

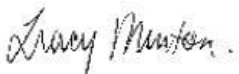
## Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 63

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** – Members of the Committee have diligently read annual reports as a means of support and accountability, and have begun the process of sending follow-up comments to each community of faith. We have almost achieved 100% response rate – a record number of annual reports submitted. Well done! More importantly, it was inspiring to read about all of the ministry happening in contexts large, small and in between, to provide support, care and opportunities for spiritual growth. This fall, the Committee will be updating the tri-ennial self-assessment tool to help offer more logistical support to communities of faith. Stay tuned for further information!
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – In the Rambler, you will have noticed the invitation to indicate an interest in Sacraments Elder training. If you or someone from your community of faith would like to offer leadership in this way, contact Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca). This Committee is looking for new recruits, especially to enhance its ability to complete the tri-ennial conversations with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders this fall. If you have an interest in supporting lay leadership in our Regional Council, contact me to see if the Committee is a fit. We would also happily receive help with interviews!
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – This fall we are focusing on support to retired ministry personnel by gathering locally. One such gathering happened in Maple Creek this week, and another is planned for Rosetown next month. We are hoping for an additional gathering in the Yorkton area to round out our offerings this fall. If you have ideas regarding support for active or retired ministry personnel, please send them my way! We would also happily receive new members. 😊
4. **A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – The Rambler contains the information regarding the M&P Committee workshop this evening (September 17). Contact Bev Diebert if you are interested in participating. If you have specific questions or concerns, and are unable to attend, please feel free to contact me for a consultation. Remember to check out the updated resources!

I hope you had some time over the summer for renewal and rest. Perhaps you tuned in to watch some of the proceedings in Calgary at General Council 45? Another moment of pride for me in our Deep, Bold and Daring leadership. Now that we are mid-way through September, regular routines have resumed. This includes worship and church meetings, school and activities, and the annual harvest. On a drive this weekend, I was stopped for construction outside of Elrose and took this photo. I grew up on a farm, and so the sights, sounds, and smells of this season evoke something deeply spiritual within me. It was gift to be forced to stop on the highway to catch my breath, and to provide an opportunity to be in the midst of the beauty of creation. May you find moments in your daily rhythm to stop, breathe, and embrace the gifts of God's holy mystery in the people, creatures, and landscape around you. We are not alone; thanks be to God.

Blessings and peace,



Tracy Murton,  
Pastoral Relations Minister  
[tmurton@united-church.ca](mailto:tmurton@united-church.ca)

