

## Pastoral Relations Ponderings

Greetings from your new Pastoral Relations Minister. My name is Tracy Murton and I am excited to be doing this work with you to explore how the new system unfolds in our particular piece of creation.

A number of significant changes have happened to the Pastoral Relations processes for our church. As you are aware, presbyteries and conferences have been replaced with Regions. In terms of governance, we have established a Pastoral Relations Commission to engage with you in determining how you live out your ministry in your community of faith. You can find the document outlining our new pastoral relations governance on the Region 4 website. It is our intention to provide regular communications regarding the work and broad decisions our Commission is making. Our first message is one of gratitude for your patience as we develop our processes in the new system.

The biggest change is that Regional Council Liaisons will be working with communities of faith through the Pastoral Relations processes. These folks have been recruited by the nominations committee, appointed by the Regional Commission, and were trained last week on the new system. We have folks in place across the Region, and hope to adequately resource all of your questions. If this role is something you are interested in, we are always happy to receive expressions of interest!

For those of you in the final stages of Joint Needs Assessment or Joint Search processes that began before January 1, 2019, do not worry – your work has not been in vain! We are working with the folks appointed by your former presbyteries to get them well-versed in the new system so that those processes may be completed.

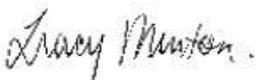
The primary challenge at this point is that the functionality for ChurchHub does not fully support the new system. Therefore, our processes are a bit of a hybrid between the old and the new, the exact details of which continue to unfold, and will be shared as soon as possible.

Three important pieces of information:

1. All of the **resources** for Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel for Pastoral Relations in the new system may be found at <https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/supporting-ministry/pastoral-relations>.
2. The **Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC)** will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month to engage in the business in front of them. In order for this to happen efficiently, we require any paperwork to be submitted to Bev Diebert ([bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)) the Friday before the meeting. This would include appointment forms, requests for liaisons, ministry profiles to be approved, etc. Therefore, for the next meeting of the PRC, any paperwork needs to be received by **February 1, 2019** in order to be considered on February 7.
3. At our meeting last week, the PRC made the following **proposal**, which was approved by consensus:  
“That in the absence of the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support, the Pastoral Relations Commission recommended that retired Designated Lay Ministers who want to continue to work in the Region and have been authorized by their former Presbyteries to have Sacramental privilege and marriage licences, be allowed to continue within the boundaries of Region 4 until June 30, 2019.”

Finally, allow me to introduce to you the members of the Pastoral Relations Commission: Jen Dresser (DM), Marvin Mackie (Lay), Donna Rumpel (DLM), Miles Russell (OM), Janelle Shaw (OM) and Bev Diebert (staff). These folks have agreed to function on your behalf until the rise of the Regional Council in June and we are grateful for their wisdom, integrity and faithfulness. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you many blessings on the journey,



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