

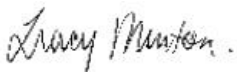
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 55

Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the support Committees and updates for M&P Committees. Happy reading!

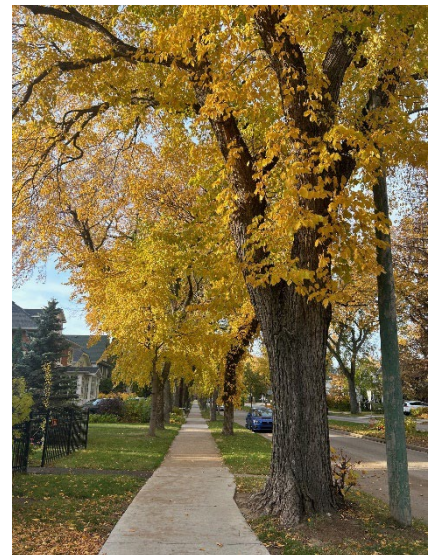
1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – This Committee has experienced a significant changeover in membership. This fall we will be working on re-imagining ways to support communities of faith across our Regional Council. If you have specific suggestions, we would be happy to consider them.
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – Ongoing conversations with our Licensed Lay Worship Leaders is an important way that we offer support. If you are interested in participating in this work as an interview partner, let's have a conversation.
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – This fall we will be exploring additional ways to support our retired ministry personnel across the Regional Council, both those who are Voluntary Associate Ministers and those who are not. Feedback is always welcome.
4. **A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – A reminder to contact the treasurer/ ADP administrator in your Community of Faith to ensure they are aware of the updated [minimum salary scale for 2025 found here](#). It is a local responsibility to communicate updated salary figures to ADP. Online training for M&P Committees will be on Thursday, October 24 at 7pm. This will be a refresher for folks continuing in this role, and would also be appropriate for people just beginning. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.
5. **Clergy Appreciation Month** – While it is the responsibility of the M&P Committee to provide ongoing feedback to staff, we all play a role in supporting the ministry offered by those who are called and equipped to do so. This includes those who are working in your community of faith as well as those who offer pulpit supply or serve as pastoral charge supervisors – all nurture our spiritual journeys. A word of gratitude, an offer to take on a task, or even a thank-you note can make a difference to the recipient. Be creative while being intentional.

I hope that the fall has begun gently for you, with the return to a regular routine manageable, creating space to enjoy the warm weather and beautiful colours. One of the gifts of my sabbatical time was a recognition that it is far too easy to get wrapped up in the hustle of schedules, causing us to lose sight of the movement of the spirit in our daily lives – the song of the meadowlark, the wonder of the aurora borealis, the smile from a stranger, the taste of a favourite food, the smell of the harvest, or the sudden tears at the memory of a loved one. My sabbatical project was set aside in order to find space for all these things and I am determined to carry the practice into my work and personal life. Maybe you want to join me? In this season of Thanksgiving, may you always be surprised by awe and touched by humanity as you navigate your life of faith.

Blessings and peace,



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