

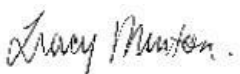
## Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 64

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** – It's here – the moment you've been waiting 3 years for! The updated [self-assessment tool](#) includes links for helpful information, and an opportunity to reflect on the state of your community of faith. It is hoped that this will be useful as a budgeting tool, planning for next year, as well as laying the framework for the annual report. Committee members will also be offering Zoom conversations with communities of faith they are supporting, which is not the same as a Pastoral Oversight visit but will hopefully provide a chance to connect with others and answer questions – stay tuned for the invitation! [Here are the instructions](#). It is hoped that this process will be completed by November 30.
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – The most excellent news is that there is a large number of folks who require conversations this fall regarding the renewal of their licenses as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders – we are so grateful for their leadership in our Regional Council. The most challenging news is that we need a large number of volunteers to complete this task. If this is something you might have time for and interest in, let me know and I would be happy to share more information! The Committee also decided to postpone the online Sacraments Elder training to the spring due to this full schedule.
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – Unfortunately, we were not able to successfully schedule additional local gatherings this fall for retired ministry personnel for a variety of reasons. Ongoing support to this important group of people continues to be a priority that is just out of reach. If you have thoughts or ideas, please reach out. We also continue to look for additional Committee members to help with this task and that of supporting active ministry personnel. Let me know if you are interested.
4. **A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – The updated [2026 Minimum Salaries and Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel](#) is available. This is a time to double-check with your ministry personnel whether they move to the next salary category, and to ensure that anyone providing pulpit supply is receiving the appropriate rate for both their services and their travel.

I am a tremendous fan of summer and heat, and so I love the fall days that are still warm and sunny. It is such a bonus that beautiful colours are also paired with pumpkin pie! We spend a lot of time focussing on Thanksgiving, and then seem to move on so quickly. What would it look like to develop an “attitude of gratitude” all year long? There are many variations on gratitude calendars to consider – I wonder if you are using one? I decided to take some time at the end of each day to list 3 things I am grateful for – sometimes the task is quick and easy, sometimes it is a stretch. And yet, I find when I forget or simply ignore the practice, I end up worrying about silly things as I try to fall sleep. So today, I am grateful for changing leaves, pumpkin pie, and online conversations that matter. Your turn. May each day be an opportunity to notice the little things, and the big things, that remind us of the work, mystery and love of the Creator always present in your life.

Blessings and peace,



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