

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 51

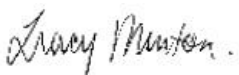
Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the Committees and other significant updates in this portfolio.

- 1. An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – It has been so lovely to read about all of the incredible ministry being offered around the Regional Council through the annual reports. These documents archive the events over the previous year that bear witness to the practice of faith in your context, both as a means of accountability and celebration. Please be sure to get your annual report to us, by email if possible, by April 30 so that Committee members and readers can offer support and feedback. If you need to send it by mail, please send 1 copy only to the Regional Council Office.
- 2. An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – The next online training for Sacraments Elders will be on **May 11 from 1:00-4:00pm**. Details including registration information will be available after Easter. If you or someone in your community of faith would be interested in offering this important leadership in your community of faith, let me know.
- 3. An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – The Committee has developed a set of best practices for retirement with suggestions to help support this transition. It will also be a useful tool for Voluntary Associate Ministers and communities of faith that are blessed with their leadership. You can find that [document here](#). The Committee is also making plans for retired ministers to gather on Thursday, June 13 ahead of the Regional Council Gathering – registration details to follow.
- 4. A note for ministry and personnel committees** – As mentioned last month, 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.

Today is the first full day of spring. Personally, I am ready to be finished with ice and snow and to feel the warmth of the sun. And yet, it seems a fitting space to be in as we anticipate Holy Week: waiting for the signs of new life to emerge from their winter slumber. Many of us have engaged in spiritual practices throughout Lent meant to deepen our relationship with the Holy and with our communities of faith. May the process of those practices sustain you through to the good news of Easter, confident in the promise of new life through faith.

Blessings and peace,



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