

# AGENDA & REPORTS

PMRC | JUNE 1-4, 2023

Version 3 (June 3)



Pacific Mountain Regional Council  
**5th Annual General Meeting 2023**  
University of the Fraser Valley | Abbotsford BC

**Refining fire. Living stones.**



Affirm | Saffirmer  
UNITED | ENSEMBLE

## Keynote Presenter: The Rev. Jacqui Lewis



The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis comes to us with a desire to use her gifts to help create an antiracist, just, gun violence free, fully welcoming, and gender-affirming society.

THURSDAY JUNE 1, 7:20pm: Forged in the Fire: Tools for Living in these Days

FRIDAY JUNE 2, 10:30am: Unfinished Business?

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 3:00pm: A Bold new thing on Earth: Can you see it?"

With copies of "Fierce Love" for sale at the AGM <https://jacquilewis.com/fierce-love/>

## Saturday Evening's Social!



## Welcome from MLA Bruce Banman

Welcome to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada. My name is Bruce Banman, and I have the privilege of serving as the MLA for Abbotsford South, on behalf of my constituents.

As a community, we are proud to be home to a diverse range of faith communities, including many United Church congregations. I am honored to have this opportunity to write to you today, and to welcome you to our beautiful city of Abbotsford.

I believe that faith-based organizations have an important role to play in building strong, resilient communities, and I am grateful for the work that The United Church of Canada does to support and serve our community.

I look forward to hearing about the important issues and initiatives that you will be discussing over the course of this meeting, and I hope that you will take the time to explore our city and to get to know some of the wonderful people who call Abbotsford home. Thank you for being here, and I wish you a productive and enjoyable meeting.



*Refining fire. Living stones.*

2023  
PMRC  
AGM  
JUNE  
1-4

[PacificMountain.ca/refining-fire-living-stones-general-meeting-2023](https://PacificMountain.ca/refining-fire-living-stones-general-meeting-2023)  
Building E, University of the Fraser Valley | Abbotsford BC

# AGENDA

Online Gathering Link (click):  
[Whova.com/portal/webapp/ucocj\\_202306](https://Whova.com/portal/webapp/ucocj_202306)

## THURSDAY JUNE 1

2:00pm Registration Opens  
3:30pm New Regional Rep. Orientation  
4:00pm Children and Youth Programs Starts  
(5pm Supper for C&Y, Volunteers, Staff Only)  
5:45pm Opening Music / Gathering  
6:00pm Opening the Meeting  
6:30pm President's Address  
6:40pm Opening Worship - Refining Fire  
7:20pm Keynote Presenter Jacqui Lewis:  
Theme 1 'Forged in the Fire: Tools for Living in these Days'  
8:45pm Adjourn

## FRIDAY JUNE 2

8:00am 'The Gathering Place': intentional time for Ministry Personnel (only)  
8:45am Opening Music  
9:00am Worship - God is Building  
9:30am Business  
10:15am Break  
10:30am Keynote Presenter Jacqui Lewis:  
Theme 2 'Unfinished Business?'  
12:00pm Lunch  
1:00pm Gathering Music  
1:15pm Regional Ministries  
• First Third Ministry  
1:35pm Introduce Remit  
2:00pm Workshops  
3:15pm Business - Proposals/Remit Discussion/Introduce Nominees  
4:55pm Staff Introduction  
5:20pm Stewardship  
5:30pm Dinner  
6:45pm An Evening of Remembrance  
• Memorials  
• Service of Lament  
8:00pm Adjournment

## SATURDAY JUNE 3

8:30am Opening Music  
8:40am Worship: Sing-a-long  
9:10am Executive Report  
10:30am Break  
10:50am Office of Vocation Report  
11:20am Regional Ministries: LeaderSHIFT  
11:30am Meeting Newcomers to the Region  
11:40am Naramata Centre  
11:50am Indigenous Ministry



## GM 2023 AGENDA

How to use a QR Code:

1. Open your camera app
2. Focus on the QR Code above
3. Notice the website name pop up on your screen
4. Tap the notice to open the site



## 10AM (Pacific) SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2023

Celebration of Ministry, Worship & Communion, in-person and live streaming:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9YHipxIgiY>



## SAT ... continued

12:10pm Lunch  
1:10pm Opening Music / Gathering  
1:25pm Business - Decision Phase  
3:00pm Keynote Presenter Jacqui Lewis: Theme 3 'A Bold new thing on Earth: Can you see it?'  
4:30pm Closing Worship: Behold, I am doing a new thing!  
5:15pm Closing Business & Adjournment of GM2023  
6:00pm Community Celebration Dinner  
7:00pm PARTY! Multigenerational 'Silent Disco', Board Games, Crafts and Connection

Refining Fire. Living Stones.



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PMRC 6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024  
ST ANDREW'S WESLEY, MAY 30 - JUNE 2  
VANCOUVER BC

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

Deborah Richards

# President's Message



Deborah Richards

Siblings in Christ,

I am looking forward to being with you at the 5th Annual General Meeting, which is being held from June 1 – 4, at the University of the Fraser Valley campus. This is located on the traditional lands of the Stó:lō Nation in Abbotsford.

As I write this message, there is news of significant hot weather, floods, and fires, which may affect many in our midst and who may also know of others who are affected. As we navigate this time of challenge, be comforted by the knowledge that you are held in the Creator's hands and surrounded by the love of your brothers and sisters in Christ across the region. These climate-

related events reminds me of my own experiences of anticipating the coming of Hurricane Gilbert in Jamaica, in 1988. We waited for it to come, to pass over the island, and then woke up to a landscape significantly different from that which we once knew. Many trees were blown down and many houses destroyed. My first thought was that the land had been changed forever and would never look the same. I was right and wrong about that. The land was changed forever by the experience, but what followed was a re-generated vegetation, new or rebuilt buildings, and signs of new hope - admittedly over many years, as the country adapted to its new landscape and post-hurricane realities. In the middle of the disaster, you often cannot imagine what to expect the next day or the next week and, yet there is hope for a 'new life' ahead.

I feel that we are on the cusp of that new life in the church in the Pacific Mountain region, following the last three years of uncertainty and transition. Our ministries and Communities of Faith are situated in a landscape that is significantly different from what we once knew as 'given' and making efforts to re-build, to build anew, and to adapt our

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# President's Message

continued

lives for the future work of the church. It will not be easy and yet we continue moving forward in faith.

The foundations of the United Church in BC and Yukon are solid. We will move forward in new ways to give life to the church today and strengthen our faith for ministry going forward. We see signs of such new life in the celebration of the opening of new buildings which will support new expressions of ministry at sites such as Inlet United, Como Lake and Brechin United. New church plants that are growing and new expressions of ministry are occurring across many other communities of faith. These are only some of the stories that come to mind. I look forward to hearing more stories of adaptation and regeneration of our ministries in the region. It is an exciting time for the church!

I am looking forward to our exploration at this meeting of the theme "Refining fires. Living Stone", which has been planned by our Theme and Worship team. I am also looking forward to hearing the stories and messages Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, co-founder of the Middle Project and The Revolutionary Love Conference, will bring to us.

We will be conducting business sessions and offering opportunities to engage in short workshops about various topics, as well.

Our time together will be enriched by the active participation of children, youth, and young adults, including members of the Youth Council of PMRC and Chinook Winds. As in the past, we will be hearing of the rich ministry of those retiring from active ministry roles this year, and will have an opportunity to welcome to ministry newly ordained and commissioned ministry personnel at the Celebration of Ministry on June 4.

I am excited to meet, learn and celebrate with you all at this meeting.

Yours in Christ  
Deborah Richards  
President

Treena Duncan

# Executive Minister's Message



Treena Duncan

*It is with great honor and pleasure that I offer this written report for the annual meeting of the Pacific Mountain Region, and reflect on the past year we have shared as a council, and people of God. Spread across diverse landscapes, from majestic mountains, to gentle hillsides, to tranquil coastlines, and gathering now in Abbotsford. We will share our experiences, celebrate our successes, and engage as community with our meeting's theme, **Refining fire. Living stones.** Guided by our collective commitments of serving communities of faith and fostering leadership development, we have achieved significant milestones in this past year, and embraced opportunities for renewal and growth.*

## Navigating a changing world

Our past year has again been marked by unprecedented challenges and changes in navigating the post-pandemic world. As a church, locally, regionally, and nationally, we have discerned the shape of the church in this new era, and our role in supporting those seeking to walk in "the good way" in our community and wider society. In this context, the theme of living stones resonates deeply. We are standing together at the intersection of the familiar, where we often want to stay, and the unknown, which requires us to be curious, to discern, and to take action. From this vantage point, I see how we have contemplated the ways technology is playing a role in shaping our communal life, how the political climate influences our ministry, and how we are addressing known struggles and resource limitations in innovative ways.

## The power of living stones

The choices we have faced and decisions made over the past few years have formed the foundation of new ways of being church. Instead of pillars cemented into the earth, we have adapted and transformed into living stones. Grounded in the wisdom of our faith, and guided by our history and tradition we courageously step forward, embracing change with grace and discovery with a spirit of opportunity. At a recent family gathering, I was reminded of this quote attributed to Theodore Roosevelt, "Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are." These words encapsulate our collective spirit, and embody our response to the challenges we have faced, and continue to face. Despite obstacles, uncertainties, and losses, we have moved forward with purpose and determination, drawing strength from our faith and the supportive community we share.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Executive Minister's Message

continued

## Celebrating Resilience and Connection

We have come together to celebrate gifts and talents in our communities and to support one another, witnessing the resilience and strength of our church. As a council, we upheld our commitment to justice and equity by becoming an Affirming region and in continuing to pursue reconciliation. We have engaged in difficult conversations and taken concrete steps to address systemic inequalities and biases. Despite physical distance, we found new ways of being connected, strengthening relationships, and forging new ones. As provincial health restrictions lifted, we carefully began to venture back to our buildings and centres, discovering what community can look like in this post-pandemic world, and discovering the new and different ways of connecting with one another that brings life and transformation.

## Nurturing Leaders and Fostering Creativity

Far and wide, this regional community of ours is blessed with an abundance of gifts and talents. We have fostered a spirit of creativity, innovation, and collaboration in regional ministry areas, congregational settings, leadership initiatives, and spiritual care. Notable achievements include the completion of two buildings with affordable housing in Coquitlam and Nanaimo, developing partnerships with Chinook Winds Region, expanding Campus Ministries, and advancing First Third Ministries. Moreover, our leadership development programs, mentoring opportunities, and educational resources through LeaderSHIFT have also empowered our leaders to serve with confidence and purpose. Across the region we continue to recognize the importance of nurturing emotional and mental health and well-being, ensuring our leaders have the support and resources they need to thrive.

## Looking Ahead

Growing forward as *living stones*, we remain committed to the region's values that focus on strengthening our communities, nurturing current and emerging leaders, and embracing change. We strive to be a beacon of hope and love that brings transformation to the lives of those we serve. Life's path may be uncertain, but we take solace in the knowledge that we are not alone. We are a community that is committed to meeting rising challenges the same way that we mark successes, new beginnings and timely endings, together as Easter people. With the resources we have, and the opportunities that surround us, I am proud of all the ways that together have had, and will continue to have, a positive impact on the world around us.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to every member of the Pacific Mountain Region for your unwavering dedication, resilience, and commitment to the life and work of our council. I am confident that, together, we can "do what we can, with what we've got, where we are". Let us continue to be united in purpose and driven by faith, navigating the future with deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Your presence makes a difference in this United Church of ours, and I look forward to continuing our journey and all that we will achieve in the years ahead.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*





# Celebrations

PMRC | JUNE 1-4, 2023

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

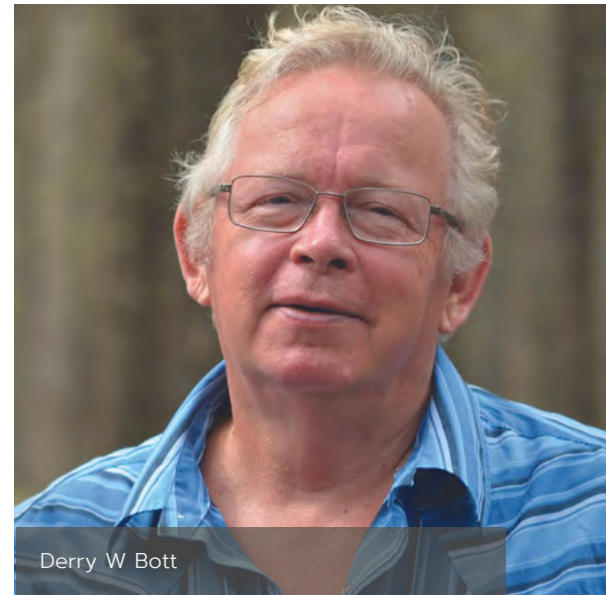
# Celebrands

2022-2023

## Derry W Bott | Ordination

I started my journey to ordination in 2009, going through discernment. At that time I wished to do the ordination stream, but was unable to without a university degree. I entered the Designated Lay Minister (DLM) Program at Calling Lakes in 2011 from which I graduated in January 2014. In May 2014 I was recognized and continued to serve at First United Church in Prince Rupert where I have served for twelve years now.

In 2014 I registered in the Masters of Divinity Program through the Indigenous Studies Program at Vancouver School of Theology. I graduated in May 2022 and here I am today!



Derry W Bott

## Frances Kitson | Ordination

I was not raised in church.

At the age of 16, I was convinced that Christians fell into one of two camps: nice, well-intentioned, boring people; or close-minded, bigoted zealots.

At the age of 19, I inconveniently found myself wanting to go to church, which just proves that God has a sense of humour.

At the age of 32, I was an out-of-work actor, tired of the uncertain scramble for auditions and exhausting juggling of day jobs. Shortly after taking a full-time job as a Construction Safety Officer, I sadly realized that the acting life would never be what I had hoped, and put my mind to what might be next.



Frances Kitson

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Celebrands

continued

2022-2023

## Frances Kitson Continued

Teaching? No.  
Counselling? No.  
More construction? Absolutely not.  
... theology? Hm.

Thus it was that I found myself, anxious and prickly, enrolled for my MDiv. at the Vancouver School of Theology in September of 2016, buckled in for a wild, tempestuous, and life-changing ride.

Seven years later (how biblical!), blessed and formed by the faith and generosity of so many saints, disciples, and teachers on the way, I present myself to you, the Pacific Mountain Region of The United Church of Canada, a rueful, grateful, and hopeful candidate for ordination.

On this occasion, I particularly invoke the memory and blessing of my maternal grandmother, Margaret Isabel Griffiths, who was involved in the movement for the ordination of women in the Church of England when I was a child with no thought of this calling.

May we all know the wisdom, faith, and guidance of our ancestors and the great cloud of witnesses as we endeavour to serve this beleaguered, beloved church and our creating, creative God.

Amen.

## John Helps | Commissioning

John was born and raised in and around Edmonton, Alberta.

John was never a church goer but after a two-decade career working with at-risk families and youth became a candidate for Ministry in the United Church of Canada and began his studies in Diaconal Ministry where he explored working with people on the margins through a theological lens.

After spending three years in ministry appointments in both the southern Okanagan and rural Alberta, he followed his call back to social services where he could live as the hands and feet of Christ, being in



John Helps

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Celebrands

continued

2022-2023

## John Helps Continued

solidarity with some of the most marginalized people in our society – folks struggling with their mental health who are experiencing homelessness. For the past three years he has been out on central Vancouver Island working with Island Crisis Care Society in a regionally recognized community-based ministry. John's call is built on a foundation of justice work and pastoral care. Since last fall he has also been blessed to be serving the Cedar United Church community of faith providing Sunday morning worship leadership.

John believes the future for clergy is in bi-vocational ministry and does his best to share his life working with people on the margins with any faith community he comes into contact with.

The church is changing quickly, the Spirit is at work and John is excited to see what is around the corner for all of us as God continues to create.



# Retirees

2022-2023

Those retiring from ministry in 2022–2023 were asked to provide a short description of themselves, their ministry, and their journey to retirement. They were also asked what they see as the biggest challenge for leadership in the coming time.

*For all these gifts, we give you thanks!*

## Bill Booth | Retired December 31, 2022

I ran the woods of my west coast birth  
To the joy of heaven's watching host  
Watched the Salmond in the back yard  
brook  
Blessed to live in God's green earth.

Learned of God from a tender age,  
Believed in pantheism before I knew the  
meaning  
Know less now than as a childhood Sage  
And to this day finding sacred is still my  
leaning

Denied a calling when leaving my teens  
Yet the Spirit calls the absurd  
And at 30th year my calling was seen  
So I came speak the Word

24 years I served my God  
Holding hands at her last breath  
Watching and waiting for his call home  
Water, and bread, wine and Word

Healing the sick,  
Telling the story  
Leading and following  
Such joy such grief



Bill Booth

And now I serve in retiring years  
A church in change, and needing hope  
Who shall lead and dap our tears?  
This I know my task remains

Into the mystic our journey will lead  
Away from the cultures noise and heat  
Our call is clear Servants of Creation's  
needs  
Blessed to live in God's green earth

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Retirees

continued

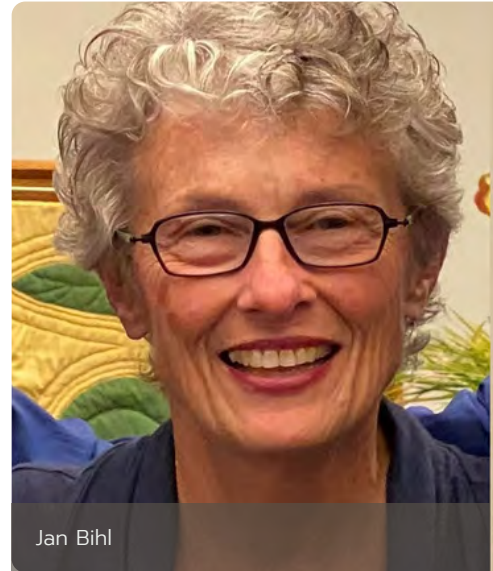
2022-2023

## Jan Bihl | Retired November 30, 2022

I grew up on a farm in the Pembina Hills in Manitoba. I loved the sights and smells of the changing seasons. I remember one day lying on the ground, facedown, with my ear to the earth... listening and wondering...and somehow sensing that the Earth was living, and I was part of it and we could somehow commune. Many decades later, I began to understand this as an experience of the holy, the sacred... an experience of God. It differed from my experience of church (and leaving church) over the following few decades, and it quietly served as an inner witness to the presence of the Holy who nudged and called and drew me with incredible grace and tenacity through my cycles of being found and lost and found again and again by this Living Presence. It's like the "thread" in William Stafford poem The Way It Is: "Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You never let go of the thread." I feel the converse is also true... that the Thread has never let go of me.

Through the seasons of my life there has been this witness and assurance that Love is at work, bringing life and light and healing and understanding of my Christian faith in deeper and more expanding ways. Throughout my years of teaching children in public school, and then in my training, ordination, and practice of ministry, this unfailing faithfulness of God, Creator, Logos, Living Word from the beginning, and Holy Spirit animating our lives today...this is what has sustained me, and what I hope to have imparted in some small way to others.

As I move into the next season of my life, I am grateful for the discernment team and the mentorship of Rev. Ed Searcy, of



Jan Bihl

University Hill Congregation, who accompanied me in discerning the call to ministry. I'm grateful for the leadership of the regional and national bodies and individuals serving in them to provide support and processes and resources for our ministry together. I am ever so grateful for the grace and goodwill of the people in the congregations with whom I have been in ministry: Knox United in Prince George and Como Lake United in Coquitlam as well as for the support of colleagues along the way. I'm thankful beyond words for my spouse, Gerhard, and family, friends, teachers and mentors who have walked alongside.

As for the greatest challenge for leadership today, and into the future, I would say it's the same as always: Stay attentive to the thread and especially to the Giver of the Thread.

Peace, my Friends.

*Jan Bihl*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Karen Dickey | Retiring July 30, 2023

It's funny to think about it now, but at the time it was just the way things were, as Bev and I drove from Vancouver to Lennoxville, Quebec for my ordination in 1989.

These were pre cell phone days. The Transfer and Settlement Committee was meeting while we were on the road, so now and again we'd step into a phone booth to check in on what the Church had in mind for our future! Funny turned fierce when, as the people of Montreal-Ottawa Conference gathered, word on the ground was that the ordinand who was known to be gay would not receive enough favourable votes.

When he chose to withdraw I found myself unexpectedly wrestling with whether or not to proceed. All of this as Jim and Jean Strathdee, the music team for the gathering, were singing their hearts out: What does the Lord Require of You ... all of us singing in three part harmony, the first we had heard it. The Saturday evening conversation with Scott enabled me to move forward come Sunday morning with his blessing. *Refining fire.*

The Settlement Committee decided on Wawanesa Pastoral Charge, Manitoba town of 500 people, fish bowl manse, moving boxes stored in the basement, unsure how this would go. We first rented an apartment for Bev in Brandon until the money ran out. Five months later, thanks to a vocal neighbour blowing our cover in the local Hardware, I was in conversation with members of the Session, those kind, courageous people ... all of us risking the promise that one way or another "the truth will set you free." *Refining fire.*



Karen Dickey

4 years later, having experienced what it is to be a stranger welcomed into people's lives, the brokenness and the beauty, we were sent off with their blessing and their gratitude: "thank you for helping us to discover we are more loving than we knew."

The next 16 years with St Aidan's in Victoria was a whole new experience ... big administrative structure, big sanctuary, big congregation ... big everything! We moved through some big conversations together, big decisions, big transformations. It was with St Aidan's too that I learned my limits, when I burned out to the point of wondering if it was all over for me. Turned out to be one of the biggest gifts of my career, when through the expressions of deep care from the congregation at a time when I was not able to do a thing, I experienced what it is to be loved simply for who I am. *Refining fire.*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Karen Dickey Continued

I wasn't expecting to leave St Aidan's, but as I came to helpfully realize, our scriptures are shot through with stories of people called in unforeseen directions! After a one year assignment with St Paul's in Sidney, I came to James Bay United, the seed having been planted a few years earlier at Presbytery meeting. It was the experience of my own rising again after burnout that I brought to the weary and diminishing congregation of James Bay ...trusting that if indeed we would allow the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to have her way with us, we just might find ourselves alive again with new found vitality; which, it turns out, is

something of the journey we've been on. *Refining fire.*

If I was to name one of the biggest challenges for leadership in the coming time, I find myself thinking about how life on Earth is becoming increasingly perilous. How do we live and lead in ways that set us free from our individualism such that we are made all the more available to the power of the Love that Fills the World?

*Refining fire!*

*Karen Dickey*

## Tammy Lindahl | Retired February 28, 2023

Tammy was born on a small dairy farm in northern Minnesota. Shortly after graduating from University, she responded to the call to ministry. As a graduate of Mc Cormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, she was ordained in 1986 to the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

After several years of serving rural and remote churches in Montana and southern Missouri, she was forced to leave parish ministry after coming out as a lesbian. To find a new way to serve in ministry, she attended the University of Kansas and received a Master's in Social Work.

She then began her work in hospice, which spanned over 25 years. In 2008 Tammy and her partner of 36 years, Martha Juillerat, immigrated to Canada. She became a chaplain at Victoria Hospice and a Minister of Spiritual Care at First Metropolitan United



Tammy Lindahl

Church. The opportunity presented itself for her to re-enter parish ministry. She transferred her ordination to the United Church of Canada in 2018.

Tammy was honoured to serve the Bella Coola pastoral charge for four years before returning to the Victoria area.



# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Sally McShane, B.A., M.Div., M.P.S | Retiring June 30, 2023

On July 1, 2023 I will be sitting in my garden raising a glass in gratitude to the Creator. As a spiritual leader, I have been guided by Speaker, Word, Listener for more than thirty years. I have served in churches, rural and urban, on both coasts. Five years after ordination I returned to school to learn how to listen more deeply in the Spirit. I have had the privilege of listening to the Mi'kmaq people of NS, the survivors of the holocaust in Toronto, young men in prison in NS and the members of the community on the streets of the DTES of Vancouver. I am still learning from a multicultural community with a vision to support immigrants to Canada by building supportive housing in Vancouver, hosting 'Welcome to Canada' dinners and offering the gift of listening.

I was married to the irrepressible philosopher and theologian Philip McShane for almost thirty years. When he left the Irish Jesuits at the age of thirty-four he had no idea Christ would pull him back into the church but on the protestant side of things. It has been a dance of Joy and Wonder, always seeking the Sacred. I miss you so much.

Here is my thought on the future of ministry: Eugene Peterson wrote that he was called by God to be a spiritual leader not an administrator. As ministry is reduced to part-time positions I encourage spiritual leaders to let his thought guide you. For the future of the church, I know the imagination and wonder of children can save us.

I have asked the Spirit to continue to challenge me. I will always be a spiritual leader. I just plan to 'do' it differently. I will continue to write novels, inspired by the



Rev. Sally McShane, B.A., M.Div., M.P.S

allegorical nature of C. S. Lewis' books. I will continue to explore drama and dance. I will continue to work with an international group on my husband's legacy. And I plan to giggle often with my grandsons Noah and Matthew and to hang out with my two sons and my daughter-in-law.

My dear, delightful colleagues, I am available for supportive listening in exchange for a cup of coffee. Rant, whine, pray, dance. Let's do it!

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Julie Lebrun | Retiring June 30, 2023

I was Ordained in 2008 in Pacific Mountain Region and settled at St. Andrew's United Church in Port Moody. I'm retiring now from Inlet United Church in Port Moody. After amalgamating with IOCO United Church in 2019 we became Inlet United Church.

I have been blessed to serve this same and transformed congregation for the last 15 years. When I started, I prayed that we, my leadership and the congregation, be open to the Holy Spirit and see where it may take us. The first 8 years of the ministry had a big focus on serving people who were homeless. The congregation was host to a Cold Wet Weather Mat Shelter Program for 1-2 months of the year for 8 years. The congregation was amazing at coordinating 3 meals a day and 300 volunteer spaces per month.

We reached out to the wider community for help because St. Andrew's was a small congregation. We became a volunteer opportunity for many community people and a local High School. Our church became part of a leadership training program at a local High School. It truly was a loaves and fishes story. The congregation did not have money to fund this Mat Shelter Program. We reached out to wider community and donated food, money and volunteers covered all that was needed. Each month would finish with left overs in the pantry!

In 2015 there was a permanent shelter build in nearby Coquitlam so the Mat Shelter Program was no longer needed. St. Andrew's was one of many churches to advocate for the permanent shelter to be built. I have enjoyed the benefits of



Rev. Julie Lebrun

working with other church denominations and community groups to accomplish things none of us could do on our own.

In 2015 the congregation discerned how we were now called to serve the wider community. With the rental housing crisis and the resource of church land, the congregation set out with a renewed ministry to build below market rental housing. We completed a new building called "The Springs" in late 2021 and moved in early 2022. The Springs includes Inlet's new church space, 55 units of below market rental housing, and office space for Kinsight Tri-Cities Children's Centre. The church completed this project in partnership with Catalyst Community Developments Society and Kinsight. By working together we could accomplish the goal of below market rental housing with the bonus of Kinsight opening a brand new facility to serve the community.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Julie Lebrun Continued

I am deeply grateful to all the people I have shared ministry with at Inlet United. It is a "small but mighty" congregation with discerning, caring and dedicated lay leaders. I am honored to have been witness to many joys and sorrows in people lives and spiritual journeys. I have enjoyed teaching, preaching, praying, comforting, challenging, advocating, learning with and from this Community of Faith.

These last few years of my ministry included Covid, a church amalgamation, completing a redevelopment project and moving into the new church building. I continue to be grateful to the Spirit of God and teaching of Jesus guiding me along the way. I'm very thankful to complete this stage of my ministry in a Team Ministry with Rev. Jenn Swanson. With the challenges and joys of the last few years working in a Team Ministry has boosted my energy and helped me to learn in new ways.

What are the biggest challenges for leaders in the coming time? I think the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunities are with the partnerships United Churches can develop with other organizations, dominations, societies, neighbourhood groups etc. As a progressive Christian Church, we bring something unique and valuable to a partnership. We also have an opportunity to learn from other groups. By working with others, we can learn and accomplish more than any one of us can on our own.

My approach to ministry has been to dream big with God, cast the net wide, see what we might catch. To see who might want to join and who I can learn from in new ways...to help co-create with God...and see that the Kingdom of God is near...inside the walls of church and outside the walls in the much wider world, God is there weaving us together!

For retirement/redirection I will see what God has in store for me...and pray that I continue to be open to the Spirit.

Peace for today,

*Rev. Julie Lebrun*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Blair Odney | Retired January 30, 2023

It's hard to believe that a year-ago, I was writing to you as your President, with expressions of love and encouragement for the church that serves the people living in BC and Yukon. Turns out we are still uninvited guests on the traditional and sacred lands of a complex web of Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast, trying to be church differently on these lands, expressing our gratitude that our ancient story is held by an even more ancient sacred story in generous hospitality.

