

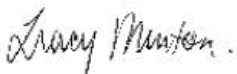
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 53

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!

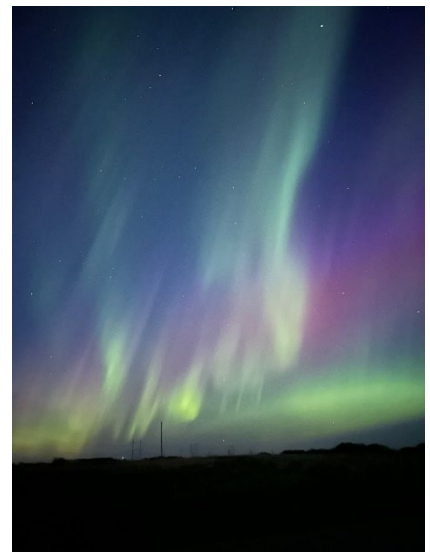
- 1. An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – We have now received and reviewed only 50% of the annual reports for 2023. It is one of the requirements of our polity that an annual meeting happen as early in the year as possible, and that an annual report be produced with financial information. 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. Check to see if this has happened yet in your community of faith!
- 2. An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – This season's round of Licensed Lay Worship Leader conversations is nearly complete, keeping the Committee and some additional helpers busy. Renewals are underway for our Sacraments Elders who provide faith-filled leadership in communities of faith without called or appointed ministry personnel. This past Saturday, 4 new people stepped forward to be trained for this role. Gratitude to Andrew Hecker, Doreen Hewitson and Piotr Strzelecki for creative online training.
- 3. An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – The Committee is 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. Further information will be sent out this week!
- 4. A note for ministry and personnel committees** – This is the time when vacation plans need to be finalized to ensure all staff have an opportunity for rest and renewal. It is also a chance to ensure staff annual reviews have been completed or are scheduled for the fall. These are two important ways that we support our staff.
- 5. A note about statistics** – there are many communities of faith who have yet to submit the annual statistics to the General Council Office. These are the numbers that are used to determine the assessment each year – the more accurate the statistics, the more accurate the assessment. Check to see if this important task is complete!

As the weather warms and spring becomes evident in the birdsongs and flowers, we are reminded again of the wonder of creation. Perhaps you saw the Aurora Borealis this past weekend or saw pictures online? The images I saw in the sky were different from what I saw through the lens of my iPhone camera, a totally concrete lesson in the importance of how we interpret that which we see with our eyes and then tell the story we want to hear. May the stories you tell be filled with wonder, awe, faithfulness and gratitude, inspiring others and calling them to action to care for one another and for creation, and to be attentive to the lenses we use that alter our perception.

Blessings and peace,



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Aurora Borealis, May 11, 2024 – just outside of Saskatoon