

## Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 4

Greetings to you in this season of Easter where the promise of hope and the power of love is alive! Here are a few updates from the Pastoral Relations desk to pass along:

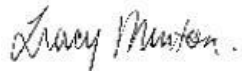
- 1. New Sacraments Elders** – Thanks to the work of the *Committee on Lay Leadership Support*, the form and policy have been updated for the licensing of Sacraments Elders and may be found at <https://www.sk.united-church.ca>. We are anticipating offering a group training session in the fall; individuals who are interested now can work with a mentor and the handbook as described at [https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook\\_sacraments-elders.pdf](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook_sacraments-elders.pdf)
- 2. Current Sacraments Elders** – as in the past, licenses for sacraments elders will be effective for the pastoral year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. At the request of the governing body of your community of faith, if you are a current licensed Sacraments Elder wishing to be renewed, or if there is a sacraments elder in your community of faith, please complete the Form LS-003 found at: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Sacraments-Elders-form.pdf> and return to me.
- 3. New Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – Again, thanks to the work of the *Committee on Lay Leadership Support*, the form and policy for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders have been updated and may also be found at: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca>. If you or someone you know is interested in offering leadership in your community of faith in this way, please let me know. There are online courses available currently. We do not have any information about the future of the in-person program offered in Living Skies Region at this time although we welcome your opinion; the current cycle concludes in June. Stay tuned for further updates!
- 4. Current Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – in an attempt to streamline our processes and tracking procedures, it would be extremely helpful if you were able to complete Form LS-002 found at: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/LLWL-form.pdf> and return to Bev Diebert. Each Presbytery had a slightly different practice for the support and accountability of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, and therefore we are trying to gather all the information in one place.
- 5. ChurchHub** – the functionality is not yet at a place where all Communities of Faith can update their profiles or for it to be used in search processes. It is hoped that email invitations to communities of faith will be received in the next few weeks. Each community of faith should have received a preliminary email alerting you to the pending invite. If your community of faith has not received an invitation to update their profile by May 15, please let me know.
- 6. Liaisons** – the good work of the former Presbytery representatives to Joint Needs Assessment and Joint Search Committees has been replaced with Regional Council Liaisons. If you are interested in this work, we would welcome your expression of interest to the nominations committee, and would be happy to provide lots of background information and support.

7. **Covenants** – the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* has been busy reviewing all of the annual reports that we have received. Once that is complete, they will be reviewing the process and practice of establishing covenants in the new system. Stay tuned for future updates!
  
8. **Support to Ministry Personnel** – at the Inaugural meeting of Living Skies Regional Council, the *Committee on Ministry Personnel Support* will be gathering feedback from active and retired Ministry Personnel regarding their hopes for ongoing support. If you are a member of one of these groups who will not be joining us in Swift Current, please let me know and I will send the feedback form your way.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. The whole system is new and we are all discerning together a path forward that is appropriate and life-giving for our context. I appreciate your patience as we continue to update our policies and practices.

A reminder that the Pastoral Relations Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month; therefore, we require any paperwork (i.e. appointment forms, ministry profiles, etc.) to be submitted to Bev Diebert ([bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)) the Friday before the meeting. Therefore, for the next meeting of the PRC, any paperwork needs to be received by **April 26, 2019** in order to be considered on May 2. Please note that the final meeting of the PRC before the summer will be on **June 20**.

Sending strength and courage for the Easter journey.



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