

Region 4 Transition Commission  
c/o Annette Taylor  
223 3rd Ave NE  
Swift Current, SK  
S9H 2G6



October 23, 2018

Region 4 Presbyteries:

Dear Presbytery members,

Greetings from the Region 4 Transition Commission as we continue to prepare for the creation of our new regional council on January 1, 2019. We know you are busy with winding down the work of your presbytery, and trust that your ministries continue faithful and uplifting work in their communities

At a recent Commission meeting, one of its major items of business was the allocation of 2019 Mission and Service grants to camps, community ministries and other social ministries within the bounds of the Region. The difficult reality was that we had over \$400,000 of requests for grants, and only \$135,000 to allocate. Very few ministries received the amounts they requested, some received far less, and several received none at all. The result is that vibrant and essential ministries, some of them well known to you, are at risk financially for 2019.

The financial gap is present because the only funds available to us are those provided through Mission & Service at the denominational level of The United Church of Canada. We have no access to funds that in the past have come to these ministries through grants and donations from your presbytery (and others) and congregations. In Region 4, this amount totalled over \$200,000 in 2018 and was absent from the grant funds we allocated for 2019.

We urge you to consider directing any unspent Presbytery funds to one or more of these ministries (see the list below).

Very soon your communities of faith will receive from the General Council office a statement about their new national assessment, including information about how this assessment is calculated. It should be clear in that information that donations to legitimate United Church ministries, including camps, will be deducted from the base amount on which the 4.5% national assessment is calculated. So, by donating to these ministries, communities of faith can reduce their future assessments significantly. Please urge your pastoral charges to consider including such donations in their 2019 budget plans, and to let the community ministries know that they will be supported, so they too can plan their activity accordingly.

The ministries that applied for grants and were allocated no funds included:

Camp Christopher  
Lumsden Beach Camp  
Camp Tapawingo  
Wellman Lake Camp  
Prairie Centre for Ecumenism

As well, the following community ministries all received far less than their requested grants:

Integrated Community Ministries (Saskatoon)  
Regina Anti Poverty Ministry  
South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy  
North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy  
University of Saskatchewan Ecumenical Chaplaincy

Three ministries received all, or a significant portion, of their requested grants:

La Ronge Pastoral Charge  
Parkland Restorative Justice  
Micah Mission

We urge you to prayerfully consider your support for these ministries across our Region.

Blessings for your work over the past many years,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Annette Taylor, Chair  
Region 4 Transition Commission