And now, by the grace of God, I'm invited to write about what it's like to set down this formal chapter of my ministry. Where did that go? Let me begin with a cursory review of what I did for the church.

Following what seemed like an insane call from God, after five years on the Program Staff of Naramata Centre, with two young sons and a mortgage, I entered the Lay Pastoral Ministry program of the United Church of Canada. Having collaborated with Rochelle Graham, on the development of the Naramata Centre Healing Pathway curriculum, I thought for sure I was called to adult faith formation as a teacher and leader. And God chuckled. The call was to serve three years, as LPMiT under the supervision of my dear friend and colleague, Rev. Bill Laurie, at Osoyoos United Church.

On the second attempt to call me from Osoyoos, Trinity United Church in Vernon invited my then spouse, Sheila and me to fill three half-time ministry positions in Pastoral Care, Music and Christian Education. That's where I fell in love again, with outdoor ministry and especially Camp Hurlburt. That camp claimed the hearts of my two sons for which I will always be



S. Blair Odney

grateful. Two years later, and only one year after being recognized as an LPM, I was invited into the role of minister for Worship, Music and Christian Education, with administrative responsibilities thrown in. Turns out, it was hard to shed the image of student and after serving eight years in Vernon, I accepted another call.

What I thought would be a two-year transition, while Sheila and I figured out where we would end up, God chuckled again. This 11-year adventure turned out to be a lived experience of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I was privileged to have been called to lead Lynn Valley United Church in North Vancouver into a new relationship with its community. When I left mid-covid in 2020, grieving the end of a mature and beautiful relationship, I left an faithful and growing suburban congregation working in a renewed relationship with the community, a brand-new building and \$3.5 million legacy fund.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Blair Odney Continued

For the past two and half years, I have been challenged by some of the hardest work of our denomination. On January 31, the congregation of Queens Avenue United Church ended its more than 160-year ministry. In one hand, I held the grief, the disappointment, the anger of the oldest methodist congregation in BC, even as I held in the other hand, the insistent call that God was up to something new on the same corner in New Westminster. Simultaneously holding death and birth is a bit like whiplash. January 31 also seemed like a good date for me to stop for a while.

If you ever get the chance to spend time with Simon Sinek, take it. He is a perpetual optimist with an unshakeable faith in the human spirit to create thriving futures. He once said, "people don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it." And so, while those first paragraphs are the reader's digest version of my ministry, what I really want to leave you with is why. I believe that God so loves the world, that God birthed life into its fullness in the person of Jesus. In his death and resurrection God invites the world into its best version. And it begins with one person at a time. Have you noticed in all the biblical stories, Jesus meets people where they are, loves them, invites them into their next best selves, and sends them on their way?

That is my lived experience. God so loves me, that God sent to me incarnate life, (in Jordan Odney, Luke Odney, Sheila Odney, Henry Piovesan, Rochelle Graham, Vickie Lannie, Barbara Myers, Bill Laurie, Treena Duncan, Will Sparks, Janet Gear, Brenda Fawkes, Shauna Grinke, Myrna Pearce, Jeffrey Robinson, Ed Scanlan, Mauricio Araujo and many others) that I may come to believe, and have life in its fullness.

People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it. And so, while this expression of my ministry comes to an end, it doesn't feel like I'm finished. Rob Crosby-Shearer once reminded me that I continue to be under the holy orders of the church. So, it seems that I must do what I can, when I can, as often as I can, for as many as I can in an ongoing prayer of thanksgiving to the God who saved my life through the church I love.

Blessings to you all friends.

Thank you for your love and friendship.

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Janice Young | Retired May 30, 2023

An Elementary school teacher in Richmond and member of South Arm United Church prior to entering VST in 1985.

**1989** Ordained and settled in the Evergreen Pastoral Charge (Mayerthorpe and Sangudo) northwest of Edmonton in the Yellowhead Presbytery.

**Highlights:** discovering the beauty of close-knit, rural, farming communities; multi-day Presbytery meetings that often included fun activities like a day of skiing in Jasper with colleagues. Leading the Youth Group.

**Challenges:** weddings and funerals almost every week; living 1300 km away from my sweetheart for two years.

**1991** Married Henry Walker. Called to the Hammond–Pitt Meadows Pastoral Charge in Westminster Presbytery.

**Highlights:** developing relationships within the congregations and in Westminster Presbytery.

**Challenges:** Duplicating ministry in two different congregations that were 4 km apart.

**Something memorable:** I have a tiny scar that I won't show you as a result of being bit on the butt by a bear in 1996 near Swaneset Golf Course.

**1998** Called to St. John's Sunshine Coast in Sechelt in Van-Burrard Presbytery

**Highlights:** a long term pastorate in a beautiful community with amazing people. Building relationships with the Shishalh First Nation and partnering with the Anglican and Lutheran communities.



Janice Young

Becoming an Affirming Ministry. A growing passion for justice and reconciliation between Indigenous and Settler communities.

Working with the Ecumenical Advocates in preparation for the 2013 Truth and Reconciliation gathering in Vancouver.

**Challenges:** pushback from those who are uncomfortable facing our colonial and settler history

**Something memorable:** participating in two week long "Pulling Together" canoe trips with 200 Indigenous and Non-indigenous folks.

**2015** appointed to Crescent United Church in Fraser Presbytery.

**Highlights:** 2017 amalgamation with First United White Rock, Sunnyside and Crescent. Working with a multitude of gifted and dedicated lay leaders and members who support a wide variety of ministries within the congregation and wider community.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Janice Young Continued

A trip to Bella Coola with 10 members of the congregation to learn with the folks of Augsburg UC and Emmanuel UC about what reconciliation looks like in that community.

A trip to Tierra Nueva, a sister community in El Salvador

Becoming an Affirming Ministry after a 7 year process.

Challenges: all that comes with Amalgamation and a global pandemic.

June 2023 Refirement

*(term borrowed from Tim Scorer)*

Looking forward to: continuing the work of justice and reconciliation and hanging out with our two granddaughters.

Biggest challenge for leadership: Embracing change

## Wayne Hughes | Retired January 1, 2023

# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

## Alanna Menu | Retiring June 30, 2023

As with many ministry personnel, my route to ordained ministry was not direct. When young, I had a strong spirituality and relationship with God. Our relationship required maturing on my part. Over several careers and degrees and lots of spiritual struggles, I broadened my understanding and deepened that relationship.

In all of my life-changes, the dignity and importance of people were my priority: as a teacher two-room schools in northern Ontario; in banking, first as teller, then in management; as a manual labourer on a farm and in a fibreglass factory; as a community support worker with adults with developmental disabilities.

When I married my husband, formerly a Jesuit priest, we wanted to work in ministry together. To that end I obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Huron College, an Anglican seminary in London, Ontario. Subsequently, my husband and I found opportunities to minister with congregations of the United Church of Canada.

After ministering in three United Church congregations as a staff associate, a member of one congregation strongly urged me to seek ordination in the United Church. Despite my reluctance to be part of institutional ministry, I started on the course to ordination.



Alanna Menu

A number of unlikely things had to fall in place for me to progress to ordination but to my surprise they did. I was ordained in 2008 and called to Centennial United Church where I have ministered happily for 15 years. I am still learning that God's plan is always better than my plan, I suspect that God has a few more surprises for me as I head into retirement.



# Retirees

continued

2022-2023

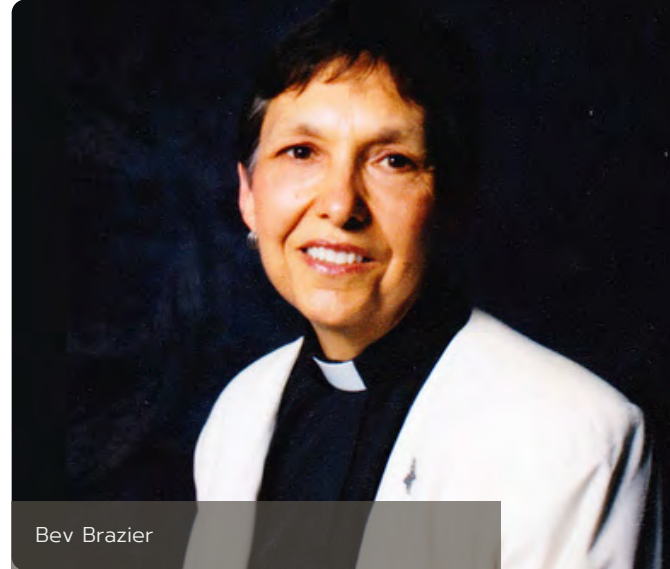
## Beverly Christine Saville Brazier | Retiring June 30, 2023

I was born in Sioux Lookout, Ontario, into a family that grew to include: parents Bill Brazier and Gertie Saville Brazier, sisters Pat and Bette, and brother Bill. Mom and Dad were not “churched”, but I want to honour my parents today for grounding me in unconditional love and a capacity for wonder.

After attending (initially against my will!) a confirmation class in 1968, I whole heartedly became a follower of Jesus and joined the church with as much gusto as my 14 year old heart and mind could imagine. I want to honour the people of St Andrew’s United Church in Sioux Lookout for their mentoring and their patience with me as I found my way.

After a BA from the University of Winnipeg (French and Religious Studies), I did my first year of theological studies at St. Andrew’s in Scotland, then finished my M.Div at Vancouver School of Theology. In 2003 I completed a DMin from Bangor Theological School in Bangor, Maine, USA Ordained by Maritime Conference in 1984, I have been honoured to serve:

Hunter River Pastoral Charge, PEI  
 Parrsboro Port Greville Pastoral Charge, NS  
 New Richmond Grande Cascapedia Pastoral Charge, Quebec  
 Miramichi Maple Glen Pastoral Charge, NB  
 Canterbury Richmond Pastoral Charge, NB  
 Whitehorse United Church, Yukon



Bev Brazier

Pastoral ministry is, and has been for me, (as my friend Catherine MacLean says) “the best gig in the known universe”. I love it now, even more than I loved it at the beginning. Whatever becomes of us as an institution, we will carry on with story and song, as God’s people have done since the beginning. None of us can see the future, and I have lots of questions and fears about what will happen, but overwhelmingly I trust that the Spirit is leading me into retirement, and more importantly, leading Her church, into a future of wonder and grace.

# Anniversaries

2022-2023

## 5 Years

Curt Allison  
Dawn Purdy-Karkut  
Dianne Collery  
Ingrid Brown  
Kirstin Autio  
Lorraine Ashdown  
Nam Ok Yoo  
Pyoung Shik Shin  
Sun-Young Kim  
Tammy Lindahl  
Tiffany McNaughton

## 10 Years

Alice Watson  
Alwin Maben  
Bethel Lee  
Dona Lethbridge  
Elise Feltrin  
Mary Walker  
Nancy O'Higgins  
Nancy Walker  
Sang-Won Cha

## 15 Years

C. Alanna Menu  
Janet Gear  
Judith Hardcastle  
Julie Lebrun  
Tracy Fairfield

## 20 Years

Brian Tsai  
David Cathcart  
Deirdre McEachern  
Elaine Graham  
Everest Kao  
Nancy Colton  
Sharilynn Upsdell  
Wendy Brown

## 25 Years

Arleigh Alexander  
Blyth Hughes  
Brenda Fawkes  
Caroline Copeman-  
Haynes  
David Moors  
Edward Cawley  
Erin Sterling  
Heidi Koschreck  
Scott Swanson

## 30 Years

Eugen Bannerman  
Gwendolyn Davis  
J. Franklin Lewis  
Jacquelin Green  
John Burton  
P. Boyd

## 35 Years

D. Bruce Comrie  
Gabrielle Suedfeld  
Jennifer Ferguson  
Maria Van Holten  
Rohana Laing  
Selma Sheldon  
Shirley Etter

## 40 Years

Cathryn Paterson-  
Seguin  
Gale Glover  
James Hatherly  
James Pan  
L. Albert Ramsey  
Michael Hare  
Philip Newman  
S. Stanbury Bailey  
Steven Chambers

## 45 Years

David Ewart  
G. Harvie Barker  
Gerhard Bihl  
James Massey  
Janet Silman  
Kenneth Crassweller  
Mary Steele  
Ross White

## 50 Years

Donald Isner  
Linda Ervin  
Scott Agur

## 55 Years

C. Edward White  
D. Gordon Laird  
David Spence  
Gordon How  
Ivan Jespersen  
Richard Price

## 60 Years

Freda Rajotte  
John Sullivan  
Mark Bedford  
Robert Gorrie

## 65 Years

A. Thomas Miles  
R. George Morrison  
Robert Smith

# Memorials

2022-2023

## Alberta Billy

*August 29, 1941 – June 13, 2022*

Alberta Billy, the We Wai Kai Elder who in 1985 demanded that The United Church of Canada apologize for its role in colonization and the loss of Indigenous languages, culture, and spirituality, passed away on June 13, 2022. The Moderator and the General Secretary offer their deep condolences to Alberta's husband Dan, their family, and their community.

Alberta's actions and words on behalf of the Native Ministries Council at the March 1985 meeting of the General Council Executive both shocked and reverberated with those present, and ultimately led to the church's first Apology to Indigenous Peoples at the 31st General Council in August 1986. In 2016, Alberta, accompanied by one of her grandchildren, was present to mark the 30th anniversary of the Apology in Sudbury.

These actions began a process of deep change in the United Church. Moderator Richard Bott notes that "the whole of the church is deeply indebted to Alberta Billy for what she demanded of us and called us to do. We could not be the church we strive to be without her."



Alberta, a long-time advocate of reconciliation, reminded those present at the 30th Anniversary that the Apology is not complete. It has been acknowledged but not accepted by the Indigenous Church, which continues to look to the United Church to concretely demonstrate its commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship rooted in mutuality and respect.

As the church seeks to truly honour the Indigenous Caretakers' Calls to the Church, it would do well to remember Alberta's faith and commitment to the Indigenous ways in which she was raised and lived, as well as to the church which she believed could always do better.

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Dianne Astle

*April 2, 1950 – March 30, 2023*

The Rev. Dianne Astle, of Hope BC, passed away on Thursday, March 30, at the age of 72, surrounded by family and friends. We all miss her dearly.

Dianne was a graduate of Emmanuel College and she served pastoral charges in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC. Dianne's ministry was animated by her love and care for people, and her concern for justice and fairness.

Dianne discovered a passion for pottery and telling stories through her writing. She was a member of the Hope Art Gallery. The dog in the photo is her beloved dog, Thomas. Dianne often called him Saint Thomas; she always said that she saved him and he saved her.

We are planning a Celebration of Life to be held in early July, 2023



# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Janet Ruth Cawley

*April 26, 1946 – June 20, 2022*

With great sadness we announce the passing of the Reverend, Doctor Janet Ruth Cawley. Janet is predeceased by her loving partner Sallie McFague and survived by her cherished sisters Grace and Susan, nieces and nephews Mark, Geoffrey, Douglas, Gordon, Kathryn and Hugh.

Janet lived a life of challenge, accomplishment and service, as evidenced by her numerous achievements in education, contributions in ministry and United church efforts to increase inclusivity.

In her later years Janet struggled with several health issues including myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), though her ongoing contribution to numerous causes belied the energy-sapping effects of the illness.

Janet had a lifelong love of nature and was most at peace in the out of doors. Wherever she was, she found her community – community that will miss her sorely now that she has passed.

A memorial service was held for Janet at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday July 31st at Pacific Spirit United Church, 2195 W 45th Avenue, Vancouver BC.



# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. George Feenstra

*March 29th, 1950 - February 1st, 2023*

March 29th, 1950 - February 1st, 2023

Reverend George Feenstra, loving husband of Dr. Barbara Paterson, stepfather to Steven and Karen, and father-in-law of Charlene passed away after a battle with ALS February 1, 2023. He was born in Friesland March 29, 1950. He was predeceased by his parents, Jessie and Ike Feenstra, and brothers Maynard and Rudy.

George was the eldest of 10 children. He worked as a home care attendant for 12 years and provided loving care to many. He attended the theological seminary in Vancouver. The committee that recommended his ordination as a United Church minister recognized him as a true maverick. Those of us who knew and loved him recognized that this was one of his many attributes we appreciated.

George provided ministry care for the United Church charges of Dugald, Anola, Warren, Meadow Lea, Steinbach, Vancouver, Clinton, Ashcroft, Fredericton, and Winnipeg. Congregations appreciated George's wisdom, kindness, music, and his rapport with young people.

Anyone who knew George recognized him as a kind, gentle man with a warm smile. He had a great passion and affinity for the marginalized in our society. He frequently sought the companionship of people living on the street and volunteered at Winnipeg's Oak Table.

His resounding message to the world was, "Be kind to one another" and some of his last words were, "Tell everyone to have no regrets. I knew their love".



A celebration of George's life was held at The Big Red Church (127 Cobourg Avenue) Saturday, February 11 at 1:30. Rev. Maureen McCartney presided.

A special thank you to Laura and Gregg Armistead, the staff at the Deer Lodge Motor Neuron Disease Clinic, the staff at Concordia Urgent Care, and all our family and friends who supported and encouraged us throughout this difficult journey.

Memories, condolences and photos may be viewed by visiting George's memorial page at [seasonsfunerals.ca](http://seasonsfunerals.ca)

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." – Stephen Grellet

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Terrence Michael Finch

*August 3, 1938 - September 23, 2022*

With great sadness we report the death of The Reverend Terence (Terry) Michael Finch. Terry passed away peacefully at Nanaimo Regional Hospital Palliative Care on Friday, September 23, 2022 with his loving wife, Lee Mason, at his side. Terry had just celebrated his 84th birthday in August.

Terry was born in the town of Taunton in the County of Somerset England. The family moved to Canada when Terry was still a youngster but did move back to England for a short time during that period. After completing his basic education, Terry worked at a number of jobs before answering the call to Ministry. Terry laughing said, "God can be quite persistent". He was fortunate to secure a place at Harvard Divinity School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree and subsequently his Master of Divinity. Through the United Church of Canada, he served at congregations across the country until moving to Lake Cowichan and a well earned retirement.

As a true aesthete, Terry loved beauty, art and music. With that amazing baritone voice, he would sing in every language and every kind of music. To him, life was about music and he had a particular love of jazz. For many years Terry hosted a radio program during which he interviewed many well-known jazz artists. He loved beauty; whether it was the natural beauty around us or a Renaissance painting. That love could also be seen in his books – everything from heavy tomes of ancient philosophy and theology to books on Shakespeare.

Terry was an also a well-established oenophile – a true connoisseur of wine who enjoyed a glass throughout his adult life. Not to say that he was a wine snob – but he did love a good wine.



Terry will be remembered for his sense of humor and his quick wit. He had a particular penchant for the English language was a stickler for correct grammar and word usage. You could often hear him utter a pun followed by a low groan.

Terry loved people and had an incredible gift of empathy. He was a true friend and mentor to many over the years. One couldn't be around Terry for long without being impacted by his passion for life. In addition to his wife, Lee, Terry is survived by his son Peter, sister Valerie Martindale (James) and granddaughters Zoe Lola and Molly Catherine Finch. Terry was predeceased by his parents, Desmond and Iris Finch, his first wife Jean and son Ian.

Terry's Celebration of Life was held at St. Andrews United Church, 315 Fitzwilliam St. Nanaimo on Friday November 4 at 11 a.m.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Clifford Raymond Henning

*October 18th, 1928 - January 5th, 2023*

Rev. Clifford (Cliff) Henning - born October 18, 1928 in Pretoria, South Africa - passed away peacefully on January 5, 2023 surrounded by his beloved Family.

Cliff was the youngest son of Irene Emblyn Harvard & Alwyn Westley Adalbert Henning and brother to Alwyn John Harvard (elder) and Reginald Remfry (middle). He is survived by his wife Ann - married on January 10th, 1959 - daughter Cheryl-Ann and son, Bryan, and daughter-in-law, Christine. Cliff was also a much-loved grandfather to Ben, Caitlyn and Connor.

Cliff and his family emigrated in September 1974 from South Africa to North Vancouver, BC. He was the United Church Minister at North Lonsdale United Church and St. Stephen's United Church in Vancouver. Apart from his Ministerial work at both North Lonsdale & St. Stephen's United Churches, Cliff Henning was also the Hospital Chaplain at Lions Gate Hospital and involved with numerous organizations related to Community outreach as well as Conference Committees for the United Church of Canada.

Rev Cliff Henning's Celebration of Life was held at West Vancouver United Church on January 11, 2023.



The Family is extremely grateful to all the medical staff at both Lions Gate Hospital and the North Shore Hospice who provided Cliff with exceptional medical care ensuring he was also surrounded by continued peace and comfort. In lieu of flowers, the Family requests donations be sent in Rev. Clifford Henning's name to the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation for the advancement of their Spiritual Care Program.



# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Brian Pilmore Jackson

*January 26, 1930 – April 7, 2023*

The family of Brian Pilmore Jackson regrets to announce his death on Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at Hospice House.

- Charmer of humming birds and butterflies
- Brave Scouter, lover of nature and world history
- Compassionate friend, gentle guide through grief
- Fixer of kettles, maker of waffles
- Loving and wise father, grandfather and great grandfather
- Deeply loved husband with an uncommon kindness and a penchant for fun
- Adventurous educator and community pastor
- Held dear by friends who circle the world

Brian counted himself fortunate to have found two sweets, Edith for 33 years, then Lorrie for 35. He is survived by six children and their families: Stuart and Kathy Jackson, Michaela and Gord Springall, Paul and Kathy Jackson, Lori Stemmler, Gen and Jess Moore, Gabrielle and Richard Moore;

13 Grandchildren: Trish and Jeff, Tim and Julie, Chris, Mark and Katherine, Jon and Keighley, Bradley and Susie, Trevor, Becca, Keturah and Michael, Olivya, Camille, Evan, and Atalia; 6 Great Grandchildren: Brayden, Riley, Carter, Richard, Brian and Violet; and the whole McNair clan.



He was predeceased by his first wife, Edith, two infant children, Margaret and Leslie, and daughter-in-law Sandy.

Brian looked for ways to be helpful to others. Those of us who knew him are better people because he lived.

Lorrie and the family sincerely thank Dr. Chan, Dr. Ansdell, Eloise, IHA and IHCS employees for their skill and compassion throughout this journey. We will never forget your kindness.

A private service will be held later. Those wishing to remember Brian in a tangible way are invited to donate to one of his favourite charities: The Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Vernon Hospice House, or The NONA Child Development Centre. No flowers, please.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Paul William Newman

*August 23, 1934 – September 6, 2022*

Rev. Dr. Paul William Newman, D.D. (honoris causa). Born in Japan August 23, 1934, of missionary parents. Died at home in Sooke in the presence of family on September 6, 2022, aged 88 yrs.

Lifetime friend and husband of Edith (nee Thompson).

Survived by children Simone, Greg (Lori) and Sean, and by grandchildren Rob, Ben (Monica, granddaughter Mabel), Luke and Liam and by his sister Ruth and by numerous nephews and nieces.

Predeceased by son Robert Hugh and by brothers Robert (Helen), and David (Nancy) and by sister Doris (Bill).

Paul graduated from Victoria College and Emmanuel College in Toronto (B.A., B.D.) and from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland (Ph.D.) He was ordained in The United Church of Canada and served in pastorates in Sault Ste Marie and Arden Ontario.

He was a missionary professor in Chung Chi College in the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 1966 to 1975, returning to Canada to be Professor of Systematic Theology in St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon where eventually he was appointed Professor Emeritus. He served for a term as national Secretary for Interfaith Dialogue in The United Church of Canada and finished his career as Minister of Pastoral Care in Kamloops United Church.

Paul was a leader in sports, drama, and student government at university. He was Head of the Theology Division in The Chinese University of HK, and was a leader in many church committees, including a term as President of Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church.



His academic writings included three books (The Ontological in the Theology of Paul Tillich, Humanity and Spirit, and A Spirit Christology). Some of his published and unpublished articles are available at [www.web-theology.net](http://www.web-theology.net).

He was active in developing social housing for elderly Chinese and mental health patients in Saskatoon. In retirement he took up bagpiping as a hobby and played in the Sooke Pipes and Drums.

Appreciation and thanks to the West Coast Family Medical Clinic and the MAiD program. Your concerns and care have been invaluable to the family. We thank you.

There was a remembrance time for family and friends at the Sooke Legion Hall, Saturday September 17th at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to [www.water.org](http://www.water.org) who supply clean drinking water to people around the world.

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. John Philip Romeril

*June 5, 1931 - March 5th, 2023*

Reverend John Philip Romeril died peacefully on March 5, 2023 after a brief illness.

John was born in England in 1931 and spent the WW II years under German occupation on the island of Guernsey. He completed his schooling at Kingswood in Bath, and then emigrated to Canada where he served in the Reserve of the Canadian Navy, studied Theology at Queen's University in Kingston and met and married his wife, Mary Ann (nee Tolmie). He was ordained in the United Church of Canada in 1958.

After completing post-graduate studies at St. Andrew's University in Scotland, John accepted a post as skipper of the Melvin Swartout, a Marine Mission vessel in Bamfield on the west coast of Vancouver Island for 3 years. John and family returned to Ontario in 1962. There he served as minister for congregations in Courtice, Thunder Bay and Sudbury, including a one-year exchange with a congregation in Morrinsville, New Zealand. His final charge was in Orillia where he retired in 1995. John and Mary Ann moved back to Vancouver Island in 2000 where he enjoyed raising yet another of his beloved Dandie Dinmont terriers, golfing, gardening, singing in a men's choir, attending the symphony and supporting the work of the United Church there.

He will be dearly missed by his devoted wife Mary Ann, brother Dennis (Cheryl), son Philip (Carol), daughters Catherine, Susan and Elizabeth, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.



A Celebration of Life was held at 2pm on Sunday, March 26 at St. Paul's United Church, 2410 Malaview Ave, Sidney, BC. In lieu of flowers, donations would be gratefully accepted to Habitat for Humanity and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Condolences may be offered at [www.sandsvictoria.ca](http://www.sandsvictoria.ca)

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Robert Stobie

*April 11, 1937 - October 23, 2022*

The family of Bob Stobie is deeply saddened to announce the passing of their beloved husband, father, and brother. His death is mourned by his loving wife of 47 years, Janet Stobie, his children, Jim Stobie and his wife Nicola Lemmer, Carol Malmas and her husband Brian Malmas, and Laura Stobie and her husband Hari Dass Khalsa. His loss is also felt by his beloved grandson Paton Stobie and his granddaughters and their partners, Carlee and Troy Sawyer, Lindsay and Frank Gwartney and Taylor Malmas and Quintin Harrish. Bob is survived by his cherished great grandchildren Sunny Gwartney and Parker Sawyer. Bob's sisters Jean Stobie and Betty Law and Betty's extended family also mourn his death.

Bob was the son of a United Church minister Roy Stobie and his wife, Alice Stobie. Continuing the family tradition, Bob was an ordained minister of the United Church in Canada for all his working life. He served congregations in both Alberta and British Columbia. He spent five years as part of the administration team at Naramata Center before coming to First United, now First Met, in Victoria for the last years of his active ministry. His work at First United included amalgamating the two big downtown churches into one congregation. During that time, Bob was very involved with the Open Door and became one of the visionaries who dreamed of a major facility that could



serve the homeless people of Victoria. That dream turned into Our Place and Bob remained an ardent supporter of its work for the remainder of his life.

Bob was a fierce champion for social justice, a devoted family man and a lover of life. He fought valiantly many health challenges and completed his life with peace. He will be sorely missed.

Donations in Bob's honour may be made to Our Place or the Georgie Strait Alliance.

A Celebration of Life was held at St. Paul's United Church, 2410 Malaview Avenue, Sidney, BC at 2 pm November 26, 2022, in-person and livestreamed on YouTube.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Memorials

continued

2022-2023

## Rev. Eleanor May Stamm

*March 17th, 1926 - December 9th, 2022*

Eleanor passed away peacefully while in the kind care of the wonderful staff at The Summit at Quadra Village in Victoria, BC, on December 9, 2022.

Eleanor was born in Moose Jaw, SK, on March 17, 1926 and was raised in a lively, loving family of seven children during the Great Depression. She thrived in the successive roles of educator, wife, spiritual worker, farmer, stepmother, and grandmother before returning to school to obtain her Master of Social Work, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry degrees. She continued to serve as a minister, counsellor, and retreat leader.

Throughout her career and her life, Eleanor significantly contributed to the greater good of those around her, supporting many individuals and families. She ultimately retired in Sidney, BC, and continued to inspire her community there. She embraced aging and led a mindful spiritual journey towards her heavenly home. Eleanor will be remembered for her enthusiasm for life and her unconditional love for others.

With increasing simplicity and contentment, her smile beautifully reflected her core value—the wonderful abundance of God's eternal love.

Eleanor was predeceased by the love of her life, Stanley Stamm; her stepdaughter, Marcia Craig; her great-granddaughter Kira Broeder; her parents, John and Barbara McDermit and all six of her siblings. She is survived by



stepson, Garry (Rolly) Stamm; Garry's three children, Debbie (Rick) Doucette, Corey (Shelley) Stamm, Shelly (Jeff) Boulton, and their families; Marcia's daughters, Paula Craig and Teresa (Michael) Broeder and their family; as well as many nieces and nephews and their families. In gratitude, Eleanor will be missed by family and loving friends.

