



AGENDA & REPORTS

JUNE 2021

This Booklet is Version 7

V7

Edited Versions of this Booklet see page:

64 Record of Edits to PMRC GM 2021 A&R Booklet

with hope and abundance

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.



PMRC executive, staff and ministers invite us each to wear an Orange Shirt during the GM on Saturday June 12

Agenda (V7)

Friday June 11, 2021

- 1:00 Opening of the Meeting
President's Address
Moderator's Message
Worship
- 2:15 Business
- 3:10 Affirming Region Discussion
- 3:55 Keynote: Cameron Trimble
- 4:20 Prayer and Announcements
- 4:40 Adjournment
-
- 7:00 Gathering together again
Keynote: Nadia Bolz-Weber (with Cameron Trimble)
- 8:15 Closing Worship, Announcements
- 9:00 Adjournment

Saturday June 12, 2021

- 8:45am Gathering together
- 9:00 Worship
- 9:30 General Council Message with General Secretary Michael Blair
- 10:00 Executive Accountability Report
(break)
- 11:00 Affirming Discussion
- 11:45 Office of Vocation Update and Stewardship Update
- 12:15pm Lunch Break
-
- 1:15 Zoom Coffee Time
- 2:00 Business and Proposals
(break)
- 3:30 Keynote: Cameron Trimble
- 5:00 Announcements, Closing Motions
- 5:05 Closing Worship
- 5:30 Adjournment

Keynote and Guest Preacher

NADIA BOLZ-WEBER



Friday Evening 7:15pm PT / 8:15pm MT
Sunday Morning 10am PT / 11am MT

Keynote

CAMERON TRIMBLE



Friday 3:55pm PT / 4:55pm MT
Saturday 3:15pm PT / 4:15pm MT



Celebration of Ministry Service

Sunday June 13, 2021
10am PT / 11am MT

Online, from Highlands United Church

Click the URL below to Join:

<https://youtu.be/7h5wMhfpReU>

Click the underlined text to open links!



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Proposals Received

To come in a separate document.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REV. BLAIR S. ODNEY

Hello my beloveds,
I can't wait to see you in June. Oh, I know we have encountered each other over the past months in our town hall gatherings to check up on one another. But in June I get to hang out with you over 2 full days, to hear what's on your heart, and to imagine together what God is doing within us, and through us. That's what fills me with hope. And to have Nadia Bolz-Weber and Cameron Trimble join us for some passionate inspiration? Well, that will be the blessed and abundant icing on the cake.

With Hope and Abundance – that's our theme, based on the text from John 10:10. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." The Common English Bible offers it this way "The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest." I find the nuanced difference compelling. Abundant life is not about stuff. Its about living life to the fullest.

I first encountered this text while on the program staff at Naramata Centre in 1994. (Sorry, I'm still the ol' white guy spinning old stories about back then. Its pertinent, I promise.) I was the only manager available to coordinate a brand new program for pastoral care providers, social workers, doctors, and hospice workers dealing with all manner of pastoral issues. We grounded the learning experience in themes of death and dying, believing if you've faced death, all other pastoral issues are manageable. Our theme presenter for the five days was Vicki Lannie, a contemporary of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross and Director of Hospice Services at the Methodist Medical Centre in Peoria Illinois.

The integrative, body work was led by Healing Touch Practitioner, Rochelle Graham. Music was central to the

experience. To shape our musical life, we finally called the Rev. Barbara Myers; an incredible pianist and singer, whose voice is like velvet, whose story breaks your heart.

John 10:10 became our guiding text and the program became known as New Life and Abundant Care. It ran three times, and it spawned the formation of the Healing Pathway at Naramata Centre. Rochelle Graham and I created that learning curriculum in response to those three career-changing events.

In the first fifteen minutes of her first presentation, Vicki Lannie asked the participants to write down the answers to two questions; "What does your death mean to you? What does your dying mean to you?" She could not have known that this was my life-time fear. Even as I write this, I can remember when I was five years old, clutching onto my father screaming, "I don't want to die." The last panic episode happened when I was well into my mid 30's, sweating, pacing the hall, freaking out, with my six-year-old son sleeping in his bedroom.

Near the end of the week, in a healing touch session, with John 10:10 on our hearts, we learned the Sacred Chakra Spread, a practice offered to those in transition, usually when they're dying. It was my turn. Two others worked on me. I closed my eyes, scared out of my mind. I heard the music. I felt a hand touch my heart. But no one touched me. I know to this day, the Risen One met me there. Tears are streaming down my face as I write this. When I got up from the healing touch table, I remembered the words from Jesus Christ Superstar: "To conquer death, you only have to die." If that's what its like to die, I thought, I can do that. From that moment to this, all fear, all anxiety, all panic has been released.



When Christ can meet me, where I hurt, Christ meets the world where anyone hurts. If that can happen to me, then it can happen to anyone. From that moment to this, I've lost my life for the sake of the gospel and my life has come back to me, in an abundance I can't even begin to describe.

Isn't that what we're called to be and to do? To be sacred space and to create opportunities where the living Risen One meets you, me, anyone, right where they are, where they live. And then aren't we called to get out of the way and let that Risen One do what the Risen One does, so that those same beloveds, released from what ever they fear, may imagine living life to the fullest. And then aren't we called to help them hear the invitation back into life; "Follow me."

Spend five minutes with Nadia Bolz-Weber and you'll recognize that this empowering good news really is for everyone. Spend five minutes with Cameron Trimble and you'll hear that insistent call to go to the world. How blessed are we? How gracious is our living God who calls us to be the United Church of Canada at this time in our history? There has never been a more important time for us to be us.

That, my beloveds, is why I'm excited to see you.

*In Christ,
Rev. Blair Odney
President*

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

TREENA DUNCAN

As the planning team began to prepare for this meeting, our second online regional gathering, it would have been easy to fall into thinking about the struggles of this pandemic. Instead, we challenged ourselves to focus on the many gifts of this time. There are so many examples of hope and abundance in the stories of our faith: water into wine, the feeding of the multitude, manna raining from the sky, and even the story of creation, to name just a few. The theme of this Annual Regional Meeting invites us to stop, reflect, pray, and consider whether or not the stories of God's abundance are merely written in a book that we revere or whether they are real experiences of faith that translate from these pages to our hearts. In a world that constantly fills us with fear about scarcity, it is good to remember that we worship, serve, and are loved by a God of abundance.

In her book, "The time is Now," Sister Joan Chittister says: "Despair colours the way we look at things, makes us suspicious of the future, makes us negative about the present. Hope, on the other hand, takes life on its own terms, knows that whatever happens, God lives in it, and expects that, whatever its twists and turns, it will ultimately yield its good to those who live it well. Despair cements us in the present, hope sends us dancing around dark corners trusting in a tomorrow we cannot see. Despair says that there is no place to go but here. Hope says that God is waiting for us someplace else. Begin again."

This pandemic has us on the line between hope and despair, but it offers us a chance to gain a new perspective. Cameron Trimble will lead us through an exploration of this idea, recognizing this as a time of great revealing, which both points us to the future and allows us to see what all has been there along. It is a moment of radical disruption that is full of grief and pain, yet also a time of great opportunity.

It has been a busy time since we last gathered together. I have been blessed to be part of a committed, hope-filled and gifted staff team. I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to all of our staff and volunteers for all they do; we are a fantastic team and a shining example of God's abundance.

The vision of the Region: Effective Leadership, Healthy Communities of Faith and Faithful Public Witness, are the principles that guide the work of staff.

As you will see through this report and agenda book, many amazing things are happening throughout the region. LeaderShift moved from in-person events and courses to offer a variety of online programming and coaching to support, encourage and equip leaders in their work. At the Region's Executive direction, we have been developing our Regional First Third Ministry Program. In addition to community events for children, youth, young adults and families across the council, the First Third ministry focus is on building a comprehensive leadership development program that will support young people across the region to develop their faith, their leadership capacity and strengthen their connections to their communities of faith. We have been exploring how the Region can best support Justice ministry. We continue to work on property matters, engaging the question of using our abundant resources to enliven our ministries.

At the core of all of the Region's work is this important question: How does the Regional Council support Communities of Faith and Ministries as they live out their unique United Church of Canada call to be the church? Our most important goal is to facilitate opportunities for connection to each other, to your community, and to the holy. You will



have seen this lived out through town halls, coffee hours, learning events and retreats. The regional executive has been doing the work of policy development and governance to have clear leadership policies in place and a framework from which to lead into the future.

In this second pandemic-Pentecost, we can welcome and experience the abundance of the holy spirit, and, like the early church, we don't yet know exactly how this story is going to end. As we give thanks for lowering COVID numbers, successful vaccinations and increasing allowances for being together again – the ebb and flow of struggle to resolution, of hope and despair remain.

So friends, let's live true in this moment, taking care of each other in the uncertainty, holding one another through the grief and loss of life. And let's also hold the Christ light for one another, stoking the flame of hope for a new day. We are loved by God, which means that through the struggle, we will trust the rising power of God to dance with us together around the corner into the hope and abundance that is there for us to claim.

