

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 52

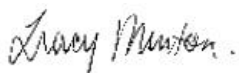
Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the Committees and other significant updates in this portfolio. Happy reading!

- 1. An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – We have now received about 43% of the annual reports for 2023. It has been lovely to read about the ministry that is happening around the province and we look forward to receiving the remaining 57% by **April 30**. 😊 Please be sure to send your annual report to us, by email if possible, so that Committee members and readers can offer support and feedback on behalf of the Regional Council. 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** – Scheduling has begun for this term's round of Licensed Lay Worship Leader conversations, keeping the Committee and some additional helpers busy. The next online training for Sacraments Elders will be on **May 11 from 1:00-4:00pm**. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register. If you or someone in your community of faith would be interested in offering this important leadership in your community of faith, please encourage them to attend.
- 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 is also 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 – please be sure to spread the word to any retired ministers who may want to journey to Saskatoon for lunch and conversation with colleagues.
- 4. A note for ministry and personnel committees** – Now that most annual meetings are complete, it is possible that there are new volunteers who have been appointed to this important committee in your community of faith. I am currently assessing whether a M&P Refresher workshop would be welcome this spring – please let me know if you or someone in your community of faith might be interested. This is also the time to begin conversations with staff regarding vacation plans to ensure everything is in place for rest and renewal.

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.

As I write this, it is snowing in Saskatoon. This is not the weather we have been enjoying, or the weather we prefer in April! However, the moisture will be good for creation which is important, especially in the days before Earth Day. There are many opportunities for learning and activities about Earth Day to engage your mind, body and spirit – [check ideas from the UCC at this link](#). The recent solar eclipse was an amazing example of the wonder and beauty of creation, and our collective responsibility to continue to care for our world. May you find moments in this next week to rekindle and inspire a spiritual practice to walk with respect in creation for the days and years to come.

Blessings and peace,



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Photo credit: Julie Graham, cloud effect after solar eclipse