

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 47

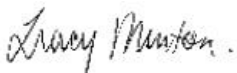
Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the Committees and other significant updates in this portfolio.

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – it will soon be time to write those annual reports for 2023 – you may have already started. The Committee will be sending out best practices to assist with this, as well as a reminder to review your self-assessment. These are both important ways to review the story of your ministry and for the Regional Council to support where we can. Stay tuned!
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – the revised policy for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders has been approved by the Executive, and will be effective January 1, 2024. Thanks to all for the input and creativity. It will be available shortly. The Committee is also nearing completion of the fall set of interviews for license renewals for these faithful worship leaders – thanks to our interview partners Debra Berg, Sheila Lavender, Jim Tenford and Brian Walton.
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – laughter, learning and worship were abundant at the gatherings for ministry personnel. Thanks to Sunset in Regina and Mayfair in Saskatoon for hosting our circles, and to the Committee members for leadership. We are exploring ways to connect with all those who were unable to attend from around the Regional Council and to support our retirees. If you have ideas or requests, please let us know!
4. **A note for ministry and personnel committees** – as noted in the Rambler, the minimum salary schedule is now available on the website; [you can find it at this link](#). Please ensure the treasurer is aware of the increase for both visiting ministry personnel (pulpit supply) and called or appointed ministry personnel. Both increases are effective January 1, 2024. This is also the time of year to ensure support is in place for those providing leadership in your community of faith. Advent is busy with extra services, increased demands on the building, and additional expectations – be sure you are checking in with your staff in anticipation of this increase.

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.

This has been an unusual start to November. In Saskatoon, we have had warm days and melting snow, while last week, folks were unable to attend the ministry personnel gatherings due to winter storms. This variation is a great example of the differences that exist across our Regional Council, reminding us that weather is unpredictable and that assumptions challenge our understanding – plans can change in a heartbeat, requiring patience, understanding and kindness. As we head into the season of Advent, may you find moments to be aware of things unpredictable so that you may be startled into new ways to seek the light and to always, always be kind.

Blessings and peace,



Tracy Murton,
Pastoral Relations Minister
tmurton@united-church.ca
1-800-268-3781 ext. 6322