*Blessings,
Treena Duncan
Executive Minister*



Celebrations

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

CELEBRANDS

2020-2021

Ordination

Andria Irwin

Joanne Scofield

Andria Irwin

It all started with a tattoo. After hearing an internet sermon preached on Luke 5:5, Andria got the letters 'BYSSIW' permanently etched on the skin of her left wrist and began what would become an exploration of her call to ordained ministry. Simon Peter, fishing to no avail, is instructed by Jesus to let down the nets yet again and replies to Jesus, doubtfully but agreeably, "... because you say so, I will." BYSSIW. Andria's journey towards ordination is one that has looked upon this phrase every moment of every day, letting its declaration of discipleship guide her discernment and call.



Andria currently serves on the ministry team of Highlands United Church in North Vancouver. She is also the minister of United Online, a church plant project of the Pacific Mountain Region that encourages authentic expressions and communities of faith in the digital landscape and coaches worshipping communities as to how they can better engage in mission in the virtual world.

The intersection of theology and technology is one that Andria came to organically after entering seminary following working in the fields of communication and freelance writing. She is grateful for the support and wisdom of her professors and supervisors as she pursued this passion alongside her ministerial vocation. Other identity shaping experiences along this journey have been a six-month placement in a United Methodist Church in the United Kingdom, and co-authoring a book with Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee (*Embodied Discipleship in a Digital Age*, Baker Academic, Aug. 2021).

Andria is eternally grateful to the mentors, colleagues, and friends who walked this path with her, listening ever so generously and pushing/pulling/dragging when appropriate. She would like to name her parents, Sandi and Rev. Nick Parker, and the rest of her family (biological and chosen) for helping her reel the net in.

Joanne Scofield

I recently returned to B.C. after living in Ontario for a number of years. I began my discernment in Shining Waters Region with support from my home congregation, Richmond Hill United Church. Since moving to B.C., I have had a wonderful welcome from Pacific Mountain Region and the congregation at Penticton United Church, where I completed my SME.

I completed a Master of Theological Studies, Master of Pastoral Studies with a Certificate in Psychotherapy and Testamur at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. My background is in community based health care where I worked primarily in the areas of senior health and housing. I have an interest in community development, faith and justice.



CELEBRANDS

CONTINUED

Admission

Jaylynn Byassee

Jaylynn Byassee

My birth roots are from the flat plains of West Texas in the US. My theological roots come from the hills of Oklahoma, where my grandparents were life-long members of the United Methodist Church. I am a cradle Methodist. I studied education in university, and spent years teaching children with special needs and elementary education, including one year abroad teaching English as a Second Language in Budapest, Hungary. I love discovering and learning about new cultures and peoples. I have travelled for ministry and mission to India, Rwanda, Kenya, South



Africa, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico.

After following a call to seminary at Duke Divinity School in 1998, I earned my Master of Divinity degree and was ordained through the United Methodist Church. In over 20 years of experience, I have led churches of all sizes across North Carolina and in the western suburbs of Chicago, serving in urban, rural, and suburban settings.

Our family followed a call to Vancouver for my husband, Jason, to teach at the Vancouver School of Theology. We have 3 children, with the oldest graduating from secondary school this June. We are now in our sixth year of living in Canada. I have served in different positions across Vancouver, helping folks walk alongside the marginalized and work to restore dignity and welcome for refugees arriving in Vancouver. I have been an advocate for supporting mental health education in the church, and care for the elderly.

Rev. Ed Searcy was my first Canadian friend, and the first to share with me a love for the United Church of Canada. Each year of living in BC, I got to know more and more clergy in the UCC, and sensed a desire to learn more, especially with my Methodist roots. As I sought out clergy and churches to learn from, I continued to be drawn closer to the United Church—giving me a familiar sense of rootedness, while also expanding my horizons and understanding of the church. I was moved by the UCC's intentional way of cultivating a place of welcome for all persons, and for me personally, for the way women in ministry were the norm, not the exception.

Throughout my journey in the United Church of Canada, I have found an admiration for my colleagues who lead in creative and innovative ways. I respect their courage to stand for justice and their fervor for ministry with the marginalized, whom Jesus calls us to love.

I am grateful for the foundation of the United Church of Canada, for its strength in unity and inclusion, whereas followers of Jesus we grow in faith together as we share in Kingdom living with and for all peoples. I feel honoured to have my ordination recognized and for my full admission into the United Church of Canada. As I seek to grow and learn even more, I'll do so with a denomination I can now call home.

RETIREES

2020-2021

Wisdom, Thanks and Celebration!

**Rev Heather
Anderson -**
Ordained 1985
Retired
February 2021



Rev. Stuart Appenheimer -
Retiring July 1, 2021

Rev. Bill Cantelon - Retiring
August 31, 2021

Rev. Minnie Hornidge -
Retired April 11, 2021

Rev. Ken Jones - Retiring April
30, 2021

Rev. Maggie Watts-Hammond
- Retiring June 30, 2021

Rev. Stuart Appenheimer
Retiring July 1, 2021

I was born and raised in Saskatchewan and was a candidate for ministry at Cupar United Church. I made a firm decision to follow Jesus Christ when I was 16. After completing a B.A. at the University of Regina, I earned an M.Div. at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon. I was ordained on June 10, 1979 in a crowded, hot, mosquito-filled gymnasium in Melfort, Saskatchewan. I was minister at Marsden-Neilburg Pastoral Charge (Saskatchewan) for 9 years. In 1988, I was called to be Senior Minister at Brighthouse United Church in Richmond, where I have served for 33 years. It was a big move for me, my spouse, Anne, and our family: We didn't want to leave our families, friends and home province, but it was clear that the Lord was calling us to Brighthouse United Church. Three of our children were born in Saskatchewan - Melinda, Joanna and Benjamin; Elizabeth, our fourth child, was born in Richmond. Anne and I treasure our years in Marsden and Neilburg and in Richmond - and the many precious people we were given the privilege of knowing, loving and serving. I am also grateful for opportunities that I had to serve in presbyteries and conferences, and now in our Region. I have tried in my life and ministry to proclaim, lift up and honour Jesus Christ, to be faithful to the scriptures and to love and serve others. There have been times of struggle, pain, joy and encouragement. God has been faithful through it all. It has been a humbling privilege to serve as a minister. Thank you for giving me that opportunity. I don't have major plans for retirement at this point - except to enjoy our grandchildren and our family!



Rev. Bill Cantelon
Retiring August 31, 2021

I was born in Edmonton but my early childhood years were spent in Saskatoon. Our family returned to Edmonton where I completed my education. Following in the footsteps of both my father and grandfather, I was sponsored by Central United Church (Edmonton) and received as a candidate by Edmonton North Presbytery at its meeting in Bon Accord United Church (just outside Edmonton) in the fall of 1968. During undergraduate studies at the University of Alberta, I was appointed as a student minister to the Warspite, Radway, and Waskatenau Pastoral Charge in the County of Smoky Lake; South Cooking Lake, North Cooking Lake, Hastings Lake, and Ministik Pastoral Charge in Strathcona County; and Grace United Church in Edmonton. (I also worked as a student minister at Willowdale United Church in Toronto while studying for the ministry at Emmanuel College.) Ordained by the Alberta Conference, I served the Oyen Pastoral Charge (settlement appointment); Stettler County Pastoral Charge/Stettler United Church; Sunnybrook United Church (Red Deer); and Riverbend United Church (Edmonton). After 29 years of ministry in Alberta, I received a call to Cordova Bay United Church in Saanich, B.C. in 2006. My wife Brenda, a retired clinical pharmacist, and I have been married for 46 years and have a daughter and son and two granddaughters, who bring us great joy. To borrow a sentiment expressed by (the late) Thomas Berger: "I've never become jaded. Weary, dispirited, furious, frustrated, perhaps," but I've never lost faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ nor in the witness of The United Church of Canada.



RETIREES

CONTINUED



Rev. Minnie Hornidge, Retired April 11, 2021

I have served as a minister to the ministers in three Pastoral Charges: Omineca, Hazelton, and Port Alberni. Ministry has been one of the joys of my life and now I am transitioning into retirement. While, I will continue to live into my passion for reconciliation, with new emergent ideas bubbling up, I am, firstly, excited to have more time to be with family, play, and create beautiful quilts. I appreciate the opportunity to pivot a ministry, well before the pandemic, by leading a new church plant, Courageous Community Center. I say, "Kleco, Kleco, Thank you, to all the people along the way who have made ministry meaningful, fun, engaging and sometimes challenging."

Wherever you are and whatever you offer into God's ministry, know that it is enough.

Be well in these unique times of great disturbances. A place where the Spirit of Life hovers, broods, creates.

Rev. Ken Jones, Retiring April 30, 2021

Born and raised in the suburbs of Toronto, I have been – in my own words – running away ever since I could. I attended Guelph University and then, after a short life working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, went off to Queens Theological College.

