group, at youth retreats, and in confirmation classes which I lead. Those senior saints also, in their life-long faithfulness, remain still an inspiration to me still.

St. Paul's UC, Souris, and Elgin UC, in Manitoba, then called me to ministry with them. There I served for nine years '89-98, and have never felt more at home. The love, support, faith and caring of the people in these congregations, in other churches of the community and people beyond, was gift and inspiration to both Michele and I. Fortunate, I think, are those who find such congregations and communities where personality and personhood, calling and vocation, needs and abilities meet and match so well.

Michele and I found our next church home with the people of McClure UC in Saskatoon, SK. For 19 years, 1998-2017, we experienced the warmth, nurture, challenges, commitment to outreach, and inspired vision of this Spirit-filled congregation. Also, the gift and challenge of being part of the larger community that includes McClure Church, McClure Place, and Amy McClure House. As a member of a ministry team that changed through the years, I had much to learn, appreciate and grow into. I remember with fondness offering leadership to the monthly Men's Gathering for spiritual nurture, and to the weekly Bible Study where nothing excited me more than light bulbs going on for people as they connected Scripture to their own lives and the life of the world today.

At St. Andrew's UC, Outlook, SK, good, kind and brave people allowed me to fulfill a decades-long dream and personal sense of call; that being to return once more to a rural, small town community and congregation on the prairies. For four years now '17-21, I have been in ministry with these faithful souls. We have experienced the gifts of worship, Sunday School, Messy Church, Bible Study, a Men's Group, pastoral care, and various other faithful initiatives. In these challenging times for the Christian Church, including The United Church of Canada, I'd encourage anyone who feels perhaps called by God to be like Jeremiah, to *buy the field at Anathoth*, to consider if that field for you might also be a rural, small town community and congregation on the prairies. Place your bet on hope foolishly and gladly, and help them to realize that they are of incredible worth to God and to you. Find the place and people that can use you, use your experience, gifts, love, affirmation, encouragement and challenge, and you just might find that it is you who needs them too.

I wish to honour three mentors and role models without whom I cannot conceive of what my life, and of who I as a person and minister would be:

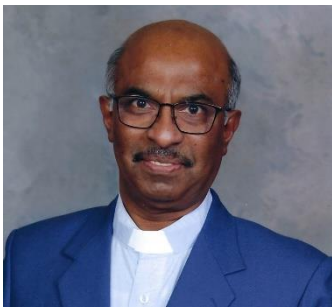
Don Frame, minister of my home church, who spent hours in conversations with me, whose preaching touched my heart and opened my mind, and the imprint of whose hand rested on my head at confirmation and remains with me still.

Ralph Donnelly, former President of St. Andrew's College and teacher of Worship and Preaching, whose friendship was precious, whose love of worship was inspiring, and whose commitment to and valuing of rural, small town communities and ministry was catching.

Glenna Beauchamp, minister of Knox UC, Roblin, and Tummel UC and Supervisor of my internship in '82-'83, who quietly, compassionately and strongly embodies pastoral presence in community, and who graciously made room in both the congregation and pulpit for one who had much to learn.

As has been said, it is a great gift to have our lives caught up in something larger than our lives. So it is that, as I retire officially, I thank God and the Church for this great gift that keeps on giving.

### MATHIAS ROSS



Looking back, whether 'moving' has been in my genes or whether 'choosing' played a more determinative role still remains unresolved! The early move from Malaysia, where I was born to parents of Indian origin, to India was just the start. The opening for ministerial training at The United Theological College, Bangalore -- which was thrice the distance away from a regional seminary -- happened because I was awarded a scholarship at UTC. A quick invitation from North India was the reason for transferring my membership in the Church of South India to become a minister of the Church of North India, and I

served St. Paul's Church, Pune for eight and a half years. The choice/decision-making part of me got activated at this point when my passion to do doctoral study in Theology re-surfaced. That took me to New College (University of Edinburgh), where I did my research in critically evaluating Paul Tillich's theological approach to Religious Pluralism. On completing my Ph.D., I was invited by my former teacher in UTC who had then become Principal of Bishop's College, Calcutta to join the faculty. Largely, these moves happened quite naturally.

Ecumenical relations and scholars (including from Canada) coming to give lectures in theological colleges in India, helped me come to St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon in the academic year 2006-7 on a sabbatical and teach a couple of courses. This possibility developed with efforts on my side, which was responded to with interest and generosity on the part of St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon. After the Sabbatical I returned to India and became the Director of Christian Studies at Madras Christian College (mainly an Arts and Sciences college). In addition to fulfilling the normal duties, I organised inter-disciplinary seminars particularly in the areas of inter-faith and peace, and laid the groundwork for the Centre for Peace Studies, which was inaugurated three years later.

Along with the 'move' force at work, my interfaith interest which gained prominence in my thinking since my doctoral study years, also became a forceful thread that connected me with Saskatchewan. In April 2007 at a Conference organised by Multifaith Saskatoon and the City of Saskatoon, I had the opportunity to present a short talk on "Sustainable Common Future and Faith" as a panelist. And in May 2007 I presented a paper titled "Community Praxis and



Inter-religious Dialogue in Contemporary Religious Formation”, at the Canadian Theological Society's Annual Conference. My interest in theology and inter-faith also led me to express my interest and serve on The United Church of Canada's "Theology, Inter-church and Inter-faith Committee" from 2012 to 2018.

Becoming part of The United Church of Canada involved a deliberate choice. And I am so grateful that my special last years of ministry serving the pastoral charges of Grasslands, Davidson and Carlyle and being part of wider church Annual Meeting gatherings, conferences and workshops had a renewing effect on me. The people, the events, and opportunities for working together resulted in immense learning experiences and personal and professional growth. The last decade of my career was not a winding down, but one where I was forced to experience and articulate transformational change that is meaningful to our given contexts.

To continue to be part of the United Church's mission in congregational settings and in community in the years ahead is my desire. For now, I am happy to serve on the Western Intercultural Ministry Network's Executive, which meets online almost every month.

### YVONNE TERRY



My ministry journey began very innocently one Sunday morning at Forest Lawn United Church, (my home congregation in Calgary). We were having a Congregational meeting and Rev. Catherine Pace was the Presbytery Rep. After the meeting, she came up to me with the question; “How much longer are you going to run?”. We engaged into a brief conversation and left it there. The circumstances and situations that followed were nothing short of miracles, and before you knew it, Rev. Catherine Pace wound up becoming my Educational Supervisor.

I cannot say enough about Catherine’s tutoring. She took me under her wings; educated me, pruned me, challenged me, pushed and prodded me in so many ways. Sometimes I wanted to give up, but what she saw in me made her work even harder. Her work paid off, which led to the seventeen wonderful years I celebrated in ministry; in three different Pastoral Charges, and two Provinces; and on the committees I have served (and are still serving) at the Local, Regional and National levels.

This has been a fantastic and sometimes challenging Spiritual journey, one I would repeat in a heartbeat. On this journey I have met some wonderful people, who have challenged me spiritually and personally, resulting in both my faith in God, and confidence in myself being strengthened. A big THANK YOU for your confidence in me; for believing in me, and supporting me on this journey! I will be forever grateful to you ALL, for the part you have played in making me who I am today.

My decision to retire came when the last Pastoral Charge I served made the decisions to close and sell the buildings, and COVID 19 was also a factor. As I write a new chapter in my life, I do so in faith, and I take all the wonderful memories I have cherished with me. Galatians 6:9 is one of the most encouraging and comforting bible passages for me: *“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”*.

**GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!**



## IN MEMORIAM

### Ronald Murray Evans

**March 30, 1926 – October 1, 2020**



Ronald Murray Evans passed away quietly on October 1, 2020 at City Hospital, Saskatoon, SK, in the company of his son Aaron.

Dad was born in Kenaston, SK on March 30, 1936. He grew up on a farm, in “the hill country” of the Chatham District, 14 miles east of town. The son of Alex and Gladys (Paxman) Evans, dad attended Chatham’s one-room school before finishing high school in Kenaston. He graduated from the U of S with a B.A. and from St. Andrew’s College with a Bachelor of Divinity. Dad met mom, Norma (Poole), at a church summer camp. Mom later attended the U of S where their courtship continued. They were married in 1962, “his good fortune beyond measure”. Dad was ordained in the United Church in 1961 and served four years as the United Church Minister in Rocanville, SK. They moved to Berkeley, California, where dad graduated with a Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in 1968. Later certified as a supervisor in clinical pastoral education, he worked for 5 years as the chaplain at Kings View Mental Health Center in Reedley, California and 19 years as the Director of Pastoral Services at RUH in Saskatoon. With the exception of four years in the Rocanville parish, dad’s working life was spent as a chaplain and teacher in psychiatric and general hospitals in Houston, Reedley, and Saskatoon. In another life, “he would ask to have the courage to be an actor or join the circus; as it was, he got only as far as the church”.

