

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up... (Isaiah 43:19 NIV)*

September 2018

Greetings to you all in the name of the One who is always creating and re-creating!

We are the Commission – or Interim Executive – for Region 4 of The United Church of Canada, and we would like to introduce ourselves. Our group consists of representatives from the areas currently known as Plains Presbytery of the All Native Circle Conference, and Saskatchewan Conference. Our commission includes: Neil Gilbert (Chinook Presbytery), Bev Kostichuk (Good Spirit Presbytery), Bernice Saulteaux (Plains Presbytery), Barb MacNaughton (Prairie Pine Presbytery), Brian Maitland (River Bend Presbytery), Dave Whalley (Tamarack Presbytery), Susan Reed (Twin Valleys Presbytery) and Tricia Gerhard (Wascana Presbytery), as well as Bonnie Morton (President of Saskatchewan Conference), Annette Taylor (President-Elect of Saskatchewan Conference) and Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister for Region 4).

We wanted you to know what’s been happening to date, as well as some plans for the future. This is a time of both sadness and excitement, with a whole lot of unknowns thrown in, as we transition from one model of governance to another. Whatever structure our governance might take, we are still called to be the church and to share in God’s mission.

Our group has met twice in person – once with the current Saskatchewan Conference Executive, and once on our own. Our Commission has agreed to work by consensus. We have looked at preliminary budget information. We have hired some staff for our Region, with other staffing decisions still ongoing. We are working on a naming process for our new region, with further information to come to you this fall. We have reviewed some information from the General Council about shared service possibilities; we are committed to working with other Regions around shared resources where possible.

The Region will be the primary way of ensuring that the work of both Presbyteries and Conference continue into 2019. We are planning an inaugural meeting of Region 4 to take place May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Swift Current. Each congregation will be entitled to send representatives to this gathering. We hope that your congregation will plan to do so.

We will continue to be in touch with you in various ways. Please watch for communication from our Commission through letters, emails, e-Notes (Saskatchewan Conference), and links on the Saskatchewan Conference website ([www.sk.united-church.ca](http://www.sk.united-church.ca)). There is also a Facebook group set up for Region 4, as a way of meeting one another and sharing information. If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to join the page, which is called “Region 4 of the UCCan”. We will continue to update you as information becomes available. We also encourage you to follow the updates from General Council Office and the Remit Implementation Task Group.

We invite you to join us on this journey of sharing and meeting new neighbours so that the very important work of our church continues. If you have further questions, we invite you to be in contact with any one of us, and particularly with your Presbytery representative. You will find our email addresses on the next page of this letter. Please direct any official correspondence to Annette Taylor, chairperson of our commission.

Our next meeting is set for September 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be in touch shortly afterwards with further information and updates.

Blessings to you all,

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