After ordination, I was placed in the four-point Bideford Pastoral Charge in PEI, and after five years moved north of Toronto to the Keswick Ravenshoe Pastoral Charge to be closer to family. Five years later, I moved with my family to Enderby, B.C., where I spent nine years before going to Revelstoke for two months that, to my surprise, ran into nine more years. I moved to Oasis United in Penticton to finish off my career. Again, to my surprise, after just three years, I ended up moving ministry to the Oliver and Osoyoos United churches. I was also out of pastoral ministry for two years in the early 2000s.

I look forward to spending more time on the waters of Kootenay Lake in my kayak and if a fish wishes to join me for supper that would be okay, too. Although I expect to use my crystal bowls for online meditations, I am leaving the next part of my life open as much as possible, seeing what comes up. I know it will be good. I am so appreciative to have been part of so many peoples' lives and am a very changed person because of all of you. Thanks and blessings.



Rev. Maggie Watts-Hammond, Retiring June 30, 2021

I love the adventure of life. I'm originally a prairie girl, who grew up mostly in Winnipeg and I still dream of the open sky of the prairie. But after living in BC for more than 30 years I'm still excited to hike through the mountains, and see the abundance of life in the sea and the coast is still amazing to me. I love Kayaking and messing around in boats.

As a young adult I studied Journalism and then Economics. But my love has always been writing. I worked as an economic writer, a PR writer, and finally a Technical and Policy writer, first for other companies and then freelance. After 20 years as a Freelance Technical Writer – writing on technology, science and medicine I embarked on a new adventure. I combined freelancing and raising my two children with training for a second career in ministry. I graduated from Vancouver School of Theology with a Master of Divinity in 2006. And I was ordained that year to a Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. And we all survived: me, my husband, my children.

Ministry is never what we expect. As a vocation it calls for, and offers, an enormous variety of skills, abilities, opportunities for creativity. It is ever engaging. Working in "outreach and justice" ministries takes you into a sense of communities (plural is deliberate) that fill the world with diverse understandings of living. A constant

ANNIVERSARIES

ORDAINED, DIACONAL, DESIGNATED LAY MINISTERS 2021

RETIREEES

Rev. Maggie Watts-Hammond
continued...

source of parable and story.
The Bible is always a new journey – every week – as down the rabbit hole I go, discovering something always old and always new.

The journey with Christ is always an adventure, never the same, and like hiking the western mountains there are slippery places, and fearful obstacles, a lot of rain, and once in a while, a glorious view.

COVID has been the biggest challenge and the greatest opportunity I can imagine. I've learned so much. Doing ministry in the midst of trauma is probably what ministry has always been about – but for those of us with privilege – it's something we may not have realized until now. It's exhausting, but still inspiring.

I believe that Jesus Christ offered and modelled God's love for all people. That Jesus invites us into relationships and situations stranger than anything the Vicar of Dibley encountered, and as confusing as the movie Inception. I believe that God's power working in us can do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.

I think this next stage of life will be just as much of an adventure. After I've slept for a while – a few months, I think I'll be ready to set off again.

5 Years

Kevin Sprong (Admitted)
Joan (Kennedy) Kessler
Simon LeSieur
Karen Hollis
Deborah Marshall
Susan Rodgers
Mary Nichol
Elaine Julian
Rhian Walker
Kathleen Barber
David Cooke
Herb Russell

10 Years

Gabrielle McLarty
Kerry Child
Lori Megley-Best
Leanne Benoit
Kimiko Karpoff
Julianne Kasmer
Brenda Wilkinson
Mary White
LeAnn Blackert (Admitted)
Julianne Lees
Mary Therese DesCamp (Admitted)
Heather James

15 Years

Charles Ahn (Admitted)
Hilary Bitten
Maggie Watts Hammond
Sandra Nixon
Paula Ashby
Michael Caveney (Admitted)
Ivy Thomas

20 Years

Megumi Matsuo-Saunders
Hyuk Cho (Admitted)
Jenny Carter
Peter Thomsen (Admitted)
Jong Woo (Admitted)
Deborah Walker
Sarah Fanning

25 Years

Karen Verveda
Douglas Astle
Barbara Myers
Anne Manikel
Shannon Tennant
Brian Burke
Evelyn Rigby
Ruth Cairns
Patricia McColl
Sheila Dunbar

30 Years

Margaret Enwright
Phillip Spencer
Brent Woodard
Elaine Smith
Colleen Campbell
Linda Benson
Douglas Longstaff (Admitted)
Barbara Martin (Admitted)

35 Years

Shelley Stickel-Miles
Eleanor O'Neill
Mark Collins
Valerie Reay
Mary Gaynor-Briese
Edward Lewis

40 Years

Douglas Alexander
Michael Cochrane
Sharon Wilson
Murray Etty
Donald Collett
Valerie Taylor
Gary Gaudin

45 Years

Wayne Atkinson
Frederick Taylor
Douglas Martindale
Duncan Barwise
Joan McMurtry

50 Years

Richard Allen
Faye Greer
Alfred Dumont
William Dyer
Kris Jensen
Brian Thorpe
Brian Shields
Barry Morris
Franklin Lough
John Lindquist
Donald McCallum

55 Years

Robert Thompson
Michael Mandich
Peter Newbery
Gerald Hobbs
James Beal
Dean Boundy
Bruce Cameron
Brian Jackson
Douglas Cossar
Bruce McIntyre
Glenn Watts

60 Years

Darryl Auten
Gordon Craig
Paul Newman

70 Years

Arthur Griffin
Irvine Hare

MEMORIALS

2020-2021

Rev. Dr. Alan Reynolds

April 15, 1930 – November 14, 2020

Rev. James Elliot

September 19, 1933 – November 9, 2020

Rev. Frank Hanlan Ward

August 24, 1926 – January 9, 2020

Rev. Gordon Oliver Cann

January 14, 1934 – January 17, 2021

Rev. Peter Lemmer

January 11, 1936 – January 23, 2021

Rev. Dr. George Hermanson

May 20, 1939 – February 2, 2021

Rev. Barry Renton Thomas

August 29, 1939 – March 19, 2021

Rev. Robert John Shank

d. April 3, 2021

Rev. John Hooper

October 1932 – April 2021

Rev. Dr. Alan Reynolds

April 15, 1930 – November 14, 2020

Alan Reynolds passed away at the age of 90 at Richmond Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Brenda; his daughter, Diana; sons, Peter, Patrick and James; daughters-in-law, Julie, Valerie, and Kelly; eight grandchildren, Courtney, Jillian, Cameron, Thomas, Elizabeth, Lucia, Livia, and Nina; nieces, Joyce, Joan, and Margaret Ann, and nephews, David, Bruce, Sandy, and Doug and their families.

The youngest of three sons, Alan was predeceased by his parents, Rev. A. J. and Phoebe Reynolds and his brothers, Alfred and Burton. Born in Summerside, P.E.I., Alan had many happy memories of growing up in the Maritimes. After completing a Bachelor of Economics and a brief career in banking, Alan felt called to spiritual leadership, working tirelessly to obtain a Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Systematic Theology and a Doctor of Ministry from esteemed universities in Nova Scotia, New York City, and San Francisco. He was ordained a minister in The United Church of Canada and devotedly served churches in Fredericton and Sussex Corner, N.B., as well as a chaplaincy at Mount Allison University. While serving as a young minister on the East Coast, Alan met Brenda and they were married in 1962.

In 1970, the Reynolds family moved to Vancouver, B.C. where Alan was minister at Ryerson, Marpole, University Hill and St. Stephen's (Delta) United Churches for a combined 25 years. While Alan loved to teach through his sermons, he was known for his warm delivery and engaging manner. Alan's pastoral heart embraced all those he served from coast to coast, and he continued to reach out in love and prayer to so many people throughout his entire life.

Alan was a true "churchman." He loved the church, certainly all those in it, but also the organization itself. He contributed to the national and local life of the United Church, and faithfully reminded it of its theological and evangelical roots, perhaps most eloquently in his books, *Reading the Bible for the Love of God* and *A Troubled Faith*. A younger generation of ministers remembers the kind, generous, non-judgmental support he provided.

Alan was an enthusiastic outdoorsman who loved to garden, walk, fish, camp, and cross-country ski. Music played an important role in Alan's life, singing as well as playing the trombone, particularly with River City Gospel Jazz and the Christmas Eve family brass ensemble. Immensely proud of his family, Alan enjoyed the huge gatherings of 17 for Sunday dinners and birthday celebrations, as well as many special vacations, from Whistler weekends to Disney cruises. There was little that brought him more joy than hearing his family laugh together.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 10 years ago, the past decade introduced challenges that Alan approached with strength, dignity, and a positive outlook. Brenda would like to sincerely thank Dr. Cheryl Hau for her special care for Alan through this struggle.



MEMORIALS

CONTINUED

Alan Reynolds continued

After retirement in 1995, Alan created the Reynolds Rap, a weekly email series. His sign off was this: "Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God." These words continue to inspire many.

