

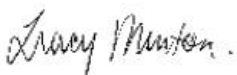
## Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 56

Welcome to the work of the Pastoral Relations desk 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 is reviewing the ways in which we support ministry in local communities of faith with questions like: how do we simplify the self-assessment process? What are the best practices for writing annual reports? How do we encourage local clusters of communities of faith, especially in the rural areas? Where are the good news stories in our Regional Council? If you have ideas or additional questions we should consider, please let us know!
- 2. An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – This fall we are reviewing the ways in which support is offered to Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, both in terms of their leadership development and in the encouragement gathered from local communities of faith. This follows the revised LLWL policy which ensures these leaders receive recognition and accountability for the ways in which they offer worship around our Regional Council. We are also exploring opportunities to encourage additional lay leaders to participate in the training in order to broaden the pool of folks engaged in this important ministry. Let me know if becoming a Licensed Lay Worship Leader is something you or someone you know might be interested in!
- 3. An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – This fall we are exploring options for more localized gatherings to support our retired ministry personnel across the Regional Council, both those who are Voluntary Associate Ministers and those who are not. If you are a retired minister with a passion for gathering people together, let me know! The Committee also offered two retreats for active ministers at Westview United in Yorkton and next week at Rosetown United Church. Thanks for the hospitality in both locations, and to Laura Fohse, Vocational Minister, for additional leadership and support.
- 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 annually. We will also be encouraging ministry personnel to engage in the [standards for continuing education found here](#) – your role is to support their commitment to lifelong learning. Let me know if you have questions about how that might occur.

The weather this fall has been such a gift for those traveling to see friends and family over Thanksgiving, and for the many covenanting services that have occurred across the Regional Council. While it is clearly a by-product of climate change, it has also enabled valuable time for connection and gathering, both of which enable deepening spirituality and help us focus on hope when we are concerned about things happening in our world. As we move through these next days and weeks of longer nights and cooler days, may you continue to be blessed by the letter 'C': connection and community, care and compassion, coffee and chocolate, and courage and confidence to be the church in your particular corner of the world. We all need one another so deeply right now.

Blessings and peace,



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