

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 50

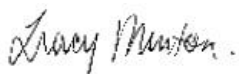
Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the Committees and other significant updates in this portfolio. I have also included the places where we could use some additional people – contact me if you think you 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](#). A reminder that the financial statement included in your annual report requires an Independent Review (as articulated in this document). 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** – A reminder that if your community of faith benefits from the worship leadership of a Licensed Lay Worship Leader, please review the revised policy ([found here](#)) to ensure compliance with remuneration, preparation of tax receipts, and other details, especially as tax season is upon us. The Committee will also be offering Sacraments Elder training after Easter – 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** – The Committee is working on a set of best practices for retirement to help support this transition – feel free to pass your tips along to me! They are also making plans for opportunities to gather, both online and in person, for both retired and active ministry personnel. If you have ideas or requests, please let us know. **There is 1 vacancy on this Committee.**
4. **A note for ministry and personnel committees** – This is the time to ensure that plans are underway for the annual review of any staff connected to your community of faith. This includes both lay staff and ministry personnel. Resources related to this important process for both the staff and the community of faith are found in this handbook: [Resources for Ministry and Personnel Committees](#). Stay tuned for a refresher training session after Easter for all those newly elected M&P Committee members!

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 season of Lent is a time in our church year where we are invited to travel a spiritual journey collectively and individually; sometimes people give things up to help them be more attentive to the path, and sometimes people take things on. This year I've chosen to take on a wholistic health practice that includes daily gratitude and daily non-fiction reading (as well as drinking more water). Already I'm amazed at the impact of these disciplines on how I manage my time, reflect on my day, and nurture my body. I hope that you have embraced this season in such a way that your spiritual path is deepened, and your commitment to justice and peace is strengthened for the journey. May our collective practice continue to make a difference in our world.

Blessings and peace,



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