

## Second Report of Region 4 Transition Commission

November 30, 2018

The Region 4 Transition Commission has met four times since our last report:

- September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am by conference call;
- October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon with commission members from Region 2 and 5
- October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am by conference call
- November 15<sup>th</sup> in Regina

During those meetings we have focussed on making the decisions that are necessary to allow for the immediate functioning of the regional council on January 1, 2019. Here is a summary of some of the work that has been done and decisions that have been made in the past three months:

### Region 4 Staff:

In our last report we announced the following staff positions:

- Pastoral Relations Minister, Region 4: Tracy Murton [TMurton@united-church.ca](mailto:TMurton@united-church.ca)
  - has already started half-time, will be full-time in January, based out of Saskatoon
- Regional Minister, Transition and Visioning: Julie Graham [JGraham@united-church.ca](mailto:JGraham@united-church.ca)
  - one-year half-time contract position based out of Saskatoon.
- Archivist, Region 4: Madeleine McLuhan-Myers [MMcLuhan-Myers@united-church.ca](mailto:MMcLuhan-Myers@united-church.ca)
  - part-time position based out of Regina
- Executive Minister, Regions 2,4&5: Shannon McCarthy [SMcCarthy@united-church.ca](mailto:SMcCarthy@united-church.ca)
  - full-time position based out of Winnipeg
- Finance Administrative Support, Regions 2,4&5: Heather Dootoff [HDootoff@united-church.ca](mailto:HDootoff@united-church.ca)
  - full-time position based out of Regina

Since then we have announced the following staff positions:

- Administrative Support, Region 4: Bev Diebert [BDiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:BDiebert@united-church.ca)

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 St. Andrew's United Church in Moose Jaw.
- Program Assistant to the Executive Minister, Regions 2,4&5: Jamie Mckay [JMckay@united-church.ca](mailto:JMckay@united-church.ca)

Provides lead administrative support to the Executive Minister of three regional councils. This is a full-time position working out of the Winnipeg office.

### Regional Council Pastoral Relations Governance:

During our October meeting with the commissions of Regions 2 & 5 we agreed that we would attempt to have similar committee structures in each of the three regions. To that end, our Pastoral Relations Ministers met in early November to come up with their recommendations regarding pastoral relations governance. This structure was approved at our November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Here is a brief outline of the structure. Please visit the Region 4 page on the Saskatchewan Conference website to review the detailed document.

Pastoral Relations Commission to take action on and/or make decisions on behalf of Regional Council in regard to issues such as: approving all ministry positions, recruiting, calling, appointing and covenanting with ministry personnel and other staff, appointing Regional Council Liaison Officers, covenanting new pastoral relationships, ending calls or appointments, and appointing Pastoral Charge Supervisors.

Committee on Ministry Personnel Support to oversee and coordinate the Region's responsibility to encourage and support Ministry Personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practice.

Committee on Community of Faith Support to oversee and coordinate the Region's responsibility to support Communities of Faith in their life and work.

Committee on Lay Leadership Support to oversee and coordinate the Region's responsibility to provide ongoing leadership training for lay people (includes the licensing of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders).

Here's some additional information from your Pastoral Relations Minister:

Regional Council Liaison Officers will be recruited and trained to support communities of faith that are journeying through pastoral relations processes. These will take the place of and will function similar to Presbytery Representatives on Joint Needs Assessment and Search Committees.

We are grateful for the role that Pastoral Charge Supervisors have played in our Conference and we welcome their participation in the life and ministry of the Region in the future. The one significant change beginning January 1, 2019 is that any expenses related to this role (i.e. travel reimbursement) would be the responsibility of the community of faith. We recognize that this may be a burden in some contexts and therefore the commission will be exploring possible funding sources to supplement this expenditure.

After the new policies come into effect on January 1, 2019, resources related to all Pastoral Relations processes will be located at <https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/supporting-ministry/pastoral-relations>. This would include information for the development of Living Faith Stories for communities of faith.

