

Third Report of Region 4 Transition Commission

February 28, 2019

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

- December 13th by conference call
- January 3rd and January 18th by conference call (to deal with an emergent issue)
- January 31st by conference call
- February 8th in Saskatoon
- February 21st by conference call

During those meetings we have had the following areas of focus:

- 1) Planning for the Inaugural Regional Gathering May 30 to June 2 in Swift Current
- 2) Preparing the regional council structure that will be brought to the regional gathering
- 3) Since January 1st, acting as the Executive of the Regional Council

Here is a summary of some of the work that has been done since our last report and the decisions that have been made in the past three months.

Current Regional Council Structure

In our November report we described the Pastoral Relations Governance structure that had been approved at our November 15th meeting. The new Pastoral Relations Commission has been functioning since the beginning of January. The Nominations Committee is now filling the positions on the other committees and has already named several Pastoral Relations Liaisons. Here's the current structure of our region:

Region 4 Commission (staff – Shannon McCarthy)

- Pastoral Relations Commission (staff – Tracy Murton)
 - Janelle Shaw, Miles Russell, Jen Dresser, Marvin Mackie & Donna Rumpel
- Committee on Ministry Personnel Support (staff – Tracy Murton)
 - Rick McCorrister & Michele Rowe
- Committee on Community of Faith Support (staff – Tracy Murton)
 - Nora Borgeson & Bill Pollock & Deborah Smith
- Committee on Lay Leadership Support (staff – Tracy Murton)
 - Faye Ford & Sheila Ivanochko
- Property Commission (staff – Shannon McCarthy)
 - Dave Whalley, Bev Kostichuk & Annette Taylor
- Nominations Committee
 - Bev Kostichuk (chair), Linda Gunningham, Lesley Parken, Jason Richards, Diane Thurlow & Miles Russell
- Regional Gathering Planning Committee (staff – Shannon McCarthy & Julie Graham)
 - Barb MacNaughton (chair), Susan Neal
 - Eileen Elkington & Colleen MacBean (co-chairs Local Arrangements)

The commission also sent a letter to each of our existing networks and task groups asking them to continue their work in their current structure until the Inaugural Regional Gathering in May.

Future Regional Council Structure

The commission has continued to make further decisions regarding the future structure of the Regional Council. The recommended structure (with a slate of nominees to fill the positions) will be brought to the Inaugural Regional Gathering in Swift Current for discussion and ratification by the regional council. Here's the outline of the structure so far:

Regional Council Executive

- 10 members with a minimum of 3 lay people and 3 ministry personnel
- including a Chair to be selected by the Executive from within the group and a Treasurer, to be named by the Nominations Committee
 - Pastoral Relations Commission
 - Committee on Ministry Personnel Support
 - Committee on Community of Faith Support
 - Committee on Lay Leadership Support
 - Property Commission
 - Nominations Committee
 - Clusters & Networks Task Group
 - Regional Gathering Task Group

Our Nominations Committee will be using an expression of interest process similar to the one used by General Council to fill the slate of nominations for this new structure. If you are interested in being a part of the work of the new region please contact Bev Kostichuk at bkosti@gmail.com or 306-782-1001.

Clusters and Networks Task Group

The commission has decided to create a Clusters & Networks Task Group. This purpose of this task group is to offer a publicly known and centralized space for gathering and managing contact and status information about emerging clusters and networks. It will:

- receive, develop and share ideas on how the region can encourage and support the development of clusters and networks;
- provide and coordinate space for clusters to occasionally talk with each other, remotely or in person;
- connect with other regions, Edge, General Council etc. on best practices and emerging ideas or spaces;
- Inform the Regional Council of their work as needed and requested.

Staff for Youth Ministry

We are pleased to announce that contract staff will be hired this spring to help rebuild the youth network. The commission is also considering a Youth Ministry Committee in our region.

Naming Region 4:

The final voting process has begun! Please check the Regional Rambler, the Saskatchewan Conference website or the Region 4 Facebook page to access the link. There are three names to choose from and voting will be closed on March 5th.

Ministries Gathering

Ministries which applied for 2019 Mission Support grants from the Region are being invited to a one-day gathering in the third week of March. Ministries will be contacted soon with a specific details for this workshop, which will focus on planning an overall funding strategy for each ministry, building a donor base, fundraising, grant-writing and marketing, looking beyond United Church sources of funding. Successful practices in each of these areas will be presented, and suggestions for further work within each ministry will be offered.

Inaugural Regional Gathering:

Our first gathering of Region 4 will take place in Swift Current, SK from May 30th to June 2nd, 2019. Our Regional Gathering Planning Committee has been busy making plans for this inaugural event and registration will begin in the next few weeks. Please check the Regional Rambler and the current Saskatchewan Conference website for breaking news!

Grants Still Available

Continuing Education - for ministry personnel & lay people (new form R4-001 now available)

Green Initiative - maximum grant amount \$3000 in 2019

Modernization

Please use the forms currently available on the Saskatchewan Conference website. You can send completed forms to region4@united-church.ca.

Vacation Bible School

The VBS Caravan will not be happening in 2019. We believe this is an important program in our region and it is our hope that staff and funding will be available again next year.

Policies

All the Saskatchewan Conference guidelines and policies are being reviewed by the staff, committees and commissions in the new regional council structure. They will be made available on the Region 4 web page as they are completed

Communication/Education:

Staff Contact Information is available [here](#).

The new Region 4 mailing address is:

Region 4 Office

60A Athabasca St. E.

Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0L2

The Regional Rambler has now replaced the Saskatchewan Conference E-notes. If you are not yet receiving the Regional Rambler please contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

Our Pastoral Relations Minister, Tracy Murton, is keeping us updated through her newsletter, *Pastoral Relations Ponderings*. Copies of this newsletter are being distributed through the Regional Rambler, on Facebook and can be found on our web page.

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. We are also working on a new Region 4 website that will be available in the next couple of months

Next Meeting of the Region 4 Transition Commission:

Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 9am by conference call

From March to May we have scheduled conference calls on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month,

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	knox.min1@sasktel.net
All Native Circle Conf. Rep	Bernice Salteaux	b.msaulteaux@gmail.com
Wascana Presbytery Rep	Tricia Gerhard	sunsetunited.tricia@gmail.com
Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy	SMcCarthy@united-church.ca