Alan truly exemplified the following: that character matters, what you believe matters, what you say matters and, most of all, what you do matters.

An online service took place November 21, 2020 from University Hill Congregation with Rev. Aaron Miller officiating.



Rev. James Elliot

September 19, 1933 – November 9, 2020

Jim Elliot attended St. Stephen's College in Edmonton and was ordained in 1960 by Alberta Conference. He served several charges in Alberta before coming to B.C., including Magrath-Del Bonita, Sherwood Park (Edmonton), and St. David's (Calgary). In 1975, Jim came to South Arm United Church in Richmond. He then served Highlands United Church (North Vancouver, 1981-1983) and Hazelton (1984-1987) before taking on the highlight of his career: serving as superintendent of First United Church in Vancouver. Bob Smith, who met Jim in theological college and served with him at First, recalls some of the qualities that brought Jim to First: "He was creative,

had a warmth of personality, a sense of humour, and was a great leader." After retirement in 1998, Jim moved to Halfmoon Bay on the Sunshine Coast. He lived out his days at "the hermitage" (as he called his home), pursuing his love of writing.

Rev. Frank Hanlan Ward

August 24, 1926 – January 9, 2020

Frank Ward died peacefully at age 94 at his son James' home in Burnaby, B.C. He is predeceased by his sisters Mary and Jean, brothers Tommy and Harry, and eldest son Tom (2017) and survived by his "Beloved" wife Elizabeth of 64 years; children James (Dulce), Helen, and Ian; grandchildren Kurt, Santiago, Nicole, Tomas, Praise; nieces and nephews Raymond, Allan, Donna, Robert, Anne, David, Jeanette, Anne, Frances, Claire.

Frank grew up in Toronto. He graduated from Toronto Bible College in 1947 and the University of Western Ontario. He began preaching in his teens, including a summer in Quebec. He hitched a voyage to Scotland where he completed theology studies at New College, preached in the Scottish highlands and in Glasgow, and helped in the rebuilding of Iona Abbey, which began his life-long connection to that community.

Frank met Elizabeth while he was a student minister at St. Christopher's kirk where her family attended and she sang in the choir. They married on July 31, 1956 in Edinburgh. The couple settled at Frank's first charge with the United Church in Apsley (rural Ontario), then moved to Oshawa. They drove their young family to the coast in 1966 where Frank was the minister at Willingdon Heights United Church (Burnaby) until he retired in 1987. Frank's love of life was rooted in a Christian faith that embraced politics, nature, and the arts as ways to build God's kingdom of love, joy and peace. He served as a chaplain in Oakalla

women's prison and uplifted men in addiction treatment with Johnny Cash's music. Frank's political work included supporting Filipino political prisoners, joining political parties, running for local office, founding the North West Capitol Hill Community Association with neighbours, and membership on the Burnaby Planning Committee. The Haven – his home in Maple Ridge – was dedicated as a sanctuary for wildlife as an act of environmental stewardship. Frank's calm presence, quiet acts of service, generosity, laughter, name recall, gentle humour, goodness, and wisdom will be deeply missed. "I have set before you life and death; therefore choose life."



Rev. Gordon Oliver Cann

January 14, 1934 – January 17, 2021

Gordon Cann passed away peacefully at home with family close by. He was predeceased by Annie, his wife whom he met in Glace Bay and shared a strong loving partnership in marriage for 62 years. Gordon is survived by his children, Kimberly Anne (John van Gorp), Mary Lou (David Rawlinson), George (Susan), Michelle (Charles Lynn) and Philip; and grandchildren, Sarah, Peter and Katelyn, Christopher and Alex, Eric and Michael, and Samantha and Nathan.

Born and raised in Louisbourg in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Gordon attended Mount Allison University before being called to the ministry and attending Pine Hill Divinity Hall.

MEMORIALS

CONTINUED

Gordon Cann continued

As a minister for The United Church of Canada, Gordon received calls that saw him offer care, hope, promise, comfort and support to many from coast to coast across Canada. After student ministry in Saskatchewan and Bermuda, Gordon served as an ordained minister in New Brunswick, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Lower Sackville, Edmonton and finally Victoria, where he and Annie retired.

Aside from an endless level of patience and compassion, Gordon also developed a reputation for helping congregations with special projects that would help grow and strengthen the communities these churches supported. True to his heritage, he was a great storyteller and was often a wee bit late to his next appointment because he had a story to share that would offer comfort, a smile or a laugh to those who needed it. Gordon will be remembered by the thousands whose hearts he touched, whose souls he succored, whose spirits he lifted every day.



Rev. Peter Lemmer

January 11, 1936 – January 23, 2021

Peter Lemmer was ordained by Bay of Quinte Conference in 1980. He served charges at Dunlop in Sarnia, Ontario (1982-1987); Dundas Street Centre in London (Ont.) (1987-1990); Southwold, Shedden (Ont.) (1991-1995); and Tsawwassen United Church, Delta, B.C. (1995-2001). Peter retired in 2001.



Rev. Dr. George Hermanson

May 20, 1939 – February 2, 2021

George was born in Regina, the first-born son of Elof and Ethel (much better known as Hermie and Peggy). His university education began at the University of Saskatchewan and he completed a Bachelor of Arts at UBC.

In 1964, and newly married to Wendie Reinhardt, George began theological studies at Knox Presbyterian College at the University of Toronto. He soon felt called to adjust course and he transferred to the University of Chicago where he earned his master's degree in Ethics and Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary (1967). In Chicago, George found a powerful mix of theology and social justice and took an active role in the Civil Rights Movement. The experience reinforced and further developed what would be a life-long dedication to social justice issues.

Ordained in The United Church of Canada, George began his ministry in Castlegar, B.C. In 1970, he was hired as the United Church chaplain at UBC where he influenced many young lives and developed deep bonds. A year of sabbatical took him and his family to southern California where he completed his doctorate at the Claremont School of Theology. His doctoral work was an interdisciplinary exploration of the self as agent using process theology, sociology, psychology and current issues. From 1978 on, he was active in the Center for Process Thought and Process and

Faith. He was also a member of the Jesus Seminar. With Peter Woods, he developed jazz liturgies.

In 1984, George left UBC to become the director of the United Church's Five Oaks Retreat Centre in Ontario. It was at Five Oaks where George met Suzanne and they married in 1992. Together they brought process theology to the congregations they served throughout the province and for all who gathered at their table. After George's formal retirement, he and Suzanne formed the Madawaska Institute where both led seminars and formed lasting friendships.

In the fall of 2019, George and Suzanne moved to Nanaimo to be close to family and friends. He will be missed by his wife, the Rev. Suzanne Sykes; children: Craig and Jeremy (Diane); grandchildren: Gavin, Naomi, William, Olivia; brother Donald (Christine); as well as numerous relatives and friends.



Rev. Barry Renton Thomas

August 29, 1939 – March 19, 2021

Born in Rosemount, Montreal, Barry Thomas began his career as a mechanical engineer in Dominion Engineering, Lachine, when computers were just getting started. Barry then transitioned to being a member of the clergy in The United Church of Canada, first in northern Alberta, (Hythe), then in southern Ontario (St. Thomas area) and lastly in Ottawa.

His life juxtaposed the scientific life

MEMORIALS

CONTINUED

Barry Renton continued

with the spiritual. In 1980, he moved back into the technical world where he studied electrical engineering and worked for CSIS. In 2004, he and Helen moved to Qualicum Beach. Always active in body and mind, Barry enjoyed biking, dancing, golfing, bridge, and exploring nature, in all its many intricacies. Intuitive and caring, Barry opened many doors into meaningful living relationships.

Barry was predeceased by his brother, Bob (Barbara). He leaves his sister, Judy (Ron), wife, Helen, and sons Ian (Jennifer), Lorne (Joanna), and Wade (Nedine), as well as ten grandchildren.



Rev. Robert John Shank
d. April 3, 2021

Bob Shank was ordained in 1959 by Saskatchewan Conference. He served several pastoral charges in Saskatchewan and Alberta before coming to St. Andrew's-Wesley in Vancouver, 1971. After nearly 20 years in Vancouver, he served as minister for St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas in Montreal (1990-1998). Bob retired to the west coast, serving as retired supply at Steveston and Highlands (North Vancouver).

Bob was a fine minister, devoted husband, father and grandfather, and a great friend. He was a mentor to so many people in life and in ministry and

was a most supportive person in the Highlands community, where he served as Minister Emeritus.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, he wrote regular messages to ministry staff and lay leaders with a constant flow of appreciation and supportive feedback on everything that was happening at Highlands. Bob was there in times of joy and times of grief for many of us throughout the years, always with kindness and compassion.

Bob's faith was strong and unwavering. He believed in God's power of love to overcome anything, and trusted that love explicitly. His words were down to earth, honest, and inspirational. When he preached or spoke from the pulpit, there was a directness that made you want to listen, sensing that he was talking to you directly.