Dad never displayed the three university degrees he earned. Rather, what decorated his offices were his diploma in sausage making, a plaque for fire eating and a certificate for graduating from clown school. Dad’s alter-ego, Yitzak the Clown, was born after a week at clown school. Yitzak would later appear at RUH, making balloon animals for patients on various wards. In keeping with this spirit, dad left gainful employment at 55 so he could “learn to write”. Dad felt tremendous satisfaction for creating a newsletter The Sourdough Bagel, writing three books Coming Home: Saskatchewan Remembered, Letters from the Sourdough Bagel: Confessions of a loner who like company, and When the Bartender Dim the Lights: Storytelling after 80. Dad also produced one CD, You Can See for Miles, a collection of his storytelling accompanied by Barry Luft on banjo. In the last few years, dad learned how to draw and paint, producing many images of hills, barns and barbed wire fences.

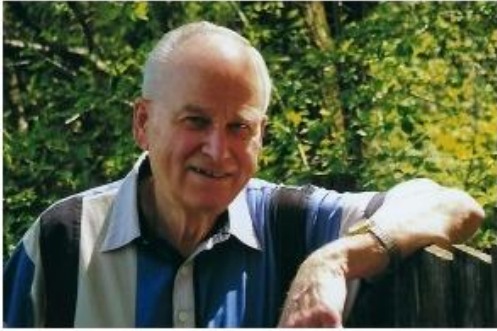
A few years after he retired from RUH, mom and dad moved to the Village of Shields at Blackstrap Lake. Mom and dad developed and fostered many new friendships during their 20 years at Shields, most of which endure to this day. During their time at Shields, mom and dad were part of a number of committees aimed at beautifying the Village of Shields. Dad later received a Volunteer of the Year award from the Province of Saskatchewan for the time and effort he spent improving the community of Shields.

Ron was predeceased by his parents, his brother Ross (Elizabeth) Evans in 2012 and sister Norma (Fred) Fulton in 2020.

A loving father, devoted spouse and loyal friend, dad will be missed. Ron is survived by his wife Norma, daughter, Suzanne and son, Aaron, daughter-in-law Melissa, and grandchildren Jackson, Harrison, and Madeleine. “To them all I owe a great debt, having been loved by them and learning to love in turn.”

## Eric Pullam

**October 16, 1933 – October 9, 2020**



It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Eric Gregory Pullam after a full life of love and service. He died at home surrounded by loved ones. Eric was born in Toronto Ontario to his parents Helen Pullam (nee Gregory) and Eric Pullam. Eric grew up in Toronto. Eric's family had a cottage just outside of Toronto, where Eric fondly remembered the freedom of exploring nature with his sister, Joan. These childhood summers created a life's passion for all things in nature. This passion encompassed gardening, birding, hiking, camping, canoeing, and fishing. Upon completion of high school, Eric entered the University of Toronto and completed his BA. During his summer breaks from university Eric worked at the Dominion Bank (TD Bank) as a runner for them. Eric then studied theology at Emmanuel College in Toronto. During his theological studies Eric was a summer student with the United Church on a pastoral charge in northern Saskatchewan. It was this opportunity that created Eric's love of the prairies. Eric was ordained into ministry with the United Church of Canada in the spring of 1961. While attending the University of Toronto he met Erna Mamie Leach. Erna and Eric were married June 24, 1961 in New Brunswick and following their honeymoon drove to their first pastoral charge - Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. While in Hudson Bay, Ruth, Jennifer and Greg were all born in quick succession. Eric subsequently served in Prince Albert Saskatchewan, Estevan Saskatchewan, Glenboro Manitoba, and Swan River Manitoba. In each pastoral charge Eric was called to, he and Erna worked in partnership in ministry. Eric was an active participant in all of the communities he lived in. He participated in Interdenominational Ministerial committees, Food Bank Drives, Christmas Hampers, Arts Councils, Stars for Saskatchewan, and Chairperson of the initial committee for the Estevan Regional nursing home to name but a few. Rotary International was a very important part of Eric's life. He joined Rotary in Estevan and had 35 years of perfect attendance!! The four pillars of Rotary were a match for Eric in terms of service and connected with Eric's strong faith in God. Eric was passionately involved in Rotary Foundation work, exchange students, and travelled to Rotary events. In retirement Eric didn't hesitate to drive hours to visit his grandchildren and participate in activities they were involved in. In most recent years Eric and Erna enjoyed living in Mulberry Estates, a retirement community, making friends and participating in activities. Eric is survived by wife Erna Mamie Pullam (nee Leach), his three children: daughter Ruth Pullam (Sony Ahluwalia) and their child Raj Ahluwalia Pullam, daughter Jennifer Marcotte (Warren Marcotte), and their children Bryce Marcotte (Emma Maelde), Sarah Marcotte (Lucas Graham), son Gregory Pullam, (Sintra Lewis), and their daughter Aden Pullam. Eric is also survived by his younger sister Joan Sneddon of Toronto and her four children, Bruce, Anne, Scott and Elizabeth. We are very grateful for the special care provided by Eric's private caregivers, Christy, Connie, and Judy.

**Allan Shaw**

**June 28, 1931 - February 2, 2021**



With Allan was born June 28, 1931 on a farm in Holland Township Grey County Ontario. Allan famously recounts the story that it was a Sunday afternoon and his dad said he found him in the cornfield beside the house!

He grew up in and around Holland Centre, attending school at Holland Centre public school and Markdale High School. After completing Grade 13 he was accepted for a teaching position at Mono Township near Orangeville, Ontario. In the 1950s he commuted between his father's farm and Moggie School where he taught while attending summer courses at Toronto Normal school to obtain a first class teaching certificate.

As a young man, Allan would work the summers away from the farm to raise extra money. Allan also had other interesting jobs, including working the rail lines for CPR as a section hand and as a milkman with Scenic City Dairy, Owen Sound. Allan also drove taxis, and had many funny stories to tell of those adventures.

In the fall of 1952 Allan began studies for his B.A. at Victoria University Toronto. During his three years of study he was a weekend supply minister at the Temple Hill Pastoral Charge in Grey County, Ontario. It was during this time he met and fell for a young woman who would be his future wife, Joan Patricia Smith. Allan graduated in 1955 from Emmanuel College with a Bachelor of Divinity, and was ordained to the United Church ministry on June 1, 1958.

Allan's first assignment brought him to the Saskatchewan prairies where he took on the Pastoral Charge in Landis. Three years later he relocated to the Pastoral Charge in Unity. He and Joan were married in 1961 and began their married life in Unity, spending nine happy years, and where their three children, Judy, Jeff and Sandi were born.

Allan had an interest in flying and during his years in Unity he obtained a private pilot's license. He volunteered and was accepted for the Alert Bay Marine Mission in British Columbia. The young family moved to Alert Bay and Allan flew float planes. This ministry was fundamental to the culturally diverse remote communities.

In 1972 the family returned to Saskatchewan and he accepted a call to the Nipawin and Codette Pastoral charge where he remained active for twenty-five + years. Allan was appointed to the rank of Captain in Chaplain Services of the Canadian Armed Forces where he received training for two Citabria gliders. In 1983 Allan turned his energies into counseling and registered in a clinical pastoral education course at North Dakota State Mental Hospital in Jamestown and included three months of training at University Hospital, Saskatoon. Allan returned to Nipawin as the School community counsellor and began private counseling out of his home as well as being a supply minister for Ridgedale, Alysham and surrounding communities.

Allan loved music. He mentions that highlights of his career included directing the Intermediate Choir in Unity for seven years. They sang in a number of music festivals for several churches and communities. Allan wouldn't hesitate to stop and play a few tunes every time he passed a piano. After he retired, he played keyboards for the famous 'No Name' band.

Allan also enjoyed coaching a young lady's hockey team in Nipawin which he said was a genuine reward for him. Allan had many other interests and anything he pursued he did with a passion. He loved photography and formed the Photography Club of Nipawin. He was involved with the Boy Scouts and told many stories of his adventures. He also was involved with and led many youth groups. He loved watching sports, including skating, curling, and of course the Saskatchewan Roughriders. In the later years he relished traveling to Manitoba to watch his grandson play a variety of sports and attend every Christmas concert.