Eleanor's memorial was attended by a small circle of close friends and family on March 17, 2023, at 2 PM, at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, BC. The service was live-streamed through Virtual Memorial Gatherings. She was interred in Mossbank, SK. We send our condolences to all those who knew and loved Eleanor.

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.mccallgardens.com](http://www.mccallgardens.com)

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# Business

PMRC | JUNE 1-4, 2023

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Mission

2022-2023

<https://pacificmountain.ca/about/about-pacific-mountain-regional-council/>

The work of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council executive, sub-councils and staff is directed by the Mission and Vision of the PMRC executive:



*Healthy Communities of Faith and Ministries,*



*Effective Leadership,*



*Faithful Public Witness.*



*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Regional Executive Accountability Report

2022-2023

## Refining fire. Living stones.

On behalf of the Executive of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council, I am pleased to bring you this written report, about the activities of the Executive, since we met in Prince George in June 2022. Much has happened in your Communities of Faith in that time. The Executive's work has been focused on how to effectively support our Communities of Faith as they transition from restricted activities and live into a world which changed dramatically and at warp speed in the last three years. A world in which we cannot adapt quickly enough for the changes occurring around us. How can we adapt to this reality as Communities of Faith, and as a Region, in order to continue being a thriving, flourishing United Church in our region? This is an ongoing priority discussion for the Executive during this past year. We continue to 'hold' the tension of tending to 'the current' yet 'anticipating and preparing' strategically for the future.

This report will cover key actions of the past year.

## REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The three regional priorities (i) Identity: Reconciling, Affirming, Anti-Racist; (ii) Healthy Communities of Faith, and (iii) First Third Ministry continue to drive the work focus of staff. Much of this work is beginning to take shape and to have an impact across the Region as the strategic priorities are given life in daily work.

The First Third Ministry continues to evolve with programming, such as Camp Spirit and the Campus Ministries, as these evolve and grow. Amazing work is happening in the Campus Ministries area as the campus teams expand outreach at educational institutions across BC. It was a privilege to read the Community Connectors ProVision Report, provided by Campus United late last year, about the young people who have roles as Community Connectors and about what they have learned about the United Church of Canada. At our January 2023 Townhall we were able to hear from Daniel Martin, Campus Ministry Animator, about the reflections of these Campus Connectors, and the impact of the ministry on the lives of Connectors and the students involved in the program.

The deep and ongoing work of Reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings continues. Following the release of preliminary findings by the Tseshaht First Nation on its search of the former Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS), the United Church awaits further contact from the Tseshaht First Nation as engagement with the church occurs regarding follow up about the 26 Calls for Truth and Justice, as presented on February 21, 2023.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

The priority area about which the Executive continues to have discussions regarding strategic direction, is the area of healthy communities of faith. Completed self-assessment reports reveal trends about strengths in the areas of worship and spirituality, vibrant lay leadership, and the challenges and concerns about aging volunteers and sustainability.

This is all happening as we begin to see the results of many years of work and faithful commitment to the vision of Communities of Faith who engaged in the re-development of property to support renewed ministries. This occurred as some of these projects - Inlet United, Como Lake United, and Brechin United, are completed. We celebrate with them!

In the coming year, the Executive will continue to focus on discerning a regional strategy about where a UCC presence in BC exists and growing that presence. An important part of that process is establishing a baseline of information about the state of Communities of Faith and setting a goal of using data from the self-assessment reports, as well as other data points, to provide further details about the trends emerging from the completed self-assessment reviews. This will reveal the other trends emerging and enable discussion about how to use this information strategically. Our hope is to be able to report more fully on strategy about this priority area in 2024.

## ACTIONS ON PROPOSALS FROM 2022 MEETING

Six proposals were approved at the 2022 Annual meeting. The Executive are required to follow up on these six proposals.

A summary of these proposals, and actions taken to date, is outlined below.

Proposal #	Decision At Meeting	Current Status
22-01	M/S/C (L. Ross / B. Fillier) that Pacific Mountain Regional Council forward the proposal "Recognized Ecumenical Shared Ministry Specific Circumstances" to the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive for consideration as it continues to develop its ENDS Policies.	<p><b>Completed.</b></p> <p>Executive voted to add a new statement - as #7, under Regional Ministry:</p> <p>"Ecumenical Shared Ministries will be supported as they live out complex inter-denominational relationships with a variety of expectations and requirements.</p> <p>a. Inter-denominational realities will be considered.</p> <p>b. Denominational identities are respected</p>

# Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

Proposal #	Decision At Meeting	Current Status
22-02	M/S/C (K. Simmonds / B. Fillier) that the Executive examine and report to the Regional Council the types of support needed for Communities of Faith to flourish, what strategies are being taken to provide that support, and the strategies to ensure ongoing evaluation of what supports are needed.	<b>In progress</b> The strategic priority of the health of Communities of Faith continues to be a focus of many Executives meetings. It is recognized that while we can see some trends from Community of Faith assessment reviews completed to date (62), it is important to focus on completing more of these assessment reviews and using the resulting information, along with other data available to the Region, to establish a better understanding of the types of supports needed by Communities of Faith, and to thereby establish strategies for the Region, along with supporting ongoing evaluation. A decision was taken at the February 2023 meeting to direct the REM to complete one full round of the Community of Faith self-assessment process by the end of the year/early 2024, and that a synthesized report of qualitative and quantitative data be presented to the Executive prior to its winter 2024 meeting. The hope is to share those findings and proposed strategies to address the findings at our 2024 Annual meeting.
22-03	M/S/C (J. Gray / B. Fillier) that Pacific Mountain Regional Council direct the President to encourage every Community of Faith within its bounds to engage in thoughtful action and advocacy in response to the climate emergency.	<b>Completed.</b> We have used Regional Townhalls to share information on what is being done at the national and regional levels around action and advocacy in response to the climate emergency. The Justice Network has also put a focus on this area in the past year with information on their web page, as well as specific gatherings in March 2023, about this issue.
22-04	M/S/C (B. Fillier / K Brittain) that for the next triennium (until 2025) The Pacific Mountain Regional Council will meet in a hybrid format (with online and onsite participation) each year.	<b>Implemented.</b>

# Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

Proposal #	Decision At Meeting	Current Status
22-06	M/S/C (B. Fillier / G. Powell) that The Pacific Mountain Regional Council directs the Executive to discern a way forward to help Communities of Faith address the drug toxicity crisis and our role in it.	<b>Started</b> There is much to learn about this crisis. The Executive also recognizes that it is important for us as a Region to discern where this work is best directed for action and/or how we support and/or link up with existing community resources to which we can direct Communities of Faith for information. As a first step in follow up on this proposal, we are planning to host a workshop at the 2023 meeting on Safer Spaces and Harm Reduction.

As the Executive reviewed proposals from the 2022 Annual meeting, we discussed the proposal process and how we might better refine that process. Approved proposals for action often come as additional work which needs to be reviewed in relationship to existing work, and then prioritized. It is all good work. The reality is that the Region has finite resources and saying 'Yes' to one thing might mean saying 'No' to something that is equally good work. You will note some changes to the Proposal Form this year, as we seek more clarity on the areas which need to be considered to support prioritization. While traditionally proposals come forward at the time of the Annual meeting, we want to remind Communities of Faith that the Executive can receive proposals throughout the year. We encourage you to consider submitting proposals as issues/concerns arise. Doing so throughout the year allows for more review time, time for seeking clarification, time to get input from staff, etc., in order to support decision-making.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

As part of the process that we have been following for the past few years the Executive continues to refine 'open questions' that will guide the development of ministry priorities for the region moving forward. At the Executive meeting in Whitehorse in October 2022 the group discussed open questions, possible strategies, and possible outcomes. Strategic work requires intense, focussed work and we are keenly aware that there is a need to act to address urgent needs and have a vision for which we can develop strategies that will address growth as well as a region with flourishing communities of faith. We will continue to focus on this area, and in the coming year discern a strategy that will serve the region for the short, medium, and long-term. The results of our planned synthesis of reporting from self-assessment reports, and other data points will help to guide the development of the strategy by the time that we meet again in 2024.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

## GOVERNANCE

### *Governance Review*

As you will recall the last comprehensive review of the governance of the Region was undertaken with support from Dan Hotchkiss more than six years ago. The Executive feels that it is time to undertake such a review again and in early 2023 voted to undertake a governance and leadership audit with support from an outside consultant/agency. This will be an organizational review focussed on the Executive's work to confirm if the current structure is working for the Region, essentially asking if we have the right structure, decision-making processes, policies, and operational support etc. to address big issues and the strategic needs of the Region moving forward. The outcome that we want from the process is to find out if we are accomplishing our goals as a region, is the Executive giving the direction that it needs to, and does the staff team have the resources it needs to do the work set out in our goals. The plan is to finalize the terms of reference for such a review, coordinate planning for the review in the summer/early fall, and to have information from the review to inform further work at our late winter/early spring 2024 meeting of the Executive.

### *Transitions of Regional Council Executive*

Some of you may recall that in the 2022 Accountability Report reference was made to the need to support succession planning for the Executive in the new regional structure. To support such planning the concept of staggered terms of leadership on the Executive was introduced. At that time the terms of reference for PMRC Executive were amended to read:

- Executive Members are eligible to serve two consecutive three-year terms.
- The PMRC meets annually.
- The agenda of each PMRC ANNUAL GENERAL meeting includes an election of members to the executive, for a three-year term.
- No more than 1/3 of the executive is elected each year.

With many of the members of the PMRC Executive having been elected for a three-year term in 2019, the process commenced to implement staggered terms beginning in 2022, as follows:

- 1/3 of the existing Executive ends their term in 2022 – eligible for an additional 3-year term
- 1/3 of the existing Executive is elected for an additional 1-year term in 2023 – not eligible for a subsequent three-year term
- 1/3 of the existing Executive is elected for an additional 2-year term in 2024 – not eligible for a subsequent three-year term.

# Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

This year the Executive says goodbye to (i) Rev. Blair Odney who served as Chair until 2022 and served as Past Chair in the 2022-23 year; (ii) lay representative, Peter Jones, and (iii) youth representative, Eliot Chambers. I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their service to the Executive. Our work as an Executive and the Region as a whole has been enriched by their willingness to serve and the leadership that they have each demonstrated during their time on the Executive. We wish them well as they move on to other areas of interest in the next stage of their lives.

## GRATITUDE

We express our gratitude to our Regional Executive Minister, Treena Duncan, who continues to provide exemplary leadership of the regional staff team, and who enables the vision and strategies established by the Executive in support of our ends policies. Treena undertakes this work with compassion and with a heart for the ministry that unfolds in our Region. We are blessed by her leadership. We know that she has an amazing and high functioning staff to support the work. It is truly tremendous what the team manages to do every day. The challenge of the work does not go unnoticed.

*Thank You!*

Submitted by  
**Deborah Richards,**  
*President, PMRC*

### Regional Executive Committee Members:

Jim Angus  
 Peter Jones  
 Katherine Brittain  
 Jenny Carter  
 Blair Odney, Past President  
 Eliot Chambers  
 Deborah Richards, President

Ibi Chuan  
 Ivy Thomas  
 Bob K. Fillier  
 Mauricio Araujo, PMRC Assistant to the  
 Executive Minister  
 Laura Hermakin  
 Treena Duncan, PMRC Executive Minister

Ministries of Pacific Mountain Regional Council are effective in fulfilling their call and mission at a cost not to exceed the resources available to the Region.

## **A. VALUING HUMAN DIVERSITY**

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council will uplift and value the diversity of expression embodied in all of humanity.

## **B. COMMUNITIES OF FAITH**

Communities of Faith are effective in fulfilling their call and mission.

## **C. LEADERSHIP**

To effectively meet the demands of a changing church and world, the Region has leaders, both ministry personnel and lay, who are supported, connected, and engaged.

## **D. OTHER RECOGNIZED MINISTRIES**

Ministries, other than Communities of Faith, that are recognized and in relationship with the Region are supervised and supported at levels appropriate to each.

## **E. COVENANTAL MINISTRIES**

The diverse covenanted ministries of the Region will receive oversight and support in ways that hold them accountable, while also encouraging partnership and full participation in the life of the church and Region.

## **F. COST**

The cost of achieving these Ends is not to exceed to resources available to the Region.

## **C. PROPERTY**

Property and other real assets within the Pacific Mountain Regional Council will be utilized in an equitable manner across The Region to forward the Priorities and Ministry Plan of the Executive.

**Ministries of Pacific Mountain Regional Council are effective in fulfilling their call and mission at a cost not to exceed the resources available to the Region.**

#### A. VALUING HUMAN DIVERSITY

**The Pacific Mountain Regional Council will uplift and value the diversity of expression embodied in all of humanity.**

1. The Region will live out its call of loving neighbour by actively working against racism.
2. The Region will only support and enter into covenants and agreements with groups that do not devalue, undermine, limit, or negate a person's identity.

#### B. COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

**Communities of Faith are effective in fulfilling their call and mission.**

1. The Regional Council will support emerging initiatives towards the formation of Communities of Faith and will ensure equitable access for all members of the Region to connect to a Community of Faith which provides the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God and become disciples of Christ.
2. Recognized and covenanted Communities of Faith will have equitable access to trained, theologically grounded and accountable leadership.
3. The Regional Council will undertake a tri-annual health assessment of all the communities, ministries, and programs within its bounds. The assessment will minimally include areas related to:
  - a. Mission
  - b. Worship and Spirituality
  - c. Leadership
  - d. Evangelism
  - e. Fellowship
  - f. Discipleship
  - g. Outreach and Service
  - h. Organizational Structure
  - i. Stewardship
  - j. Property
4. All Communities of Faith are part of a Regional strategy. All real property and financial assets are:
  - a. an asset for ministry and mission;
  - b. protected to avoid unintended loss;
  - c. stewarded to provide benefit for future generations;
  - d. one means to respond to the "Calls to the Church" (2018).
5. Recognized and covenanted Communities of Faith will have equitable access to financial and practical support to develop and connect to clusters.
6. Recognized and covenanted Communities of Faith will be supported equitably in accessing existing and emerging networks.
7. The Regional Council will provide oversight to ensure that recognized and covenanted Communities of Faith are supported in embodying the ethos and articulated faith of The United Church of Canada, and in governing themselves in alignment with United Church of Canada polity.
8. The Regional Council will ensure that all the Responsibilities identified in the Manual section C.2 are executed.
9. Communities of Faith will be informed about matters that allow them to participate fully in the life of the church in the world, and the ministry of the Region and The United Church of Canada, including:
  - a. referral to resources for worship and ministry;
  - b. interpretation and advice on the United Church of Canada Manual;
  - c. advice on governance;
  - d. access to professional archival materials;
  - e. facilitation of connection to information from the wider denomination.
10. The Regional Council will support Communities of Faith in their discernment of becoming an Affirming Ministry within The Regional Council and The United Church of Canada.

continued

**C. LEADERSHIP**

To effectively meet the demands of a changing church and world, the Region has leaders, both ministry personnel and lay, who are supported, connected, and engaged.

**1. Ministry personnel are:**

- a. Supported
  - i. Persons are recruited for ministry.
  - ii. Ministry Personnel are called, appointed and compensated.
  - iii. Ministry Personnel have quick access to professional assistance and support in matters related to ministry;
  - iv. Have access to resources related to anti-racism, affirming ministry, and reconciliation.
- b. Connected
  - i. Ministry Personnel are connected to colleagues and the wider church.
  - ii. Ministry Personnel gather for collegueship and cooperation with others in the Region.
  - iii. Ministry Personnel have access to a Regional Council Affirming Network.
- c. Engaged
  - i. Ministry Personnel have ongoing training that provides knowledge and skills for ministry including areas of reconciliation, anti-racism, and Affirming Ministry.
  - ii. Ministry Personnel have opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

**2. Lay leaders are:**

- a. Supported
  - i. Persons are identified and encouraged to provide leadership in areas of church life related to their spiritual gifts and skills.
  - ii. Lay leaders have quick access to professional assistance and support in matters related to ministry.
  - iii. Have access to resources related to anti-racism, affirming ministry, and reconciliation.
- b. Connected
  - i. Lay leaders are connected with others that share similar work, interests and gifts in church leadership.
  - ii. Access to a Regional Affirming Network.
- c. Engaged
  - i. Lay leaders have the opportunity of ongoing training that provides the knowledge and skills that allow them to carry out their work effectively, including areas related to anti-racism, Affirming Ministry, and reconciliation.
  - ii. Lay leaders have the opportunity for personal spiritual growth.

**3. Other Recognized Ministries**

Ministries, other than Communities of Faith, that are recognized and in relationship with the Region are supervised and supported at levels appropriate to each.

1. Societies incorporated in the United Church:
  - a. follow the policies and practices associated with the Manual C.2.13;
  - b. are able to access the governing structures of the church in an efficient and timely manner.
2. All non-incorporated and recognized ministries have access to the Region office for advice and guidance;
3. Ministries (other than Communities of Faith) covenanting with the Region receive a level of support determined by the Regional Council Executive.

**4. Regional Ministries**

The diverse covenanted ministries of the Region will receive oversight and support in ways that hold them accountable, while also encouraging partnership and full participation in the life of the church and Region.

1. Covenanted Ministries will receive quick access to assistance and support via regional staff and communities of faith.
2. Covenanted Ministries will receive quick access to assistance and support via regional staff and communities of faith.
  - a. Relationships will be governed by an attitude of reconciliation, as described in the "Calls to the Church" (2018).
  - b. Ministry personnel with appropriate training and abilities are recruited.



3. Non-English speaking and intercultural ministries are treated as partners in ministry.
  - a. Cultures, history, and present contexts are respected.
  - b. Ministry personnel with appropriate training and abilities are recruited.
4. Children, youth, young adults, and their families will be offered opportunities to be engaged in intentional faith development.
  - a. Ministry and programs will be high quality, Christ centered, and inclusive of a diversity of Christian theologies.
  - b. Ministry personnel/leaders with appropriate training and abilities are recruited.
  - c. Ongoing appropriate training and education is provided to equip people for ministry with children, youth, young adults, and their families.
5. Region Camps will be mission-oriented, of high quality, well maintained, and sustainable.
  - a. Programs are high quality, Christ centered, and inclusive of a wide diversity of Christian theologies.
6. Justice-oriented ministries and networks will be supported and developed in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Region.
  - a. There is an inclusive environment for safe participation.
  - b. Particular attention will be given to needs related to race, culture, identity, orientation, health, ability, and age.
  - c. An Affirming Ministry Action Plan will be developed and reviewed regularly in consultation with people who are part of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.
7. Ecumenical Shared Ministries will be supported as they live out complex interdenominational relationships with a variety of expectations and requirements.
  - a. Inter-denominational realities will be considered.
  - b. Denominational identities are respected.
8. Cost of participation will be equitable.
  - a. Barriers are eliminated.
  - b. Rural and vulnerable communities will not bear disproportionate financial cost of full participation.

#### 5. Cost

The cost of achieving these Ends is not to exceed to resources available to the Region.

1. The cost to Communities of Faith for supporting the operation of the Region will be 10% of the General Council's Community of Faith assessment;
2. Costs of special programs and training will be borne by participants at a rate comparable to, or lower than, rates charged by similar organizations.

#### D. PROPERTY

- Property and other real assets within The Pacific Mountain Regional Council will be utilized in an equitable manner across The Region in alignment with the Priorities and Ministry Plan of the Executive:
  - A. The distribution of wealth throughout The Region will be a priority;
  - B. Leases will be in alignment with our values, priorities, and ministry plan;
  - C. New development and re-development will be in alignment with the values, priorities, and ministry plan of The Region.
  - D. Priority will be given to increasing the ministry impact of the Region; and
  - E. Agreements cannot encumber the Region with excessive management requirements.
- *The Regional Council will develop a property strategy to ensure an acceptable level of United Church presence and service throughout the region.*

# Guidelines for Business Procedures

2022-2023

## 1. MOTION:

- The mover states the motion.
- A seconder is named.
- The mover has the privilege of speaking at the beginning and end of discussion of their motion.

## 2. DISCUSSION:

- Start by identifying yourself (name, community of faith).
- All discussion should be directed to the President.
- The correct manner in which to address the President is: "President ..."
- Each person may address the President only once on a motion, except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
- All discussion should be clear and concise and deal only with the motion.
- The time allowed each speaker may be limited to two (2) minutes by the President or the Council.

## 3. AMENDMENTS:

- An amendment is a recommendation to change a motion by:
  - i. removing words and replacing them with others, or
  - ii. adding or deleting words.
- An amendment cannot simply negate the motion.

## 4. AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

- A motion to change the amendment.
- Follows the same procedures as a motion when being considered and voted upon.

## 5. VOTING PRIORITY:

- Amendments (including Amendments to the Amendment) must be voted upon before the original motion.
- Voting shall be carried out by members using Simply Voting ([www.simplyvoting.com](http://www.simplyvoting.com)) and electronic voting system that will send out electronic ballots using the emails voting attendees registered with.
- All those with voting privileges are expected to indicate their vote in favour of or opposed to a motion. Abstentions are not requested nor recorded in the minutes unless requested for conflict-of-interest reasons.
- Those who voted in opposition to a motion may request that their names be recorded in the minutes.
- If there is a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.

### 6. POINT OF ORDER:

- A point of order can be made by anyone at any time if the rules of the Council have been or appear to have been broken. It is recommended to check with the Business Committee to confirm a Point of Order.

### 7. POINT OF PRIVILEGE

- A person may rise at any time during business proceedings to state a personal concern or a concern relating to the whole community, yet only if that concern jeopardizes the good functioning of the Council.

### 8. BUSINESS COMMITTEE:

- To sort and clarify issues when things get bogged down in procedure wrangles or wording problems.
- To deal with changes to agenda during the General Meeting.

### 9. PROPOSALS:

- See the explanation on Proposals on the next page.

### 10. OTHER:

- Other Rules of Order are contained in the Appendix in the Manual (2023) and further clarified in Bourinot's Rules of Order. In general, the conduct of business is at the discretion of the President. The President may seek the advice of the Regional Executive Minister or the Business Committee.

M/S (L. Megley-Best/G. Brownmiller) that:

1. The Roll of the 5th General Meeting of Pacific Mountain Regional Council shall members prior to 12:00 p.m., Friday June 2, 2023. (The Manual 2023 C.1.1 and C.1.2.) Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll or entitled to payment of travel expenses.
2. Quorum will be set at a minimum of 20 members which must include at least one ministry personnel and one lay member, not including Corresponding Members.  
(The Manual 2023 C.4.3)
3. The Bounds of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council shall be the Athletic and Recreation Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley, 33844 King Road, Abbotsford, BC; the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered members; and any telephone connections established.
4. The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Mauricio Araujo (Secretary), Lori Megley-Best (Chair), Beth Hayward (Theme & Worship), Tim Bowman (Local Arrangements), Graham Brownmiller, Pamela Evans (First Third), Treena Duncan (Executive Minister), and Deborah Richards (President).
5. The agenda as posted on [www.pacificmountain.ca](http://www.pacificmountain.ca) shall be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Business Committee. Revisions will be announced, and an update posted on the website.
6. The President shall have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
7. The minutes of the 4th General Meeting of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council held June 9 – 12, 2022 in Prince George, BC, be received for information.
8. The Regional Council Executive Minutes: received for information and included as part of the Record of Proceedings. (The Manual 2022, C.3.1.4)
9. The Plenary portions of the agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council website and YouTube Channel.
10. In order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised in business, the President may, at their discretion, suspend the ordinary rules of parliamentary debate and engage in a different process. All final decisions of the council shall follow the rules of debate and order as summarized in the Appendix of The Manual (2023) or Bourinot's Rules of Order.
11. At the discretion of the President, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.
12. All registered voting members who are online and onsite will vote using the [simplyvoting.com](http://simplyvoting.com). An email will be sent to each voting member using the email provided at registration for each vote.
13. All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (defined as \$2,000 or over) shall be considered "in principle only" and, if adopted, be referred to the Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.

continued

14. In accordance with Section C.1.2(b) of The Manual 2023, Regional Executive Minister Treena Duncan be named as member of Pacific Mountain Regional Council with full voting privileges.
15. Corresponding Privileges be granted to all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff (other than those who are full voting members of The Region) with voice, yet no voting privileges.
16. The Chairperson of the Business Committee or their designate will present proposals. The President will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. A speaker from the body making the proposal will be permitted to speak to it. When the President discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that it is ready to hear a motion on the proposal, the President will invite the Chairperson of the Business Committee or their designate to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.
17. Proposals directed to the General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to Tuesday, May 30, 2023. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the Proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in an order as determined by the Business Committee. Similar proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.
18. If The Pacific Mountain Regional Council does not agree with a proposal where the General Council is the court of action, it will not be sent on to General Council unless a separate motion to transmit with non-concurrence is made and passed.
19. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to The General Council, Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information.
20. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be labeled on the floor of the plenary space and the chat box in Zoom. For a procedural point of order members of the council are to use "Point of Order" at the start of their statement both onsite and on Zoom™. For a prayer request, members onsite are asked to identify they are making a prayer request. On Zoom® members are asked to use "Prayer:" Members are encouraged to consult with the Business Committee before making a point of order, requesting prayer, or making a point of personal privilege.
21. All unfinished business, including non-General Council proposals, shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.
22. Verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.
23. Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before 5pm on Saturday, June 3rd without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.

continued

24. Payment of member expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. Late claims submitted after July 15, 2023 shall not be paid.
25. Nominations close for President-Elect at 8:15 pm (close of day) on Thursday, June 1st, 2023 and nominations for two (2) vacancies on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council close at 8:15 pm (close of day) on Friday, June 2, 2023

#### ENABLING MOTIONS

M/S (L. Megley-Best/G. Brownmiller) that:

1. The Regional Executive Minister be authorized to edit reports and minutes for the Record of Proceedings of this meeting.
2. The Regional Council Executive be authorized to transact all business of the Regional Council until the next General Meeting of the Regional Council, except those matters prohibited by the Constitution and Bylaws of The United Church of Canada.
3. All remaining ballots be destroyed – including any digital results.
4. The meeting adjourns following the completion of business as ordered and the benediction concluding the Celebration of Ministry service, June 4, 2023.

*To communicate with the business committee please email [pmrcbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:pmrcbusiness@gmail.com) or see the business table in the plenary.*

# Proposal Guidelines

2022-2023

## PROPOSALS TO PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

We recognize that individual members, Communities of Faith, Covenantal Ministries, Regional Committees/Councils/Groups, and Regional Council Members may want The Pacific Mountain Regional Council or Executive to take action on a specific issue or concern. You desire a conversation about a specific topic. You might want to have some education and conversation about a topic leading towards a decision. A “proposal” is the formal request for any of these.

The Manual (2023), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a way for creating a proposal. Proposals must be submitted by May 30th, 2023. Any proposals received after the deadline will be forwarded directly to the PMRC Executive.

All actions resulting from proposals are sent to the Regional Council Executive. That action will be part of subsequent accountability reports from the Executive to the Regional Council.

### Who Can Make a Proposal?

- **Proposals by Member(s) of a Community of Faith (F.1.2.1).** Any Full-member of The United Church of Canada through their local Community of Faith Governing Body. The governing body has several options to choose from when evaluating a proposal. (See section F.1.2.1 and F.1.3.1)
- **Proposals by Others (See section F.1.2.2)**
  - A proposal may also be started by:
    - a member of the Regional Council; (F.1.3.3)
    - a committee or other church body of the Council; (F.1.3.4) or
    - the Regional Council. (F.1.3.2)

### How do I/we craft a proposal?

We are asking you to submit your proposal in a very focused way.

- **Name the solution your proposing up front.** This way we can read the rest of the proposal with the solution in mind.
- **Name the type of proposal:**
  - Conversation – the major intention is for the Regional Council to discuss a question or concern.
  - Decision – the desire is that a decision will be made to take action. You must have a clear outcome or solution including financial implications and linkages to Regional priorities.

continued

- **Why is this issue important?** Provide the background needed to consider the proposal in two (2) pages or less. What's the issue or challenge or gap being identified? Why is that the case? What ENDS Policy supports the proposal? Is there a need for a revised or new ENDS Policy? Is there a need for a new ministry priority? Why is the region the most effective space to undertake the proposed ministry/action.
- **What might the cost be?** Estimate the potential cost. Everything we do has a cost. It might be time from staff and volunteers. It might be budgetary. Being mindful of the cost is an important part of every proposal. Proposals that do not include a cost or assume "within existing budget/resources" will automatically be sent back to the person/council or origin for additional discernment.
- **What's the Priority Level?** There is a limit to what the region can do. Our existing governance, administration, and finances are operating at full capacity. To take on something new means something else must be paused, given a lower priority, or stopped or the capacity of the Regional Council must be increased. You must identify how you propose any new ministry initiative will impact the existing ministry plan.
- **Why the Regional or General Council?** The United Church of Canada is governed with overlapping spheres of power and authority. Part of any proposal needs to acknowledge why the council of action identified is the most effective place for this proposal. Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council, especially given the finite resources available to both Councils. You must provide this rationale as part of your proposal. Any proposal that is missing this information will be sent back for further discernment.
- **Is there a required format for a proposal?** Yes, to help people engage the topic as easy as possible all proposals must use the found below.