Bob suffered a stroke on March 30th and was taken to hospital, where he died on April 3rd. He is survived by his wife, Pearl, and their family.



Rev. John Hooper
October 1932 – April 2021

Jack grew up on a farm in southern Ontario with a brother and four sisters. At the age of 17, he moved to Quadra Island where he finished high school and earned money for

university as a fisherman. During this time, he made deep life-long bonds with the Cape Mudge Band (We Wai Kai Nation). With a new wife, baby and Bachelor of Divinity degree, he began his 34 years of service with The United Church of Canada as a pastoral minister, then later as a Presbytery and Conference minister. Along the way he greatly enjoyed the work he did as a sensitivity/group development trainer with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups.

Family life, with the addition of two more children, became more adventurous with experiences of communal living and attempts at creating a back-to-the-earth intentional community. He was a man of many skills and particularly enjoyed building the family a log home in Prince George as well as a post-and-beam house on Vancouver Island.

Throughout his life, Jack was a man of deep faith, compassion, patience, grace and humour. He is remembered and much loved by many, especially his wife, Elaine, sons, Greg and David, daughter, Jennifer, son-in-law, David, grandsons, James, Eric and Daniel, and many nieces and nephews from coast to coast.





Business

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

MISSION

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ABOUT/ABOUT-PACIFIC-MOUNTAIN-REGIONAL-COUNCIL/

The Mission of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive is:

- *Healthy communities of faith and ministries;*
- *Effective leadership;*
- *Faithful public witness.*



"WE ARE THE CHURCH" ARTWORK BY [EMILY THIESSEN](#)

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/REGIONAL-COUNCIL-EXECUTIVE/

Jim Angus
Katherine Brittain
Beverly Brown
Jenny Carter
Anna Chambers
Ibi Chuan
Bob Fillier
Laura Hermakin
Peter Jones
Blair Odney, President email: President-PacificMountain@united-church.ca
Jay Olson

ENDS POLICY SUMMARY

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.

G. 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.



ENDS POLICY

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/WORDPRESS2021/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/PMRC-APPROVED-ENDS-20210321.PDF

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. 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).
4. Recognized and covenanted Communities of Faith will have equitable access to financial and practical support to develop and connect to clusters.
5. Recognized and covenanted Communities of Faith will be supported equitably in accessing existing and emerging networks.
6. 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.
7. The Regional Council will ensure that all the Responsibilities identified in the *Manual* section C.2 are executed.
8. 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:

- referral to resources for worship and ministry;
- Interpretation and advice on the *United Church of Canada Manual*;
- advice on governance;
- access to professional archival materials;
- facilitation of connection to information from the wider denomination.

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;
- b. Connected
 - i. Ministry Personnel are connected to colleagues and the wider church.
 - ii. Ministry Personnel gather for collegiality and cooperation with others in the Region.
- c. Engaged
 - i. Ministry Personnel have ongoing training that provides knowledge and skills for 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.
- b. Connected
 - i. Lay leaders are connected with others that share similar work, interests and gifts in church leadership.
- 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.
 - ii. Lay leaders have the opportunity for personal spiritual growth.

ENDS POLICY

CONTINUED

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.

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.

E. 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. Covenantal Ministries will receive quick access to assistance and support via regional staff and communities of faith.
2. Covenantal 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. Cost of participation will be equitable.

- a. Barriers are eliminated.
- b. Rural and vulnerable communities will not bear disproportionate financial cost of full participation.

F. 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.

G. 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.

GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCEDURES

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 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 the Whova electronic platform where the online meeting will be hosted. Only eligible voting members logged into the Whova platform will receive a request to input their vote once a vote has been called by the President. In the case of technical issues during voting, the President can choose to accept votes sent in by email from voting members when submitted under the same email used during registration.
- 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 helpful 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 but 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 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.



BUSINESS COMMITTEE MOTIONS

M/S (B. Fillier/K. Brittain) that:

1.The Roll of the 3rd 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 11, 2021. (The Manual 2021 C.1.1 and C.1.2.) Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll.

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 2021 C.4.3)

3.The Bounds of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council shall be the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered members; the Whova™ digital meeting space created for this meeting and any telephone connections established.

4.The agenda as posted on www.pacificmountain.ca and within the Whova™ platform 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 both platforms.

5. The President shall have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.

6. Graham Brownmiller be named as the recording secretary for the 3rd General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

7.The minutes of the 2nd General Meeting of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council held October 16 – 18, 2021 over Whova™, be received for information.

8.The Plenary portions of the agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council website.

9.The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Mauricio Araujo, Katherine Brittain, Tressa Brotsky, Allan Buckingham, Jenny Carter, Anna Chambers, Treena Duncan (Executive Secretary), Bob Fillier (Chair), Blair Odney (President).

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 (2021) or Bourinot's Rules of Order.

11. At the discretion of the President, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.

12.Voting shall be carried out by members using the Whova™ electronic platform where the online meeting will be hosted. Only eligible voting members logged into the Whova™ platform will receive a request to input their vote once a vote has been called by the President. In the case of technical issues during voting, the President can choose to accept votes sent in by email from voting members when submitted under the same email used for registration.

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 2021, 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 threshold for any successful vote to become an Affirming Ministry be set at 75% of those eligible to vote.

17. 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 to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.

18. Proposals directed to the General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 9:00 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2021. 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. Like proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.

19. If 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.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE MOTIONS

20. 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.

21. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be the chat box. For a procedural point of order members of the council are to use "Point of Order" at the start of their statement. For a prayer request, members of the council are asked to use "Prayer" at the start of their request.

22. All unfinished business, including non-General Council proposals, shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.

23. Verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.

24. Nominations for Commissioner to the 44th General Council be received by the regional office before 9 a.m. on Friday June 11, 2021.

25. Nominations for President-Elect be affirmed as having closed on June 4, 2021.

26. Items of New Business shall be given to the Business Committee before 12:30 pm on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

27. The Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive will have the authority to elect additional Commissioners to the 44th General Council (2022), if necessary, to fulfill the slate of fourteen (14) Regional Council-elected Commissioners, as set by the General Council.

28. Nominations for Regional Council Executive be received by the Regional Office before 9 a.m. on Friday June 11, 2021.

29. The President be permitted to appoint members to the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive, in consultation with the Nominations Committee, to fill any vacancies on the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive between General Meetings. Any appointment will be subject to election by the next General Meeting of Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

30. Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before 5:30pm on Saturday, June 12th without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.

31. Payment of member expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. Late claims submitted after June 30, 2021, shall not be paid.

ENABLING MOTIONS

M/S (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 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. All digital records of public chat/comment boxes within Zoom™ and Whova™ will be appended to the record of proceedings.

5. The meeting adjourns following the completion of business as ordered and the benediction received concluding the Celebration of Ministry service, June 13, 2021.

PROPOSALS

[HTTPS://PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/REGIONAL-GENERAL-MEETING-2021/#PROPOSALS-RECEIVED](https://pacificmountain.ca/administration/regional-general-meeting-2021/#proposals-received)

The link above will take you to the area on the GM website with the Proposals that were received prior to the rise of GM2021. You can also find information about how to bring a Proposal forward during the meeting.

PROPOSALS GUIDELINES

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/REGIONAL-GENERAL-MEETING-2021/PROPOSALS/

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 might have something to share for education, or desire a conversation about a specific topic. You might want to have some education and conversation about a topic leading towards taking action. A “proposal” is the formal request for any of these.

The Manual (2021), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a way for creating a proposal. Proposals can be submitted before the Regional Council meeting, to be circulated in the Regional meeting resource, or a proposal can be submitted to the chairperson of the Business Committee before the scheduled close of submission of new business during our Regional Meeting. See the agenda for the specific close of business time. Any proposals received after the deadline will be forwarded directly to the PMRC Executive.

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:
 - Education – the major intention is to educate the Regional Council about something important.
 - 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 as part of a decision proposal including financial implications.

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?

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.

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 will be 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 Proposals form here

Or see the form on the next pages:

PROPOSALS FORM

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 *

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

PROPOSALS FORM

CONTINUED

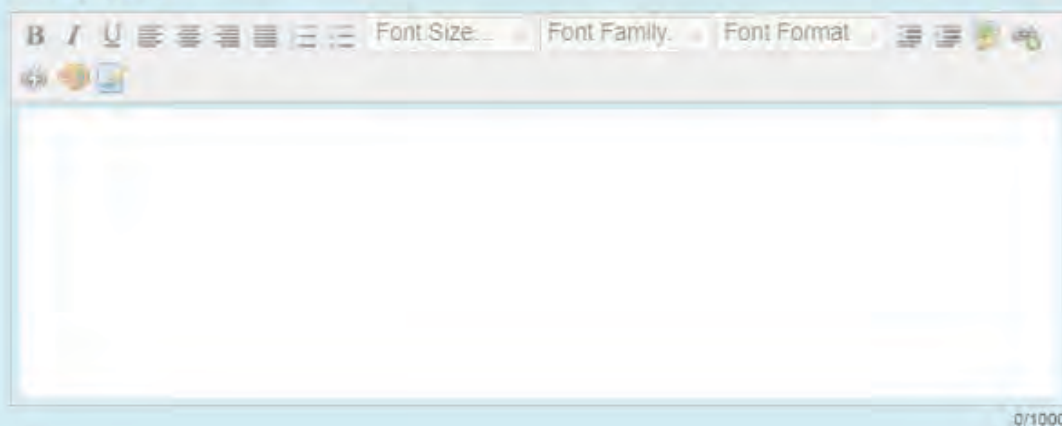
Proposal: What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

Proposal *

A rich text editor interface for the 'Proposal' section. It features a toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, font size, font family, font format, and text color. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for writing the proposal. A character count '0/125' is displayed at the bottom right of the text area.

