

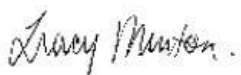
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 69

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** – The Committee has been faithfully reading annual reports and working through responding to communities of faith with questions, concerns and support. This is one of the ways that the Regional Council offers accountability and resources. We are currently at 53 reports received – just under 50%. This is your reminder to check with the keeper of the report to ensure it has been sent in, preferably by email, so that we can offer the most contextual response possible.
- 2. An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – The Committee recently hosted online gatherings for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders for support and connection, and is now beginning this season's round of check-ins for Licensed Lay Worship Leader renewals. This important group of lay leaders offer worship around our Regional Council and we are so grateful. Our online Sacraments Elder training occurred last month, thanks to the creativity of Piotr Strzelecki, to help support another group of lay leaders continue to enable others to participate in one of the practices of our faith.
- 3. An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – In addition to the monthly ministry personnel gatherings and bi-monthly VAM gatherings online, the Committee will be hosting an opportunity to connect in person during the Regional Council Gathering on May 23. Stay tuned for further information. And if you are a retired minister who is not a VAM, the Committee will be contacting folks to check-in as a means of offering support. All suggestions for ways to offer support continue to be welcome.
- 4. A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – As the weather begins to turn in earnest to spring, thoughts of summer plans emerge. This is a good opportunity to meet with your staff to ensure plans are in place for everyone to have a break after a busy year. All staff are entitled to holidays as per the terms of their employment agreements, and it is the responsibility of the M&P Committee to support that happening. As we come to the conclusion of annual meeting season, if you are a newly elected member of an M&P Committee in your community of faith, be sure to let me know if there are questions. An online training will be offered soon.

Next week is National Volunteer Week. It would not be an exaggeration to say that none of my job would be possible without the contributions of volunteers. In fact, if you are reading this, I guarantee you have volunteered for something related to the work of the church, either locally or in the presbytery, conference or Regional Council. Within my portfolio, volunteers include those on M&P Committees, search teams, governing bodies, pastoral charge supervisors, any of the above Committees, and so much more. Take a moment this week to offer gratitude to a volunteer in your community of faith for the way in which their contribution makes a difference in the world. As Easter people, these volunteers are helping to usher in a realm of justice, peace and love, reminding us that we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Blessings and peace,



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Easter Tulips in sunshine