Allan drew much pleasure from his volunteering – it was an integral part of his sense of community and his desire to help others. Some of the groups he was involved with include the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and the Legion. Allan was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club, and was bestowed the Nipawin's Citizen of the Year in 1984.

Allan has spent a lifetime in the service of his ministry and his community. In recognition of his achievements, in 2020 Allan was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from St. Andrew's College at the University of Saskatchewan.

Allan's family was the most important thing in his life. He showed great interest in the pursuits and endeavors of his children and grandson. He was always there to support, give guidance, extol his wisdom and share his love.

Allan will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his wife, Joan, his daughters Judy (Tim), Sandi (Dean), his son Jeff; his grandson Blair, his sister Noreen (Ken) as well as generations of nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is pre-deceased by his parents Thomas Farley Shaw and Mary Ann McMullen, his brother Stewart and his niece Lynn, Alonzo and Hawthorne Smith, Gordon and Eveline Lennox, Ted Smith, Barb Lennox, and Bill Lennox. Allan touched the hearts of everyone he met, and will be sadly missed.

### **Alma Pockrandt**

**February 3, 2021**



With heavy hearts, we regret to announce the passing of Alma Pockrandt on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Alma was predeceased by her devoted and steadfast husband Don; parents Anne Margaret and James Mann and brothers George and Wesley.

Alma is survived by her brother Lloyd (Janice); sisters-in-law Fran and Debbie; her loving children Cynthia, Kenneth (Nicolle) and Roanne; her beloved grandchildren Chantell (Ernest), Samantha, Jessica (Cody), Kyle, Kallie, Kosti and Chloe; her treasured great-grandchildren Nyxon, Abby, Stetson, and Thalia; as well as numerous friends and relatives who will all miss her faithful kindness and generosity.

Alma was very active over her lifetime, whether working or upon retirement. She always made an effort to be present for sporting events and special occasions in the lives of family members, attended and volunteered at church, enjoyed square dancing, playing bridge, curling, knitting, sewing and cross-stitching memorable gifts for all those she loved.

Alma was very active in the churches of Broadway, Zion and joined Eastside after Zion closed. She was a member of Wascana Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference for many years as well.

*I am at peace, my soul's at rest, there is no need for tears. For with your love, I was so blessed, for all so many years.*



**Marylynn Florence Dumont**  
**(Morning Woman / Wapan isk wew)**  
**April 3, 1975 - February 8, 2021**

It is with great sadness that the family of Rev. Deb Anderson-Pratt announce the passing of her daughter, Marylynn Florence Dumont on Monday February 8, 2021 at the age of 45.

### **Betty Powell**

**February 7, 2021**



It is with great sadness that the family of Betty Powell announces her passing on February 7, 2021 with her family by her side, at the home of her daughter Catherine. She is lovingly remembered by her husband of 53 years, Tom, daughters Catherine Powell (Brian Pozniak) and Jennifer Brookman (Aaron), grandchildren Alysha and Matthew Forester and Adam Brookman, sisters-in-law Marilyn Marven and Evelyn Powell, brother-in-law Douglas Powell, nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, William in 1988 and Winnifred in 2000, father-in-law Dwight Powell in 2005, mother-in-law Mary Powell in 2009, and brother-in-law David Marven in 2019.

Betty was born in 1943 in Arborfield, Saskatchewan. She attended high school in Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, and obtained a Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan. She made life-long friends and memories at her first teaching position at the rural high school in Prince Albert where she taught English, French, and Drama. She and Tom married in 1967, and made their first home in Edmonton, Alberta where she taught junior high school while he finished his university degrees. In 1969, they moved to Leader where Tom was settled by The United Church of Canada. In 1970, daughter Cathy was born, and in 1972 after moving to Outlook, daughter Jennifer was added to the family. Betty was kept busy raising the girls, being active in the church and running the family's business, Powell's Male Shop, with Tom until the family moved to Regina in 1975. In Regina, Betty worked teaching



preschool and later as school secretary and librarian at Coronation Park School. In 1986, the family moved again, this time to North Battleford. With the girls being older, Betty resumed teaching, and worked at two schools across the river in Battleford. Tom and Betty's final move was in 1990 to Saskatoon. At the time of her retirement in 1999, Betty worked for the Saskatchewan Federation of Home and School Associations. Through all these moves, she demonstrated her incredible inner strength, resilience, and ability to make the best of any situation.

Betty's main purpose in life was always to provide a loving home for her family, and she succeeded! There were many wonderful family dinners, birthday parties, holidays, family reunions, weddings, and baptisms that she organized and often catered. Cathy and Jennifer always knew she would be there to lend an ear, a hand, a spare bedroom for as long as they wanted, or anything else they might need. She was present at the births of two of her three grandchildren and loved rocking all of them as babies, reading stories, playing house, and having them sleep over. She provided grandma day care and took them to preschool. Betty attended as many of her grandchildren's activities as she could, from music festival and football, soccer, and hockey games, to piano and dance recitals, high school drama productions and band concerts. The family cabin at Candle Lake, originally purchased by her parents in 1972, was a special place for Betty, and many fond memories were made there.

Betty was a talented pianist and organist; those abilities played a big part in how she and Tom met each other. She was skilled with a needle, avidly pursuing sewing, quilting, stitchery, knitting and crocheting, and she shared her handmade gifts with many. Her terrific cooking was appreciated by family, friends, and even complete strangers throughout her years. Betty and Tom loved to travel, and explored many interesting places, both near and far. She inherited a love of gardening from her parents, and created beautiful yards wherever the family lived. She was kind, compassionate, wise, patient, and showed grace under pressure.

In 2016, Betty and family received the devastating diagnosis that she had Alzheimer's Disease. In 2019, she moved to Oliver Lodge where she lived until the final days of her life.

### **Earl Grigg**

**February 15, 1926 - February 17, 2021**



Earl Grigg passed away peacefully on February 17, 2021 at Providence Place in Moose Jaw, SK at the age of 95. Earl was predeceased by his parents, his wife Anne (2005), and his grandson Andy Johnson (2020). Left to cherish his memory is his son Glen Grigg and his daughter Darilyn Grigg; grandchildren Barry, Heather, Ryan, and Heidi; 5 great-grandchildren; his brother Lloyd and his sister Mildred as well as numerous other family and friends. Earl also considered the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church his bothers and sisters. Earl was born in Moose Jaw, SK on February 15, 1926. He received his formal education at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Montana, and the University of BC. He was a life-long learner. Earl was ordained in 1954 and spent most of his life ministering to the people of Moose Jaw. He was at St.

Andrew's United Church for five years and then went on to work at the Moose Jaw Public School Board, returning to ministry in Mortlach before retiring.

**Patricia Joan (Casswell) Farquharson**

**July 5, 1936 - February 24, 2021**



Patricia Joan was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan July 5, 1936 to RCMP Constable Henry (Harry) Sellers Casswell and educator Phyllis Aileen Brown. Harry and Phyllis, with daughters Joan and Beverly, would subsequently live in a variety of communities that included Kipling and Craik, and then Estevan where Joan and Beverly would receive their high school education.

In 1954 Joan enrolled in the City Hospital School of Nursing in Saskatoon. She graduated in 1957 and became a Registered Nurse. On September 16, 1958, at Grace United Church, Saskatoon, she married Walter Farquharson, a theological student at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon. From September 1960 until June 1961 they lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Walter attended New College at the University of Edinburgh and served as an assistant minister at Morningside Parish Church. Their firstborn child, Scott, was born October 10. Joan's primary focus for that year was learning the skills of parenting.

In July 1961 Joan and Walter moved to Saltcoats, Saskatchewan where Walter had been "settled" as a minister of The Saltcoats-Bredenbury Pastoral Charge of The United Church of Canada. Saltcoats would become home and here Joan and Walter raised their family of four - Scott, Michael, Catherine and Stephen. Life revolved around parenting and active involvement in church and community.

Joan's parents lived with an emphasis upon service and Joan had been attracted to nursing as an avenue of service to community and to individual members of the human family. Her attraction to nursing was inspired in part by the example of family members.

As a nurse, Joan was quick to recognize a patient's needs and changes in their symptoms and their responses to treatments given. She was a compassionate and astute listener. As a nursing manager, Joan functioned as a team-builder, professional and capable, and always as a champion and advocate for care-givers and for those receiving care.

Her career as a nurse covered many aspects of nursing. Upon graduating she became an operating room nurse at City Hospital working especially with Dr. Idris Hamdi, neurosurgeon. She worked for a time in Saltcoats Hospital but most of her nursing career was lived out at the Yorkton Hospital where she worked medical, surgical and geriatric wards, then as Night Supervisor and finally as Assistant Director of Nursing, retiring in 1990.