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 rich text editor interface for the 'Background' section. It features a toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, font size, font family, font format, and text color. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for writing the background information. A character count '0/1000' is displayed at the bottom right of the text area.

PROPOSALS FORM

CONTINUED

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 at the top containing icons for bold, italic, underline, bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, font size, font family, font format, and other formatting options. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for input.

Community of Faith (if applicable)

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

Governing Body Comment (if applicable)

A large, empty rectangular text area for input, with a small icon in the bottom right corner.

Confirmation *

- ☐ I am ready to submit this proposal

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/VOLUNTEER-WITH-THE-REGIONAL-COUNCIL/

The Nominations Committee meets regularly when there are vacancies on the various Councils, Committees, Working and Advisory Groups of the Region. We 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.

The work of the Region does not happen without you! So please pay close attention to the nominations when they are sent out. We are going to try limiting the times that we seek nominations to spring, (just-prior-to) summer, and fall. We take 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.

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 Graham Brownmiller (chair) or Brenda Wolff (Staff).

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





Finance & Property

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

FINANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE/

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
- Treena Duncan, Executive Minister
- Ken Fanning, Chair
- Jane Harding
- Mike McAuley
- Houston Mo, Director of Finance and Property
- Gordon Robinson
- Larry Scott
- Ken Tunnicliffe

In June 2021, Larry Scott and Ken Tunnicliffe who have been members of the Council for many years will step down. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Larry and Ken for their time serving on the Council. We are delighted to have Gordon Robinson joining the Council in March 2021.

2020 Financials

(For the 12 months ending December 31st):

Despite the economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a financially successful year for Pacific Mountain Region, with respect to its operating results as well as the strength of its financial resources.

The Region ended the year with an accounting surplus of \$3.4 million and a healthy working capital of \$1.2 million, which further strengthen its financial position. Fund balances for the year ended December 31, 2020 increased by \$3.4 million, or 7.3 percent, primarily due to strong performance of our managed investment portfolio and secured funding from General Council Office as well as various endowments held by the Vancouver Foundation.

This year, expenses before amortization under the Operating Fund were \$445,000 or 17 percent under budget, which is a result of savings realized from virtual gatherings. Virtual offerings are clearly going to play a significant role going forward for budgetary consideration.

Financial results of the Region are prepared by staff and are fairly presented in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. I am pleased to report that Rolfe Benson LLP, our external auditors, has provided a clean audit opinion on Region's 2020 financial statements. Additionally, our auditors did not identify any material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or areas of noncompliance with laws and regulations.

The Region's stable financial position will continue to fund its ongoing operating needs as well as new strategic initiatives and priorities in the coming years.

A summary of the financial position and operations of the Region is on the following page.

Investments

In 2020 investment returns averaged 16.3% (2019 – 16.8%) 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 2016 to 2020 the Region had an average annual investment return rate of 9.2%. 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 the Property Resource Team (see complete report in this Reports Booklet).

Mission Support

In 2020 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 Our Place (Victoria), as well as to several shared ministries.

FINANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONTINUED

Mission Support

In 2020 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 Our Place (Victoria), as well as to several 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. Starting January 1, 2021, the Centre has been making repayment of both principle 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. There are 6 funds, five related to former presbyteries (Comox-Nanaimo, Fraser, Vancouver-Burrard, Victoria, and Westminster) and the sixth for the rest of the Region. Established in 2011/12 using funds from the sale of church properties, each fund established its own criteria. Annually each fund receives income from a 5% transfer of the original capital and all the earned investment income. For more reporting on the ProVision fund, see 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
- Phone: 250.248.2490

Respectfully,
Ken Fanning

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current	1,392,005	7,222,768
Investment	57,749,863	44,057,326
Loans	2,810,483	2,798,062
Capital Assets	10,128,059	10,710,224
TOTAL ASSETS	72,080,410	64,788,380
Liabilities		
Current	186,896	182,816
Funds held in trust	19,715,775	15,321,449
Deferred capital contributions	1,413,518	1,487,914
Due to Property Development Council	723,730	1,184,127
TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,039,919	18,176,306
Fund Balances		
Invested in capital assets	8,714,541	9,222,310
Restricted	35,073,163	31,638,274
Unrestricted	6,252,787	5,751,490
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	50,040,491	46,612,074
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	72,080,410	64,788,380

Summarized Statement of Operations

	2020	2019
Revenues		
Investment income	2,104,920	1,150,279
Grants and contributions	1,242,598	4,276,028
Jardine, VanDusen and RM Cherry Funds	1,003,132	974,799
General Council Office	713,000	713,000
Loan interest and other	251,747	294,541
Regional assessments	117,863	122,172
Programs	32,782	92,070
TOTAL REVENUE	5,466,042	7,622,889
Expenses		
Grants	2,065,499	1,707,602
Salaries and benefits	1,309,038	1,337,994
Programs and committees	1,257,354	1,211,484
Investment fees	229,524	198,192
Office and sundry	176,013	260,422
General Meeting	46,747	175,250
Professional fees	24,138	52,861
Executive	17,962	41,150
Amortization	657,951	716,907
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,784,226	5,701,862
Surplus (deficit) before the following	(318,184)	1,921,027
Change in fair value of investments	3,746,601	3,900,669
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	3,428,417	5,821,696

PROPERTY RESOURCE TEAM

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 3-POINT PORTFOLIO

The 3-Point Portfolio refers to congregational properties currently being redeveloped by the Region in partnership with BC Housing & 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 five projects in the Portfolio.

1. Como Lake United, Coquitlam
Completion 2021
2. Brechin United, Nanaimo
Completion 2021
3. Lakeview United, Vancouver
Construction start 2022
4. Brighthouse United, Richmond
Pre-development
5. First Metropolitan United, Victoria
Pre-development

NEW CHURCH SPACE

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

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 practical 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 the Three Point Housing Society, a non-profit organization with a reporting relationship to the Pacific Mountain Region of The United Church of Canada.

PROJECT UPDATE

The construction of Brechin United and Como Lake United has fully resumed and both projects are expected to be completed in late 2021 with occupancy shortly afterwards. Construction financing for Lakeview United is expected to be in place by August with a construction start in early 2022. Brighthouse United is under a full review of all project details to create a new viable business plan. First Met United is undergoing a new feasibility study and project plan in partnership with Three Point Housing Society and United Property Resource Corporation. We are in conversation with several other congregations interested in conducting a feasibility study on their properties.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Don Evans, Director of Property Development*



PROVISION

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/SUPPORT/CHURCH-FINANCES-GRANTS-AND-FUNDS/PROVISION-FUND-AND-GRANTS/

The calendar year of 2020 marked the beginning of the consolidation process which will combine the assets and activities of the five Area/Presbytery based ProVision Funds into the Pacific Mountain Region ProVision Fund. At the end of 2019 the Vancouver-Burrard Area fund consolidated into the Region ProVision Fund. At the end of 2021, the ProVision Funds of Fraser, Comox-Nanaimo and Westminster will also consolidate. At the end of 2023 the coalescing will be completed with the termination of the Victoria Area ProVision Fund.

It is because of the foresight of the former Presbyteries and Conference that our Pacific Mountain Region continues to have grant funds available for new and creative ministry projects. It is very positive that this financial resource has a long term future and will continue to respond to many application for grants that meet the Region's criteria for the Fund.

Members of the United Church in the Region can find the details of the criteria, operating procedures and application processes on the Pacific Mountain Region website. The internet link is:
<https://pacificmountain.ca/support/church-finances-grants-and-funds/provision-fund-and-grants/>

The Fund was greatly affected by the changed operating circumstance of our Communities of Faith due to the pandemic through 2020. While there were fewer Applications in 2020 compared to other recent years, all of the ProVision Funds honoured grants awarded previously and allowed for modifications in both ministries and timetables of the projects/programs.

In addition to continuing the multi-year grants that had begun before 2020, the five ProVision Fund Committees made 24 new grants in 2020 totaling \$526,556. Many programs were suspended or radically reduced because of pandemic protocols. The committees agreed to an additional mid-summer meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic, however this proved to be unnecessary. The Fund committees are expecting some new applications in relation to program proposals to address the church's post-pandemic recovery.