### Things to keep in mind:

The Policy Committee of the Executive and the Business Committee ([PMRCBusiness@gmail.com](mailto:PMRCBusiness@gmail.com)) are available at the General Meeting to help ensure your proposal is clear and focused enough to achieve the good conversations the meeting wants to have.

In order to make the best use of the meeting's time, The Policy Committee may also group together Proposals that deal with the same issue or topic, have the same purpose, or desired outcome. The Committee may generate an Omnibus Proposal that address the matter raised.

Proposals from individual community of faith members or governance groups must follow the steps in F.3.1.1 and include a copy of the motion to transmit with the proposal.

Complete the Online Proposal form here:

[We are asking you to submit your proposal in a very focused way.](#)

**PLEASE SUBMIT BY: JUNE 1, 2023**



# Proposal Form

2022-2023

[form.jotform.com/211108055249247](http://form.jotform.com/211108055249247)

**Name of person submitting this proposal \***

First Name

Last Name

**Email \***

example@example.com

**Phone Number \***

 - 

Area Code

Phone Number

**Proposal Name \***

A brief name that identifies the proposal

**Source \***

From where did this proposal originate?

**Community of Faith \***

**Type of Proposal \***

- For Conversation (I want The Region to have a conversation)
- For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

**Intended court of action**

- Pacific Mountain Region Council
- General Council
- Pacific Mountain Regional Council & General Council

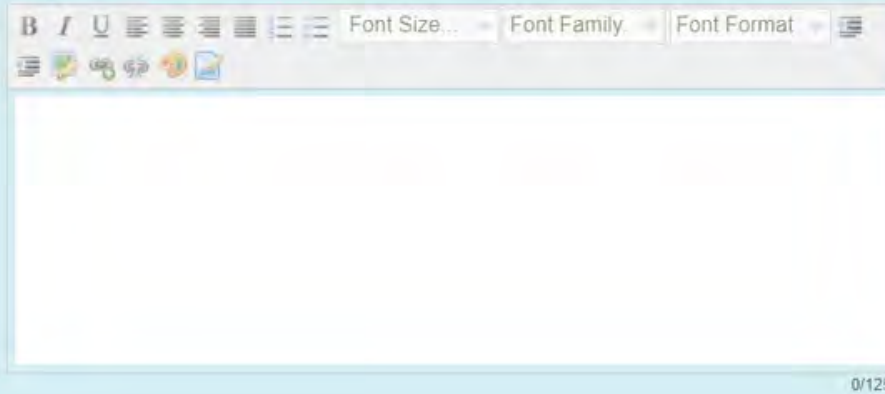
# Proposal Forms

continued

2022-2023

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

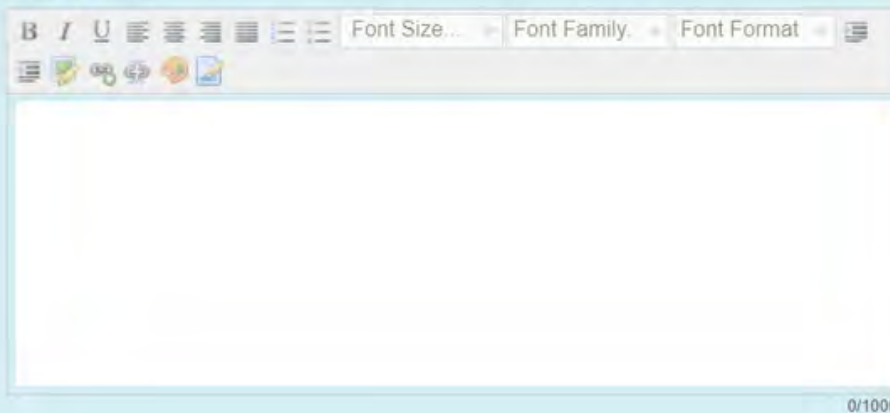
**Proposal \***



A screenshot of a rich text editor interface. The toolbar includes icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, indent, and outdent, followed by dropdown menus for Font Size, Font Family, and Font Format. Below the toolbar is a large, empty white text area. In the bottom right corner of the text area, the character count "0/125" is displayed.

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

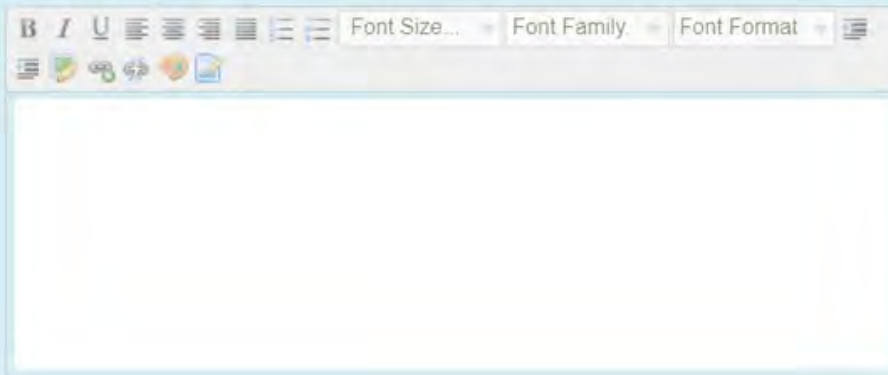
**Background \***



A screenshot of a rich text editor interface, identical in layout to the one above. The toolbar includes icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, indent, and outdent, followed by dropdown menus for Font Size, Font Family, and Font Format. Below the toolbar is a large, empty white text area. In the bottom right corner of the text area, the character count "0/1000" is displayed.

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

**Estimated Cost \***

A rich text editor interface with a toolbar containing icons for bold, italic, underline, bulleted list, numbered list, indent, outdent, font size, font family, and font format. Below the toolbar is a large, empty white text area for input.

**Priority Level:** You must identify how you propose any new ministry initiative will impact the existing ministry plan.

**What's the priority level? \***

A simple white rectangular text input field with a thin border and a small cursor icon at the bottom right corner.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council? \***

**Community of Faith (if applicable)**

- Concurrence (agree with proposal)
- Non-Concurrence (disagree with proposal)

**Governing Body Comment (if applicable)**

# Nominations Committee

2022-2023

Respectfully submitted by: Graham Brownmiller, on behalf of the Nominations Committee: David Boyd, Jennifer Goddard-Sheppard, and Jane Harding

Through the past year, the Nominations committee has considered what its work needs to be in the ever evolving landscape of Pacific Mountain Regional Council. We want to be available to the Region to help in discernment around membership on Councils, Committees, Working and Advisory Groups by actively seek expressions of interest from within the Region and will review those expressions of interest with a number of guiding principles to lead its work.

Our discernment of those who are equipped to serve is done prayerfully and strives to meet the church's commitments to becoming an intercultural church, confronting anti-black racism, developing new and young leadership, seeking and encouraging Indigenous participation recognizing UNDRIP, and the full inclusion of people with disabilities. We strive to be continuously improving through regular feedback and evaluation in order to make changes and adjustments to our practices and processes.

Throughout the past year we have not had a large campaign for nominations as some Councils amalgamated and other working groups and committees ended their mandates. We do ask that you pay close attention to the nominations when they are sent out. We try to limit our seeking to spring, (just-prior-to) summer, and fall.

The Nominations Committee takes seriously the task before us, and so we ask that when filling in the Expression of Interest, you clearly articulate what it is that you feel you bring to the work you're looking to do. The more information we have, the better we are able to discern who to select and how to develop effective groups.

We are still currently seeking expressions of interest for the Lay Leadership Support Team, Finance Advisory Council, Archives Committee and St. Michael's Centre Board. At this Regional Gathering we are also seeking Regional Council Executive Members and someone who is ready to step into the role of President-Elect of the Region (to serve as President 2025-2027).

Thank you for helping to make the Region function well, and faithfully! You are appreciated.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact reception at the Regional Council office who will direct your request, or Graham Brownmiller (chair).

## President-Elect Nomination

### The Rev. Dr. Simon LeSieur

*West Vancouver United Church*

#### Biography

It was through a United Church camp in Ontario, at the age of 20, that the trajectory of my life changed. In a singular moment, I went from wanting nothing to do with God, Christianity, or religion to being wholly gripped by the unshakeable certainty that I would be following in the way of Jesus for the rest of my life.

Since then, I have come to know about myself that most of the gifts I have been given revolve around the conviction that God is up to something good - life-changingly so. Prayer, curiosity, learning, communication, creativity, and relentlessly striving to point to the goodness woven into the fabric of this world are all part of how I live out my own discipleship. While being rooted in these convictions, I also deeply value and actively seek to learn from the insights of other perspectives and expressions of faith. Ultimately, I have found in this United Church of ours a gracious space in which to house and embody all of these influences. I have focused most of my theological education and my love of learning studying the Holy Spirit, trying (so far, in vain!) to comprehend the mechanics and mystery of what happened to me at that United Church camp all those years ago. What I have learned through the process is the importance of embodying an expression of faith that is respectful and sensitive to the changing religious climate of our society, while also holding on to the belief that we have something unique to offer in response to the malaise of these times. In terms of my leadership style, I endeavour to embody a gentle and joyful expression of the good news, and strive to live in such a way that those around me experience that good news as good. That being said, I am also honest and open about the times when I get it wrong, and am committed to learning from those moments. Preferring to do life alongside others, I am an encourager with a longing to genuinely connect with others and see them flourish. I love listening with my mind and with my heart, and, from what I hear, collaboratively synthesizing and communicating a compelling vision for the sake of others. I love what I do, every single day, and the people I do it with. I am optimistic about our future, and am convinced that much of our best ministry - God's work in and through us - still lies ahead.

#### What Motivates You to Express interest in the Role of President (-Elect)?

Much has been written about how we here on the left side of the country live in one of the most challenging contexts for ministry. I was waiting recently in my dentist's office

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



### President-Elect Nomination Simon LeSieur Continued

when I was asked by someone in their 40s what I do for a living. "I'm a minister - or pastor as some call it," I said matter-of-factly. Their response shocked me: "oh neat, what is that?"

I was surprised, because I had anticipated something of the usual coolness (with maybe a touch of the occasional disdain) that comes with bringing up matters of faith in public. What I never expected was that someone my age might not know what a minister or a pastor is. Clearly, we are well into a post-Christian society. I write all of this because it's understandable that many of us are exhausted by ministry in what can often feel like an indifferent culture amidst perpetually shifting ground. I suspect many of us consider ourselves ill-equipped or ill-prepared to serve and lead in such a climate. And yet, quietly bowing out or surreptitiously fading out of the theological and social spheres would be a tremendous loss, because what we embody, this beautiful and unique expression of the good news, is so needed in our world. This, the nurturing of this hope that we are onto something really good and particularly needed in this world, is what motivates me to fulfill this position should I have the opportunity to do so. Indeed, I see in our gathered collective the necessary instincts and love to continue the work of ushering in a renewed, vibrant, and Spirit-filled incarnation of who God is calling us to be for the sake of this world. I see in this region faithful and hopeful people with a willingness to try new things. I see mentors who have shaped me and encouraged me into who I am today. I also see co-conspirators whose diverse ministries I admire for so many different reasons and who push me to be, in my own way, innovative and thoughtful (and maybe a little mischievous, too). The voice and heart that we have developed together since 1925, shaped by great highs and tragic lows, matters. As such, I would consider it a privilege to contribute the gifts I have been given to help serve and lead as I can towards the vibrant and faithful future that I see ahead of us.



# Finance & Property

PMRC | JUNE 1-4, 2023

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# Finance Advisory Council

2022-2023

*Respectfully Submitted: Ken Fanning, Chair*

## MANDATE:

The Finance Advisory Council advises and is accountable to the Executive Minister. We normally meet three times a year to advise on finance policies and to monitor financial results and investments. Since the last Region General Meeting, the Council has met three times.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Katie Bowyer	Mike McAuley
Treena Duncan, Executive Minister	Houston Mo, Director of Finance and Property
Ken Fanning, Chair	Rev. S. Blair Odney
Jane Harding	Gordon Robinson

My thanks to all the Council members for their continuing dedication and the contribution of their time and expertise. On behalf of the Council I would also offer special thanks to the Finance staff - particularly Houston Mo and Lishia Wang for their ongoing hard work and 'wizardry' with the Region's complex financial management requirements.

## 2022 FINANCIALS (FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31ST):

Fiscal year 2022 was a return to normalcy for the Region with respect to in-person gatherings and programs and associated revenues and expenditures in the aftermath of the global pandemic. The grueling bear market combined with decades-high inflation and an aggressive central bank response made 2022 one of the most challenging years for investment returns since the 2008 financial crisis. Despite the challenges, the Region managed to protect its relative financial strength and emerge with the confidence that its financial resources will recover over time.

Net assets for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 decreased by \$10 million, or 23 percent, are mainly due to unrealized investment losses of \$5.7 million and contributions of \$3.3 million to First United Vancouver's redevelopment project. The overall return of negative 10.9 percent from the Region's managed investment portfolio was on par with its peers in the context of the severe financial market decline.

Under the Operating Fund, while the 2022 actual operating deficit (before amortization) of \$1.31 million is significantly higher than the approved deficit of \$499,000, the actual cumulative operating deficits from the past five years are \$1.43 million lower than the total approved deficits during the same period (see chart below). As a result of this favorable variance, the Region's 2022 net assets of \$43.7 million are higher than its 2018's \$40.8 million even after four consecutive years of budgeted deficits.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued

Excluding Amortization	OPERATING FUND			PMRC
	Budget	Actuals	Under (Over) Budget	Total Net Assets
2018	(529,700)	(764,438)	(234,738)	40,790,378
2019	(420,675)	174,326	595,001	46,612,074
2020	(427,675)	513,883	941,558	50,040,491
2021	(510,400)	428,752	939,152	53,798,071
2022	(499,000)	(1,309,033)	(810,033)	43,751,649
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2,387,450)</b>	<b>(956,510)</b>	<b>1,430,940</b>	

Financial results of the Region are prepared by staff and are fairly presented in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. These financial results have been audited by external auditors Rolfe Benson LLP, and a "clean" audit opinion was received. The auditors did not identify any material misstatements/weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or areas of noncompliance with laws and regulations.

It is worth noted that the Region's financial statements are prepared on a non-consolidated basis. Under the relevant accounting standards, the Region is considered to have direct and/or indirect controls over three other organizations, namely:

- British Columbia Conference Property Development Council of The United Church of Canada ("PDC")
- British Columbia Community Renewal Society of The United Church of Canada ("CRS")
- Three-Point Housing Society ("3PHS")

The Region's non-consolidated financial statements do not include the financial results of the above three entities. The total assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses and cash flows from operating, financing and investing activities of the non-consolidated controlled entities are disclosed in the Region's notes to non-consolidated financial statements.

The Region is blessed with significant financial resources that it stewards over long-term horizons, allowing it to weather near-term financial challenge that may arise. The Region is committed to utilizing its financial resources in a thoughtful, prudent, and consistent manner in support of its members and communities of faith, while at the same time, preserving their value for future generations.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued

A summary of the financial position and operations of the Region is as follows:

### Summarized Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
Current	1,657,725	415,219
Investment	53,513,494	68,236,710
Loans	2,653,492	2,764,343
Capital Assets	9,853,324	9,515,762
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>67,678,035</b>	<b>80,932,034</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current	193,462	158,374
Funds held in trust	22,129,648	25,126,045
Deferred capital contributions	1,264,726	1,339,123
Due to Property Development Council	338,550	510,421
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>23,926,386</b>	<b>27,133,963</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Invested in capital assets	8,588,598	8,176,640
Restricted	29,504,167	38,830,948
Unrestricted	5,658,884	6,790,483
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>43,751,649</b>	<b>53,798,071</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>67,678,035</b>	<b>80,932,034</b>

continued

### Summarized Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations

	2022	2021
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grants and contributions	3,083,614	2,353,834
Jardine, VanDusen and RM Cherry Funds	1,229,550	1,006,867
General Council Office	780,375	673,375
Investment income	675,347	2,894,246
Loan interest and other	249,335	272,594
Programs	87,886	48,293
Regional assessments	63,044	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>6,169,151</b>	<b>7,249,209</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grants	5,063,021	1,576,305
Programs and committees	2,275,760	1,492,447
Salaries and benefits	1,668,774	1,497,890
Investment fees	250,540	259,631
Office and sundry	224,896	216,532
General Meeting	216,410	25,257
Executive	39,166	20,333
Professional fees	37,610	24,845
Amortization	701,271	658,324
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>10,477,448</b>	<b>5,771,564</b>
Surplus (deficit) before the following	(4,308,297)	1,477,645
Change in fair value of investments	(5,738,125)	2,279,935
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(10,046,422)</b>	<b>3,757,580</b>

continued

**INVESTMENTS:**

In 2022 investment returns averaged negative 10.9% (2021 – 11.9%) on total investments which were held on behalf of Core Operations, Camping, ProVision, various communities of faith and other entities that are part of or supported by the United Church of Canada, as well as Internal and External Funds restricted for specific purposes. From 2018 to 2022 the Region had an average annual investment return rate of 6.0%. For budgeting purposes, and recognizing the wide variations in annual investment returns, the Region calculates a 4.5% “spend rate” from investment returns.

**PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT:**

The Finance Advisory Council is kept abreast of property development. The management of the many and varied projects rests with CRS and 3PHS (see complete report on page \_\_ of the Agenda Book).

**MISSION SUPPORT:**

In 2022 Mission Support grants to indigenous communities were made by the National Indigenous Council. The Region distributed Mission Grants to First United Church Mission (Vancouver) and various shared ministries.

**NARAMATA CENTRE:**

The Finance Advisory Council is fully apprised of the mission and objectives of the Centre and acts in an advisory capacity on assessing the Centre’s business planning. The former Conference Executive had agreed to forgo the payment of interest of \$776,921 from 2013-2018 on the outstanding loan of \$2.75 million. In 2019 and 2020, the Region received interest only payment on the loan. In 2021 and 2022, the Centre made repayment of both principal and interest on a monthly basis with a 25-year amortization.

**PROVISION FUNDS:**

Significant grants continue to flow to communities of faith and other groups undertaking creative new ministries and programs with the support of ProVision funding. For more reporting on the ProVision fund, please refer to the report on page \_\_ of the Agenda Book).

We welcome comments and questions. Please call or email the Council Chair, Ken Fanning.

E-mail: [kfanning@shaw.ca](mailto:kfanning@shaw.ca)

Phone: 250.248.2490

# Property Resource Team

2022-2023

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

In Spring of 2016, the Property Resource Team began a partnership with BC Housing to finance the redevelopment of a portfolio of congregational properties into mixed-use redevelopments featuring new church space and affordable rental housing. The project was officially launched on April 13, 2018, by Premier John Horgan and Minister Selena Robinson as part of BC Housing's new housing initiatives.

## THE PORTFOLIO

The Portfolio refers to congregational properties currently being redeveloped by the Region in partnership with BC Housing and/or CMHC. Each of these mixed-use redevelopments will result in custom-designed, multi-purpose church space and purpose-built affordable rental housing.

There are currently three projects in the Portfolio.

1. Como Lake United, Coquitlam -- Completed July of 2022
2. Brechin United, Nanaimo -- Completed December 2022
3. Lakeview United, Vancouver -- Construction Start October 2023

## NEW CHURCH SPACE

Each mixed-use redevelopment will feature customized, multi-purpose church space, designed in consultation with congregational leaders.



# Property Resource Team

2022-2023

continued

## PURPOSE-BUILT AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

While it is imperative that we use United Church assets to meet the challenges facing the church today, we also want to provide a benefit to the wider community. In this case, that benefit is the provision of much needed purpose-built rental housing. The projects will contribute hundreds of units of rental housing across BC. The purpose of this endeavour is to provide affordable housing for low and moderate-income households. The income from the rental housing will be used to repay the mortgage. The housing will be owned by BC Community Renewal Society, a charitable organization or the Three Point Housing Society, a non-profit organization, both with a direct relationship with the Pacific Mountain Region of The United Church of Canada.

## PROJECT UPDATE

The construction of Como Lake United has been completed and Mountain View Suites are fully occupied. The construction of rechin United has been completed and the Residences at Brechin Hill are fully occupied. The Brechin project won an environmental and sustainability award for its passive house design. Construction financing for Lakeview United is expected to be in place by this summer with construction start in late 2023.



The Community Renewal Society is currently conducting a feasibility study for Northwood United, Alberni United and Canadian Memorial United. The higher interest rates and inflationary pressure on construction costs are making it more difficult to achieve funding for redevelopment projects. Current government funding programs will likely need to change for new church redevelopment projects to be viable.

Respectfully Submitted by Don Evans, Executive Director, BC Community Renewal Society of the United Church of Canada.

## The Pacific Mountain ProVision Fund 2022 Annual Report

[pacificmountain.ca/support/church-finances-grants-and-funds/provision-fund-and-grants/](https://pacificmountain.ca/support/church-finances-grants-and-funds/provision-fund-and-grants/)

The past year has been very important for the ProVision Fund. It has completed its first eleven years of significant service to the Region and it has begun a new life in 2023 with all ProVision Fund operations for the Region now within one committee.

In 2022 the Region and Victoria ProVision Funds made a total of 29 grants totalling \$730,000. This was slightly more than the average set in the previous several years. The assessment and awarding of grants followed the Fund's criteria and procedures that have been in place for several years. The committee takes care to ensure that grants awarded have met the Fund's purpose and criteria. It continues to be a very important source of funding assistance for new ministry program and project proposals submitted by United Church units within the Pacific Mountain Region.

There is a complete record of the Fund's work and grants available in the Regional Archives. When both the data and the record of the Fund is summarized for the period 2011 to 2022, the following six points describe its grants and finances:

- a) there have been 506 grants, averaging \$13,916 for a total of \$7,041,459;
- b) 141 Communities of Faith, ministries, and other United Church units in the Region have received one or more grants;
- c) the initial investment of funds from the sale of real estate was \$5,989,000 and there remained \$3,571,288 in the Fund's investment account at the end of 2022;
- d) there is also \$629,518 of uncommitted Funds available for new grants;
- e) the original six Presbytery/Area related ProVision Funds have now merged into one Fund to provide grants throughout all of Pacific Mountain Region;
- f) the ProVision Fund committee operates on a completely volunteer basis. That is, the costs incurred by the Conference/Region regarding the Fund are only the staff costs involved in the investment and accounting services related to the Fund.

However, recently there have been some significant developments which are affecting the Fund starting with 2023. The COVID pandemic impacted the life of the church and hence the Fund. More notably, the Fund's financial position is suddenly weakened due to a large investment loss in 2022 and an expected policy change regarding access to its invested funds. As 2023 began, the committee is asking if and how the Fund could be reconfigured for its operation in the coming years so that its purpose continues to serve the Region for both the short and long terms.

The five committee members are: Chair: Dr. Michael Caveney (Kamloops), Members: Beryl Itani (Kelowna), Sarah Fanning (Nanaimo), Sandi Parker (Sechelt), (Secretary) Dr. Gordon How (Vancouver).

Respectfully submitted,  
Gordon How  
ProVision Fund Committee Secretary



# Stewardship Report

2022-2023



This QR code will take you to a digital filing cabinet of [Stewardship Resources](#)



I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, Mission & Service, and the United Church Foundation to the good people of Pacific Mountain.

Over the past year I have had the honour of meeting with many of you, whether as participants in a Called to be the Church: The Journey program, at the last annual meeting in Prince George, or through a phone conversation or town hall. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way I would love to connect in 2023 and beyond is through the learning programs, Called to be the Church: The Journey. We currently have 4 course offerings that provide training and support for different parts of the stewardship journey. Whether you want to learn some stewardship-first principles, get resources to run a congregational Giving Program, or are hoping to set up a Legacy Giving Program in your community of faith, we have training options for you!! One participant provided this program feedback, "I appreciate the leadership, the enthusiasm, the knowledge and the support of the leaders of this course. It was a lot of information, and was presented in a way that was not overwhelming. The recommendations are practical and doable." You can learn [more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission & Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you 2022 saw \$24.5 million raised, including Mission & Service givings totalling \$21.1 million, bequests and other planned gifts totalling \$1.8 million, and over \$1.5 million for the people of Ukraine.

Locally, Mission & Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Pacific Mountain. Your gifts to Mission & Service supported shared ministries all over the Region and provided essential services, advocacy and more to First United Church in Vancouver. Thank you!

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Stewardship Report

2022-2023

continued

Setting giving goals and sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service are effective ways to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage deeper generosity in your community of faith. New Stories of our Mission are posted monthly. For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also videos that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more conversations about stewardship, gratitude, generosity and Mission & Service into your community of faith, consider signing up for the monthly newsletter God's Mission, Our Gifts.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the important work being done by the United Church Foundation. In 2022 the Foundation established four priority areas: Anti-Racism, Reconciliation with Indigenous People, Climate Justice, and Communities of Faith. If your community faith has program ideas or is engaged in work that falls into one of these areas, there may be grants available. Additionally, the United Church Foundation is there to help you invest in the ministries you care about.

Thank you, Pacific Mountain Region friends. I am so grateful for your spirit, creativity, generosity, and thoughtfulness. I look forward to learning together in 2023.

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for Pacific Mountain Region  
[VNelson@united-church.ca](mailto:VNelson@united-church.ca) | 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045



This QR code will take you to  
 a digital filing cabinet of  
[Stewardship Resources](#)





# Mission & Ministry

PMRC | JUNE 1-4, 2023

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Archives and History Committee Report

2022-2023

This past year has been one of deepening our connections with historically underrepresented communities, both within and outside the church. The process has been enriching and enlivening, not just for the Archives program, but also for those finding missing connections with their roots.

## RESEARCH SERVICES

During 2022, the Archives provided research services for 127 researchers, and welcomed 12 in-person visitors. By early April 2023, the rate of research requests has jumped two-fold and in-person visits have returned to pre-pandemic numbers.

## RECONCILIATION AND DECOLONIZING THE ARCHIVES

### *Digitization Project:*

The Regional Archives is part of a multi-phase digitization project of the national United Church Archives, grounded in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the TRC Calls to Action. We are beginning the work of identifying and digitizing all archival documents relating to Indigenous communities, day schools, hospitals, and missions relating to Indigenous peoples. This effort will allow us to provide better access for Indigenous peoples and ultimately repatriate records as we work with their communities. Musqueam Elder Shane Pointe helped us begin this work with ceremony in November 2022.



Members of the digitization project team with  
Rev. John Snow and Musqueam Elder Shane Pointe

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

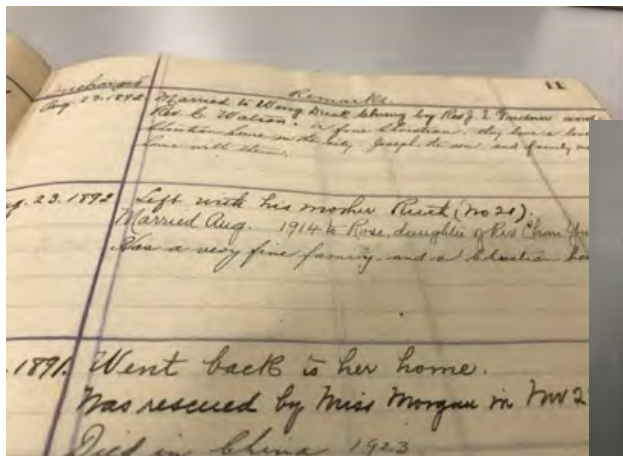
continued

### SPECIAL INTERLOCUTOR'S NATIONAL GATHERING

From January 16 – 18, 2023, the Regional Archivist attended the third National Gathering on Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites, which took place in downtown Vancouver. Delegates called for agencies linked with Residential Schools to release records that could support Indigenous communities in trying to identify who went missing from the institutions, and where they are buried. General Council Archives Manager, Nichole Vonk, spoke at one of the sessions about the United Church's work in support of Indigenous data sovereignty. The Regional Archivist was available at a table outside the plenary to make information available to individuals or communities looking for Residential School burials.

### ETHICAL RESEARCH POLICY

The Archives worked with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs library and archives to establish an ethical research policy. The policy will help protect Indigenous interests and will help ensure staff and researchers' respect for Indigenous cultures, languages, knowledge, and values.



### PROJECTS

#### *Oriental Home and School Digitization Project*

The Archives has received a grant from UBC to digitize rich genealogical resources from the "Oriental Home and School," an institution that the Woman's Missionary Society operated in Victoria from the 1880s to 1942. An advisory group made up of representatives from various Chinese and Japanese Canadian communities is overseeing aspects of the work. Digital copies will be uploaded to the Archives online catalogue in 2024.

