

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 49

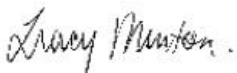
Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the Committees and other significant updates in this portfolio. I have also included the places where we could use some additional people – contact me if you think you might be interested in helping out!

1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – The annual report best practices document has been updated for 2024. You can find that [document here](#). The Committee and a couple of helpers are ready to read all of the amazing things that happened in your community of faith in 2023. Please be sure to get your annual report to us, by email if possible, by April 30. Don't forget to have a conversation about the goals you set in your self-assessment! **There are 3 vacancies on this Committee.**
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – the revised policy for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders is now effective. If your community of faith benefits from the worship leadership of a LLWL, you will want to review the policy ([found here](#)) to ensure compliance with remuneration, preparation of tax receipts, and other details. The Committee is also exploring the need for Sacraments Elder training – if you or someone in your community of faith would be interested, let me know. **There is 1 vacancy on this Committee.**
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – support to ministry personnel is an important part of the mandate for the Regional Council. This support for active ministers comes by way of retreats, online weekly gatherings, and tools for ministry and personnel committees. The mandate also includes care for retired ministry personnel. The Committee is working on a set of best practices for retirement to help support this transition – stay tuned! **There is 1 vacancy on this Committee.**
4. **A note for ministry and personnel committees** – This is the time to start conversations with your ministry personnel regarding continuing education plans for the year. They are entitled to 3 weeks away, including 3 Sundays, so planning ahead for this time is important for everyone. A reminder that it is part of your role to support this time of learning and development, and to communicate that support to others.

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 new year is always a time of contemplation and reflection. Many people set resolutions and goals for how to live in a good way, both with regards to their own health but also the health of others and creation. Maybe you are one of those people? For me, it is a time to think back about the previous year to see what I might imagine differently in life and work. Balance is one of those words that seems elusive to practice and yet so important to both strive for and model. I also think there is an opportunity to hold one another accountable for both care and support of healthy practices. So, may this year be the one where you create the space to engage in the activities that bring joy, or peace, or contentment, or justice, while at the same time, inviting others to walk their own journey.

Blessings and peace,



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