Joan was a deeply spiritual woman, committed to a lived and lively faith - seeing God in nature and in the women, men and children of the human family.

In 1990, Joan became a member of the ministry team of the Four Town Pastoral Charge of the United Church as a Staff Associate teaming with her friend, Margaret Hulston. In this role, she led services of worship, offered pastoral care including officiating at funeral and memorial services. During this time (1990-1992) Joan joined Walter, who was serving as Moderator of the United Church, in extensive travels to congregations and church gatherings across Canada and to partner churches in Zambia, South Africa,

Cuba and Jamaica. This, often meant requests from local groups to meet specifically with her or to apprise her of some special projects or concerns. Her ability to meet others with compassion and empathy was quickly recognized.

Over many years Joan partnered with Walter to offer workshops in a variety of areas that included: Celebrating and Honouring Your Relationship as a Couple; Dealing with Grief and Helping Griefers; Spiritual Practices; The Enneagram - Tool for Understanding Self and Relationships. In the local church, she was involved at different times in CGIT, Youth Groups, Music Ministry, Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, and Explorations of Faith. Most recently that local involvement saw the initiation of a Prayer Shawl ministry - and in knitting and crocheting shawls, scarves and lap rugs for that ministry.

In the 1990's, Joan participated in a Spiritual Direction/Ignatian Pathway program at the John Paul II Centre in Regina and, on the completion of a two-year program, was recognized as a Spiritual Director within the Archdiocese of Regina.

For several years she and Walter operated Blue Heron House, Bed and Breakfast and Retreat, hosting group retreats and programs and providing opportunity for individual retreats.

Community involvements were many, and included the Agricultural Society; Community Beautification Group; Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association (especially the Summer Student Program); fund-raising for the Community Hall Refurbishing Project. As part of the Hall Project, Joan designed the unique Saltcoats Community Tartan, officially recognized by the Scottish Tartan Registry.

Throughout her life, Joan was a lover of the natural world, especially the world of trees, prairie landscapes, birding, seeking out native wildflowers. From her days in high school Joan was recognized as having a love for learning, a questioning mind, and a passionate commitment to core values that included justice-seeking, practicing compassion, living with a profound gratitude for gifts, opportunities and connections experienced in each day given us as children of God, part of creation and as part of a diverse and rich family of humankind.

Joan always enjoyed travel - whether that was through the countryside or on longer tours to explore our province and country. Visits to the UK, to Japan, and Joan and Walter's one major holiday tour - a Pacific Rim Tour, were special times.

Joan's interests included knitting, spinning, weaving and a wide variety of needlework activities. She was an avid reader and a lover of music. She enjoyed baking. A great joy was found in the company of family and friends.

As a sister, she is remembered as a protector, and a loving, loyal friend.

As a Mother, Joan is remembered as a fiercely loving, care-giver, nurturer and for the humour and laughs they shared.

As a Grandmother, she is remembered for her warm welcoming embraces, her baking and knitting, her shared enthusiasm for all of her grandchildren's passions, and her unwavering love.



As a life partner, she is remembered - lover, soul-mate and friend. A rare and treasured gem.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, Harry and Phyllis Casswell and by an honoured company of aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws, fellow workers and journey-makers.

Death came peacefully on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Centennial Care Home in Langenburg after a battle with Leukemia. During her illness, the care she received from Home Care, hospitals and care home, was always professional and compassionate.

Remembering Joan with love and admiration are her husband, Walter; daughter Catherine Daniels of Regina; sons - Scott (Shelley) of Saskatoon, Michael (Hanna) of Saltcoats, Stephen (Crystal) of Saltcoats; treasured grandchildren - Brendan (Hannah) of Saskatoon, Davis Daniels (Chantel) of Regina, Kaito and Gregor of Mayville, N. Dakota, Kyla and Dougal of Saltcoats, Jessica and Katelyn of Saltcoats; sister Beverly of Surrey, B.C.; sister-in-law Lynn Farquharson of Zealandia; special cousins, nephews and nieces; many friends, mentors and co-workers who have shared and enriched life's journey.

**Ivan Glen Fulford**  
**October 26, 1913 – March 14, 2021 (age 107)**



Ivan Fulford died peacefully, early Sunday morning on March 14, 2021 with family by his side, at the age of 107. He will be missed by special friend, Olga Rock, sons: Doug (Velda) and Ken (Lynda), daughters: Pat Chimney, Lois (Jim) Aitken, Betty (Murray) McClure and Dawne Fulford (Al), brother Keith (Alfreda) and sister Norma, along with 24 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren and 22 great-great grandchildren.

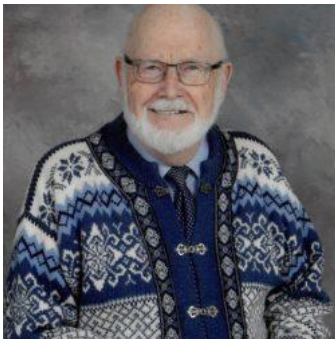
He was predeceased by wife Bernice (nee Godin), father Alfred (Doc), mother Tina (nee McLeod), son Gordon, granddaughter Holly, son-in-law Don, and great great grandson Kale, brothers Hugh, Jim and Dal, sisters Freda, Alda and Jean, and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Ivan was born in Mather, Manitoba and in 1934 moved with his parents to Minitonas, MB. Dad loved to farm and in the early years worked in the bush cutting and hauling logs to the mill. He married Bernice Godin in 1937 and they farmed until 1954 when with a family of six moved to Oakland, MB. There he served as a student minister in the Oakland Church while attending college. Their seventh child arrived while ministering there. When he got his degree in 1958, he accepted a call to the United Church at Grandview, MB. He also ministered at Wiseton and Pelly, SK. Dad was known for his ability to reach people in a special way – he assisted his parishioners when help was needed, and especially loved, in the midst of his ministerial work to help farmers with the harvest. He was the leader in planning and building a new church in Grandview. Each year during summer holidays the car was loaded down with tenting supplies and family travelled across Canada and into the States. When Dad retired in 1976 he returned to farming at Pelly, where he and mom bought a homestead and built it into a ranch called Revs Rolling Ranch. Family and grandkids loved to visit the Ranch. Dad was a hard-working man and visiting grandkids were taught to ride a horse, lasso a cow, drive a tractor, ride a baler and

much more. They learned hard work in cutting trees down for firewood and pulling the logs out of the bush with a horse. Grandkids loved him dearly but found out he was not a man to be reckoned with, especially in a game of crib. Dad taught us the value of family, and oh, how he loved a family sing song. He also enjoyed a good debate with whoever would argue. In his mid-seventies he and mom took up downhill skiing and joined in family ski trips in the Rockies. Dad loved riding his horse and he was able to ride into his nineties. He loved to dance and was able to until he was 103.

We will remember him sitting in the rocking chair in the big kitchen window looking out down into the valley ... the dances at weekend family get-togethers at Wellman Lake church camp ... the beautiful rendition of "Be present at our table Lord" sang before every meal. And we will remember the crumpled farm hat, the worn coveralls, his chuckles and his humming a tune while working away. Dad/Grandpa, your chuckles will be echoed in our hearts forever. You instilled values and morals and have left us with memories and love to cherish for a lifetime - thank you for the wonderful legacy. Your work is done now – Rest In Peace.

**John (Jack) Millar**  
**June 6, 1929 – April 5, 2021**



John B. (Jack) Millar died Monday April 5, 2021 at the age of 91. He is survived by his four children, Kathleen (Barry) Sawatsky of Calgary, Virginia Millar of Vernon, B.C., Fred Millar of Saskatoon and John (Lee) Millar of Regina; six grandchildren, Andrew Sawatsky, Krista (Justin) Fenech, Lisa and Sarah Millette and Carter and McKenzie Millar and five great grandchildren, Dennis, Nora and Lucy Spencer and Elliot and Finley Fenech. Jack was married twice; to the children's mother, Anne Halliday and then to Jean Nahachewsky.

Jack was born on June 6, 1929 in Empress, AB, the only child of John and Beatrice Millar. In his youth Jack lived in a number of small communities where his father worked for the C.P.R.. Jack graduated from high school in Rosemary, AB. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Alberta and his Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1960.

Jack worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service for thirty-two years as a wildlife biologist and, even after retirement, continued to do contract work based on his years of experience. He was a collector of many artifacts, which he accumulated in his 40 years of travel around the world. He was a keen photographer and for many years entertained audiences in local nursing homes, libraries, seniors groups and churches with his travel slides.

