

Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 7

Welcome to the fall! I hope you had some time for rest and rejuvenation, and that you are ready for the exciting ministry opportunities awaiting you in the coming months! Here are a few updates from the Pastoral Relations desk:

1. **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 people involved in local Faith Formation, 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 and further information are in the Rambler – save the date and spread the word! Hope to see you there!
2. **Support to Communities of Faith** – the *Committee on Community of Faith Support* will be offering a workshop at the events listed above regarding the process for creating a Covenant with Living Skies Regional Council. If you are unable to attend one of the workshop days listed above, please contact me for more information on the process.
3. **Support to Ministry Personnel** – the *Committee on Ministry Personnel Support* will be offering an opportunity to gather with colleagues in the fall at the workshop days listed above. We will also be surveying ministry personnel to determine the interest in a facilitated retreat in the winter. Stay tuned for more information regarding this opportunity!
4. **Support to Lay Leadership** – the *Committee on Lay Leadership Support* will be offering an opportunity for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to gather together at the workshop days listed above. Information regarding licensing and re-licensing for Sacraments Elders and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders is available on the website. If you have questions about this, let me know.
5. **Pulpit Supply** – if you are interested in putting your name on the Pulpit Supply list for Living Skies Regional Council, please contact Bev Diebert bdiebert@united-church.ca with the geographic area that you are willing to travel, and the amount of notice you would need.
6. **Ministry of Supervision** - Queen's College School of Theology and the United Church Office of Vocation will be offering an on-line certificate in Ministry of Supervision. The content of the course will be offered in 10 scheduled 2.5 hour sessions; first class is September 19, 2019. The course can be taken as a credit or non-credit course and is open to students from any region of Canada or beyond and from any denominational background. The tuition is \$187.50 (non-credit) and \$375 (credit). Contact me for further information.
7. **Upcoming Webinars** – ministry personnel and licensed lay worship leaders are required to have completed Boundaries and Racial Justice training. For information regarding upcoming opportunities, please see the following link: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/upcoming-webinars>

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.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to our renewed ministry together as the fall frenzy begins.

Peace,



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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

