

## Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 6

Greetings to you as you await the gentle, relaxed pace of the summer months. Here are a few updates from the Pastoral Relations desk to pass along before we break until the fall:

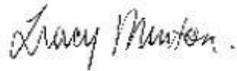
1. **Stats forms** – We know that there are still a number of pastoral charges in the Living Skies Regional Council that have yet to finish sending in these forms to the General Council Office – the deadline is long past. **Please complete them as soon as possible** as this impacts a number of things, including the assessment to the denomination from your community of faith in 2020. I will be following up in July with folks who have yet to submit.
2. **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.
3. **Regional Council Party** – in an attempt to provide information and opportunities for folks to continue to make connections, there will be a series of workshops this fall in Moose Jaw (September 21), Saskatoon (October 5) and Yorkton (October 19), and again in the spring in or around Weyburn, Melfort and Kindersley. This event is for Youth and Young Adults, Ministry and Personnel Committees, Community of Faith leaders who would help write the covenant (see below), Ministry Personnel, and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Costs for materials, lunch and travel are sponsored by the Regional Council. Registration details will be available in September – for now, save the date and spread the word! [See the poster for details.](#)
4. **Covenants** – the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* hosted a conversation at the Regional Council gathering that highlighted the need for further and more frequent communication between the Regional Council and Communities of faith. To this end, the Committee will be working with you in the fall to develop covenants with the Regional Council. Resources will be available as well as workshops to help navigate this process. [See the poster for details.](#)
5. **Support to Ministry Personnel** – at the Regional Council gathering, the *Committee on Ministry Personnel Support* hosted a conversation regarding ongoing support in the health, joy and excellence in ministry practice. Two key highlights emerged – the desire for opportunities for ministry personnel to gather with one another for support, and a yearning for continuing education opportunities closer to home. To this end, we are offering an opportunity to gather with colleagues in the fall – [see the poster for details.](#) We will also be surveying ministry personnel to determine the interest in a facilitated retreat in the winter. Again, stay tuned!
6. **Support to Lay Leadership** – information regarding licensing and re-licensing for Sacraments Elders and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders is available on the Region 4 website: <https://www.sk.united-church.ca/region-4/>. The paperwork for re-licensing those Sacraments Elders whose forms have been submitted for June 30, 2019 is in process – your patience is appreciated! If you have questions about this, let me know. We are also offering an opportunity for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to gather in the fall – [see the poster for details.](#)

7. **Ministry and Personnel Committees** – workshops will be offered in the fall for Ministry and Personnel Committees, highlighting the best practices and reviewing the revised handbooks. [See the poster for details.](#)

A reminder that the Pastoral Relations Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month (except July and August); 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. For the next meeting of the PRC, any paperwork needs to be received by **August 30, 2019** in order to be considered on September 5.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. The first 6 months in the new structure have been full of dreaming and creating and revising; I appreciate your patience as we continue to update our policies and practices and look forward to opportunities in the fall.

May the long summer days provide moments of rest, rejuvenation and ice cream. ☺



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PS – Just a reminder from the General Council Office – watch your info pack in the fall for details:

October is

## Clergy Appreciation Month!

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

– 1 Timothy 5:17 NIV