The United Church was a major focus in Jack's life. He was the first lay-person to be President of the United Church Conference in Saskatchewan. He also served on many committees in the various courts of the church and was an active member of McClure United Church.

**Charles (Chuck) Robert Alton**  
**1939 – 2021**



Our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Charles (Chuck) Robert Alton, passed away peacefully into the arms of the Lord with family by his side on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at the age of 81 years. Chuck is survived by his loving wife Rhaya, his three daughters Nanette (Patrick) Estabrooks and their daughters Caitlin (Cole) English, Lauren Estabrooks and Nicole Estabrooks, Heather (Russell) Ohlmann and Naomi (Kerry) Degenhardt and their children Josephine, Claire and Gilbert. He is also survived by his siblings Joe (Esther) Alton, Karen (Hans) Specht and Tim (Wonda) Alton, his sisters-in-law Ellie Donahue, Betti Gallpen, Marj (Jim) Kope and Carol Davis (George Owen) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Chuck was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Marion Alton, Rhaya's parents, Charles and Isabel Nix, his brothers-in-law Peter Gallpen and Joe Donahue and two infant great-grandchildren Camille and Connor English. Chuck was born in Weyburn, SK on August 14, 1939, the oldest of four children. He grew up in the Griffin area and worked alongside his family on the farm and in their hardware store. He went to Teachers College in Moose Jaw in the fall of 1957 and taught school for 5 years in Goodwater, Wood Mountain and Beechy, SK and in Topley, BC. Chuck answered the Lord's call into ministry and attended St. Andrew's College from 1967-1970 when he was ordained. Over his 34-year career in The United Church of Canada, he served the pastoral charges of Climax (1970-1975), Avonlea-Briercrest (1975-1982), Consort, AB (1982-1984), Cadillac-Neville-Vanguard (1984-1991) and Lafleche (1991-2004). Upon his retirement, they moved to Briercrest, SK where he lived until his passing. Chuck had a real passion for serving his church and community and made many friendships throughout his life. Chuck met his loving wife Rhaya in 1965 at Naramata, BC while attending Christian Leadership Training School. They were married on June 24, 1967 and enjoyed almost 54 years together. He was a real family man and had a very active role in raising his children. Chuck was delighted to become a grandpa and enjoyed each of his grandchildren, attending many school concerts and gymnastic recitals. He had the privilege of baptizing 2 of his 3 children and all 6 of his grandchildren and performing the marriage ceremony of his oldest granddaughter Caitlin.

**Congregations/Pastoral Charges that have ceased worshipping**

Brithdir Congregation of the Humboldt Pastoral Charge

Borden Pastoral Charge

Fillmore: Grace United Church Congregation of the Prairie Points Pastoral Charge

Gravelbourg: St. Stephen's Congregation of the Gravelbourg Pastoral Charge

Manor: Knox United Pastoral Charge (SM)

Nokomis Congregation of the Lanigan, Nokomis Pastoral Charge

Redvers: Knox United/Lutheran Pastoral Charge (SM)

**PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Living Skies Regional Council**  
**Report 2020 - 2021**

<b>LEGEND:</b> * = part time       + = indicates <i>change</i> in Call/Appointment	
<b><u>Ministry Abbreviations used in this report:</u></b>	<b>Dates:</b> Listed as <u>month/day/year</u>
OM = Ordained Minister	DM = Diaconal Minister
US = United Supply Minister	RS = Retired Supply Minister
IM = Interim Minister	EA = Ecumenical Appointment to Shared Ministry
DLM = Designated Lay Minister	
CS = Candidate Supply	
OS = Ordained Supply (from another denomination, in admission process with United Church)	
DS = Diaconal Supply (from another denomination, in admission process with United Church)	
SM = Shared Ministry (pastoral charge in ministry with one or more other denominations)	

**COMPLETED CALLS**

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
La Ronge	Janae Brownley (OM)	12/07/20
Norquay	Margaret McCallum (OM)	09/01/20*+
Regina Native Outreach Ministry	Deb Anderson-Pratt (OM)	07/01/20*
Rocanville	Barbara Wilkins (OM)	05/01/21*+
Saskatoon: St. Paul's	Mitchell Anderson (OM)	08/01/20
Tisdale	Hoeun Lee (OM)	07/01/20

**COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS**

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Battleford	E. Gayle Wensley (DLM)	07/01/20-06/30/22*
Borden	E. Gayle Wensley (DLM)	07/01/20-06/30/22*
Crossroads United	Roy Bortolotto (DLM)	07/01/20-06/30/23
Davidson	Ursula Wiig (OM/RS)	02/01/21-06/30/21*
Elrose	Jim MacNaughton (DLM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Esterhazy: St. Andrew's	Young Jin Park (CS)	08/01/20-06/30/22*
Eston: St. Andrew's	Barbara MacNaughton (DLM)	07/01/20-06/30/23
Fort Qu'Appelle: St. Andrew's	Jo Mader (DLM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Four Town	Sarah Giles (CS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Glenavon	Lynette Callfas (DLM)	07/01/20-12/31/20*
Glenavon	Lynette Callfas (DLM)	01/01/21-12/31/21*
Gull Lake	Ken Schrag (OM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Imperial:	Ray Purdie (OM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Indian Head: St. Andrew's	John Sellwood (DLM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Kyle-Lacadena	Jim MacNaughton (DLM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Langham: Knox	Emily Carr (OS)	10/01/20-03/31/22*
Lanigan-Nokomis	Frances Kitson (CS)	01/01/21-01/01/23
North Battleford: Third Avenue	Dexter van Dyke (OM/RS)	09/01/20-08/31/21
Saskatoon: ICM	Chantalle Morrow-Fesciuc (L)	09/01/20-08/31/22

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Saskatoon: NSHC	Emily Carr (OS)	10/01/20-06/30/21*
Saskatoon: Mount Royal Emmanuel	Joan Brown (DM/RS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*
Speers	E. Gayle Wensley (DLM)	07/01/20-06/30/22*
Spiritwood Partners in Faith	Nora Borgeson (OM/RS)	09/01/20-09/30/20*
Strasbourg Pastoral Charge	John Sellwood (DLM/RS)	12/01/20-06/30/21*
Wolseley: St. James	Jim Wolff (CS)	07/01/20-06/30/21*

## **RETIREMENTS**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Brian Maitland	10/31/2021	Ron McConnell	05/31/2021
Mathias Ross	07/31/2020	Yvonne Terry	09/30/2020
Mark Wartman	06/30/2020		

## **MINISTRY PERSONNEL LEAVING THE REGION**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date Effective</u></b>	<b><u>Going to:</u></b>
Bruce Kakakaway	10/31/2020	Pacific Mountain
Barb Blois-MacNaughton	04/04/2021	Region 15
James (Jim) MacNaughton	04/04/2021	Region 15
Cindy Bourgeois	01/31/2021	Shining Waters

## **MINISTRY PERSONNEL COMING INTO THE REGION**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date Effective</u></b>	<b><u>Coming from:</u></b>
Frances Kitson	01/01/2020	Pacific Mountain

## **COMMUNITY OF FAITH IN PASTORAL RELATIONS PROCESS<sup>1</sup>**

<b><u>Pastoral Charge</u></b>	<b><u>Date Approved</u></b>	<b><u>Liaison</u></b>	<b><u>Date Complete<sup>2</sup></u></b>
Abbey-Lancer-Portreeve	05/27/20	EunKyu Ji	
Assiniboia	01/18/19	Duane Filson	
Balgonie-McLean	01/18/19	Cam Fraser	
Biggar	01/18/19	Lyall Campbell	
Carlyle	06/30/20	Fran Balls	
Carrot River/Arborfield	02/07/19	Charles McKenzie	
Crossroads	02/13/19	Janice Edwards	
Elrose	12/17/20	Lyall Campbell	
Esterhazy	04/02/20	Mitchell Anderson	08/01/20
Eston	01/21/21	Jo-Ann Hills	
Foam Lake, Leslie	03/05/20	Marvin Mackie	
Grenfell/Kipling	04/01/21	Beth Johnston	
Kamsack	04/02/20	Brian Mee	
KeLRose	01/18/19	Brian Mee	

<sup>1</sup> Pastoral Relations Process with a Liaison occurs any time there is a question about the Pastoral Relationship including reviewing terms of calls/ appointments and assessing financial viability.

<sup>2</sup> Date call or appointment begins.