#### *Backlog Reduction Project*

In keeping with the Region's investment in youth and young adult leadership, the Archives hired a United Church young adult, Deanna Feuer, on contract to help with our backlog of congregational records for processing and cataloguing. Deanna clearly has a heart for this work, and has recently been accepted into the Master of Archival Studies program at UBC.

Respectfully submitted,

**Katherine Gear Chambers,**  
Chair, Archives and History Committee  
**Blair Galston,**  
Regional Archivist



Excerpts from a register and photo album from the Oriental Home and School

# Camp Spirit

[campspirit.ca](http://campspirit.ca)

2022-2023

## Camp Spirit's Mission

*Rooted and Growing in Love*

## Camp Spirit's Vision

In partnership with local United Church congregations, Camp Spirit provides equipped leaders to nurture the spirit of each child, to support children and families to live lives of faith, hope, and compassion in the world.



## LOOKING BACK

In 2022, 30 Communities of Faith welcomed Camp Spirit in 31 locations. In total, 680 Day Campers (ages 5-11) and 88 Leaders-in-Training (ages 12-14) participated in Camp Spirit. Of the 30 Communities of Faith that participated in Camp Spirit in 2022, 5 were new sites (4 remote locations; 1 Lower Mainland location). It is exciting to note that at two of the indigenous communities added in 2021, there were significant increases in registration. St. Columba in Port Hardy rose from 5 participants in 2021 to 17 participants in 2022. Registration in Gitsegukla rose from 4 participants in 2021 to 25 participants in 2022. The best communication practices discovered; relationships built; traditions begun (and built together) have resulted in the beginnings of a foundation of trust, healing and hope between these communities and Camp Spirit. What a gift and privilege!

## MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

During the summer of 2022 Camp Spirit engaged 23 youth and young adults in summer employment. Camp Spirit employed 1 Summer Administrator; 2 Co-Directors; 4 Directors; 8 Senior Coordinators; and 8 Junior Coordinators. In total, Camp Spirit received \$105,558 in Canada Summer Jobs Grants to help offset the salary cost of this amazing team. We also trained and engaged 57 Youth Crew (ages 15-17) who participated in 2 to 6 weeks of camp over the summer. Youth Crew offered program support at Camps throughout the region. Camp Spirit continues to grow its work of engaging with children, youth and young adults in ways that honour and prepare them to respond to God's call to leadership within and outside of the United Church of Canada.



# Camp Spirit

continued

2022-2023

## YEAR-ROUND CAMP SPIRIT STAFF

There are now 2 FTE, year-round staff members supporting and expanding the work of Camp Spirit. Lisa Munro transitioned from .5 FTE Camp Spirit Administrator to 1 FTE Camp Spirit Program Animator in January 2023. Lisa continues to manage administrative responsibilities. In addition, she is now working with a team of Camp Spirit youth and young adults to develop the Curriculum for Camp Spirit 2023. Also, Lisa will take primary leadership in Youth Crew recruitment, training, administration, and weekly assignments.

Cathy Cryder is employed full-time as the Camp Spirit Executive Director – transitioning from .75 FTE on May 1, 2022. Cathy works to develop, lead, connect, support, and communicate all things Camp Spirit. In consultation with the PMRC First Third Ministry Staff Team, Cathy determines Camp Spirit Summer Day Camp sites. She also works with Communities of Faith to discern best practices for offering Camp Spirit in a variety of distinct contexts. As well, she recruits, interviews, trains, and supervises Camp Spirit Summer Staff. Also, seeking out and exploring new avenues of funding and financial support is an essential aspect of Cathy's work.

## FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

Jubilee United Church will once again be hosting the May 1 – June 30th Camp Spirit Summer Staff training. This year, most of the training will occur at the Jubilee Sussex/PMRC Regional Office location. We are deeply grateful for a warm and welcoming host community as we begin the important work of getting ready for camp.



For Summer 2023, Camp Spirit has hired 27 Summer Staff Members to work on four teams. Twenty-nine camps will be offered throughout the Pacific Mountain Regional Council. Four individuals with significant experience in ministry and support of youth and young adults, have been contracted with to accompany Camp Spirit's travelling teams as mentors this summer. These new positions will free up First Third Ministry Staff to focus on the ongoing work of the First Third Ministry team. It will also enable Camp Spirit's Executive Director and Program Animator to work from a central location, offering support to all four Camp Spirit Summer Staff teams.

The curriculum for the summer has been prepared by Lisa with a team of past Camp Spirit Summer Staff members. This year's curriculum is, "We Are All Connected!" Campers, LIT's, Youth Crew, Staff, Site Coordinators and Volunteers will engage with stories of faith that help us to see the many ways we are connected and the many ways we can build life-giving, hope-inspiring, transformational connections with ourselves, each other, creation and with God. We will play, create, laugh, sign, break bread, pray, and make new friends – what a wonderful way to spend the summer!

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Camp Spirit

continued

2022-2023

## SUMMER 2023

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As we seek to camp faithfully into the future, we are aware of God's unfailing presence – in times when we celebrate blessed, joy-filled, inclusive community; and, in the times when things are challenging, confusing or sorrow-filled.

Please pray for Camp Spirit – the children and families we engage with this summer, the Summer Staff, the Youth Crew, the host sites and their Site Coordinators, and the many volunteers – that all may be blessed and inspired by God's mysterious, life-giving, all-encompassing love.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# Campus Ministry

[campusunited.ca](http://campusunited.ca)

2022-2023

*Respectfully submitted by: Daniel Martin, Campus Ministry Animator*

The PMRC Campus Ministry Network (Campus United) has been focused on outreach, new ministry, and leadership development over the past year. This past year included launching a new ministry at Simon Fraser University, testing a new campus ministry model with host church Oak Ridge United at Langara College, and hiring young adults to be Community Connectors on our campuses. The Community Connectors worked to help students at their school connect with Campus United, expand and dream up new ministry programs, and help the United Church discover how it's rich history can be shared with a new generation. They started their time with a week-long leadership formation intensive in Lethbridge, Alberta and took workshops throughout the summer in theology, evangelism, missional living, affirming ministry, social justice, pastoral care, mental health first aid, and more. This program is continuing with a new cohort of young people thanks to generous donations from Inlet United and Gilmore Park United in addition to various grants and fundraising efforts. Head over to [campusunited.ca](http://campusunited.ca) to stay connected with Campus United.

*Below are reflections on the past year of ministry from our Campus Ministers.*



## LUNA HARLOW, CAMPUS MINISTER AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY (SFU)

This year at SFU, we have had the privilege of supporting students' mental health by hosting weekly gatherings around the campfire and art therapy sessions. Additionally, we are responding to food insecurity on campus with monthly food pantry pop-up events. This is made possible by the generous people at Inlet United and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

In the coming year, we look forward to expanding our food pantry initiative and sustaining the art therapy program. We also hope to get club status at SFU for additional support.

A quote that is repeated by many students and totally warms my heart is, "This event really helped my mental health." That is exactly why we exist!



*Refining fire. Living stones.*

## REV. AARON MILLER, CAMPUS MINISTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (UBC)

This year at UBC, we've made some great new student connections, and taken strides to expand our ministry reach. One joy has been a number of students from non-religious, or anti-religious families finding space with us to explore questions of faith and meaning, and experience some of the best of what the Church is about. We have found, along with the other chaplains from the University Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, that many students have struggled socially, post COVID. It has been meaningful to provide opportunities to grow in community.

While there is much to look forward to next year, we are especially excited about plans to create a cohort of students and campus community members who will create individual and communal rules of life, and covenant with one another to walk together through the school year. One of the deep needs we have discerned is opportunities to focus on formation, in an information-heavy context. We want to be a community that is committed to helping people live into the fullness that God has created them for.

Here's what a student from UBC has to say about Campus United:

"What an amazing experience it has been to be part of the United Church as a community connector! The value that campus ministry brings to student life has been evident and crucial."

## KENDRA MITCHELL-FOSTER, CAMPUS MINISTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA (UNBC)

In a place where people often view their time as temporary, we are welcomers, community-builders, peace-makers and creation-connectors. We invite people into relationship with the land, to honour Lheidli T'enneh territory, and to intentionally create joyful connection with one another. We hike, we gather around food and feed our community, we build interfaith relationships centered on care and justice, we invite people to love themselves and where they live. In building strong relationships with the UNBC First Nations Student Centre, the PG Islamic Association and UNBC Muslim Students' Association, the Guru Gobind Singh Gurudwara, the PG Baha'i Community, the PG Jewish Community, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Trinity United Church, the PG Catholic Diocese, and St. Vincent de Paul society, we are encouraging a sense of belonging in a place and during a time of life that often feels isolating.

We are looking forward to a year of outdoor ministry, connecting people and their spirits to the land, and to strengthening relationships with community initiatives. We will partner with Ginters Green Forever, a group working to preserve natural spaces within PG, and becoming more active in anti-gentrification projects working to uphold the dignity and humanity of people experiencing homelessness. As well we are looking forward to continued food ministry with interfaith food drives,

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Campus Ministry

continued

2022-2023

## UNBC CONTINUED

St. Vincent de Paul meal programs, and partnering with The Fire Pit, an Indigenous community organization supporting those struggling with homelessness, addiction, and food insecurity.

Here's what students from UNBC have to say about Campus United:

*"This is amazing! Saskatoon jam reminds me of home. And to know that I have a piece of home, and am affirmed as a queer person feels really good. Thank you!"*

*"I was afraid to come out in the woods because of bears and moose. Now I know that the woods are beautiful and I am not afraid to come with my friends. And I love the dogs!"*

*"I've never felt more spiritually connected with my school, my friends and team, and my community."*



## REV. MIN-GOO KANG, CAMPUS MINISTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA (UVIC)

In response to food insecurity on the UVic campus, Campus United gave away more than 500lb of potatoes to students at UVic. The generous donations by local

United Church congregations made this giveaway event successful – a great opportunity for local faith communities to take an active role in supporting the wellbeing of students.

To foster meaningful connections and to develop a sense of community we initiated Paint Your Love – a community art project at UVic Multifaith. Again, the support from nearby communities of faith was essential in making this pilot project a meaningful experience for all – art supplies and soup were generously donated to this program. More than 50 students participated in this event creating artwork based on their personal understanding of love. As a result, 60 individual art pieces have been crafted. We are now in the process of creating a larger collective piece, and it will be integrated into the covenanting service on April 23, 2023.

I'm very excited to be part of Campus United as we continue to navigate what it means to follow Christ, the Way, Dao in this Region. I hope that we can continue to provide space where students can come as they are to express themselves while making meaningful connections with holiness.

Here's what students from UVic have to say about Campus United:

*"I will make my traditional food with these potatoes and share with my roommates."*

*"I painted this in memory of my father, who died during Covid. I couldn't attend the funeral, so it was nice that I was able to express my feelings by making this art. This was the best program I've ever attended."*

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Community of Faith Council

2022-2023

Greetings all,

It is good practice to have a few months go by in this new year before we reflect back on the activities of this Council over 2022. I think a pause of time allows us to remember in a different way.

2022 was a full year for this Council as I am sure for most of you. We met in January & May virtually and we want to share some of the highlights from those meetings with you.

At all our meetings, we ground ourselves with a story from a community of faith – to hear the perspective from the pew and pulpit. We try and get diversity through the year whether rural or urban; big or small. One of the profiles this year was with Rob Crosby Shear where we had a brief glimpse into some of the exciting and challenging work of our church plants -examples of people creating new ways of “doing church” and discerning God’s call for us.

We also had a small task group do some revisioning on the self-assessment questionnaire which was introduced in September 2022 and is allowing a direct and more specific link to the markers of health as described in the PMRC Executive Ends “Vision - Healthy Communities of Faith and Ministries”. Since we started this practise, we have reviewed 58 self-assessment and we are grateful for your care of this process. We hope your own work on this and the feedback we provided was helpful to you for your own community as we know the trends and information we are gleaning from this is helpful to us and informs the ongoing work of the Region.

One of the trends that we have identified is the need to develop processes and guidance to support Communities of Faith as they develop their Ministry plan. Having a clear, concise and actionable ministry plan is proving to be a key factor to support the vibrancy of communities of faith and both regional staff and this council will be focusing in this area over the coming months.

Our approvals working group also continued their work meeting monthly to review and approve your requests regarding property and financial assets. We are grateful for the people who support this working group and that they can provide timely feedback to you.

continued

The Pastoral Relations Council this year did key work in the areas of policy recommendations and processes related to ministry disengagement, formal association, and recognized ministries. Other areas of important work include the Lay Leadership Support Team developing tools and training to support our lay leaders; the Ministry Personnel Support Team and the related emergence of the Fourth Quarter Network for retired clergy; the Pastoral Relations Working Group and their continued work in approving pastoral relations requests related to Community of Faith profiles, calls and appointments, and categorization of ministry positions, to name a few. We are grateful for all those who have offered their time and support to this ongoing work.

In conversation in the first part of the year with the Executive Minister and the Pastoral Relations Council chair, we decided to introduce the idea to the two councils of merging their work together and forming one group – the Community of Faith and Pastoral Relations Council. So much of the work of both Councils is interwoven and it was agreed to bring these groups together.

In October, we met in person for a two-day session that was most fruitful. It allowed us to hear each other's perspective in the work we are called to do, and we established the ways that we will work together as one council moving forward. The hope is a comprehensive and holistic approach to supporting Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations in the Pacific Mountain region - listening to each other and God's call for this work.

Stepping down from the work of these two councils this last year was Carol Martin from the Pastoral Relations Council and Shannon Carson from the Community of Faith Support Council. The leadership and dedicated support of both these individuals in the formative years of both councils was deeply appreciated. We are grateful for the continuing service of David Boyd, Donna Ziegler, Heather Clarke, Janice Young, Joseph Kyser, Laura Turnbull, Ruth Stebbing, Shannon Tennant and Simone Carrodus along with the many volunteers who serve on our various task teams and sub committees. As well the support from our Regional staff – Kathy Davies, Marina Lecian, Trenea Duncan and Victoria Andrews is pivotal to our work and their energy, wisdom and commitment to supporting our region is truly valued.

In closing, I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this group and this work.

**Jim Simpson**

*Chair | Community of Faith & Pastoral Relations Council*

# Ministry Personnel Support Team (MPST)

2022-2023

## YOUR MPST HAS THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- Caring pastorally for ministry personnel and families experiencing loss and hardship, in partnership with Regional Ministers
- Initiating programming to enhance health, joy and excellence in the practice of ministry in partnership with Leadershift
- Caring pastorally for retired members and those on Long Term Disability (LTD) [I. 3.2]
- Celebrating retirements of ministry personnel [C.2.10]
- Welcoming and orienting new ministry personnel to the Region.

The committee is Chaired by Rev. Karen Millard and members are Susan King and Rev's Lori Megley-Best, Eric Hamlyn, Lorraine Ashtown. Staff support is currently offered by Marina Lecian and Debra Bowman.

The MPST meets monthly via Zoom. During our meetings we review work underway or needed to attain the terms of reference. Through the regional ministers we learn of situations where support is needed and determine how to reach out. We spend time in prayer for individuals, the Region and the church as a whole. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have offered the monthly Gathering Place, a time on Zoom facilitated by a member of the MPST for colleagues to come together for prayer, reflection and mutual pastoral listening.

There are two individuals available for confidential in person pastoral conversations. They are Rev. Jim Short (778.887.6236, jimshort1917@gmail.com) and Therese Des Camp ([descamp@heartsrest.com](mailto:descamp@heartsrest.com)). Please do get in touch with either Jim or Therese if you'd like a listening ear or personal pastoral support.

We are finalizing a new process for welcoming newcomers to the Region. We are considering how to return to the practice of holding small gatherings of ministry personnel throughout the Region for connection and retreat time. These gatherings were of course cancelled during the pandemic.

The Fourth Quarter is an emerging working group of the MPST comprised of retired clergy. Initiated by Rev. Don Robertson, now chaired by Rev. Wendy Bily and Rev. Dee McEarchern, the group is imagining how retired ministry personnel can be connected, supported, and offer their support to the church. Don has written a resource for study and reflection for those turning 65 and 85 (and all ages in between) that is being edited for distribution to communities of faith and to personnel retired and considering retirement. The Fourth Quarter has also organized several Zoom gatherings where up to 75 retired people have attended to connect and converse about different topics.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued

The MPST offers spiritual reflections during Advent and Lent, emailed to all ministry personnel. Normally the reflections are written by members of the committee although during the last Lenten season the reflections were offered by members of the Fourth Quarter. The MPST greatly appreciated this support.

We will be consulting with Rev. Michelle Slater, Interim Director of LeaderShift, to consider what opportunities can be offered through LeaderShift to support active and retired clergy and make the support of active and retired clergy available to others. The Ministry Personnel Support Team recognizes that this is a particularly challenging time in the life of the church. Please reach out to us or to each other so that together we are strengthened in our walk of faith and service.

Thank you.

**Rev. Debra Bowman (staff support)**

**Rev. Karen Millard (committee chair)**

# First Third Ministry

[firstthirdministry.ca](http://firstthirdministry.ca)

2022-2023

## EVENTS:

We are preparing events in 2023:

- February and March 2023 – some of our team continues to work on a sustainability plan that is focused on the resources of our ministry (people, supplies, venues, travel, etc) and how our plans and decisions live into our values. We hope to be able to communicate these actions more widely in April.
- February 17-19, 2023 - The Rev. Dr Carmen Lansdowne will be present with 8 youth from Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils, the youth and their leaders will start a journey as a Youth Council of both regions.
- February 27 to March 2nd, the National YAYA Meeting is happening in Winnipeg.
- March 18-20, Imagine Children's Retreat comes back in person for the first time since COVID, it will be held at Camp Fircom.
- April 26 the First session of The Feast- which is a gathering for leaders to share food and conversation, receive resources and support - happening in three locations from 11 am to 1 pm:
  - Vancouver Island (Duncan United Church),
  - Mainland Vancouver (Jubilee United Church – Sussex Office) and
  - Calgary (Scarboro United Church).
- May 4-7, the Chinook Winds Annual General Meeting is happening in Medicine Hat, AB. There will be a children's, youth program and youth council will be in attendance.
- In June 1-4, the Pacific Mountain Regional Council is in Abbotsford, BC. There will be a children's, youth program and youth council will be in attendance.
- June 2023 – The F3 team will be developing the Anti Racism Action Plan



Visit: [firstthirdministry.ca](http://firstthirdministry.ca)



continued

## CAMP SPIRIT UPDATE:

In January 2023, Lisa Munro joined the Camp Spirit year-round staff team as the Camp Spirit Program Animator. So, there are now 2 individuals working full-time hours to get Camp Spirit up and running for summer, 2023. This is amazing! We are well into the hiring process. We have received some solid applications and are excited about building 4 strong Camp Spirit Summer Staff teams. We have reduced the number of staff teams from 5 to 4 teams in order to be able to support our leaders in the most effective, wholistic ways possible. This summer, Camp Spirit will be held in 29 Communities of Faith throughout the Pacific Mountain Regional Council. New Sites include the following United Churches: Inlet, Whitehorse & Kitamaat Village. We are also in the process of exploring what it might look like to hire a Chaplain and Indigenous Elder to accompany the Northern, Rural, and Indigenous Travelling Team this summer.

Visit: [campspirit.ca](http://campspirit.ca)

## CAMPUS MINISTRY - CAMPUS UNITED:

Campus United has exciting energy on campuses across the region! Our campus ministers are working collaboratively with their community connectors to support their campuses. We are hoping that we get the funding we need in order to continue the community connector program for the coming summer work and then fall 2023 and winter 2024. We have learned so much from this program that support young adults curious and interested in the United Church of Canada and eager to share our values of inclusion, hospitality and community at campus.

Visit: [campusunited.ca](http://campusunited.ca)

## SOME QUICK NOTES:

First Third Ministry is doing good work of trying to connect, equip and imagine with communities of faith as they deepen into relationships with children, youth, families, and young adults in their congregation.

Leaders (paid accountable and volunteers) in communities of faith are tired. They are anxious about the future of their ministry and they are looking for new ways to inspire faith formation and spiritual development.

Some of the time at the national YAYA gathering (Pamela Evans and Mary Nichols are attending from PMRC) will be discussing trends and issues and how we might engage our communities. We will also be looking at the National Strategic Plan and what parts of it apply to First Third Ministry and how we might be involved in the action plan. We are thrilled that the UCRD now carries the Faith@Home magazine and offers the issues on a subscription basis. We are partnering with them to bring the magazine to the national stage as we see the potential to support folks from across the church.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Indigenous Ministry

2022-2023

## PMRC INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

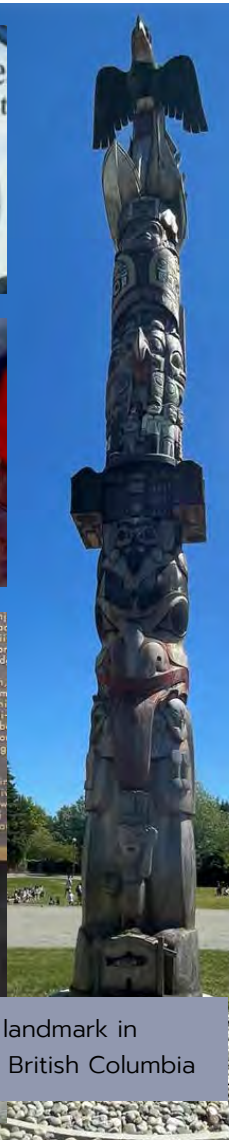
The work of Indigenous Ministry in PMRC is led by Rev John Snow Jr and Rev Tony Snow, to support the TRC Calls to Action and right relations for all our communities of faith.

We acknowledge that this work is a shared ministry with Chinook Winds Region, including the ongoing work of outreach, workshops, reconciliation circles and support for communities engaged in deepening their relationship with Indigenous communities.

Throughout this year we have seen many historical changes, and as we step into healing for the future we acknowledge that this work must be completed together.

We acknowledge the ongoing work of the Tseshaht Nation at the Alberni Indian Residential School and our call to action to meet the commitments in this atrocity. It is our call to action to support this important work.

We remember the life, legacy and teachings of We Wai Kai Elder Alberta Billy and her lifelong fight for justice and equality for all Indigenous people . Her call for apology began our denominational journey into right relations and reconciliation.



Reconciliation Pole, Historical landmark in University Endowment Lands, British Columbia



*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued

## PMRC Indigenous Ministry 2023

Pacific Mountain Indigenous Ministry and Right Relations Projects 2022				
Major Projects/Events				Stage
	Jan 25 -	Right Relations Circle	Wintercount	Complete
	Feb 20 -	Urban Indigenous Circle	Day of Social Justice	Complete
	Feb 22 -	Right Relations Circle	Lateral Violence	Complete
	Feb 23 -	Pink Shirt Day	Indigenous Anti-Bullying	Complete
March	March 8 - Apr 12	Lenten Study	Elder's Wisdom	Complete
	Mar 21 -	Anti-Racism Day	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Mar 22 -	Right Relations	Lenten Study Session	Complete
April	April 4 -	Easter	Indigenous Service Video	Complete
	April 18 -	Urban Indigenous Circle	Earth Day Service	Complete
	April	Ally Toolkit Training Pilot	6 week awareness and actions	Complete
	April 22-	Earth Day	Earth Day Seminars	Complete
	April 27 -	Right Relations Circle	Earth Day - Environmental Action	Complete
May	May 5 -	Red Dress Day	Community Memorial/Vigil	Complete
	May 17 -	Pentecost Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	May 26 -	Right Relations Workshop	Pentecost/Sundance Teachings	Complete
June	June	Indigenous History Month	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June	Indigenous Ally Toolkit	4 week Toolkit Roll-out.	Complete
	June	Virtual Blanket Exercise	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June 3 -	Women's Sharing Circle	Community Outreach	Complete
	June 19 -	Indigenous Service	Indigenous Sunday	Complete
	June 21-	Right Relations Circle	Calls to Action/Calls To The Church	Complete
August	Aug 9 -	World Indigenous Day	Global Partners	Complete
	August	Youth Summer Programs		Complete
September	Sept 18 -	Season of Creation	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Sept 13, 20, 27 -	Ally Toolkit Sessions	Orientation and Practice	Complete
	Sept 27 -	Right Relations Workshop	Season of Reconciliation	Complete
	Sept 30 -	Truth and Reconciliation Day	Residential School Memorials/TRC	Complete
October	Oct 1 -	MMIWG Service	Memorial and Wellness Workshop	Complete
	Oct 4 -	Sisters in Spirit Day	Memorial/Vigil (Monday)	Complete
	Oct 26 -	Right Relations Workshop	Mourning and Remembrance	Complete
November	Nov 8 -	Indigenous Remembrance Day	Commemorative Service	Complete
	Nov 21 -	Remembrance Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Nov 24 -	Right Relations Workshop	Remembrance	Complete
December	Nov 27 - Dec 18	Indigenous Advent Series	Medicine Wheel Teachings/Virtues	Complete
	Dec 24 -	Indigenous Christmas Eve	Xmas Eve Video	Complete
	Dec 26 -	Dakota 38 Service	Vigil	Complete

Events held jointly in coordination with Chinook Winds Region Indigenous Ministries

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# Justice Ministry

2022-2023

[pacificmountain.ca/ministry/justice-network](http://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/justice-network)

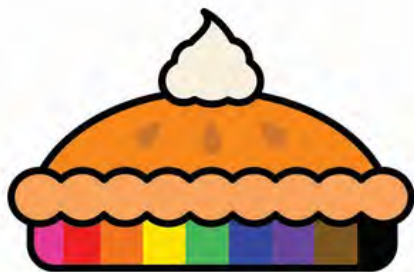
## JUSTICE MINISTRY: BEING A JUSTICE-SEEKING CHURCH

The Justice Ministry of the Pacific Mountain Region is committed to the work of building a world where justice, equality and dignity are accorded to all people without exception. As a denomination dedicated to the One who stood with the marginalized and challenged oppressive forms of power, working for peace and social justice have been part of the DNA of the United Church since its inception.

A central role of the PMR Justice Ministry is to connect and support people around the region who are working on justice efforts locally, nationally and globally.

The PMR Justice Network e-newsletter serves as a hub for United Church social justice efforts. Just Conversations monthly online gatherings provide further opportunities for building justice-related connections and community.

While justice is indivisible, The United Church of Canada's Strategic Plan 2023-2025 specifies the following national priorities: indigenous justice and right relations; becoming an intercultural and anti-racist church; becoming accessible and barrier free; welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.



The PMR Justice Ministry actively publicizes and promotes resources to encourage local expressions of justice practice in line with these church-wide commitments.

As an Affirming Regional Council, Pacific Mountain continues with implementation of our 2022 Affirming Work Plan. Some highlights include: an online gathering of PMR Affirming Ministries; sharing Pride photos and PIE Day intentions on the Affirming Ministry website; providing Affirming resources for faith communities at regional events and gatherings.

In response to a proposal approved at the 2022 AGM to encourage climate conversations within PMR communities of faith, the PMR Justice Ministry hosted 16 online Faithful Climate Conversations from September 2022 to March 2023, facilitated by climate justice leaders within the region. Additional regional activities to promote climate justice include an online Faithful Footprints webinar, scriptural study on Reading Matthew Ecologically, discussion of the

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# Justice Ministry

continued

2022-2023

practice of watershed discipleship as part of Earth Week 2023, and promoting a BC visit of representatives of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank working on sustainable responses to world hunger.

In response to a proposal approved at the 2022 AGM to encourage climate conversations within PMR communities of faith, the PMR Justice Ministry hosted 16 online Faithful Climate Conversations from September 2022 to March 2023, facilitated by climate justice leaders within the region. Additional regional activities to promote climate justice include an online Faithful Footprints webinar, scriptural study on Reading Matthew Ecologically, discussion of the practice of watershed discipleship as part of Earth Week 2023, and promoting a BC visit of representatives of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank working on sustainable responses to world hunger.

Another proposal approved at the 2022 AGM was to recognize worship, discipleship and community formation as essential in addressing B.C.'s disastrous opioid crisis. As an initial response, the PMR Justice Ministry has shared



information about provincial resources for learning about Naloxone Training, encouraged support for Bill C-216 to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and is currently planning a Town Hall to invite communities of faith into conversation about how they might respond to this continuing crisis.

Other ongoing justice efforts supported and promoted by PMR's Justice Ministry:

- PalNet, UNJPPI, CSUPCR and other United Church partners working for a just peace in Palestine and Israel;
- The national Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) Network (e.g., 2023 Lenten Vigil initiative; lawn signs; political campaigns across the country);
- Holding consultations with PMR communities of faith working on refugee sponsorship applications.

This coming year the Justice Ministry is also looking for intentional ways to foster network and capacity building to help justice activists focus their goals and strategic planning objectives.

In shalom,

**The Justice Ministry team**

Jane Dawson (she/her)  
*Justice Minister*

Alexandra Barr (she/her),  
*Admin Support for Justice*





**Supporting those who are doing the inspiring and challenging work of leading, building and supporting communities of faith.**

LeaderSHIFT is an initiative of the Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils, of the United Church of Canada.

