



January 2019

Dear Members of Region 4,

Following the Mission Support Grant funding decision by the Region 4 Transition Commission we received several letters and emails requesting clarification about the process and the availability of funding. In a previous communication we indicated that the dollars requested by our community and outreach ministries was much larger than amount we had available for distribution. As a result, some ministries were fully funded, some received much less than requested and others received no funding at all. The commission has asked us to provide more details in order to improve the clarity of this process and our funding model.

As a region we receive guaranteed funding from two sources: assessments from congregations and Mission & Service funds.

Congregations will be assessed by General Council to pay for the governance costs related to General Council and the regional councils. Approximately 60% of the total assessment comes back to regional councils to fund their governance work (office costs, staffing for governance functions, and meetings of the region's governance committees); the total amount available for regions was divided equally between all 16 regional councils, resulting in \$325,000 each year guaranteed for the next three years.

The second funding source is money raised through volunteer giving to Mission & Service; again the total amount budgeted by General Council Executive from Mission & Service was divided equally between the 16 regions, resulting in \$289,000 for each region to spend on the mission and ministry priorities determined by the region (mission & ministry staffing, committees, and grants most commonly known as Mission Support Grants).

At this point this is the only money the Region 4 Transition Commission has from which to make its budgeting decisions. There may be funds left after the closure of presbyteries and the conference, but at this time we don't yet know that amount or whether it will be designated for specific purposes. That money is coming in from the former conference and presbyteries as they close and reconcile their books and will come in over the next three months. We do believe that there will be some funds remaining; however, we are also aware that this is a one time infusion of money from the closure of conference and presbyteries so we will need to make careful stewardship decisions about how it might be spent.



Many presbyteries within the conference and Saskatchewan Conference itself gave grants to various ministries that were in addition to Mission Support grants. With the closure of presbyteries and conference these funds are no longer available, except where presbyteries gave money out of their surplus when they closed. This has disproportionately affected Region 4 because of the relatively high amounts granted by our presbyteries and Saskatchewan Conference.

The Transition Commission is planning a gathering in early 2019 to bring together outreach ministries, camps, chaplaincies and other grant receiving bodies to discern together some strategies to find new sources of funding, better utilize existing sources and work together to fund the mission and ministry that is unique to Region 4 and that we all care about.

Blessings into this New Year,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon McCarthy".

Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Minister

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Taylor".

Annette Taylor,
Chair, Region 4 Transition Commission