<b><u>Pastoral Charge</u></b>	<b><u>Date Approved</u></b>	<b><u>Liaison</u></b>	<b><u>Date Complete<sup>3</sup></u></b>
Kyle-Lacadena	12/17/20	Lyall Campbell	
Langham	03/05/20	Beth Johnston	10/01/20
Lanigan, Nokomis	05/07/20	Marvin Mackie	01/07/21
La Ronge	01/18/19	Dave Whalley	12/07/20
Loreburn, Hawarden	02/06/20	Michelle Rowe	
Maidstone-Paynton	06/30/20	Dale Worrall	
Melfort	01/18/19	Dave Whalley	
Northern Lakes	01/18/19	Louise Robson	
Ogema, Bengough, Pangman	01/01/19	Shirley Crone	
Outlook	04/01/21	Dale Worrall	
Pine Cree	02/13/19	Michele Rowe	
Prairie Points	05/07/20	Darrell Reine	
Prairie Spirit	01/01/19	Denise Sweet	
Regina: Lakeview	12/03/20	June Blau	
Regina: St. James	12/03/20	June Blau	
Regina: Wesley	05/02/19	Darrel Reine	
Rocanville	02/04/21	Roy Bortolotto	05/01/21
Saskatoon: ICM	09/05/19	Lyall Campbell	09/01/20
Saskatoon: Knox	12/17/20	Beth Johnston	
Saskatoon: NSHC	04/02/20	Debra Berg	10/01/20
Saskatoon: St. Paul's	05/22/20	Dale Worrall	08/01/20
Shell Lake Partners in Worship	05/22/20	Bob Hayes	09/01/20
Spiritwood Partners in Faith	05/22/20	Bob Hayes	09/01/20
Star City	02/07/19	Jeanette Stevenson	
Stoughton	04/02/20	Darrelle Reine	
Strasbourg	11/07/19	June Blau	12/01/20
St. Paul's International	06/06/19	Susan Reed	

## **PASTORAL CHARGE SUMMARY**

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Ministry Personnel<sup>4</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Call start/Appt end<sup>5</sup></u></b>
Abbey-Lancer-Portreeve	<i>(Ken Schrag – May 27/20)</i>	
Alameda	Jacqueline Van't Voort (DM)	Call - 07/01/18*
	Kathy Kyle (OM)	<i>Ended - 08/31/20</i>
Arcola-Kisby	Koshy David (OM)	<i>Ended - 09/30/20</i>
	<i>(Anita Warriner – Sept 3/20)</i>	
Assiniboia	<i>(Duane Filson – Mar 7/19)</i>	
Avonlea-Blue Hill	<i>(Yvonne Terry – Nov 7/19)</i>	
Balcarres: St. Andrew's	<i>(Rick McCorrister - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Balgonie-McLean	<i>(Cam Fraser – Jan 18/19)</i>	

<sup>3</sup> Date call or appointment begins.

<sup>4</sup> Pastoral Charge Supervisor in italics, if applicable

<sup>5</sup> Data accurate to May 14, 2021

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Ministry Personnel<sup>6</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Call start/Appt end<sup>7</sup></u></b>
Battleford	Gayle Wensley (DLM)	Appt - 06/30/22*
Beechy	<i>(Diane Schmidt - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Biggar	<i>(Piotr Strzelecki - Jan 27/20)</i>	
Big River	Dave Whalley (DLM/RS)	Appt - 06/30/22*
Borden	<i>(Gayle Wensley (DLM)</i>	Ended - 04/30/21 <i>Closing</i>
Borderlands	<i>(Duane Filson - May 2/19)</i>	
Bradwell	<i>(Donna Wilson - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Bridging Waters	Beth W. Johnston (OM)	Call - 05/01/19
Broadview	<i>(Barbara Wilkins - May 6/21)</i>	
Cabri, Hazlet, Pennant	<i>(Salesi Takau - June 20/19)</i>	
Canora: St. Andrew's	<i>(Jen Dresser - May 27/20)</i>	
Carlyle	<i>(Sharon Hubbard - June 30/20)</i>	
Carnduff Alida	Susan Reed (DM)	Call - 07/01/07
Carrot River/Arborfield	<i>(Nancy Steinbachs - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Carry the Kettle (Hurricane Hills)	Bernice Saulteaux	Call - 07/01/18
Clavet	<i>(Bonita Chad - May 27/20)</i>	<i>Closing</i>
Climax	Connie Sykes (DLM)	Appt - 06/30/22*
Colleston, Steep Creek	<i>(Nora Vedress - June 20/19)</i>	
Colonsay	<i>(Jan Clarke - Nov 5/20)</i>	
Cote	Eugene Blacksioux (OM)	
Coteau Hills	<i>(Allan Gairns - May 7/20)</i>	
Craik		
Crossroads	<i>(Cindy Goodman - June 25/19)</i>	
Crossroads United	Roy Bortolotto (DLM)	Appt - 07/01/23
Crystal Springs	<i>(Valerie Barnes-Connell - Sept 3/20)</i>	
Cut Knife	YongSeok Baek (OM)	Call - 06/03/19*
Davidson-Girvin	Ursula Wiig (OM/RS)	Appt - 06/30/21*
Delisle - Vanscoy	Lindsay Mohn (OM)	Call - 07/01/18*
Dundurn, Hanley	Andrew Appledore (OM)	Call - 01/01/16*
Earl Grey	<i>(Bev Diduck - Jan 9/20)</i>	<i>Disbanded - 04/15/21</i>
Eatonia-Mantario	<i>(Barb MacNaughton - Jan 1/19 - Mar 31/21)</i>	
	<i>(Piotr Strzelecki - Apr 1/21)</i>	
Elrose	Jim MacNaughton (DLM/RS)	Ended - 04/04/21
	<i>(Jan Coffey-Olson - May 6/21)</i>	
Esterhazy (SM)	Young Jin Park (CS)	Appt - 06/30/22*
	<i>(Michele Rowe - June 4/20)</i>	
Eston: St. Andrew's	Barb MacNaughton (DLM)	Ended - 04/04/21
	<i>(Jeannine Cline - May 6/21)</i>	
Five Oaks (SM - Lutheran)	Kragbe Legre (EA)	
Foam Lake, Leslie	<i>(Marvin Mackie - May 2/19)</i>	

<sup>6</sup> Pastoral Charge Supervisor in italics, if applicable

<sup>7</sup> Data accurate to May 14, 2021



<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Ministry Personnel<sup>8</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Call start/Appt end<sup>9</sup></u></b>
Fort Qu'Appelle: St. A's	Jo Mader (DLM)	Appt - 06/30/21*
Four Town (SM)	Sarah Giles (CS) <i>(Lindsay Mohn – June 4/20)</i>	Appt - 06/30/21*
Gainsborough, Carievale	Rob Reed (DM)	Call - 07/01/07
Glenavon	Lynette Callfas (DLM) <i>(Diane Schmidt - Jan 1/19)</i>	Appt - 12/31/21*
Goose Lake	EunKyu Ji (OM)	Call - 07/01/18
Grasslands	<i>(Wendy Gibson– June 20/19)</i>	Closing
Gravelbourg	<i>(Bonnie Morton - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Gray	Hyun Heo (OM)	Ending - 06/30/21*
Grenfell	Ken Schrag (OM/RS)	Appt - 06/30/21*
Gull Lake	Brad Wudrich (OM)	Call - 07/01/19
Hudson Bay	Brenda Curtis (DM)	Call - 07/01/04
Humboldt	Ray Purdie (OM/RS)	Appt - 06/30/21*
Imperial	John Sellwood (DLM/RS) <i>(Lorna King – Sept 3/20)</i>	Ended - 11/30/20
Indian Head	<i>(Brian Mee - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Ituna	<i>(Marg Janick-Grayston – Sept 3/20- Apr 30/21)</i>	
Kamsack	<i>(Tom Carnahan – May 14/21)</i>	
Kelliher	<i>(Brian Mee – June 20/19)</i>	
KeLRose	<i>(Sheila Ivanochko-Feb7/19)</i>	
Kennedy	<i>(Roy Bortolotto– Nov 7/19)</i>	
Kerrobart	<i>(SunDo Hyun – June 4/20)</i>	
Kindersley	Piotr Strzelecki (OM)	Call - 07/01/16
Kinistino	<i>(Charles McKenzie - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Kipling	Hyun Heo (OM) <i>(Roy Bortolotto – Feb 11/20 – Sept 26/20)</i>	Ending - 06/30/21
Kyle, Lacadena	Jim MacNaughton (DLM/RS) <i>(Jan Coffey-Olson – May 6/21)</i>	Ended - 04/04/21
La Ronge	Janae Brownley (OM) <i>(Dave Whalley - June 20/19- Dec 6/20)</i>	Call - 12/07/20
Lafleche-Limerick	Janelle Shaw (OM)	Call - 02/18/18
Landis	<i>(Gary Johnson– Nov 7/19)</i>	
Langham: Knox	Emily Carr (OS) <i>(Joan Brown – May 21/20)</i>	Appt - 03/31/22*
Lanigan, Nokomis	Frances Kitson (CS) <i>(Ursula Wiig – May 21/20)</i>	Appt - 12/31/22
Lashburn	<i>(Pat Ribey – Jan 16/20)</i>	Closing
Leader, Sceptre	<i>(Andrew Hecker - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Lemberg, Abernethy	<i>(Mary Anne Grand - Jan 1/19)</i>	