In 2020, there were about 25 programs that had been approved for on a multi-year basis continued to receive funding. Each was affected (delayed or modified) by the pandemic. A few delayed their start date and others took an uncertain break from operations. The Fund Committees have agreed to be as helpful as possible as the United Church Communities of Faith address post-pandemic implications and demands

The Victoria Area ProVision Fund made four new grants in 2020 from both its Small and Large Grant categories. The Small Grants included: support for a leadership development program at First-Met and a UC programming initiative in Abbey Church. The large grants were: to Oak Bay for the first phases of a program to research and develop broad online programming; and a 2 year grant to the newly amalgamated Broad View UC.

The Comox-Nanaimo Area ProVision Fund made six new grants in 2020, all to Communities of Faith. These included two two-year grants to Campbell River UC for their community service ministries of a Hot Breakfast program and a Saturday Soup Kitchen ministry, a grant to Camp Spirit, a final grant to Powell River for their community communications ministry, another grant to St. Andrews Nanaimo UC for its coffee break ministry and a grant to Knox, Parksville UC to start its Gathering Place drop-in community program.

Fraser Area ProVision Fund noted the continuation of a few multi-year ministry programs. In relation to two of these, the mid-Valley Cluster development and the Cloverdale UC Intercultural harmonization ministry, the Fund made new and final grants to them in 2020. There was also a 2020 grant made to Camp Spirit in relation to programming with United Churches of Langley.

The Westminster Area ProVision Fund continued its multi-year grants awarded previously to a few churches and made 5 new grants in 2020. Two were given to Inlet UC, one for program development in their newly amalgamated ministry and another to their mental health outreach ministry. An outreach pastoral ministry, Good Vibrations, was supported at Shiloah-Fifth Avenue UC as was a church history project at Pitt Meadows UC.

The Region ProVision Fund met four times and began including responsibilities for the former Vancouver-Burrard area. Six new grants were made. These included another year of support to the Summerland UC Food Bank and Resource Centre, new grants to Nelson and Kamloops UCs for educational ministries, support for the launch of a Wild Church initiative in the Kamloops area, support to a Healing Pathway program in Williams Lake UC and underwriting development and education costs regarding online ministry through Nelson UC.

This report next year will give a fresh outlook into the Fund's wide-spread Regional challenges and the opportunity that the many Faith Communities will have in tapping into the Region's ProVision Fund resources. It will include the then known amount of its Investment Fund as well as the status of the Fund for making grants in the years which start with 2022.

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Gordon How
ProVision Fund Committee Secretary

STEWARDSHIP ANIMATOR

FOR PACIFIC MOUNTAIN, CHINOOK WINDS, NORTHERN SPIRIT, LIVING SKIES AND
PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONS PHILANTHROPY UNIT, GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



Generosity is a practical expression of love. Gary Inrig.

Greetings,

My name is Vicki Nelson and I am the new Stewardship Animator serving Pacific Mountain Regional Council. I live in Regina Saskatchewan, and am looking forward to the opportunity to get to know the people and communities in Pacific Mountain.

My role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith and other ministries in the areas of stewardship, 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.

Called to be the Church

One way we may connect is through an online learning program, Called to be the Church: The Journey. These trainings are designed for congregational leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase giving and deepen connections within your community of faith. Cohorts are currently being assembled for Module 1: Stewardship Best Practices. After 4 weekly gatherings, participants will have developed a custom plan for their community of faith. Following that we will work together to realize this plan, inviting more people to make generous use of the gifts God has given and expressing gratitude for shared abundance. If this type of training would be valuable in your faith community, please reach out and we will find a time that works for you.

Gratitude

The Mission & Service Fund is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to save and transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we can do more than we can do alone. In 2020 your Mission & Service funding supported life changing and life saving work in Pacific Mountain Region. From Our Place Society in Victoria, to First United Church in Vancouver, the vulnerable are being cared for and their worth celebrated. Mission & Service also supported innovation and resource sharing in a number of faith communities such as Robson Valley, Port Hardy, Lillooet and beyond. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Pacific Mountain, and around the globe. Thank you for your gifts.

Sharing stories about Mission & Service is an effective way to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage generosity in your community of faith. The pandemic has changed many things, including the way Minutes for Mission are shared and told, however they certainly have not gone away. New stories are being frequently posted. For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also videos that tell personal stories of the life changing work for Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you all. It has been a hard year, with lots of uncertainty, but you have persisted. You have found meaningful ways to be a person of faith during a dark time, and are still generously giving of yourself to provide leadership to this Regional Council. It is amazing. Thank you.

In gratitude,
Vicki Nelson

vnelson@united-church.ca





Mission & Ministry

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/MINISTRY/THE-PMRC-ARCHIVES/

This year, the Committee said farewell to two stalwart members whose terms came to an end. Gerald Hobbs and Janet Gear have dedicated a combined 15 years to our work; they have seen the Archives through two facility moves and significant enhancements to our program's goals and direction. We are truly grateful.

Research Services

Naturally, research and reference services declined in 2020. During the year, the Archives provided services for 151 researchers, 8 of whom were in-person visits (compared with the annual average of 220 requests and 65 in-person visits).

Reconciliation and Decolonizing our Archives

There is a strong mandate for the role of archives in the work of reconciliation and decolonization, as set forth in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Indigenous Church's Calls to the Church.

The Archives and History Committee has affirmed its commitment to this work over the long term. How we work toward this goal will continue to evolve, but the Association of Canadian Archivists and Indigenous partners have provided a framework to guide us in this work.

Expanding our Narrative

The Committee is aware that the Archives' holdings do not necessarily reflect the stories and experiences of the church's full membership. Although our denomination's ethos and reputation is one of inclusiveness and we now celebrate and uphold intercultural ministries, our archives are missing some of the richness and variety of stories that are part of the region's history and ongoing story. The Committee is looking at ways to address and/or acknowledge these gaps through a program that will complement our traditional Archives program.

Projects

RSHDC partnership: Our project work with the Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (RSHDC at UBC) has been put on hold during the pandemic because students have not been able to provide onsite digitization work.

New Collections Management System (CMS): For the past year, the archivist has been working with General Council staff to create our own online catalogue. The site will provide high-level descriptions of all our processed collections as well as thousands of descriptions from our graphics database. It offers the potential to add thumbnail images and other digital material.

Re-description: In keeping with the United Church's commitment to inclusion, reconciliation, and anti-racism, we are reviewing our online archival descriptions to remove outdated or inappropriate wording associated with racism, sexism, colonialism, or otherwise harmful or offensive language.

*Respectfully submitted,
Leenane Shiels, Chair, Archives and History Committee
Blair Galston, Regional Archivist*



AFFIRM WORKING GROUP

A few highlights about the exciting work your PMRC Affirming team has been up to:

- We hosted a townhall meeting to test where the region was at regarding the question and topic of affirming ministry.
- We offered a Lenten study program based on the book *Queer Virtue* by the Rev. Liz Edman, in conjunction with the Chinook Winds Regional Affirm team.
- We shared jointly with Chinook Winds in a townhall event and conversation led by former UCC moderator Gary Paterson.
- Our team started a significant discussion among ourselves with an umbrella conversation regarding how affirming ministry intersects with interdependent aspects of personhood, justice and the inclusion of all people. We expect this work will continue to evolve as the region considers using regional resources to support this. Part of the action plan leading us forward must include providing resources which are culturally sensitive in multiple languages and in various mediums.
- We arranged with Treena Duncan and Blair Odney to host a regional staff and executive retreat to test out our *Work in Progress* Affirming Ministry statement for the region.
- We also garnered important and substantive feedback to support our planning in leading up to our anticipated regional affirming vote at the general meeting and for the follow-up and ongoing work of creating practice and policy that will be necessary following the meeting, regardless of the vote and any directions given to the executive emerging from that.
- We hosted a third townhall meeting using much of the feedback we received thus far and additionally testing the *further tweaked* Affirming Ministry statement for the region as well as some “Bumper Sticker” statements which the team has been playing around with which will support the overall statement and anticipated policies of PMRC.
- We have further tweaked the statements and firmed plans for our two planned presentations at the general meeting and arranged for leadership for the Saturday afternoon closing worship to be led by members of our team.
- With a positive vote by the region to become an Affirming Region, we will have only just begun a journey of education and action. A plan will be developed through the PMRC Executive to integrate this decision into all aspects of the region’s work.
- I cannot express my personal gratitude, along with our team for the gift of us being supported in this work by the incredible Pam Rocker. I grow in appreciation and deep thankfulness for her gifts each time I am honoured to talk or meet with her!