Our ongoing work is the discernment, offering and sponsoring of leadership formation resources, for ministry personnel and lay leaders alike.

We offer these resources through...

#### **RETREAT & RENEWAL**

- Spiritual retreats in small, professional cohorts
- Combines personal reflection and professional growth
- Encourages development of peer-accountability
- Intentional post-retreat integration skills building
- Like "Total Clergy Wellbeing" and "Holy Ground: Seeding the Soil of Wild Church"

#### **DEEP LEARNING**

- Conferences featuring leading theologians, educators, authors
- Workshops engaging provoking topics, current church issues
- Training days for practical skills building
- Intentional post-event integration & follow up
- Like "From Decision-Making to Discernment: A Year-Long Program for Church Boards and Ministry Personnel, with Susan Beaumont", and "Culture Shift: A Part-time Ministry Project, with G. Jeffrey MacDonald", and "Bold Witness, Relentless Grace: for the Seeker, the Wanderer, the Questioner, with Sarah Bessey",

**SUSTAINING PRESENCE**

- Connecting church leaders with coaches and mentors who are firmly grounded in progressive Christian, United Church of Canada contexts
- Liaising with Regional ministers and staff
- Networking, online learning
- Providing resource and support materials
- Like “the Theological Banquet”, an inspiring, video-based Workshop Series for communities of faith and their leaders that fosters language, identity and understanding in your church community, with Rev. Janet Gear

**INTENTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

- Sponsoring, supporting and amplifying the offerings of partners
- Offering seed funding for new initiatives
- Like “the Festival of Biblical Storytelling”, with the Network of Biblical Storytellers of Canada
- Like “Resurrect: A Learning Party for Restoration and Inspiration”, with the Church Planting Network
- Like “Elements of Truth: BEFORE RECONCILIATION” workshops, by kinSHIFT, an Indigenous-led initiative supporting settlers to gain the knowledge and skills to cultivate respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and places (we offer bursaries of 50% reg fee (online) with code KINSHIFT)

Since the last General Meeting, we have said good-bye, with great gratitude, to LeaderSHIFT Director Allison Rennie. We will miss Allison’s creativity and imagination, their poetic spirit and innovative program design, and their passion and deep faithfulness. We bless Allison on the next phase of their professional and vocational life, and give thanks for the purpose and intentionality they brought to the work of LeaderSHIFT.

And, we welcomed an interim Director, with (Rev) Michelle Slater. Michelle has served in congregational ministry for 24 years, in small and medium congregations, both part-time and full-time. She is committed to continual learning about and improving her practice of ministry and leadership, and is looking forward to sharing the learning journey with you. We would love to hear from you! How do you see LeaderSHIFT connecting with your work? Email us ([leaderSHIFT@united-church.ca](mailto:leaderSHIFT@united-church.ca)) to connect with ways we can support your learning and growth in leadership, for this time and in your place.

**THE LEADERSHIFT TEAM:**

Michelle Slater (she/her) - *Director (Interim)*

Jes Beckerley (she/her) - *Administrative Assistance & Registration*

Rob Crosby-Shearer (he/him) - *New Communities / Church Planting Project*

Tressa Brotsky (she/her they/them) - *Communications*

**OUR COMMITMENTS:****We learn and promote learning.**

We take time to apply learning within LeaderSHIFT and promote opportunities to equip and transform leaders in Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils. We make mistakes. We are committed to growing and changing along with all leaders in our Regions.

**We believe in the wisdom of diverse voices in leadership.**

We commit ourselves to giving profile to resource leaders who have been underrepresented or systemically marginalised. This includes increasing the numbers of black, indigenous, people of colour, and gender diverse resource people in our line up in the coming year.

**We remove barriers to participation.**

We use our resources to promote more equitable access to LeaderSHIFT experiences across the Regions we serve, by subsidizing workshop costs, using online platforms, increasing our financial support for travel, and hosting events in different geographical locations.

**We are rooted in the diversity of theological identities and perspectives.**

We offer experiences grounded in a spectrum of theological identities and perspectives, within the banquet of United Church of Canada faith and spiritual expression. The Theological Banquet developed by Janet Gear is an important lens for our planning.

**We support transformation in leadership habits.**

We promote initiatives that support leaders to make actual changes in leadership behaviour and practice through integrative and applied learning. We are committed to good content paired with strong support for applied learning using coaches, learning circles, and team learning.

**We work with partners.**

We develop program experiences in partnership with others in our Regions to strengthen the interlinked ecology of ministries and leadership. We give thanks for the First Third ministry team, for Indigenous Ministry colleagues, and for national and international leadership learning partners.



*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project (ICPP Report)

2022-2023

The LeaderShift Church Planting Project supports new communities of faith (sometimes called 'Church Plants' or 'Church Starts') in the Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

Financially speaking, this work continues to be animated thanks to a gift from the sale of Trinity United Church building and due to the vision of the former Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery.



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These communities are defined as 'new communities where Christian faith is nourished, and discipleship practiced'. You can see more in the initiative at <https://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/new-communities/> (which includes a list/link to these communities) and <https://leadershiftuccan.org/about-church-planting>.



This project was meant to be a 3-year engagement - and my position was initially for a 3-year term - starting back in September 2018. Now, over 5 years in, and a move from ½ time to full time role for me a couple of years back - we are planning to continue funding new communities until the end of 2026 – and hopefully beyond! All thanks and praise be to God!

With all of the commitments we have made, we still have approximately \$750,000 for new projects - plus

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# The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project (ICPP Report)

2022-2023

continued

separate money for a plant in Pemberton BC. My personal hope is that a large chunk of these funds can support diasporic or migrant communities, given that we have done little of this kind of work except for some small support for the Zimbabwean Methodist United plant. The resiliency of the fund is especially impressive given a slump in Regional Council investments last year which deeply affected the fund, and I'm grateful for God's provision.

We've continued to learn from our 12+ new communities of faith; including witnessing to which models and expressions of church are resonating and growing and moving to sustainability of spirituality and finance. More recently, the Granting Team has moved toward smaller and declining grants of 3-5 years; encouraging planter multi-vocationality, part time team leaders/teams – thus supporting planters/teams/communities to have a greater chance of reaching sustainability within the granting cycle.

On the more difficult side, over the years we have had 3 plants close or morph (United Online, Waypoint and The CUP) and retained the immense learnings and legacy from those. All of these started right as Covid hit and that, and other factors led to their closures.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS AND STRUGGLES OF 2022-2023:

A number of communities, most notably two of our earliest-funded communities; Weird Church (Cumberland BC) and AbbeyChurch / Emmaus Community (Victoria BC) are approaching fiscal sustainability with 60-80% of their under \$100k a year budgets from local revenue (much of this PAR giving). Each of these have diverse weekday offerings as well as about 35-50 people each Sunday afternoon for their worship – and both are quite multi-generational and engaged. They are good examples of how a 'creative congregational' model of church can work. Both of these communities started with smaller grants and grew organically – and are now setting up more stable governance structures as well as having annual meetings and increasing numbers of PAR

givers. Feast and Fallow – our social enterprise café finally opened last October and are approaching 'break-even' to support their staffing – even as they move toward starting a more explicit worship component of their common life.

A few of our communities, especially those with larger (and usually declining) grants are seeking alternative ways to fund their communities as they face a bit of a 'crunch' to ramp up to these larger grants. I've been impressed with the creativity of these folks, even with the challenges they face ahead. Some of these communities are 'franchising' (Wild Church – who now have 5 expressions) or are offering services to the wider church. Westshore has innovative ecumenical partnerships emerging in addition to their Campfire Church.

# The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project (ICPP Report)

2022-2023

continued

The CUP (Centre Uniting People) is closing in Squamish, as it's leader/planter Rev. Karen Millard moves on. Many of the learnings from the CUP are retained by the Region, and Karen will continue to do 'CUP-like' expressions in her new pastoral charge and stay an integral part of the planter's network. I'm also hoping that there can be a new partnership in Squamish and Pemberton, as we have funds set aside for a plant / planter in Pemberton.

As I write this, we are planning the Resurrect 2023 Learning Party, which is a follow-up to the Resurrect 2018 party. This will feature moderator Carmen Lansdowne, General Secretary Michael Blair, Edith and Randy Woodley, singer-songwriter Liz Vice, Denise Nadeau, musician Lacey Brown and many others from our new communities. You can check out all the details at [www.resurrectparty.ca](http://www.resurrectparty.ca).

We started the Vocare Podcast this year with our VST Theological Field Ed student Amy Haynes, a ministry candidate from Chinook Winds. It's been both fun and rewarding to explore stories of call from those 'on the edges of the inside' of the church – with interviews including Tony Snow, Nik Sloat, Michael Blair, Aaron Miller, Catherine Pate and others. The podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. We look forward to chatting with more of our planters/starters about call in the months to come.

I've been honoured to be involved in the General Council's *Strengthening Invitation Team* with the

National Strategic Plan – which is planning 100 new communities of faith - and it's been a joy to be 'seconded' to that process for a few hours a week. This has also led to wider conversations with potential planters in both Chinook Winds and the wider church as far away as Nova Scotia! Though that assignment technically ended late 2022, I continued to be part of that until this Spring, when I stepped aside in order to re-focus on Regional work.

One of the growing 'edges' of this work has been around reimagination around our spaces. So many elements of life and culture (including the church) seem to be in stages of collapse. With that, I've been having many conversations about how to re-imagine our buildings for the common good and the ideas of 'common-ing' as well as the reparations / land back movement have informed my thoughts. Within our plants, as well as in other sectors of the church, I've been having many conversations about community land trusts, co-operatives and other forms of local partnership as an alternative to amalgamations or (especially) the sale of lands - as an exciting way to create spaces for new and evolving communities of word, sacrament and pastoral care. There appears to be great energy for this conversation among migrant, Gen-X and younger folk. Both Weird Church in Cumberland – as a developing and maturing new community – as well as Sanctuary on 6th in New West – our newest plant - provide some emerging

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# The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project (ICPP Report)

2022-2023

continued

models around how the Region is seeking to do this – not to mention the fact that two others of our plants: Feast and Fallow and The CUP have operated in re-developed building spaces.

All these conversations dovetail nicely around the National Conversations around the diasporic and intercultural church, as well as the work we as a region are already doing in planting/starting. How will we, as a region, encourage diasporic plants? I've been part of some national conversations about this as well and it's exciting to see the energy coming from migrant ministers from Africa and Asia. Since I'm in admissions myself, this has been a good place to see where our church is headed!

Speaking of Sanctuary on 6th, they are our newest plant! We're in the process of starting this new plant in the former building of Queens Ave. United Church in New Westminster, which closed in January of this year. I'm grateful to the Rev. Blair Odney for planting these seeds before his retirement – and we're hoping to appoint 3 part-time planters to support the work there - and we're excited to see where the Spirit leads.

- This year, we've done UCC membership reception for two folks in our plants, both of whom are experiencing a call into diaconal or ordained ministry and are on a candidacy pathway. This has been a particular joy for me to help facilitate and to watch these two move toward leadership in our plants. We also saw our

first ecumenical (Anglican/United) Indigenous planter ordained in the Anglican Church as Rev. Sheila Cook (Cree) was priested by the Anglicans. Sheila continues her work with our ecumenical plant O'man's Nam'a in Port Hardy and has an amazing vision for circuit-riding Indigenous-led ministry. Many of our plants are incubators to those called to ministry on the edges of the inside of our church.

My integrated work with the office staff – and especially the other Regional Ministers and the Finance Team has deepened; there's hardly a day where this deepening staff integration hasn't been at the centre of my work. I'm grateful to literally all the RM's, John Snow Jr and to Lixin and Houston as well as Treena, my supervisor for this - as well as the acting folks as some have been away! I've also been a part of the LeaderShift team – so those folk; Allison, Michelle, Jes and Tressa and our weekly meetings have been core to my well-being and sense of team. Daniel Martin has been indispensable as my part-time admin support! Gratitude to all I've named or forgotten.

- I have been seconded to be part of a monthly, open listening group for survivors of the ill-named Alberni Indian Residential 'School' - ?Aps Ciik Cha Chim Hiy Ap - which was started by folks in our plant in Port Alberni. This has been rich, grace-filled, often-horrific and challenging work as I hear about the genocide committed by The United Church.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project (ICPP Report)

2022-2023

continued

Many of our new plants have been integrated into the wider worship, spirituality, justice, arts, first third, reconciliation / reparation, climate conversations of the wider church and are 'giving back' in models of how to do this work with a fresh lens. This is important and exciting.

Overall, all of this work continues to excite and engage me in ways I never expected!

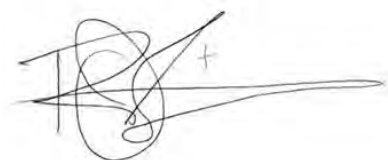
As I witness the collapse of so many things in the church and wider culture (education? government? climate? health care? housing? polarized ideologies and information flow?...) – it is in this fleshy work; the conversations, the people, the newer communities where my certainty of Jesus' ongoing resurrection work is bolstered – and am deeply privileged to sit where I sit.

This isn't to say it isn't without struggle. For those on the ground, it's arguable even tougher work than the work of leading existing communities. And for me, seeking to be a presence amidst all of this can be hard and tiring work.

Having said all that, there is an immense, shimmering beauty in seeing what God's Spirit is already forming anew as the Beloved Christian Community continues walking the Way of Jesus; in this ancient and emerging 2000+ year old Story.

I'm grateful and humbled to be a small part of this work in this Region of The United Church of Canada!

In the Risen Christ - "our judge and our hope" (UCC Creed)



(The Rev.) Rob Crosby-Shearer  
Regional Minister for Church Planting

# Office of Vocation

2022-2023

## OFFICE OF VOCATION REPORT PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONS

**Rev Brenda Fawkes, Vocational Minister**

Every Monday (morning for me) our national Office of Vocation team meets to do our collective work. Depending on the week there are various configurations of staff online from Prince Edward Island to North Vancouver. This is a great way for me to start the work week and gather focus for what is on the to-do list. In addition to the work agenda, we have worship and devotion time to ground ourselves in this work as ministry. This lent we read together from Alydia Smith's book: "Lesser Evils" to guide us through the wisdom our faith brings. One of the daily reflections written by Cheryl Lindsay challenged us to think about our faith life in relation to our work. In general, society tends to identify us by what we do for work. For those of us who work and serve in various capacities in the church we can sometimes lose our faith life to our work life. Cheryl reminded us our "faith life can take on the cadence of work without resting in the Spirit" and aligning ourselves with what is possible. If we do this intentional spiritual nurture it helps move us from simply going from meeting to meeting, and more into understanding and living out of the Spirit given gifts we inherit to do this work. This is a crucial reminder for those of us who are in administrative structures and allows us to remember and share that we approach this work as faith-filled ministry. The office of Vocation structure is now four years old. While this is young in terms of the church it is old enough to allow us to review what is working, where there are gaps, and what new ways we might support faithful and effective ministry

personnel with a focus on honouring and living into intercultural ministry. The office of Vocation structure is now four years old. While this is young in terms of the church it is old enough to allow us to review what is working, where there are gaps, and what new ways we might support faithful and effective ministry personnel with a focus on honouring and living into intercultural ministry.

### CANDIDACY PATHWAY WORK

We continue to have a robust body of folks in the Candidacy Pathway under the care of the Mountain Candidacy Board. At time of writing 32 folks are at some stage in the process of formation: 12 from Chinook Winds, 19 from Pacific Mountain and two from Shining Waters (Ontario). Across all candidacy boards there are approximately 215 candidates for ministry. The seven candidacy boards have a more balanced number of candidates per board with there being slightly more where there are theological schools. For the past several months the vocational ministers have been working with Rev. Janet Gear, Policy Coordinator, Vocations in Ministry to explore practice and policy changes that safeguard the pathway's denominational ethos but maintain regional particularities. This has led to proposed changes in the use of vocational assessments; greater support for Lay Supervision Teams and Educational Supervisors; and supporting continuous formation as a benchmark for candidates to meet.

### OVERSIGHT & DISCIPLINE OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL

Another learning in year four of this structure was a need for more

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# Office of Vocation

continued

2022-2023

collaboration between OV and regions—the ‘split episcopate.’. There has been more focus on case conferences with regional staff. The Response and Remedial Committee (and staff) processed 15 formal complaints. Nine were members who had served in ministry for over 20 years. Some of the themes across these reports were related to

- Isolation in ministry
- Emotional Intelligence (lack of relational management skills)
- Professional Boundaries
- Conflict and power dynamics.

With this knowledge, efforts are being made to have these skills developed earlier in the vocational life of ministry personnel. (see Strategic Plan below)

The Office of Vocation takes seriously its responsibilities with respect to ensuring standards for accreditation are being met. These include annual declaration of criminal charges and mandatory training. The Standards committee reviewed the Ethical Standards for Ministry Personnel and the Board of Vocation approved changes to better include guidelines for social media and digital technology. The Board of Vocation approved changes to better include guidelines for social media and digital technology

## **STRATEGIC PLAN DEEP SPIRITUALITY, BOLD DISCIPLESHIP, DARING JUSTICE**

In addition to the regular work of the Office of Vocation staff members are involved with the Strategic Plan implementation developed by the General Council Office for this next

triennium. The point of intersection is primarily through the Invigorate Leadership area. Four of our staff are acting as Activity Leads paying particular attention to recruiting, preparing and mentoring ministry personnel for leadership of the new communities of faith which will ultimately be established. I am working as lead for a comprehensive look at the mentorship objectives. This is to provide leadership support in the time of formation for ministry and in the first years of ministry where there is often increased isolation. We will be drawing on wisdom from similar projects completed by LeaderSHIFT and draw upon wisdom from those with ministry experience who may be available as mentors. Our work on the strategic plan also intersects with and will help mutually resource the Moderator’s Leadership Project.

## **ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

[Admission work is now staffed by Sarah Bruer in the Office of Vocation, this is her summary]:

If you go to the United Church of Canada website and search for admissions, you’ll find that the admission process is currently not accepting new applications. This pause does not mean that our work with admission ministers is paused. It is merely allowing us to focus our energy on supporting the 194 ministers who are already at various stages within the admission process.

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# Regional Camping Ministry

2022-2023

## CAMPING – REGION CAMPS

Camping Ministry as a regional initiative began with (at the time) BC Conference's Camp Futures project completed around 2014. That project had a vision to, in conjunction with the presbyteries at the time, consolidate camping into three regional camps – one on Vancouver Island, one in the lower mainland and one in the interior of the province. The three regional camps would have substantial investments made to buildings and infrastructure from the proceeds of the sale of other camp properties, and a camp fund would be established to support ongoing operations and care for the properties.

Some camp properties were sold, and investments were made in rebuilding facilities at Camp Pringle (Vancouver island) and Camp Fircom (Gambier Island) and the Camp Fund was established. Camps Koolaree, Rock Lake and MacKenzie remained under the oversight of presbyteries, Camp Grafton remained under the oversight of Kamloops United Church.

With the change in United Church structure from presbyteries and conferences to regions, The Pacific Mountain Region is working to strengthen the relationships with the camps beyond Fircom and Pringle.

The camps vary considerably in size, scope of operation and staffing. For example, Koolaree, MacKenzie and Rock Lake have annual operating budgets between \$75,000 and \$175,000 and

seasonal staffing. Pringle and Fircom operate with seasonal staffing and, combined, about eight full time equivalent year round staff, and operating budgets of \$780,000 and \$1,400,000 respectively.

Incorporated societies with members and boards of Directors are in place for all camps to govern their respective operations. The camp societies comply with the United Church's incorporated ministries standards and the camps are subject to accreditation by The United Church of Canada and the British Columbia Camping Association.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, some camps closed for the 2020 season and others adapted their programming and rental activities to comply with provincial health directives while still providing some access to their facilities and "camping" experiences to the extent possible. In 2021 with the continued health directives the camps continued their adaptive approach to programming in order to maximize experiences for people to the extent allowable. Again in 2021 the Camp Fund adjusted to provide COVID relief funding. These are creative and continuous adaptations and details of the current situations at the camps are best seen at their respective web sites.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# Regional Camping Ministry

2022-2023

continued

seasonal staffing. Pringle and Fircom operate with seasonal staffing and, combined, about eight full time equivalent year round staff, and operating budgets of \$780,000 and \$1,400,000 respectively.

Incorporated societies with members and boards of Directors are in place for all camps to govern their respective operations. The camp societies comply with the United Church's incorporated ministries standards and the camps are subject to accreditation by The United Church of Canada and the British Columbia Camping Association.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, some camps closed for the 2020 season and others adapted their programming and rental activities to comply with provincial health directives while still providing some access to their facilities and "camping" experiences the extent possible. In 2021 with the continued health directives the camps continued their adaptive approach to programming in order to maximize experiences for people to the extent allowable. Again in 2021 the Camp Fund adjusted to provide COVID relief funding. These are creative and continuous adaptations and details of the current situations at the camps are best seen at their respective web sites.

In its oversight and coordination role, the Region currently provides;

- financial support to camps' operating budgets through the Camp Fund.
- expertise and guidance – as requested - to camp boards in areas of governance, finance, insurance, human resources and strategic planning and operations
- funding and project management for the repair, replacement or upgrading of major items of buildings and infrastructure.
- project management in the handling of insurance related matters including property claims representation on the boards of the Camp Fircom and Camp Pringle camp societies

Three initiatives begun in 2020 and continuing in 2021 are;

- Strengthening connections between the Region and the camps previously affiliated with the former presbyteries. In 2021 the relationship with Camp Koolaree strengthened partly due to the Region's assistance with managing an insurance claim related to the Camp's washhouse which was destroyed in a windstorm.
- Exploring how the Region's emerging First Thirds Ministry can further connect and support camps, particularly the faith element of camping. The continuing partnership between Camp Pringle and Sylvan United Church is one example.
- Updating the Camp Fund projections to ensure its resources are allocated to meet emerging needs post COVID and the emerging relationships with camps associated with the former presbyteries.

Ian Fraser

# Western Intercultural Ministry Network

2022-2023

## Western Intercultural Ministry Network of the United Church of Canada

### Report for the Annual Meetings of the Western Regions – 2022-2023 (Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, Pacific Mountain Regional Councils, and the Indigenous Church)

The Western Intercultural Network is a relatively 'young' network of communities in the United Church of Canada committed to a fully inclusive and intercultural church, covering the five Western Regional Councils.

The network holds gatherings, educational events and online conversations that focus on intercultural discussions and dialogue. Network members are engaging in and promoting action in their regions towards living out the UCC's vision of being an intercultural church (Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church | The United Church of Canada (united-church.ca). An executive composed of representatives from the five Western Regional Councils of the United Church offers us leadership.

#### **OUR VISION OF BECOMING AN INTERCULTURAL UNITED CHURCH ENCOMPASSES:**

- Racialized people and communities, which includes ethnic churches within the United Church, racialized lay leaders, and ministry personnel, and more.
- Indigenous people and communities, within the United Church and beyond, of all traditions.
- People with disabilities.
- LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people and communities.
- The privileged, yet broken, who are seeking wholeness and justice.

We are each worthy individuals and numerous cultural groups, and richer for our diversity. And we are at the same time engaged in a common pursuit of caring for each other and the planet. We honour our identities, and the spaces where they intersect. Our ministry includes courageous (and awkward!) conversations about our diversity, and about the social privilege and history that hinder right relationships. We believe the Good News of Jesus Christ calls us into such conversations, right relationship, and mutual transformation.

continued

## 2022-2023 ACTIVITIES

During the 2022-2023 period the WIMN Executive the Network has continued to offer its Coffee Chai time series. These series offer opportunities for learning, discussion and reflection on themes related to interculturality. The sessions held between April 2022–March 2023:

### June 23, 2023:

Topic: “Residential Schools: Introduction to Trauma Awareness and Strategies to support communities” – This session led by Rev. John Snow, Jr. and Rev. Tony Snow offered an introduction to trauma awareness and how to support communities as they seek to understand, and process news that continues to emerge about unmarked graves being located at sites of former Indian Residential institutions.

### November 29, 2022:

Topic: “Jesus and the Marginalized” - This session led by Rev Dr. OhWang Kwon, MDiv., PhD., focussed discussions on the book Jesus and the Marginalized: Jesus Christ for Koreans in The United Church of Canada, co-authored by Rev. Dr. Ohwang Kwon, and Dr. Don Schweitzer, which explores the meaning of Jesus for Koreans in the United Church of Canada, and in the Canadian context.

The Executive continues to engage in discussions at its meetings about how we might move forward by building on areas of strength and develop stronger support and ministry for areas which we have not been able to truly focus our attention. The Executive has also engaged in discussions with staff from the National Office about how best to support and invite clergy and lay persons in under-represented groups to step forward as nominees for positions on the many denominational groups seeking these unique voices at the table.

## ANNUAL MEETING

WIMN hosted its Annual meeting on November 29, 2022, in conjunction with one of its Chai/Coffee Sessions.

At that meeting the members of the Executive that had guided the Network’s activities for 2022 largely chose to remain involved and to offer their gifts and stewardship for the work of the network for another year.

# Western Intercultural Ministry Network 2022-2023

continued

## The Executive for 2022-23 comprises:

**Co-Chairs:** Kathy Yamashita (Chinook Winds) and Deborah Richards (Pacific Mountain)

**Secretary:** Rev. Chelsea Masterman (Northern Spirit)

**Pacific Mountain:** Alwin Maben (past chair)

**Chinook Winds:** Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

**Northern Spirit:** Vacancy for one more representative

**Living Skies:** Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau

**Prairie to Pine:** Damber Khadka, Bill Millar

**Staff support:** Julie Graham (Living Skies, Prairie to Pine and Northern Spirit Regions),  
Chris Mah Poy (Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Region)

In the past year, Rev. Kurt Katzmar (Northern Spirit) retired from active ministry and we were sorry to see him step down from his role as Co-Chair. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Our Elder Kay Quon continues to join the Executive for meetings when possible and we enjoy having her join us as she is able.

The Executive meets monthly for about 90 minutes. This provides an opportunity for us to connect about activities in our region, as well as engage in planning discussions. All of our meetings were online this year.

## LOOKING FORWARD

The Executive will continue to build on its ongoing discussions on how the Network will engage in supporting and living out the call within our regions to be an Intercultural Church.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Coffee/Chai time series will continue in 2023 and we are hoping that we might be able to hold an in-person event in fall 2023.

## CONTACT US

If you would like to be contacted about WIMN events you can sign up for occasional updates here; you can unsubscribe at any time, and we don't share your information with anyone else.

Respectfully Submitted by

**Kathy Yamashita and Deborah Richards | Co-Chairs**

On behalf of the Executive of the Western Intercultural Ministries Network | March 22, 2023

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



# Centres of Education

PMRC | JUNE 1-4, 2023

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### Students in Pacific Mountain Region

*Allison Abuloc, Kendra Mitchell-Foster, and Sarah Williams*

2022 for The Centre for Christian Studies was a year full of preparation, anticipation, and adjustment. It began with the departure of David Lappano (former program staff) and Michelle Owens (former principal). It set the stage for two search teams to look for new staff. Meanwhile, Ken Delisle served as the interim principal for most of the year until the arrival of the new principal. Through several months of internal preparation, discussion, and searching, CCS now has new Program Staff Alcris Limongi and Alan Lai; the new principal. They both started in the month of October.

Alcris Limongi came to CCS from Parkdale United Church in Ottawa, where she served as the Minister of Pastoral Care. Alan came from Vancouver, where he was the minister serving South Arm United Church in Richmond. Alcris originally came from Venezuela, and Alan, Hong Kong. Together, they bring intercultural perspectives and years of leading anti-racism and intercultural learning to the CCS community. Covenanting service for Alcris and Alan were conducted on November 23rd, at Westworth United Church in Winnipeg.

With the assemble of the new team complete, the staff spent the last few months of the year building new relationships and sharing ideas and practices. The spirit of exploration and relationship building was high. With Alan's photographic and video production skills, CCS has begun to post more updates and videos on the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

While the searches were going on most of the year, CCS's programs and operation continued smoothly with dedicated staff and volunteers. CCS continues to offer courses online and in-person, which included: Power and Privilege, Ages and Stages, Ministry as Community-building, Health, Pain, & Trauma. CCS Fridays is a series of free, one-hour online workshops and discussions offered mostly once a month to connect friends and the wider community. On April 3rd, during the Annual Service of Celebration, Aileen Urquhart was awarded the Companion of the Centre Award.

Financially, CCS continues to rely on the commitment of the denomination and generous donors who believe in the mission of the school. Lori Stewart, our Development Coordinator, has done a fantastic job connecting with donors and applying for grants and funding. While denomination funding is decreasing, and Endowment portfolio is not as promising as before, we are committed to working towards financial sustainability. We are thankful that many of our donors remain committed to diaconal education and bless us with extraordinary generosity in 2022. CCS is anticipating major Endowment fundraising campaign in the coming years.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued

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There is no doubt the pandemic has challenged the school on many fronts, including programming, student enrolment, marketing, and so on. It disrupted more than just in-person gathering, but also concepts of theological education, teaching, learning, and service in the world. However, the process of rebuilding has begun.