<sup>8</sup> Pastoral Charge Supervisor in italics, if applicable

<sup>9</sup> Data accurate to May 14, 2021

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Ministry Personnel<sup>10</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Call start/Appt end<sup>11</sup></u></b>
Little Cutarm	<i>(Susan Griffith - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Long Lake	<i>(Dwayne Dornan - Jan 30/19)</i>	
Loreburn, Hawarden	<i>(Ron McConnell - Nov 7/19)</i>	
Lumsden	Marjorie Kent (OM)	Call - 06/01/09
Luseland	<i>(Dale Worrall - Nov 5/20)</i>	
Maidstone, Paynton	<i>(Dexter van Dyke - Nov 26/19)</i>	
Manor	<i>(Rob Reed - August 10/20)</i>	<i>Disbanded - 05/14/21</i>
Maple Creek	Michele Rowe (OM)	Call - 07/01/18
Marsden, Neilberg	Lorna Brick (OM)	Call - 01/01/17*
Maymont	<i>(Gayle Wensley - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Meadow Lake	SunDo Hyun (OM)	Call - 07/01/19
Melfort-Ethelton	<i>(Dave Whalley - June 4/20)</i>	
Melville: First	Brian Mee (OM)	Appt - 06/30/21*
Moose Jaw: Minto	Linda Tomlinson-Seebach (OM)	Call - 01/01/16
Moose Jaw: St. Andrew's	Jim Tenford (OM)	Call - 01/01/19+ (05/01/13*)
Moose Jaw: Trinity	<i>(Linda Tomlinson-Seebach - June 20/19)</i>	
Moose Jaw: Zion	Tim Ellis (OM)	Call - 07/01/17
Moosomin: Bethel	Carolyn E. Woodall (IM)	Appt - 06/30/21
Mortlach	<i>(Darleen Stewart - Nov 7/19)</i>	<i>Disbanded - 02/12/21</i>
Mossbank	<i>(Wendy Gibson - Jan 9/20)</i>	<i>Disbanded - 11/13/20</i>
New Venture	<i>(Linda Stumpf - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Norquay	Margaret McCallum (OM)	Call - (09/01/20+) (07/01/15*)
North Battleford	Dexter van Dyke (OM/RS)	Appt - 08/31/21
N. Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy	Emily Carr (OS)	Appt - 06/30/21*
	<i>(Daryl Woods - June 4/20)</i>	
Northern Lakes	<i>(George / Diane Thurlow - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Ogema, Bengough, Pangman	<i>(Shirley Crone - June 25/19)</i>	
Outlook	Ron McConnell (OM)	Call - 07/01/17
Oxbow-Glen Ewen	Jacqueline Van't Voort (DM)	Call - 07/01/18*
	Kathy Kyle (OM)	<i>Ended - 08/31/20</i>
Pelly	<i>(Velda Dahlin - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Perdue	<i>(Brian Maitland - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Pine Cree	<i>(Connie Sykes - June 20/19)</i>	
Plainsview	<i>(Russell / Brian Mitchell-Walker - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Plenty, Dodsland	<i>(Dale Worrall - Nov 5/20)</i>	
Prairie Points	<i>(Vic Wiebe - May 7/20)</i>	
Prairie Spirit	<i>(Denise Sweet - Jan 1/19)</i>	
Preeceville-Sturgis	Miles Russell (OM)	Call - 07/01/83
Prince Albert: Calvary	Nora Vedress (OM)	Call - 07/01/05
	<i>(Tony Thompson - Jan 8/21 - Mar 1/21)</i>	

<sup>10</sup> Pastoral Charge Supervisor in italics, if applicable

<sup>11</sup> Data accurate to May 14, 2021

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Ministry Personnel<sup>12</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Call start/Appt end<sup>13</sup></u></b>
Quill Plains	<i>(Brenda Curtis – Jan 1/19)</i>	
Radville (SMES)	Jeri-Lee Jones (CS) <i>(Judy Beck – Feb 9/20)</i>	Appt - 06/30/21*
Redvers United	<i>(Rob Reed - Sept 5/19)</i>	Closing
Regina Anti-Poverty	Peter Gilmer (DLM) Bonnie Morton (DLM)	Appt - 12/31/21 Appt - 12/31/21
Regina: Broadway	James Balfour (OM)	Call - 09/15/98
Regina: Eastside	Russell Mitchell-Walker (DM)	Call - 09/10/12
Regina: Heritage	Joy Cowan (OM)	Call - 08/01/19
Regina: Knox Met	Cameron Fraser (DLM)	Appt - 06/30/21
Regina: Lakeview	Sue Breisch (OM) <i>(Delise Pitman – June 30/20)</i>	Ended - 08/31/20
Regina Native Outreach Ministries	Deb Anderson-Pratt (OM) <i>(Cindy Bourgeois – May 7/20 – Sept 27/20)</i>	Call - 07/01/20*
Regina: St. James	Diane Robinson (OM) Laura Sundberg (OM)	Call - 01/01/17* Call - 07/01/13*
Regina: Sunset	Tricia Gerhard (OM)	Call - 01/15/18
Regina: Wesley	Cindy Bourgeois (OM) <i>(Bryan Tudor – Jan 7/21)</i>	Ended - 01/31/21
Regina: Westminster	Darrell Reine (DLM) <i>(Christa Eidsness – May 6/21)</i>	Appt - 06/30/21
Rocanville	Barbara Wilkins (OM)	Call - 05/01/21*+ (07/01/18)
Rosetown	Allan Gairns (DM)	Call - 02/23/20*
Saskatoon: Grace-Westminster	Daryl Woods (OM)	Call - 09/01/01
Saskatoon: Grosvenor Park	Nobuko Iwai (OM)	Call - 08/15/15
Saskatoon: ICM	Chantalle Morrow-Fesciuc (L)	Appt - 08/31/22
Saskatoon: Knox	Brian Maitland (OM)	Call - 11/01/19*+
Saskatoon: Mayfair	Shelly Manley-Tannis (OM)	Call - 06/01/20+ (03/02/20*)
Saskatoon: McClure	Debra Berg (OM) Laura Fouhse (DM)	Call - 07/01/11 Call - 07/01/06
Saskatoon: Mount Royal Emmanuel	Joan Brown (DM/RS)	Appt - 06/30/21*
Saskatoon: St. David's Trinity	Bill Unger (OM)	Call - 09/01/09
Saskatoon: St. Martin's	Jordan Cantwell (OM) Keith Hall (DM)	Call - 11/12/18 Call - 07/01/19
Saskatoon: St. Paul's	Mitchell Anderson <i>(Jordan Cantwell – June 4/20 – July 30/20)</i>	Call - 08/01/20
Saskatoon: St. Thomas Wesley	Vicki Obedkoff (OM)	Call - 11/01/19*
Saskatoon: Third Ave.	<i>(Brian Maitland – Nov 7/19)</i>	Disbanded - 04/22/21
Shell Lake Partners in Worship (SM)	Sarah Urano (EA)	Call - 09/01/20

