

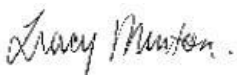
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 67

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** – 'Tis the season of annual meetings! The Manual requires communities of faith to hold an annual meeting “as early as possible in the calendar year” (B.5.1) – hopefully if you haven't had it yet, there is a plan to gather soon. This is an important time to celebrate the ministry of the previous year, review the financial picture, and set goals for 2026. This all gets captured in your annual report, which the Committee is now in the process of reading. We currently have 32 reports – only roughly 100 to go! Please send your annual report to me, by email, as soon as it is available, so that the Committee can review and offer support as needed.
- 2. An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – The Committee will be offering an online Sacraments Elder training session on March 28, once again facilitated by Piotr Strzelecki. This is open to both current and new Sacraments Elders – contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register. There will also be opportunities for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to gather together for support and resource-sharing, hosted by Committee members. We are excited by all of the wonderful lay leadership happening around the Regional Council – this would be a great time to express gratitude to those in your community of faith!
- 3. An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – The Committee is encouraging a couple of ways to support ministry personnel online – a monthly gathering for active ministers on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and a bi-monthly gathering for Voluntary Associate Ministers on the 2nd Wednesday every other month. This year the focus for the Committee will be on supporting folks who have retired who have chosen not to become Voluntary Associate Ministers – stay tuned for a phone call to check in if that's you!
- 4. A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – I always say this is the most important committee in the church – when our lay employees and ministry personnel are well-supported, everything goes more smoothly. If you are newly elected to this important responsibility in your community of faith, there are resources available for your use, [found at this link](#). I hope to offer an online training session for M&P Committees in early May – let me know if you want to be added to the list.

We are mid-way through Lent – how is your journey going? I was mentioning to a colleague the other day that I was “failing at Lent” because I had not followed through on my 2 goals – reading daily and reducing my social media consumption. I believe this “failure” has impacted my mental health negatively and lowering the quality of my sleep. So, when my colleague mentioned that there is no such thing as failing at Lent (phew), I made a conscious decision to “do better” and am taking some time this week for both goals. Already I'm noticing a difference, only 2 days in. I wonder what changes you might need to make in your personal, professional or spiritual life that would alter how you view the world? I wonder how often you take the time to try a new habit? For me, this do-over gives fresh eyes to seemingly impossible puzzles. May the rest of your Lenten journey be filled with fresh eyes, self-compassion, and faith-filled and loving companions, like my colleague, to help clear the path.

Blessings and peace,



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