We are blessed with collaborative, generous partners, including:

- Anglican and United Churches
- Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
- Anglican Deacons
- Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean
- Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members, Council and Committee volunteers
- St Andrew's College
- St Stephen's College
- Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
- Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Yearbook, Financial Statements, and Annual Report may be found at:  
<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-Year-Book.pdf>

Respectfully submit,  
**Alan**  
 Rev. Dr. Alan Lai  
*Principal*

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Naramata Centre

2022-2023

To the Good People of the Pacific Mountain Region,

The Naramata Centre felt new life restored to its hallowed ground in 2022. Covid began to recede and our community gathered again in flourishing abundance. The return of full summer attendance, child and youth programming and music week had many participants exclaim that this was the Naramata Centre they remembered and loved.

We were blessed with a cool wet spring which allayed the fire season and gave us all a welcome summer free from smoke. We welcomed over 1000 people onsite, with over 350 program participants including 130 children and youth. We saw the inclusion of indigenous led programming at the Centre, of inclusion and diversity, of families coming together and friends new and old celebrating in community and faith.



The Centre rekindled its relationship with the congregants and clergy. We welcomed First Third ministry to lead our children's programming, had Wild Church lead a program week, hosted a Clergy Wellness retreats and a Youth Retreat. That relationship continues to regain its former strength as we reach out to congregations and clergy throughout the region. The Naramata Centre is here for you all.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*



## Naramata Centre

continued

2022-2023

Our online ministry is also thriving. Thanks to a new ministry grant from the United Church of Canada Foundation, we were able to offer fifty-five online programs with over 630 online participants. The Centre ran programs such as A Gift of Time, Feminine Spirituality, Hope in the Dark, Touched by Words, Mountains of Watercolour and Weaving the Threads of Healing and Radical Hospitality.

Much of last year's success can be attributed to the commitment and devotion shown by the Centre's staff, volunteers, donors, board members and our community of participants. Our summer staff embraced the Centre's values and identity as they led children's programs. Our program leaders shared lunch with the staff under the awning of Columbia Hall. And music was heard throughout the village each morning and on Thursday afternoons, a hundred people on the Columbia lawn.



In May of 2022, the Centre welcomed Sasha Viminitz as its new Executive Director. Sasha has brought warmth, enthusiasm and a wealth of experience to the role. But most importantly, Sasha has embraced the history and spirit that has made Naramata Centre such an important part of so many lives over the years.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued



Part of that understanding has been aided by work the board has done on our identity, purpose and values:

*Naramata Centre is a diverse community inspired by ancient and emerging Christian spiritual wisdom and practices. We gather to teach, learn and live the ways of compassion, love and justice*

As excited as we are about last year's success, we're even more excited about 2023. It's Naramata Centre's 75th anniversary. We are refurbishing old buildings, replanting garden beds, cleaning up the campgrounds and getting ready for many more years of community, communion and collective transformation.

With Gratitude, Humility and Humour

*Sasha Viminitz*

Sasha Viminitz  
Executive Director  
Naramata Centre Society

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

# Vancouver School of Theology 2022-2023

## THOUGHTFUL, ENGAGED AND GENEROUS CHRISTIAN LEADERS

VST is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church and the world. Our graduates are thoughtful people, reflective about how to interact with the large issues of our time out of the deep resources of faith. Our students are engaged, willing to get involved in the world, not just wait for the next one. Our theological ethos is designed to nurture practitioners who give their lives for God and the gospel. Our graduates are generous, inclusive people, able to find friends with whom to collaborate for the love of God and the good of the world. We go deep with God in Christ and so wide with the world God loves.

The academic year 2022-2023 was a year of transition. We moved back into our building as the base of operations and instruction once again. Classes were held this year in a hybrid (in-person and online) format. Before the pandemic turned endemic about 25% of student were online. This academic year saw online numbers increase to about half of the class. We are doing a great deal to have first rate and up-to-date technology and pedagogy for these students so that their classroom experience is participatory and excellent. Our library leadership is engaged in the development of online resources to support the research needs of our online and commuting students. Some courses are still taught in an intensive in-person format, particularly pastoral courses. Housing expenses for those occasions are underwritten by VST to 50% of costs through the generosity of donors.

## FACULTY/UNITED CHURCH FACULTY

United Church faculty include The Rev. Dr. Steven Chambers, Director of Theological Field Education, and newly appointed, the Rev. Dr. Hyuk Cho, Professor of United Church Studies and Formation. Sessional lectures include The Rev. Dr. John Young (Canadian Church History), The Rev. Dr. Lisa Waites (United Church Worship), and The Rev. Mary Nichol (Youth and Children).

VST was busy in preparation for our Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accreditation visit in March of 2023. VST is accreditation by both the Province of British Columbia and ATS. The processes for accreditation ensure high institutional governance, fiscal and academic standards.

Faculty are productive as scholars and pastors, regularly publishing significant monographs and articles for the life of the church now. A book launch will be held in the fall of 2023. Currently the faculty is producing of volume of sermons on the Ten Commandments for publication in 2023. The Rev. Dr. Rob James (Anglican) and The Rev. Dr. Hyuk Cho (United Church) began as professors of denominational studies and formation at VST in August of 2022. We expect two searches underway for (1) the Butler Chair in Homiletics and Hermeneutics and (2) Director of Theological Field Education will be complete and new professors in place for the fall of 2023. That will complete our complement of 11 Faculty members, supplemented by Sessional lectures. VST has committed itself to holding a course every semester taught by an Indigenous Instructor.

continued

**VST BOARD/EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Michael Francis completes his term as VST Chair of the Board after nine years. We have been incredibly blessed by his wise, cheerful and enthusiastic leadership. We are glad that Bishop David Lehmann will become the Board Chair and The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris Vice-Chair in May of 2023. Ms. Catherine Evans is the Chancellor at VST, and together with The Rev. Dr. Doug Goodwin, The Rev. Ryan Slifka, The Rev. Michelle Slater and The Rev. Dr. Steven Chambers (effective July 1, 2023), are the United Church appointees to the VST Board. We are a theological school preparing leadership for the United, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches and our board membership reflects that ecumenical composition and more.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

VST extends its reach and magnifies its impact through strategic partnerships. In addition to our core relationships with our Affiliate (Anglican and United) and Associate (Presbyterian) denominations, we work with UBC, the Sauder School of Business, the schools in the theological neighbourhood on the campus of UBC, Huron College at Western University, Durham University in the UK, St Mark's College at UBC, The Canadian Chinese School of Theology in Vancouver, and the University of Pretoria to deliver educational programs from BA to Ph.D. Our relationships with Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia, and St Andrew's, Quezon City, Philippines, continue with visiting faculty teaching in our summer school and making guest appearances in classes. These agreements help us deliver a theological education that is contextually appropriate and global in its awareness. We are planning for students and faculty to engage with our partners in Asia in a more rigorous fashion now that travel is more easily possible.

**GRANTS/FINANCES/FOUNDATION**

Vancouver School of Theology has achieved a balanced operating budget for eight years in a row. In addition, we have allocated annual surpluses to capital expenses and maintenance. Our employees have received increases in each of the past seven years based on COLA, equity and performance standards. Our CFO and Vice-President, Ms. Shari Coltart, gives excellent leadership to the fiscal undertakings of the school in conjunction with the Audit and Finance subcommittee of the Board, chaired by Mr. Michael Francis. The VST Foundation is chaired by The Venerable Ronald Harrison and provides a significant revenue stream for the operations of the school drawn at 4%, and the case of this coming fiscal year 5%. We have undertaken to provide more student support, in addition to current scholarships, in the form of bursaries of up to 70% for students with financial need. We anticipate that significant additions to our endowment will be required to support the mission of VST – to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders - in the coming years. We are working toward that end. Dr. Joy Begley, Mr. Graeme McIsaac and The Rev Dr. Doug Goodwin are UCC representatives on the Foundation Board.

*Refining fire. Living stones.*

continued

VST has completed the expenditure of a Luce Grant for Indigenous Ministry (\$400,000 US) through the Teaching House that Moves Around. The program will continue for another two years, in Northwest Communities in British Columbia, funded by a grant (\$225,000) through the United Church of Canada, and in Saskatchewan, funded by the Anglican Foundation of Canada (\$15,000). This important ministry is a continuation of a 35-year commitment to Indigenous Ministry by the Vancouver School of Theology through its Indigenous Studies Program, currently under the direction of The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred. Dr. Aldred's contract with VST was renewed for another three years this year. We are blessed by his work among us.

Several significant gifts were received by VST in the recent past through the robust efforts of our Advancement team. The Lilly Endowment awarded the school a \$1 million (US) phase two grant to retool and revitalize Field Education. We were successful also in phase one of this program in which we received \$60,000 (CAD) to do research on field education. We envision spending around \$500,000.00 this coming year for program development and as stipends for students doing field education. Our Sauder School of Business program is completely endowed so that students can learn finance, adaptive leadership, leading in times of transition, coaching and mentoring, as well as leading through transition in addition to their theological education. They receive the Sauder Certificate in Leadership Excellence through the completion of this program. VST has established a Project for Congregation Flourishing through Community Engagement with a grant of \$250,000 (US) from Murdock Trust. This grant is in its final year and resources are being collected, curated and shared with churches in a variety of modalities. Mr. Chris Pullenayegem is directing this project. Significant gifts from the Anglican Foundation of Canada (\$15,000.00) and a British Foundation (\$15,000.00) to fund an Indigenous Summer School program with particular attention to youth and children were received. In the fall of 2022, a consultation on Truth and Reconciliation was hosted at VST, funded by Anglican, United and Presbyterian Churches, that involved representatives from Canada, South Africa and Norway (the Sámi people).

In 2022-2023, VST received over \$300,000.00 to endow the O'Driscoll Forum in Preaching and the Arts. This program, named in honour of The Rev. Herbert and Paula O'Driscoll, will take place each summer at VST in conjunction with the Summer School program. It is modelled after the College of Preachers which took place at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC., where Herb was leader. It gives preachers and liturgical leaders a chance to "workshop" with each other under the direction of a master preacher and liturgical artist. This year, summer 2023, the initial Forum will be facilitated by Bishop Todd Townsend and Ms. Louise Peters. The Anglican Foundation made a significant donation for start up costs for this program (\$15,000.00).

<https://vst.edu/odriscollforum/>

Renovations in our Epiphany chapel to green the space, update the technology and refresh the building are in motion. The roof has been replaced, students online can now share in services through participative technology and the sound and lighting systems in the building have been completely replaced. All windows and doors will be replaced when the space is not in use this summer. This project is fully funded through a \$1.1 million legacy gift.

continued

**ACADEMIC ENROLMENT**

The headcount at VST for 2022-2023 is 176, course registrations are 717 and our FTE is 78. Our enrollment, while below the record numbers during COVID-19, is still very strong and amongst the highest in the history of the school. The largest area of growth at the school in recent years is the numbers of student doing research degrees. In the past 5 years, we have over a 500% increase. New professorial hires will be made with a view to support this growth. M.Div. students are still the largest cohort, followed by MATS, MAPPL and TH.M. students.

Of the three historic partners of the school, the United Church/United Church of Christ has the largest cohort at 43/6 students, the Anglican/Episcopalian have 27/7 students and the Presbyterian/Reformed 24/8. VST continues to expand its ecumenical bandwidth, in keeping with the vision of its founders. 35 students at VST come from other Christian denominations, including Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Baptist, Orthodox, Alliance, Mennonite and Quaker. 4 students are enrolled in the Ph.D. program, which VST offers in partnership with Durham University, UK. The first student from our joint BA program with St Mark's College has begun courses in the M.Div. at VST. This combined program reduces the overall time to complete both degrees by one year.

VST has a robust online recruitment program, engages online recruitment services, holds a VST Sunday, once a year, in which 40 churches across Canada participate, and hosts an Explorers Weekend at the school where students experience life as a student for a few days. Our Coordinator of Recruitment, Mr. Sam Andri, provides outstanding leadership. We are grateful to congregations where our students are welcomed. We are experiencing an extraordinary influx of applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. VST has taken a Students First approach to the application process and is working hard at simplifying processes and supporting applications, including providing online seminars with legal and immigration experts for potential students.

**SPECIAL LECTURES/SUMMER SCHOOL 2022**

Vancouver School of Theology welcomed a series of outstanding lecturers in 2022 and 2023. The Somerville lecturer in September of 2022 was The Rev. Julian Davis Reid, a popular Chicago Jazz Musician, who led us in a retreat entitled: "Notes of Rest." Art Historian and Theologian Dr. Chloë Reddaway was our G. Peter Kaye Lecturer. She addressed the topic of "The Problem of Painting Christ: Strange Responses to the Greatest Artistic Challenge" in February of 2023. Our Visiting Distinguished Scholar for July of 2023 will be Prof. Jehu J. Hanciles who will teach a course entitled, "Beyond Empire: Rethinking the History of Global Christianity" and give a public lecture in our summer school on the theme of "Global Migration and Christian Witness."

All these lectures are fully funded through generous funding restricted for these events and held in the VST Foundation. All these lectures are recorded and available through our You Tube channel. Summer School 2023 will be held July 3-14 in hybrid format with

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continued

VST welcoming outstanding scholars, church leaders and students from around the world. All these lectures are fully funded through generous funding restricted for these events and held in the VST Foundation. All these lectures are recorded and available through our You Tube channel. Summer School 2023 will be held July 3-14 in hybrid format with VST is bringing Andrew Root to campus for the Cork Lecture/Workshop: Friday, August 11 - "Why Were All So Exhausted: The Church in a Time Crisis" and Saturday, August 12 - "Ministry Inside the Immanent Frame: The Task of Speaking of God in a Secular Age."

### CONVOCATION 2022

On May 11 we conferred degrees and certificates on 40 students. Our convocation was held at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Vancouver. Eight students received the Sauder School of Business Certificate in Leadership Excellence. We presented the TEG (thoughtful, engaged and generous) Christian Leader Award to the Rev. Alecia Greenfield, a VST alumni. This award of \$4,000.00 is to encourage excellent leadership by clergy in the earlier years of ministry. VST awarded an honorary doctorate to The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada, this year. Dr. Blair was also our convocation speaker.

Vancouver School of Theology is grateful for our relationship with the United Church of Canada. We pray that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit will be with and among you at your Annual Regional meeting.

Richard Topping, *President*

# Pacific Mountain REGIONAL COUNCIL



*of the*  
**UNITED  
CHURCH**  
*of CANADA*



# Staff List

2022-2023

[pacificmountain.ca/connect/contact-us/](http://pacificmountain.ca/connect/contact-us/)

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# Revisions

## Record of Edits to PMRC GM 2023 A&R Booklet

### Version 4 (V4) Updated: June 3, 2023

- p. 5 President's Report - Added - missing section to President Deborah's report
- p. 54 Business - #24 deadline for travel reimbursements changed from June 30, 2023 to July 15, 2023.
- p. 82 Campus Ministry Report - Added - UNBC report in full, UBC report missing pieces

### Version 3 (V3) Updated: June 1, 2023

- p. 4 Reports - added: Save the Date AGM 2024
- p. 13 Retirees - corrections to retiring dates, and minor typos
- p. 27 Memorials - corrections to minor typos
- p. 54 Business - #25 now reads: Nominations close for President-Elect at 8:15 pm (close of day) on Thursday, June 1st, 2023 and nominations for two (2) vacancies on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council close at 8:15 pm (close of day) on Friday, June 2, 2023; and that
- p. 62 Page Added: President-Elect Nominee, The Rev. Dr. Simon LeSieur

### Version 2 (V2) Updated: May 1, 2023

- All Section Title pages - AGM date corrected
- p. 13 Retirees Section - a number of retirement dates and years corrected
- p. 27 Memorials Section - addition of Rev. John Philip Romeril
- p. 63 Finance & Property Section - removal of duplicate page
- p. 68 - Property Resource Team report added
- removed - page 114 - template for Proposals (Proposals will be posted to the [GM2023 webpage](#), and not in the A&R Booklet)



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**Minutes of the Fourth General Meeting  
Pacific Mountain Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada  
Prince George Conference and Civic Centre, Prince George, BC, and Zoom  
June 9-12, 2022**

**First Session, 6:00 P.M. Thursday June 9, 2022**

<b>Gathering</b>	Music brought the Council together.
<b>Calling</b>	The President, Blair Odney, called members of the Council both in person and online through Whova to gather “Rooted and Grounded in Love.”
<b>Authority</b>	<p>Pursuant to the authority of the third General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada (2021), the fourth General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council convened at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre, Prince George, BC, as well as on the online platforms Whova and Zoom™ and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it by President Blair Odney. A quorum was present.</p> <p>Whova and Zoom™ are online platforms which allow members online to communicate with one another at the same time and to communicate with the business table present in Prince George, BC.</p>
<b>Orientation</b>	Allison Rennie spoke about the hybrid format of the gathering of the Regional Council. They offered some other comments about Whova and how to interact with each other.
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	The President welcomed members of the Council to this first hybrid meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council. Members of the Region both in-person and online are called to a moment of deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Rooted and grounded in love, we are called to mend the world; it is in this moment that we enter into this meeting. He asked us to lift Alberta Billy, the Elder who called the church to account for its role in colonialization and residential schools, to Creator in this time of unhealth.
<b>Indigenous Relations Acknowledgement</b>	, Councillor Crystal Gibbs, on behalf of Chief Dolleen Logan, welcomed members of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council to the lands of the Lheidli T’enneh. The Chief offered some thoughts on the Road to Reconciliation. John Snow offered a gift to Councillor Gibbs on behalf of the Region.
<b>City of Prince George Welcome</b>	Their Worship, Mayor Lynn Hall welcomed the Region to Prince George. The President thanked the Mayor for the welcome and for the MyPG Grant toward the Celebration on Saturday evening.
<b>Moderator Video</b>	The President welcomed the 43 <sup>rd</sup> Moderator, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Bott via video to offer a message.
<b>Introductions</b>	The President welcomed the General Secretary, General Council, The Rev. Michael Blair, among other visitors. He acknowledged Treena Duncan, Regional Council Executive Minister, and introduced Bob Fillier, Chair of the Business Committee.
<b>Business Committee</b>	Bob Fillier, Chair of the Business Committee offered some comment on the business sessions of this meeting. He invited the Council to test voting using simplyvoting.com

He invited people into a posture of positivity; he offered those to whom compliments could be offered for a variety of items, and that he would be the one to receive complaints.

Bob Fillier also reminded folks that when speaking to issues, we direct our conversations to the President, regardless of how well we might know them.

He indicated the chaplains onsite and reminded those online of the chaplains who are available to be contacted.

## Business Committee Motions

M/S/C (B. Fillier/I. Brown) that:

1. *The Roll of the 4th General Meeting of Pacific Mountain Regional Council shall consist of those members of Pacific Mountain Regional Council who register prior to 12:00 p.m., Friday June 10, 2022. (The Manual 2022 C.1.1 and C.1.2.) Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll or entitled to payment of travel expenses.*
2. *Quorum will be set at a minimum of 20 members which must include at least one ministry personnel and one lay member, not including Corresponding Members. (The Manual 2022 C.4.3)*
3. *The Bounds of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council shall be The Prince George Conference and Civic Centre 808 Canada Games Way, Prince George, BC; the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered members; and any telephone connections established.*
4. *The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Mauricio Araujo (Secretary), Bob Fillier (Chairperson), Allan Buckingham (Arrangements & Technology), Pamela Evans (First Third), Treena Duncan (Executive Minister), Ingrid Brown (Theme and Worship), and Blair Odney (President).*
5. *The agenda as posted on www.pacificmountain.ca shall be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Business Committee. Revisions will be announced, and an update posted on the website.*
6. *The President shall have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.*
7. *The minutes of the 3rd General Meeting of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council held June 11 – 13, 2021 over Whova™, be received for information.*
8. *The Regional Council Executive Minutes, June 11-13, 2021 received for information and included as part of the Record of Proceedings. (The Manual 2022, C.3.1.4)*
9. *The Plenary portions of the agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council website and YouTube Channel.*
10. *In order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised in business, the President may, at their discretion, suspend the ordinary rules of parliamentary debate and engage in a different process. All final decisions of the council shall follow the rules of debate and order as summarized in the Appendix of The Manual (2022) or Bourinot's Rules of Order.*
11. *At the discretion of the President, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.*
12. *All registered voting members who are online and onsite will vote using the simplyvoting.com website. An email will be sent to each voting member using the email provided at registration for each vote.*
13. *All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (defined as \$2,000 or over) shall be considered "in principle only" and, if adopted, be referred to the Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.*

14. *In accordance with Section C.1.2(b) of The Manual 2022, Regional Executive Minister Treena Duncan and former Moderator Marion Best be named as members of Pacific Mountain Regional Council with full voting privileges.*
15. *Corresponding Privileges be granted to the Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, Vicki Nelson, General Council deployed staff, all other invited guests, registered visitors, and staff (other than those who are full voting members of The Region) with voice, yet no voting privileges.*
16. *The Chairperson of the Business Committee will present proposals. The President will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. A speaker from the body making the proposal will be permitted to speak to it. When the President discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that it is ready to hear a motion on the proposal, the President will invite the Chairperson of the Business Committee to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.*
17. *Proposals directed to the General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 9:00 p.m. Friday, June 10, 2022. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the Proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in an order as determined by the Business Committee. Similar proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.*
18. *If The Pacific Mountain Regional Council does not agree with a proposal where the General Council is the court of action, it will not be sent on to General Council unless a separate motion to transmit with non-concurrence is made and passed.*
19. *In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to The General Council, Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information.*
20. *The procedural and prayer microphone shall be labelled on the floor of the plenary space and the chat box in Zoom. For a procedural point of order members of the council are to use "Point of Order" at the start of their statement both onsite and on Zoom™. For a prayer request, members onsite are asked to identify they are making a prayer request. On Zoom® members are asked to use "Prayer:" Members are encouraged to consult with the Business Committee before making a point of order, requesting prayer, or making a point of personal privilege.*
21. *All unfinished business, including non-General Council proposals, shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.*
22. *Verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.*
23. *Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before 5pm on Saturday, June 12th without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.*
24. *Payment of member expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. Late claims submitted after June 30, 2022 shall not be paid.*
25. *Nominations close for the one (1) vacancy on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council at 8:15 pm (close of day) on Friday, June 10, 2022.*

### Opening Worship

Worship throughout the weekend focused on Ephesians 3 and 4 and was offered by the Worship Team: Ingrid Brown (chair), Jen Cummings, Ibi Chuan, Sarah Prestwich, Aaron Miller, Tammy Lindahl, and Lindsey Veenstra. The music team consisted of Gregor Schoenberg, Jenna Spowart, and Kelly Thomas. This evening, Ibi Chuan reflected on selected passages from Ephesians.

**Theme #1 “Hopes,  
Dreams &  
Aspirations”**

Ingrid Brown introduced our theme speaker, Jeff Chu, who will be offering four (4) sessions over the weekend. She spoke of his podcast Evolving Faith and talked about his latest book “Wholehearted Faith” which was a book his friend Rachel Held Evans began but did not finish before death. He asked us to try showing up as our authentic selves; telling the truth in love as we follow Jesus.

Jeff introduced himself as a church nerd who loves denominational policy and church assemblies. He shared that he had learned the lands of the Lheidli T’enneh translates in English as “confluence of people” and how individual journeys draw us together from great distances. All our stories and journeys bring us together in confluence. He is delighted to witness our sacred labour as we seek to be faithful to our call as a family of faith.

Jeff called us all, regardless of our place or circumstance, to know our belovedness. That all our anguish and delight, our sorrow and our joy, our sadness and our hope find their confluence here. He reminded us that we are loved.; as a gathered body, and as unique individuals we are deeply and profoundly loved, and God’s love can carry us through change and turmoil.

He shared the words of a Texas based spiritual director: “Let God love you.” For Jeff, it begs the question what are the things that are obstacles between you and God’s love; what keeps you from feeling it. When we open ourselves to the possibility of being loved, we also open ourselves to grief or loss, the possibility of rejection, and the vulnerability that it requires.

Jeff invited members of the Council to confront and name some of the things that keep us from personally feeling God’s love. “What are the obstacles, the hindrances, the problems.” He then directed us to say to those things you are no match for God. You are no match for love. Writing those things down and leaving them aside is symbol of letting go of these things, the surrendering, the bitterness, the unhealthy anger, whatever form of obstacle.

Romans 8 shares that there is nothing that can separate humans from God’. Sometimes it is a struggle to believe that wholeheartedly, and sometimes when those words are summoned demons were brought back to life. The word demon is rooted in the ancient Greek for that which fragments, that which divides, that which threatens our wholeness. It can be difficult to believe that such healing love can be true.

Believing that God’s love is rooted and grounded in love helps us recognize that grace abounds and shows evidence of God’s love surrounding us awaiting our attentiveness. The spiritual discipline of recognizing our own belovedness is so crucial to our lives individually, and to our life together. Jeff encourages us to nurture our own belovedness, not just to make ourselves better, but to help us recognize that our healing and liberation have always been bound up in our relationship with others and intertwined with the fate of the rest of the world.

The church should be a vehicle for the embodiment of the expression of God’s love for all the world. How can we do that work if we don’t let God love us? How can we do that work if individually we are constantly feeling depleted, and even unloved? Letting God love us in a way that can prepare us for the broader work of loving the world and proclaiming God’s love to the world, prepares us because we are attentive to the interdependence and interconnectedness of everything in that world. God’s love inspires our gratitude. God’s love fuels our hope. God’s love empowers.

Jeff asked the Council to write down hopes, and dreams, and aspirations for what the church could and should be considering our belovedness. We will return to them in the future sessions.

- Announcements** Brief announcements were made regarding the following day.
- Evening Vespers** The Worship Team led a time of Evening Vespers. The story “I Am Love: A Book of Compassion” by Susan Verde and Peter Reynolds was shared.
- Adjournment** The Council adjourned for the evening.

### **Second Session, 9:00 a.m. Friday June 10, 2022**

- Gathering** The Council gathered in music prior to the opening of the session.
- Announcements** Some announcements were made about the upcoming day including that nominations for Regional Council Executive would close later in the day. The President acknowledged the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The United Church of Canada, formed on this day in 1925.
- Enabling Motions** Enabling motions offer a way forward at the end of the meeting.
- M/S/C (B. Fillier / K. Brittain) that:*
- 1. The Regional Executive Minister be authorized to edit reports and minutes for the Record of Proceedings of this meeting.*
  - 2. The Regional Council Executive be authorized to transact all business of the Regional Council until the next General Meeting of the Region Regional, except those matters prohibited by the Constitution and Bylaws of The United Church of Canada.*
  - 3. All remaining ballots be destroyed – including the digital results.*
  - 4. All digital records of public chat/comment boxes within Zoom™ and Whova™ will be appended to the record of proceedings.*
  - 5. The meeting adjourn following the completion of business as ordered and the benediction concluding the Celebration of Ministry service, June 12, 2022.*
- Worship** Worship included a land acknowledgment, learning a phrase in Dakelh, the language of the Lheidli T’enneh; the Council was taught that Nyuk’ensui’ is how to say I love you. Singing, reading from Ephesians and a reflection from Ingrid Brown brought us into the day.
- Affirm Ministry Testimonials** Throughout the meeting, members of the Regional Council responded to the question “How does becoming an Affirming Region root and ground us in love?” The first of these videos was shared.
- Retirees** Throughout the weekend the following retirees were recognized: Heather Anderson, Sharilynn Upsdell, Maureen Anderson, Cindy Terry, Julianne Kasmer, Michael Collison, Philip Newman, Cheryl Black, Albert Ramsey, and Kevin Sprong.
- Videos were played throughout the weekend of the retirees reflecting on their years of service and the memories that stood out about leadership rooted and grounded in love.



**Theme #2 “What does the church need to repent of?”**

Jeff began his address to us, reminding us that all of us have a story grounded in a history. He asked us to ponder the soils that have shaped our story and informed our existence. He shared some personal stories about his family coming to Christianity and how they kept their Chinese traditions alive.

Our stories can get tangled up with strands of colonization and complicated denominations and missionary work that lie along different fault lines. Stories, both individual and corporate, need honesty to maintain integrity.

Some stories have made us feel worse about ourselves; the memories are beautiful and sad, blessings and curses and the soil from which we come contain this rich mix of emotions: human drama, agony, joy, places of barrenness and places of flourishing; these are all the lessons that a rich history bring to who we are as a church. If Paul is right, if we are truly rooted and grounded in God’s love, we don’t need to be afraid of candour. To be rooted and grounded in love is to be humble (from the latin *humus* meaning ground or soil).

When we are sincere about love, it means that we have to be truthful about who we are and where we have come from so that we can become who we were meant to be, rooted and grounded in love.