<sup>12</sup> Pastoral Charge Supervisor in italics, if applicable

<sup>13</sup> Data accurate to May 14, 2021

<b><u>Community of Faith</u></b>	<b><u>Ministry Personnel<sup>14</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Call start/Appt end<sup>15</sup></u></b>
Shellbrook-Leask	Jonathan Worrall (CS) ( <i>Bob Hayes – Sept 3/20</i> )	Appt - 05/31/21*
Silton	( <i>Danna Wiebe (Armstrong) - Jan 1/19</i> )	
Smiley	( <i>Jo-Ann Hills- Jan 1/19</i> )	
Soo Line	( <i>Yvonne Terry –Oct 1/20</i> )	Disbanding
Southey	( <i>Leslie Parkin– Nov 7/19</i> )	
South SK Hosp Chaplaincy	Lorna King (DLM/RS)	Appt - 09/16/21*
Speers	Gayle Wensley (DLM)	Appt - 06/30/22*
Spirit Hills	( <i>Neil Colmin - Jan 1/19</i> )	
Spirit of Hope	( <i>George Holliday - Jan 1/19</i> )	
Spiritwood Partners in Faith (SM)	Nora Borgeson (OM/RS)	Ended - 09/30/20
	Sarah Urano (EA)	Call - 09/01/20
Springwater	( <i>Carmel Waddington – Jan7/21</i> )	Closing
Spy Hill		
St. Paul's International	( <i>Vic Wiebe - Sept 15/19</i> )	
Star City	( <i>Carol Beal McKenzie– June 20/19</i> )	
Stoughton	( <i>Mohandas Barnabas – June 4/20</i> )	
Strasbourg	John Sellwood (DLM/RS)	Appt - 06/30/21*
	( <i>Bryan Tudor– Nov 26/19 – Nov 30/21</i> )	
Swift Current: First	Annette Taylor (OM)	Call - 07/01/15
	( <i>Janelle Shaw – May 6/21</i> )	
Tantallon	( <i>Shari Forsythe-Hohm - Jan 1/19</i> )	
Theodore	( <i>Catherine Pace – Oct 3/19</i> )	
Tisdale: St. Paul's	Hoeun Lee (OM)	Call - 07/01/20
Tomkins (SM: Anglican)	( <i>Carolyn Conarroe - Jan 1/19</i> )	
Turtle River (SM - Anglican)	Kun Kim (OM)	Call - 08/01/11 (07/01/19*+)
	Don Skinner (EA)	
Unity, Meridian (SM)	Gary Johnson (DLM)	Appt - 06/30/22
Wakaw	( <i>Brian Walton - Jan 1/19</i> )	
Wanakapew (File Hills)		
Wapella	( <i>Barbara Wilkins – June 4/20</i> )	
Watrous Young	Jo-Ann Hills (OM)	Call - 01/01/20
Weyburn	Mohandas Barnabas (OM)	Call - 01/01/08
Wilkie, Scott	YongSeok Baek (OM)	Call - 06/03/19*
Wolseley	Jim Wolff (CS)	Appt - 06/30/22*
	( <i>John Sellwood– Oct 3/19</i> )	
Yellow Grass (SM – Lutheran)	( <i>Mohandas Barnabas – Sept 3/20</i> )	
Yorkton: St. Andrew's	Jennifer Dresser (DM)	Call - 07/01/13
Yorkton: Westview	Deborah Smith (OM)	Call - 09/01/14

<sup>14</sup> Pastoral Charge Supervisor in italics, if applicable

<sup>15</sup> Data accurate to May 14, 2021

**Recognized Current Sacrament Elders**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>License Expires</u></b>	<b><u>Congregation</u></b>
Akins, Eleanor	June 30, 2021	Plainsview
Alexander, Neil	June 30, 2021	Avonlea (Blue Hills-Avonlea)
Beck, Judy	June 30, 2021	Yellow Grass
Bernier, Sue	June 30, 2021	Biggar
Bjarnason, Rosellen	June 30, 2021	Wynyard (Spirit of Hope)
Chuiko, Meredith	June 30, 2021	Loon Lake (Northern Lakes)
Court, Gladys	June 30, 2021	Kinistino
Fowler, Sandra	June 30, 2021	Tugaske (Spirit Hills)
Francis, Jani	June 30, 2021	Indian Head: St. Andrew's
Girard, Sharon	June 30, 2021	Pine Cree
Grand, Mary Anne	June 30, 2021	Raymore (Crossroads)
Halliday, Paulette	June 30, 2021	Luseland
Irving, Carroll	June 30, 2021	Rose Valley (KelRose)
Kirby, Linda	June 30, 2021	Coronach (Borderlands)
Lyster, Patricia	June 30, 2021	Balcarres
Mack, Marjorie	June 30, 2021	Kerrobert
Mackie, Marvin	June 30, 2021	Rose Valley (KelRose)
Morris, Shelly	June 30, 2021	Atwater (Little Cutarm)
Payne, Shirley	June 30, 2021	(KelRose)
Porter, Marion	June 30, 2021	Bethune (Long Lake)
Schmidt, Diane	June 30, 2021	(Prairie Spirit)
Seymour, Bev	June 30, 2021	Harris (Goose Lake)
Sichkaruk, Dianne	June 30, 2021	Theodore
Smith, Marie	June 30, 2021	Eatonia - Mantario
Yost, Carla	June 30, 2021	Rockglen (Borderlands)

**Recognized Licensed Lay Worship Leaders**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Licensed to</u></b>	<b><u>Congregation</u></b>
Alexander, Neil	December 31, 2021	Avonlea (Avonlea-Blue Hill)
Baerwald, Beth	June 30, 2022	Star City
Bamforth, Emily	December 31, 2023	Eastend (Pine Cree)
Beck, Judy	December 31, 2021	Yellow Grass
Berge, Diane	June 30, 2022	Nipawin (Bridging Waters)
Bjarnason, Rosellen	June 30, 2021	Wynyard (Spirit of Hope)
Cartmell, Karen	December 31, 2021	Regina: Sunset
Challoner, Tricia	December 31, 2022	Norquay
Chuiko, Meredith	June 30, 2023	Loon Lake (Northern Lakes)
Dahlgren, David	June 30, 2021	Moosomin: Bethel
Dahlin, Velda	December 31, 2022	Norquay
Daisley, Rosalie	December 31, 2022	Hudson Bay (Hudson Bay LP)
Deforest, Sheila	December 31, 2022	Hudson Bay (Hudson Bay LP)

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Licensed to</u></b>	<b><u>Congregation</u></b>
Fowler, Sandra	December 31, 2023	Tugaske (Spirit Hills)
Francis, Jani	December 31, 2022	Indian Head: St. Andrew's
Friesen, Henry	December 31, 2022	Carnduff (Carnduff Alida)
Gonczy, Kendra	December 31, 2022	Weyburn: Grace
Goodman, Cindy	June 30, 2021	Wynyard (Spirit of Hope)
Grand, Mary Anne	December 31, 2023	Raymore (Crossroads)
Groenen, Colleen	December 31, 2022	Lashburn
Hain, Norma	December 31, 2023	Swift Current: First
Herman, Garth	June 30, 2021	Arcola: St. Andrew's
Hilderman, Henrietta	December 31, 2022	Govan
Jordison, Cindy	December 31, 2022	Tisdale: St. Paul's
Klassen, Linda	December 31, 2021	Regina Beach (Long Lake)
Knoll, Carol	December 31, 2022	Theodore
Kocski, Verna	June 30, 2023	Unity (Unity, Meridian)
Larsen, Lynn	December 31, 2022	Preeceville (Preeceville-Sturgis)
Little, Elaine	June 30, 2021	Hazlet (Cabri, Hazlet, Pennant)
Lyster, Patricia	December 31, 2022	Abernethy (Balcarres)
Mackie, Marvin	June 30, 2021	Rose Valley (KeLRose)
Mostowy, Ruth	December 31, 2022	Westminster (Humboldt)
Ntibategera, Chantal	December 31, 2022	Calvary (Prince Albert)
Payne, Shirley	December 31, 2022	Kelvington (KeLRose)
Petersen, Joanne	December 31, 2022	Glentworth (Grasslands)
Pollock, Bill	December 31, 2022	Saskatoon: Grace-Westminster
Prentice, Gloria	December 31, 2022	Beechy
Pulfer, Jim	June 30, 2023	Saskatoon: St. Thomas Wesley
Reilkoff, Gwen	December 31, 2022	Kamsack
Robertson, Laurie	December 31, 2022	Mankota (Grasslands)
Sawchuk, Patti	December 31, 2022	Dundurn (Dundurn, Hanley)
Schmidt, Diane	June 30, 2023	Milden (Prairie Spirit)
Sullivan, Linda	December 31, 2021	Bethune (Long Lake)
Tober, Heather	June 30, 2021	Oxbow (Oxbow Glen Ewen)
Tudor, Bryan	December 31, 2021	Regina: Sunset
Warrian, Jeanette	June 30, 2021	Lanigan (Lanigan, Nokomis)
Watson, Sandra	December 31, 2023	Abbey (Abbey-Lancer-Portreeve)
Worrall, Dale	June 30, 2023	Kindersley: St. Paul's
Yasinowski, Jennifer	December 31, 2022	Fort Qu'Appelle: St. Andrew's
Young, Diane	December 31, 2023	Saskatoon: St. Martin's