

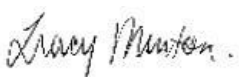
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 71

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. There are still 30 reports to come in – we would love to break the record this year and read them all! 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** – It is often challenging to discern how best to support the lay leaders in our communities of faith. Those who are Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and Sacraments Elders play a particular role in the worship life of many communities and we are grateful. The Committee has completed its responsibility for the licensing of these folks but are open to suggestions for other ways we might offer support. If you have ideas, or if this is something that you are interested in participating in, please let me know – we can always use new members on the Committee!
- 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. In addition, if you are interested in joining the conversation regarding how best to support these spiritual leaders of our church, feel free to be in touch – this Committee needs help, too!
- 4. A note or two for ministry and personnel committees** – This is a reminder to ensure there are plans in place for holidays for all of your employees, and that the plan is clearly communicated to the community of faith so that expectations are clear. We all need an opportunity for rest and renewal in order to serve at our best. The General Council Executive just recently confirmed that ministry personnel are also entitled to statutory holidays so it is important to ensure vacation calculations are accurate during this season of long weekends. Feel free to reach out if you have questions.

I am one of those people who loves to be hot. I can hardly wait for the sun to warm our days, to help the flowers grow, and for the schedule to slow down to allow us all to catch our breath. It was such a joy to celebrate the commissioning of Jenni Krall and the admission of Rev. Trust and Rev. Prince. Each year witnessing the culmination of years of study, discernment, and support in community reminds me of why belonging to a church is compelling. We all have opportunities to share our faith in community, but these moments are special. Summer may be a time to engage in a new spiritual practice like an intentional walk in creation, or reading a book of poetry as the schedule slows. As you wait for the gardens to explode in glory where ever the warmth of the sun finds you, may you be reminded that for 101 years, the United Church of Canada has been a place of worship, celebration, and faith in action, and you are an important part of the story.

Blessings and peace,



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Crafted sunflower to tide me over until the garden grows, May 8/26