Jeff asked the Council to reflect on the question “what does the church need to repent of” and spent some time talking about the idea of repentance. He asked for white paper on the tables in the plenary because in his culture, white is a colour of mourning and grief and the death of things. The things the church ought to repent of are things that are worthy of mourning and things that reek of death.

Jeff reminded us that Councillor Crystal Gibbs commented on “looking forward to hearing more from you all about what a path of reconciliation looks like.” She acknowledged what the United Church of Canada has already done, and issued an invitation to do more in the way of repentance because there can be no full reconciliation without full repentance.

Jeff is a deep believer in the theology of the compost pile: bring the things that are rotting and it tells us we have to surrender to forces that can do what we can’t. The compost invites us to participate and it reminds us that there is so much beyond us. We get a picture of how God has written the story of resurrection into the soil.

However, the compost will not just happen without us. We have to turn it from time to time. We have to see our willingness to acknowledge what has to be surrendered to death. The compost requires repetition; it asks us to return to it again and again, adding to it and turning.

The past is never just in the past; it is always present with us and we carry it with us. The Israelites were people of many soils, Paul was a person of many soils. To honour old stories of pain and create new stories of beauty is an act of repentance. The Church has perpetrated harm, and has created healing; to admit how we have been harmful and to create love is an act of repentance.

**Table Group Time**

The Council broke into table group time to get to know each other and to build community. Some guiding questions included: what is something to share from the life of their Community of Faith during the pandemic? How are things with your soul? What have you let go of; what have you learned? What new things did you embrace – and want to keep?

**Adjournment**

Following grace, the Council adjourned for lunch.

### Third Session, 1:00 p.m. Friday June 10, 2022

#### Gathering

The Council gathered in music prior to the opening of the session.

#### Theme Practice

A telling of the Godly Play Story: the Great Family was offered by Sarah Prestwich.

#### President's Address

The President offered some reflection on his time as President of the Region, connecting the themes of the soils of his history. God says to us to forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing, do you not perceive it.

He reflected on being a commissioner at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Council (2006) when A Song of Faith was adopted and he heard compelling testimony about the connection to this statement; a reengagement with the Church. He remembered that when the vote was taken, the Church went silent and how powerful that was.

He remembered WonderCafe and how it allowed us to host those conversations and taking an agreement to dialogue with the culture, but what was implied in the ads and website were not consistent with the cultures of communities of faith when people don't visit.

In his time as President he has witnessed that God is working beyond the church, calling us to forget the former things. People want to talk, and invariably they want to be claimed, and held, and loved by the kind of God sung about in the Song of Faith, and in what Jeff Chu is reminding us about this weekend. He has seen God tilling the soils for seeds to be planted.

In the Church Plants in the Region, in communities of faith where new ministries are sprouting, in every Affirming congregation – God is doing the new thing. As beloved followers of the Living Christ, the new thing God is creating is waiting for us to respond. Go into the world that God loves, and love, love gods people for who they are. Watch how this love, this new thing this, this love on the ground changes them. And then invite them into the next best expression of who they are meant to be in love. This is her job. We don't have another job. God is waiting for us to catch up.

Blair Odney consider one of his life's most treasured privileges has been to serve as President over the previous two (2) years.

#### Proposals

Bob Fillier introduced proposals and the process by which we would deal with them. The plan is to follow the proposal process of the General Council: a listening session (education and questions for clarity), a discussion session (putting forth what might make the proposal better, if any) and a decision session (with a newly thought out proposal based on the earlier sessions).

Though the deadline has not yet come, there are currently four (4) proposals coming to this Regional Gathering:

- 22-01: Recognizing Ecumenical Shared Ministry Specific Circumstances
- 22-02: Support for Faith Communities
- 22-03: Encouraging Climate Conversations within Communities of Faith
- 22-04: Gathering As One

#### General Council

The President introduced The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, General Council. The General Secretary (GS) began by expressing appreciation for Pacific Mountain Regional Council and the work of the Executive Minister, Treena Duncan.

On this 97th anniversary of the United Church, he recognizes her from serving in the church: sometimes she feels tired and just wants to rest, but there is still life and energy. He is reminded of a section from A Song of Faith: “We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ presence in the world. We are called together as a community of broken but hopeful believers ...” We as a church still strive to be faithful servants of God, and we require the Spirit to reorient ourselves.

The GS spoke about the vision and hope people feel like they can catch a sense of it as we move into the next one hundred (100) years of the life of this church. God has called us, and God will empower us by gods spirits to get there.

The GS lifted up some of the work of the General Council. Currently we are engaged in the 44th General Council, an historically long General Council; longer than the Council of Nicaea! It is the first council since the restructuring of the church. Together, we are creating God's beloved community period.

He also lifted up the work of becoming an anti-racist denomination. If we are about the beloved community, we need to address the issues of race and racism. He described the 40 days of anti-racism that were developed last year, along with new resources coming this fall, and encouraged us to engage in it, and to have courageous conversations. The church has also recognized that we don't know who we are in terms of racial identity, so we began a process to provide a baseline so that we can measure progress as we seek to create spaces for racialized communities.

The GS spoke about the pastoral relations equity research project to help understand some of the challenges that happen in our system, including 2SLGBTQIA+ and women. Building a church that is anti-racist is one that understands equity and not just equality. We are called to provide equitable spaces and we're starting to look at policies and practice to make sure there is no embedded or implicit racism within it. We also continue to look at how we're building capacity for racialized and indigenous leadership.

He spoke about the strategic plan which has been developed over the past year. This plan will help build hope, changing the narrative of decline, and bringing light to the things we're hopeful about. God has called us to be partners in God's mending of the world; this strategic plan helps us in our reimagination.

The call is: Deep Spirituality. Bold Discipleship. Daring Justice. Values, commitments, and affirmations are also in the works and will help guide the work of the General Council Office over the next years.

The GS reflected on the difficulty of the past years, and named gratitude that we've hung in. He also noted that the Mission & Service fund was up for the first time in many years.

During questions from the floor, the GS responded to the commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. When asked about where he sees new life emerging, the GS spoke about the leadership that will be required for the church in the 2020s and the reality of lay led congregations. He was then asked about the staff cuts in the General Council Office (GCO) and how staff were being cared for. He acknowledged that while staff have been cut over the years, the work has not been. While members of the church recognize this reality, there is also an expectation for the same amount of work. It is really disheartening when members of the church accuse the staff of doing things with the intent of destroying the life of the church. He invited us to approach the GCO asking question not making assumptions and reminded us that the strategic plan is a way of articulate the things we can do and that everything else is off the table.

Treena Duncan thanked Michael Blair, on behalf of the Region, for his generosity in being amongst us.

### **Executive Accountability**

President Blair Odney indicated that the written Executive Accountability Report had been available, and so invited members of the Executive forward as questions were received. Past-president Jay Olson took the chair and invited questions.

Throughout the questions, a few similar themes were addressed: how does the Executive, or the staff, assess baselines, or determine what work is important, how do changes made by the Executive get communicated well and widely, and are members of the Region able to question the decisions.

Members of the Executive, including Treena Duncan, spoke about the Annual Vision for Ministry (or the “Big Question” from Dan Hotchkiss’ work) which sets the parameters within which the staff operate.

There is a Policy Development working group of the Executive which takes time to suggest modifications which may be needed. Among those that have been modified are Regional Ministries (a long term commitment to First Third Ministry), Executive Minister Limitations, Property and honouring human diversity. In respect to property, we are blessed to have Indigenous voices remind us “nothing about us without us,” which is why we have a valued Indigenous Ministry in the Region.

In regards to honouring human diversity, the language used is that the Pacific Mountain Regional Council will uplift and value the diversity of expression embodied in all of humanity. 1) The Region will live out its call of loving neighbour by actively working against racism, and 2) The Region will only support and enter into covenants and agreements with groups that do not devalue, undermine, limit, or negate a person’s identity.

This was the modification which raised the most questions. Members of the Region were concerned that this was an overstep into the operations of communities of faith. However, it is the role that Presbyteries used to have through their property committee; if a building is to be encumbered it requires the next court’s approval. It is not about one-time rentals or short term, but longer term rentals.

### **Listening to the Owners**

Deborah Richards, President-Elect led the Council into a time of table group conversation. She asked for there to be a recorder as the work will be synthesized for the next day. She asked “What does a healthy, flourishing, Community of Faith look like? And what does it look like in your context?”

**Staff Introductions** A video was shared to introduce the Regional Council staff reflecting on the theme “rooted and grounded in love.” Treena offered a word of thanks for the staff team.

**General Council Deployed Staff - Stewardship & Gifts** Treena Duncan introduced deployed General Council staff Vicki Nelson who serves the Western Regions of the United Church of Canada as Stewardship & Gifts Officer.

After expression appreciation for the commitment of members of Pacific Mountain Regional Council, Vicki asked members of the Council some questions: how did you learn to pray? how did you learn to worship? how did you learn about injustice? how did you learn to be generous? She invited the Council into table group time to discuss the final question.

She introduced a graphic of the Discipleship Flower from the Called to Be the Church program. Generosity is not a means to an end, but a foundational part of being a Christian. There are resources, including Vicki, which are available to the entire Region.

**Adjournment** Following brief announcements and grace, the Council adjourned for dinner.

### **Fourth Session, 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 10, 2022**

**Gathering** The Council gathered in music prior to the opening of the session.

**Theme #3 “Who is God calling you to be in the world?”** Jeff Chu returned to remind us that we are loved, and we are doing good work, and that we belong. Even in a denomination that has a wide range of theological experience and perspectives on what is right to say and what’s not – it is the sense of belovedness that will hold us together.

He shared an essay called “Conversations with the Killdeer.” The essay is about paying attention; all of the hopes and dreams, and the things the church need to repent for, are tied together in paying attention. To pause for reflection and listen to a neighbour’s story. To listen for what the things is behind the thing, the feeling behind the feeling.

Jeff wants us to reflect on “Who do you want to be in the world?” together. What grows out of the rootedness, groundedness, and belovedness? How do we want to show up for ourselves and for others? In church language it might be who is God calling you to be in the world? And then let’s hope that who we want to be and who God wants us to be coincide!

The church cannot fulfill its call to abundant life together, if you do not fulfill your call to abundant life. As you hope and work for the church to be the best possible, truest, most loving version of itself you also have to hope and work for you to be the best possible, most faithful, truest, most loving version of yourself. If you do not love yourself well, you do not flourish. If you do not flourish, the church doesn't flourish.

Jeff invited us to vulnerability to God and to the world. He asked the Council to reflect for themselves on the question who is God calling you to be. He doesn't want it to be about your professional roles because society identifies people by what they do; that's an easy box. But we are more than our work, we are more than service providers and cogs in productivity machines.

God cares about the desires of your heart because God cares about you. That's not to say God desires for you exactly what you desire for yourself, but God cares about your desires because God cares about you, so don't be afraid to answer the question.

Jeff then invited questions and comments from the Council. At the conclusion, he shared that he doesn't really believe that Christianity is first and foremost about self-care, but it is important to articulate our needs and desires. Being rooted and grounded in love is the only way it is possible to hold that tension, especially with all that life throws at us.

**Announcements**

Brief announcements were made regarding the following day.

**Evening Vespers**

The Worship Team led a time of Evening Vespers. The story "I Am Courage: A book of resilience" by Susan Verde and Peter Reynolds was shared. Where did you notice courage today? Where did you feel courage today?

**Adjournment**

The Council adjourned until the following session.

**Fifth Session, 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 11, 2022**

**Gathering**

The Council gathered online prior to the opening of the session.

**Worship**

Worship included singing, readings from Ephesians 3.14-21 and Acts 2.37-47 and a reflection from Aaron Miller. During this worship we observed a beautiful tribute to those from the Region who have died.

The Rev. Muriel Edith Baird  
The Rev. Richard Grant Bracewell  
The Rev. Arthur James Griffen  
The Rev. Kenneth Paul Taylor  
The Rev. Kathleen Eleanor O'Neil  
The Rev. Grieg Jonelle  
The Rev. Evelyn Jean Rigby

**Theme #4  
"Blessing"**

Jeff Chu began by sharing an unpublished essay about radishes called "Daikon." This essay highlights that while we lament what the church needs to repent of, there is a flip side. We find it especially in the Psalms when the psalmist rages against God, when the psalmist blames God, when the psalmist lashes out against God for abandonment or absence. It is an expression of expectation that God should show up.

Lament is a profound act of trust and accountability and gives beautiful voice to faith. While asking the Council to think about what the church needs to repent of, Jeff acknowledges that perhaps grief was experienced. Grief at work should not have been. Grief at what could have been and wasn't. We grieve when our family of faith doesn't live up to its high calling, we grieve when our actions don't match our rhetoric, we grieve our hypocrisy and its real-world effects, we grieve the consequences of our fear - individual and collective, we grieve our timidity, and our allegiance to the seven deadliest words in the church "but we've always done it that way."

As with lament, there's a flipside to grief too. We grieve what we love in our expressions of grief, and of disappointment, even of anger that somehow manages to radiate from the reflections of yesterday. Jeff said he sees love long suffering, love patient, love. Love that says I want this church to be the best possible version of itself. Grief tells us the goodness we hope for and the way we want things to be.

God has written into creation itself a story of second and third chances. As Jeff has looked at the hopes and dreams and aspirations, he is thrilled at the hearts that found their confluence in this place. He sees the feelings that went into the sentiments and can imagine the same sense of longing when the United Church was formed ninety-seven (97) years ago, and in another ninety-seven (97) years we will still be making mistakes, and still be struggling with difficult diversity and the profound challenge of Christian unity. We will still be wrestling with what it means to be a family of faith with all the baggage that the metaphor rightly brings because we're human.

The dreams and aspirations have come from within; they are ours; we exist simultaneously in the already and the not yet.

Jeff thanked the Council for their attention and for their growing of generous, open lives for the sake of Christ in the world. He answered some questions from Whova and from the floor.

After a lovely blessing from a member of the Council, Jeff shared a bit of his own story. He was moved by Aaron Miller's sermon which included a story about his mother who was one of the first lesbians to seek ordination in the United Church of Canada. Jeff shared his own story about the process to be ordained in his tradition. Ingrid Brown offered prayer for Jeff and his ministry.

Jeff shared that there were seed packets in participant nametags, and some had been sent to online participants. Seeds are evidence of life that has already come forth and flowered and once flowered, died. Seeds carry an inheritance we have from our ancestors, and they continue the stories of the land, and its peoples. Seeds remind us of generations of life and death, cycles of blossoming and fading, stories of beginnings and endings and then beginnings again. They are a reminder that we serve a God of second and third and fourth chances, a God who takes us through death and onward to resurrection. Rooted and grounded in love, we hold on to the hope of the good that is still to come, and the redemption that will yet come.

The Council showed their appreciation for Jeff and his ministry.

## **Business**

The President invited Bob Fillier to guide the clarification phase of the proposal system. Bob invited Leslie Ross, Keith Simmonds and Janet Gray to speak to the proposals which they helped formulate.

## **The Work of the Region**

Executive Minister, Treena Duncan, introduced Pamela Evans, Mary Nichol, and Daniel Martin from the First Third Ministry Team.

### **First Third Ministry**

Pamela, Mary and Daniel shared pictures and stories about their experience with children's ministry over their own lives. Because they had these experiences, they understand how important ministry to those in the first third of their lives is.

They asked the Council to reflect together on the question: "Is there a moment that as a child/youth/young adult that you felt the presence of God in a Community of Faith or church ministry?"

The First Third Ministry Team and Campus Ministry Team were introduced to the Council. The work of the First Third Team was shared: Connect, Equip, and Imagine.

They shared that the Certificate in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry: a joint program between Pacific Mountain Regional Council and VST had their first graduates this year.

The work of First Third also includes Camping Ministries, which includes seven (7) United Church Camps, and of course, Camp Spirit.

Campus United supports four (4) university campus: Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia and University of Victoria. The values held in the Campus Ministry team are spirituality, formation, social justice, and community.

The logo for First Third Ministry is F3, which on a computer keyboard is the Search Function. It can help us think of a child, youth, or young adult who are seeking something more deeply.

#### Adjournment

Following grace led by the First Third team, the Council adjourned for lunch.

### Sixth Session, 1:30 p.m., Saturday June 11, 2022

#### Gathering

The Council gathered online prior to the opening of the session.

#### Theme Practice

A telling of the Godly Play Story: the Parable of the Sower was offered by Lindsey Veenstra.

#### The Work of the Region

##### LeaderShift

Allison Rennie, Director of LeaderShift, spoke about the ministry. They expressed gratitude for those who have participated in LeaderShift events over the past years. We have learned, together, how to meet the needs of each other. They thanked folks for showing up. When things are so new, sometimes they feel awkward, and then phony, and then all of a sudden, we begin to feel as though we finally understand it and there is integration.

Allison shared some of the events that are coming up, and shared that Janet Gear's book "Undivided Love" based on the Theological Buffet is now available.

##### Equity Project

Kimiko Karpoff shared information about the Thriving with Equity research project which seeks to hear from equity-seeking clergy people. Kimiko invited equity-seeking ministry personnel and communities of faith to participate in the survey, focus groups, or one-on-one.

#### General Council Deployed Staff - Office of Vocation

The President introduced deployed General Council staff The Rev. Brenda Fawkes, the Office of Vocation Minister serving Mountain Candidacy Board, Pacific Mountain Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council.

Brenda explained what her role is, because there is always some confusion about the role of the Office of Vocation. While oversight and discipline are within their portfolio, there is also a support of the vocation of Ministry Personnel from the first request through retirement. The Office has suggested that they be referred to Vocational Ministers to recognize this complete ministry support.



There will be an in-person discernment event, in relationship with LeaderShift, happening in October. The tagline for the Office of Vocation and its staff is: Faithful, Well-Equipped Ministry Personnel. There are forty-six (46) candidates under her care and of the Mountain Candidacy Board; fifteen (15) from Chinook Winds and thirty-one (31) from Pacific Mountain Regional council.

Brenda introduced members of the Region who serve on the Board of Vocation and its committees, and she offered praise to the members of the Mountain Candidacy Board.

Brenda introduced the candidates who will be received into ministry during the Celebration of Ministry: Melanie Ihmels to be Commissioned, Philip Francis to be Ordained, and The Rev. Jonah Lim to be Received. The candidates spoke to the Council about their calls to ministry.

Treena Duncan offered thanks to Brenda Fawkes, and offered blessings on the work she does. Brenda is a gift to the Region who does the work of supporting faithful, well-equipped ministry with grace, rooted and grounded in the Spirit, in purpose, and in mission.

**Moderator  
Candidate**

President Blair Odney introduced The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Executive Director of First United Church Community Ministry Society, has been called to let her name stand as a candidate for the 44<sup>th</sup> Moderator of The United Church of Canada. The President spoke about Carmen and her work at First United Church.

The President, Executive Minister and Indigenous Ministries Minister John Snow offered a blessing to Carmen as she and the church continue to discern.

**Indigenous  
Ministry**

Indigenous Ministries Minister The Rev. John Snow shared a vision for Indigenous Ministry that will declare that Indigenous folk will tell their own story: who they are, who constitutes their groups, ministry and practices. Colonialization has directed how these will happen, but they will determine a training program for ministry preparation and will help leaders to be competent as healers and helpers of their communities that are crying out. They will do Indigenous theology with their own Indigenous understanding of the Christ story. This is what is needed.

He shared the importance of sacred lands and the parallels between Indigenous Peoples here, and the Hebrew people and the first humans in the Bible. He shared that Indigenous communities and lands have suffered, and the work of indigenous ministries over the past two years have been limited by COVID. There has been a very prominent virtual presence and John thanks members of the Council for attending, and listening, and being witnessed to these gatherings. He thanks folks for being vulnerable and being open as we look forward, because we have so much work to do. He shared that he is a residential day school survivor, and he shared about his work in Port Alberni with the unmarked graves; meeting with the community chief and council, and with residential school survivors circles.

He then invited Carmen Lansdowne and Jim Angus to address the Council.

Carmen spoke about the period of discernment for her nomination as a candidate for Moderator, and her deep curiosity about what the spirit is up to during this time. While the restructuring of the church has brought bumps and obstacles, and frustrations and joys, and celebrations and freedoms, it has also let the Indigenous church be set adrift in some ways; though perhaps less in this Region because of the commitments of the Conference and the Region over the years.

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Carmen expressed hope in the church that she witnesses through the work she does throughout The United Church of Canada. She shared that, like her daughter who is in the court making people laugh and smile, she began attending church events and national consultations at a young age with elders past and present. While there are fewer young people to take on the mantles of the Elders, and it is unknown whether or not the future of the Indigenous Church is viable, she is hopeful.

Jim Angus spoke about his concerns for the future of his church and community. He shared some history about the government's treatment of Indigenous Peoples and the goal to destroy the Indian in First Nations people. Through reservations, and rules and regulations on fishing, and residential schools and the 60s scoop, they have continued to try. He told stories of refusing to quit speaking his language and watching his sister being taken away for adoption. He spoke about current challenges facing communities, such as drug overdoses.

Jim concluded by asking where the church stands when it comes to keeping the Native Community Church alive? Where does it stand when it comes to reconciliation; how to repair the damage that was done by the government of this country and how do we handle that as a church.

Gratitude was expressed by Jim and Carmen by John who concluded with scripture.

## Proposals

Bob Fillier brought us back to proposals, beginning with questions that were missed earlier and some clarification about proposal 22-05 which was not part of the earlier conversation.

### Proposal 22-01 M/S/C (L. Ross / B. Fillier) that

*Pacific Mountain Regional Council forward the proposal "Recognized Ecumenical Shared Ministry Specific Circumstances" to the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive for consideration as it continues to develop its ENDS Policies.*

### Proposal 22-02 M/S/C (K. Simmonds / B. Fillier) that

*the Executive examine and report to the Regional Council the types of support needed for Communities of Faith to flourish, what strategies are being taken to provide that support, and the strategies to ensure ongoing evaluation of what supports are needed.*

### Proposal 22-03 M/S/C (J. Gray / B. Fillier) that

*Pacific Mountain Regional Council direct the President to encourage every Community of Faith within its bounds to engage in thoughtful action and advocacy in response to the climate emergency.*

### Proposal 22-04 M/S/C (B. Fillier / K Brittain) that

*for the next triennium (until 2025) The Pacific Mountain Regional Council will meet in a hybrid format (with online and onsite participation) each year.*

### Proposal 22-05 that

*the Pacific Mountain Regional Council forward the proposal "The body of Christ as an essential antidote to the opioid crises" to the Executive for discernment and prioritization.*

This motion was withdrawn and proposal 22-06 replaced it.

## Executive Nominations

Graham Brownmiller, chair of Nominations, spoke to the slate for the Regional Council Executive. When the Region was formed, the first Executive was elected for three (3) years with the expectation that a staggered second-term would occur in 2022. Many members have agreed to stay on in this staggered formation. There was one vacancy through the year which was filled by Nominations to be ratified today in this slate, and another vacancy which is to be filled in this slate.

**M/S/C** (G. Brownmiller / J. Goddard-Sheppard) that

the Regional Council approve the slate of members for its Executive with the end-of-term noted:

- Jim Angus (2025)
- Katherine Brittain (2024)
- Jenny Carter (2025)
- Anna Chambers (2023)
- Ibi Chuan (2023)
- Bob Fillier (2025)
- Laura Hermakin (2025)
- Peter Jones (2023)
- Blair Odney (2023)
- Deborah Richards (2024)
- Thea Sheridan-Jonah (2024)
- Ivy Thomas (2025)

Upon this slate being approved, the President invited the members present to be recognized and thanked for their willingness to serve.

## Listening to the Owners

Deborah Richards, President-Elect, returned to summarize what flourishing communities of faith looked like to this gathered Council. The summary will be used as part of the Executive discussions throughout the fall and brought back to the Council.

Some of the things that were heard repeatedly: deep spirituality, sense of evangelism, connection, outreach, looking outwards and looking forward, all can come in and be welcomed, reconciliation, how we treat each other respectfully and kindly, strong sense of identity, strong sense of vision to guide and be a standard or goal to head towards in the future, collaboration, vibrant worship, a sense of innovation, a sense of risk, leadership, flexible governance models, leadership, empowering leadership by all in diverse ways that grounds our faith in these times.

**Proposal 22-06** **M/S/C** (B. Fillier / G. Powell) that

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council directs the Executive to discern a way forward to help communities of faith address the drug toxicity crisis and our role in it.

## First United Church

Cari Copeman-Haynes and Amanda Burrows shared about the First Forward Capital Campaign Cabinet which supports the First United Church Community Ministry Society. Cari and Amanda shared about the history of First United Church and the importance of the ministries it provides. Indigenous Peoples make up four percent (4%) of the population of the Lower Mainland and yet forty percent (40%) of all unhoused are Indigenous.

They shared the story of moving the Totem Pole when the building was about to be demolished. They invited the original Carver to help them properly take it down and move it. During the gathering she said, "this is not about homelessness, it's about houselessness. We Indigenous Peoples understand we all have a home in creation."

Cari and Amanda shared about the capital campaign, and while the Regional Executive had already committed a donation, when they met with them again, they agreed to an additional one million dollar (\$1,000,000) donation.

Gratitude was expressed for the support of members of the region, and an encouragement to consider donating to the campaign was made.

## Gratitude

Executive Minister, Treena Duncan, offered gratitude on behalf of the Regional Council to those who helped this General Meeting happen. An event like this takes a lot of planning over many months.

She thanked the staff of the Prince George Civic Centre; we are not an easy group to accommodate and they were quite amenable to supporting us. She also thanked the City of Prince George for its support of this event in the form of a grant.

Treena thanked the volunteers from the congregation of Trinity United Church in Prince George, particularly Gabrielle and Red Rocks Nursery and Blaine McFadden who donated the seedlings that make up the centrepieces.

Treena thanked Hilde Seal who helped pull together some of the décor for the space and Graham Brownmiller (online) and Leenane Shiels (onsite) for taking minutes.

She acknowledged the General Council deployed staff: Vicki Nelson and Brenda Fawkes, who feel like ours even when General Council staff. Thanks was offered to Michael Blair, General Secretary, General Council for being present even in the midst of holding the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting; his support and witness to our work is greatly appreciated

Treena thanked Allan Buckingham, event coordinator, for his preparation work, and although he was unable to be present, that work was so helpful. The team from Prince George who stepped up to help, including Bob Fillier, Rebecca Fillier, Victoria Andrews and the team of volunteers.

Treena again thanked the entire staff team, and in particular Tressa Brotsky, Mauricio Arajuo, Jes Beckerly, Jane Dawson, and the First Third team for a great program for children and youth.

Treena commented on one of the things that makes a hybrid meeting work is to have online hosts. Allison Rennie and the LeaderShift Team stepped up to take that role with a whole roster of staff and volunteers including Beth Hayward. Having this support made the online and hybrid option work for this meeting.

The General Meeting is planned by a committee, and Treena thanked the Theme and Worship team, coordinated by Ingrid Brown, consisting of Jen Cunnings, Ibi Chuan, Sarah Prestwich, Aaron Miller, Tammy Lindahl, and Lindsey Veenstra. The music team consisted of Gregor Schoenberg, Jenna Spowart, and Kelly Thomas. Though he has already been thanked, thanks is again offered to Jeff Chu who was very involved in pulling the theme together.

Treena thanked Bob Fillier, who chaired the Business Committee among all of the other jobs that he had to take on, such as local arrangements and tech support.

**4<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MEETING, PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, JUNE 9-12, 2022**

President Blair Odney became president just as COVID happened. He has served well and we as a Region have been blessed by his leadership, wisdom, commitment, and passion for the church. He exemplifies that passion through all aspects of his leadership in his ministry, and in his leadership as president we have been blessed beyond measure by his service. A gift was offered to the President, crafted by an Indigenous artist, James Corbiere. It is a carving named "Mother Earth takes a vacation after COVID."

President Blair then offered thanks to Executive Minister, Treena Duncan and commented that she does this work like it's a ministry. The staff speak about being loved and cared for and nurtured and that speaks to the character of Treena Duncan.

**Affirm Celebration & Worship**

During worship an update about the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Affirm process was offered by Pam Rocker. Following a reading of Ephesians 3.14-19, Katherine Brittain offered a response to the passage. The PMRC Vision statement was shared and the Region received its certificate from Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble. During this time, attendees responded to the question "Becoming an Affirming Regional Council grounds us in love because ..."

**Adjournment**

The Council adjourned for a(n optional) celebration barbeque in the Canada Games Plaza and Community Celebration for those in-person.

**Seventh Session, Sunday June 12, 2022**

**Celebration of Ministry**

The Regional Council gathered in worship and provided access for communities of faith to stream. This Celebration of Ministry worship saw the commissioning of one (1) minister, the ordination of one (1) minister and the admission of one (1). The Rev. Michael Blair preached a sermon on Ephesians 4.1-4 . Following the installation of Deborah Richards as President, she offered a commissioning and benediction, at which point the meeting was adjourned.



**Pacific Mountain Regional Council**

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Rev. Blair Odney, President

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Ms. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister

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