

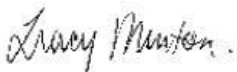
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 70

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, especially in light of the self-assessment reports read over the last few months. We are currently at 56 reports received – just over 50% - which is not a huge jump from last month. This is your reminder to check with the keeper of the report to ensure it has been sent in to me, not just ChurchHub, preferably by email, so that assistance can be offered well. This would also be a good time to ensure the statistics forms have been completed for your community of faith – a large number are still outstanding, and these are the numbers that determine the denominational assessment figures for 2027 so it is important these be as accurate as possible.
- 2. An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – The Committee has completed this season’s check-ins with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders as part of the relicensing process. Much gratitude to Jan Coffey-Olson, Pat Lyster, and Shelly Manley-Tannis for volunteering time to participate in these faith-filled conversations. Our Regional Council is richly blessed by the leadership of all the LLWLs throughout the province. This is also the season of Sacraments Elder renewals – these expire at the end of June, so if your community of faith is fortunate enough to have a Sacraments Elder, ensure that renewal process is completed soon.
- 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 contacting retired folks to check-in as a means of offering support. All suggestions for ways to offer support to ministry personnel, both active and retired, continue to be welcome.
- 4. A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – If you are new to this important committee, please join me at the end of the month for an online conversation about ways to support the lay and ordered staff in your community of faith. The resources were recently updated, so if you have not attended a training session in a while, now might be a good opportunity to refresh your memory on the responsibilities of the role. This is also a reminder to ensure there are plans in place for holidays for all of your employees – we all need an opportunity for rest and renewal in order to serve at our best.

I love spring, as most people do, but perhaps for different reasons. Sure, I love all the grass greening, trees budding, birds singing, etc., but mostly I love spring because of the lengthening light. The amount of work between this stage of the yard and the one where we get to just enjoy is so immense that sometimes I feel fully frozen, yearning for the winter when I don’t have to do anything outside except periodically shovel. And then the light reminds me that the warmth of the sun is melting away the snow (except in Waskesiu), bringing new life, new energy, and a constant reminder that the days are getting longer. This means more time to work for justice and peace, and to spread kindness and love, as people of faith. So fine, I’ll do my yardwork, soothe my soul, and offer the light of Christ to others. Join me?

Blessings and peace,



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