

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 45

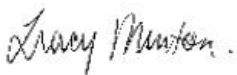
Welcome back! It is good to have a time for rest and renewal over the summer and I hope you had plenty, but it can also be comforting to return to routine. The church seems to be quite gifted in creating opportunities for meetings and routines – see below for ways you can get involved in the routines of Pastoral Relations!

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – this fall we will be reviewing the guidelines for annual reports and the self-assessment checklists to help communities of faith assess their health and vitality for faith-filled ministry. We read many stories of hope and many stories of despair in the annual reports this year, and want to ensure we put resources in the places where they are most needed. **We are looking for up to 3 more people to join this committee.**
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – this fall we will be revising our LLWL policy to reflect the General Council decisions, in addition to interviews for license renewals. We have received a couple of inquiries regarding sacraments elder training – we plan a Zoom session once a year but individuals are welcome to engage the material on their own. Contact me for more information on this process. **We are looking for 1 more person to join this committee.**
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – plans have begun for active Ministry Personnel retreats in Regina and Saskatoon this fall, with plans to go east and west in the spring. We will also be exploring how best to support our retired ministry personnel. Do you have ideas? **We are looking for 1 more person to join this committee.**
4. **A note regarding the minimum salary schedule** – the production of this document is delayed this year due to additional assessment required from the General Council Executive this weekend. It is anticipated that the schedule will be available shortly. This will impact minimum salary amounts for ministry personnel, as well as visiting ministry personnel rates, travel allowance, and continuing education amounts. Stay tuned.

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

The change from summer to fall is on the one hand depressing as we prepare for the cold weather, but on the other hand, so amazing as Creator reminds us of the splendour of fall colours. It is always a challenge for me to maintain some form of balance between the creation of routine and space for the Spirit to enter. May you continue to be startled by the beauty of fall as I was on my walk to work today, ever-mindful of the persistent presence of the Holy on the journey.

Blessings and peace,



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