#### **Other Region 4 Commissions and Committees**

On January 1, 2019 the other Committees and/or Commissions that will be in place will be:

Property Commission: a group of 3-5 volunteers to work with congregations and make decisions on behalf of the regional council regarding the sale of property and significant capital projects. The regional council has responsibilities similar to those that presbyteries used to have regarding property and assets. Initially, the Property Commission will act on property policies established by the Region 4 Transition Commission.

Nominations Committee a group of 3-5 volunteers who will work to fill vacancies on the various commissions and committees of the regional council. The committee will also propose nominations policies to be approved and used by the regional council.

Annual Meeting Planning Committee a group of volunteers who are planning the inaugural meeting of Regional Council 4, May 30-June 2, 2019 in Swift Current.

Our Nominations committee is currently working to ensure that these commissions/committees will have personnel in place for January 1, 2019. If you are interested in being a part of the work of the new region please contact Bev Kostichuk at [bkosti@gmail.com](mailto:bkosti@gmail.com) or 306-782-1001.

The commission is also sending a letter to each of our existing networks and task groups asking them to continue their work in their current structure until the first annual meeting of Region 4 takes place at the end of May, 2019.

We expect to have additional committees to recommend to the members of our region at our first regional gathering, but until that time, all other business relating to the region will be dealt with by the Region 4 Transition Commission.

### **Networks and Clusters**

These are the official definitions for Networks and Clusters in our new structure:

Clusters: local clusters of communities of faith that would provide community and support for communities of faith and their leaders, and focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, and strategic planning

Networks: linking people working on specific issues (e.g., supportive housing, intercultural ministry, youth ministry) or for project work (e.g., event planning) that function through the whole church, depending on the issue

It is important to note that these structures will not be defined by the Region 4 Transition Commission or the new Regional Council; those involved in clusters and networks will define their own meaning and responsibilities. We are all encouraged to experiment with how clusters and networks can assist in living out the faith of The United Church of Canada. Clusters and networks are also encouraged to seek support from local resources (communities of faith, regional councils, etc.).

### **Naming Region 4:**

We are pleased to report that 21 name suggestions were received by our October 7<sup>th</sup> deadline. The commission has created a short list of names and we have sent them to the members of Plains Presbytery in order to get their feedback. Once we have that information, we will create a process to allow the entire region to participate in a vote to choose our name. In the meantime, we will be legally known as Region 4 of The United Church of Canada.

### **Annual Meeting:**

Our first gathering of Region 4 will take place in Swift Current, SK from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2nd, 2019. Our Annual Meeting Planning Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee have been busy making plans for this inaugural event.

Please be aware that lay delegates to this regional gathering will be elected from their communities of faith on the following basis: one representative from each community of faith with 100 or fewer resident members; two representatives from each community of faith with 101 to 200 resident members; three representatives from each community of faith with 201 to 200 resident members; and four representatives from each community of faith with more than 300 resident members.

## Assessments

Assessment information is now available online. The person who receives the statistic forms in your congregation would have received an email on October 25<sup>th</sup> with information on how to access it. If you cannot find this information or you have questions about your assessment please email [remits@united-church.ca](mailto:remits@united-church.ca)

## Communication/Education:

You are encouraged to find additional information about what is happening in Region 4 by going to our page on the Saskatchewan Conference website: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca/region-4/> and joining the Region 4 Facebook page: Region 4 of the UCCan.

Any communications to Region 4 of The United Church of Canada (including grant applications from communities of faith) can be directed to our new Region 4 email address: [region4@united-church.ca](mailto:region4@united-church.ca)

Also please check out both the upcoming and the recorded webinars that are available at the [United in Learning website](#). They include education around such topics as Pastoral Relations, Church Hub, Church Treasurers, Archives, etc. In particular, the next webinar for Church Treasurers is taking place on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm SK time.

## Next Meeting of the Region 4 Transition Commission:

December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am by conference call

## Commission members:

Prairie Pine Presbytery Rep	Barb McNaughton	barbmacnaughton@gmail.com
Chinook Presbytery Rep	Neil Gilbert	neilgilbert268@gmail.com
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.net
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