

# Initial report of Region 4 Commission

September 7, 2018

## Commission members:

Prairie Pine Presbytery Rep	Barb McNaughton	barbmacnaughton@gmail.com
Chinook Presbytery Rep	Neil Gilbert	neil.gilbert@sasktel.net
Conference President	Bonnie Morton	bonnie.morton@gmail.com
Good Spirit Presbytery Rep	Bev Kostichuk	bkosti@gmail.com
Conference President Elect	Annette Taylor	annette.firstunited@sasktel.
Commission Chairperson		
Twin Valleys Presbytery Rep	Susan Reed	carnduffuc@sasktel.net
Tamarack Presbytery Rep	David Whalley	ldwhalley@sasktel.net
Riverbend Presbytery Rep	Brian Maitland	manse5@sasktel.net
All Native Circle Conf. Rep	Bernice Salteaux	b.msaulteaux@gmail.com
Wascana Presbytery Rep	Tricia Gerhard	sunsetunited.tricia@gmail.com
Commission Secretary		
Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy	SMcCarthy@united-church.ca

The Commission has met twice, initially with the Conference Executive in May then a two-day meeting in June. The Commission will act as the Regional Executive until the first Annual Meeting of the Region in May. A couple of the Commission's roles are to enable the Region to be operational on January 1, 2019 and to enable the Region to do visioning about its future.

Communication has been identified as very important thus regular reports will be sent to presbyters, presbyteries and other elected people of the All Native Circle Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference. Please share this report with anyone that might be interested.

## Annual Meeting:

The first Region 4 Annual meeting will be held in Swift Current May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2nd, 2019. The Annual meeting planning committee elected by Saskatchewan Conference in May plus a member from All Native Circle will be the planning committee. We expect that this will be a very different annual meeting from past meetings, the agenda priority will be visioning for our new Region.

## Naming Region 4:

Each Region will be naming itself. We are asking for the submission of names for Region 4. The names should reflect our region (All Native Circle Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference)- our environment, our culture, our identity.

Names are to be submitted by October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A shortlist will then be created followed by online voting by the entirety of Region 4.

The link to the Naming contest is: <https://goo.gl/forms/fuNabNHfDsINMQKD2> Go to the site and sharing your amazing suggestions for a name.

## Office Space:

The lease on the Saskatchewan Conference office ends on December 31, 2018; this will be allowed to lapse. The Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario office lease is to 2021.

Office space needs for the three Regions (2,4&5) sharing the Executive Minister are still being worked out. Initially having the Executive Minister and some staff in an office seems beneficial. The Winnipeg office lease

will give us time to determine the future office needs. Options for offices may include staff working from home or from offices within churches.

### **Budget for 2019:**

Transition Funds have been given to the Regions to cover salary, Commission and other start up costs for 2018.

2019 income will be \$325,000 for Governance and Administration from assessments; \$289,000 for Mission and Ministry from the Mission and Service Fund.

The Moats Fund proceeds will be used for Mission and Ministry in Region 4.

\$289,000 for Mission and Ministry leaves Region 4 with a deficit of about \$147,282 (not including Moats income) based on our current grant level of M&S grants and Presbytery's grants to other ministries (including the north and south chaplaincies). Tough decisions will have to be made related to the Mission and Ministry budget in October after final grant request information is available. Consultation needs to occur with all the grant receiving bodies.

### **Staff:**

In our new configuration we have confirmed the following staffing positions effective January 1, 2019:

- Pastoral Relations Minister, Region 4: Tracy Murton  
Tracy will assist the regional council to serve, support and provide oversight to the communities of faith, encouraging and supporting ministry personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practice. This is a full-time position based out of Saskatoon.
- Program Coordinator, Mission and Ministry, Region 4: Julie Graham  
Julie is responsible to work with existing networks and committees in Region 4 to help determine what is needed in mission and ministry staffing. She will also help to create a visioning process for the region's inaugural gathering. This is a one-year half-time contract position based out of Saskatoon.
- Archivist, Region 4: Madeleine McLuhan-Myers  
Madeleine works to ensure that historical records of the United Church in Saskatchewan – including those from local churches, presbyteries and the Conference – are collected, documented, preserved and made available for research. She works closely with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, to maintain and enable continued access to the archival collection. This is a part-time position based out of Regina.
- Finance Administrative Support, Regions 2,4&5: Heather Dootoff  
Heather will oversee the financial administration of the three regions, working with the Executive Minister and Regional Executives and Region treasurers to provide budget information to the volunteer structures of the three Regions. This is a full-time position based out of Regina.
- Administrative Support, Region 4: to be filled  
To provide administrative support to the Pastoral Relations Minister and the Program Coordinator, Mission and Ministry and to assist with general administrative support to the volunteer committees and structures of Region 4. This is a full-time position based out of Regina.
- Program Assistant to the Executive Minister, Regions 2,4&5: to be filled  
Provides lead administrative support to the Executive Minister of three regional councils. This is a full-time position working out of the Winnipeg office.
- Executive Minister, Regions 2,4&5: Shannon McCarthy  
Shannon provides leadership, counsel and support for the governance and administration of the three Regional Councils, supervises staff of the Regional Councils and engages the Regional Councils in the priorities and decisions of the General Council. This is a full-time position working out of the Winnipeg office with regular travel to the other regions.

The Commission is still working to vision and discern other staffing needs as we move forward into being a Region, and as other positions are filled we will communicate those to you.

**Website:**

A+ Computing currently manages the webpages for Saskatchewan and Manitoba Northwest Conferences. The possibility of one webpage for the three regions with one administrative staff was discussed.

**Other matters:**

There is a commitment in Saskatchewan Conference to have the Licensed Lay Worship leadership training continue.

Communities of Faith will be required to complete their faith story as part of their covenant with the Region. It will be important to have ministry personnel and pastoral charges supervisor's trained to help communities of faith complete their faith stories.

A motion was passed by the Commission that Region 4 fund youth to attend the Explorer Project up to \$2,500 for the summer of 2019. For more information see: [torontoconference.ca/explorer-project/](http://torontoconference.ca/explorer-project/)

If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to join the page, which is called "Region 4 of the UCCan".

**Future Meetings:**

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 9:30 am Conference call

October 9, 10 and 11th Meeting with Commission members from Region 2, 4 and 5

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 9:30 am Conference call