

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 5

Greetings to you as the wonder of spring and the warmth of the coming summer is all around us. Here are a few updates from the Pastoral Relations desk to pass along:

1. **Stats forms** – as you know, each year the General Council Office collects statistical information from each Community of Faith. We know that there are a number of pastoral charges in the Living Skies Regional Council that have yet to finish sending in these forms – the deadline is long past. **Please complete them as soon as possible** as this impacts a number of things, including the assessment to the denomination from your community of faith in 2020. The *Committee on Community of Faith Support* will be following up in June with folks who have yet to submit.
2. **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>. Individuals who are interested can work with a mentor and the handbook as described at https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook_sacraments-elders.pdf
3. **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>
4. **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>. We do not have any information about the future of the in-person program offered in Living Skies Regional Council at this time although we welcome your opinion; the current cycle concludes in June. Online courses continue to be available. Stay tuned for further updates!
5. **Current Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – in an attempt to streamline our processes and tracking procedures, if you believe your license expires soon, it would be extremely helpful if you were able to complete Form LS-002 found at: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca>. We are hoping to interview folks as soon as possible.
6. **ChurchHub** – Each Community of Faith and ministry personnel should have received an invitation to join ChurchHub and update their profile. If you have not, let me know. In addition, Debra Kigar from the General Council Office will be available to offer technical support for accessing ChurchHub at the Inaugural Meeting. Please book an appointment in advance by emailing Debra (dkigar@united-church.ca) and indicating what time you would like to meet (appointments available every 30 minutes from 9am to 5:30pm, Thursday and Friday only).
7. **Covenants** – the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* has been busy reviewing all of the annual reports that we have received. If you haven't sent yours in, please email to me or bring

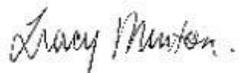
to Swift Current! Once that task is complete, they will be reviewing the process and practice of establishing covenants in the new system. Stay tuned for future updates!

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 in the health, joy and excellence in ministry practice. 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.

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) the Friday before the meeting. For the next meeting of the PRC, any paperwork needs to be received by **May 31, 2019** in order to be considered on June 6. This means you can bring it along with you to the Inaugural Meeting! Please note that the final meeting of the PRC before the summer will be on **June 20**.

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.

May the promise of summer fill you with peace and joy.



tmurton@united-church.ca ; (o) 306-966-4861