Laura Hermakin,
on behalf of the PMRC Affirming Ministry Team



PROPOSED

Affirming Ministry Regional Statement:

Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada acknowledges and laments that the Church, its traditions and teachings have caused great harm to members of the 2SLGBTQAIP+ communities. By contrast, we believe that the PMRC is called to follow Jesus’ wisdom in the way of a radically inclusive love. We do this as evidence of our belief that all people are unconditionally loved by Creator whose divine image we reflect. The PMRC will live out its ministry by intentionally creating safer spaces of belonging with members of the 2SLGBTQAIP+ communities and their families. We affirm that someone’s gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation is sacred, will be celebrated, and will not be a barrier towards full participation. We affirm that people will be fully included in all aspects of The Region’s life, leadership, and ministry without limitation based on identity, expression or orientation. We commit ourselves to the intersectionality that living into becoming an Affirming Ministry will require. Together we will use tangible resources to embody a ministry that is public, intentional and explicit of our call to live out these values, and that, even as we make mistakes, we commit to continually learning and evolving.



COMMUNITY OF FAITH COUNCIL

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNITY-OF-FAITH-COUNCIL/

Greetings all,

2020 was the year where the Community of Faith Support Council began to get our feet under us and started to establish our policies and processes to best support the communities of faith throughout the Region.

At each of our meetings, we have taken time to hear from one of our members or regional ministers who profiled a local Community of Faith in their area. Through this practice, we are gaining an understanding of the depth and breadth of ministry throughout our region. Some of our major areas of focus this last year has been:

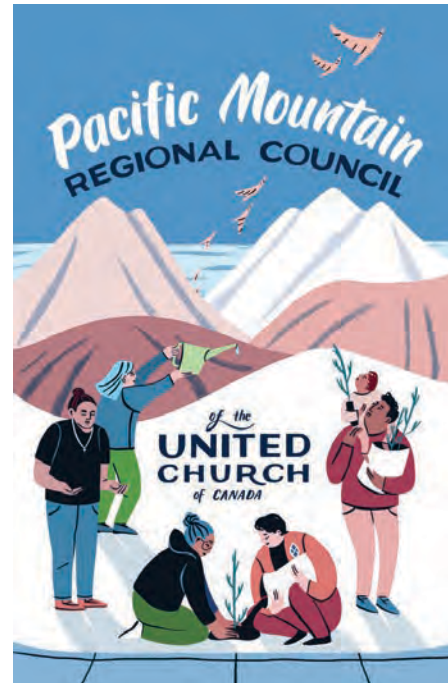
Self Assessments

We worked together to develop a series of questions to help a Community of Faith pause and reflect on their life and ministry together. The first pilot group began in the late fall of 2020 and feedback has been very positive. We hope through this process to gain insight into what is working well so we can share that knowledge throughout the region. We also want to hear of challenges being experienced so that we can hopefully find ways to match resources from around the region to best support that need. Each Community of Faith will be invited to complete a self-assessment questionnaire once every three years on a regular rotation. For those who have already participated, thank you for your attention to this process and for sharing a view into your community's life with us. For those yet to come, we look forward to hearing from you.

Approvals Working Group

As a sub-committee of our Council we had a full year reviewing and responding to requests for Communities of Faith arising from changes related to property, investments and status. They have also been developing policies and processes to support them in this work. We are grateful for the leadership of Michael Hare and the diligent work of Ken Fanning, Simone Carrodus, Jennifer Swanson, Cheryl Swedburg and Pat McGrath as well as the staff support of Victoria and Mauricio in playing this role in our region.

Work continued developing process and policy covering the areas of Oversight and Accountability, Amalgamations, Interim Ministry, & Clusters. Through all of the above, I have been grateful to work with a dedicated group of committed people who care deeply about our church and the abundance of ministries provided by local communities of faith. From small & determined to large



and encompassing, the communities of faith throughout our region show that the work of Christ is happening in so many ways, each and every day.

This year both Jody Dudley & Ivy Thomas stepped down from their roles on council. We are forever indebted to their commitment and wisdom as we formed and began our work. Continuing to serve on the council are Ruth Stebbing, Simone Carrodus, Lawrence Sankey, Shannon Carson, Janice Young & Sally Bullas. They each bring vital experience in a variety of sizes of communities throughout our region and we are grateful for their energy and care for our church. In addition, we have the very valuable wisdom from Kathy Davies, Brenda Wolff and Treena Duncan who support our work in numerous ways.

As the new PacifiCMountain.ca website is rolled out, you will find current news and updates of our activities throughout the year and also ways to reach out to us with a question or a concern. Our council is here to provide support and guidance to help you care for each other and provide your vital ministries.

Blessings in Christ,

Jim Simpson

Chair, Communities of Faith Council

OFFICE OF VOCATION

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/SUPPORT/OFFICER-OF-VOCATION-MINISTRY/

Faithful, well-equipped, effective ministry personnel

As one of the deployed staff of the Office of Vocation I value and appreciate the opportunity to be closely linked to ministry that is contextual and relational with specific regions. While I serve both the regions of Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds, the pandemic has meant it has been exactly fifteen months since I have been on the ground in Alberta! Nevertheless, I have welcomed the chance to be face to face online in both regions doing the work of vocation with students, candidates, ministry personnel regional staff and many more of you. Highlights include candidacy interviews, training of educational supervisors, training of Lay Supervision teams, discerning sabbaticals, reminders for doing your annual declaration, venting about Church Hub, standing confirmations, policy interpretation, clergy gatherings, and effectiveness support. I remain astonished, impressed and grateful to God for all the ways you have pivoted and been creative as you have faced online ministry and new demands. I don't say that with any degree of obligation but, rather, awareness of what this has required of you.

The Office of Vocation is responsible for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel. There are three policies that apply to this work. The Sexual Misconduct, Prevention and Response Policy, the Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence Prevention and Response Policy and the Ethical Standards of Ministry Personnel. Work related to these policies involves investigations, the Response Committee and the Remedial Committee. The goal of each case is always to support ministry personnel being restored to effectiveness.

At least half of the time I spend as an Office of Vocation minister is delegated to Candidacy work. Pacific Mountain has an abundant group of students/candidates. Some statistics:

- 34 Candidates (at various points in their process).
- 3 Applicants (those preparing to come to the Candidacy Board for first interviews)
- 28 preparing for ordained ministry
- 4 preparing for diaconal ministry
- 2 preparing for designated lay ministry.

The Mountain Candidacy Board serves the regions of Chinook and Pacific Mountain. In total we have 57 students in our care. The members serving on the Mountain Candidacy Board from Pacific Mountain Region are: Robin Jacobson, Murray Groom, Leenane Shiels, Anna Paton, Colleen Blair, Heidi Koschzeck, Laura Turnbull, Linda Lee Henriksen, and Richard Chung. When General Council meets in 2022 we will be looking for new members to add to our board. If this is something you would like to discern please be in touch.

Finally, I commend to you links that may be informative or interesting in your increased understanding of the Office of Vocation:

- [Vocational Life of A Minister](#)
- [All About Annual Declarations](#)

Blessings,
Brenda Fawkes
Officer of Vocation



OFFICE OF VOCATION

CONTINUED

Board of Vocation Accountability Report

The Office of Vocation is now just over two years old since its inception, yet it remains one of the bodies of the church structure that many are unfamiliar with.

The establishment of the Office of Vocation was part of the huge denominational shift from four courts to three councils along with a self-determining and autonomous Indigenous Church structure in partnership with the 'settler church'. It was part of the development of a single, denominationally based entity with responsibilities around ministry formation, admission of clergy from other denominations, and oversight and discipline of ministry personnel, previously held by 84 presbyteries and 13 Conferences.

The Office of Vocation is accountable to the Board of Vocation made up of over 14 elected members honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry. The Board of Vocation is starting to engage the Calls to the Church and to seek ways to build relationship with the National Indigenous Council (NIC).

Principles

- paid, accountable, well trained staff supporting oversight and discipline;
- a small elected body consisting of both ministry personnel and laity making decisions on remedial and disciplinary matters;
- a less complicated system with fewer volunteers and less duplication;
- removing oversight and discipline from the place of collegiality.

Values:

Spirit-led discernment, respect, flexibility, consistency, adaptability to new insights, and timeliness. Achieving the appropriate balance between denominational consistency and regional flexibility is challenging at times. Focusing on relationship while applying 'rules' is a challenge worth meeting.

Staff:

The staff team responsible for policy and programs for ministry personnel (6.5FTE) was able to take on the new work of the Office of Vocation, both in its development and, from 2019, resourcing the Board and its various committees and boards, by reconfiguring job descriptions and letting go of the direct resourcing of communities of faith. The addition of seven deployed Office of Vocation Ministers provides staff resourcing to each candidacy board, availability for vocational conversations and collaboration with regional council pastoral relations ministers around early intervention in conflict or potential disciplinary matters. Sadly, the round of staff cuts in July 2020 resulted in one less staff position within the Office of Vocation team: the program coordinator for recruitment. With the regional councils responsible for the vitality of communities of faith, we trust that ministry leaders will arise. The Office of Vocation Ministers report several discernment conversations a month from individuals considering their call to formal ministry leadership.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/ADMINISTRATION/PASTORAL-RELATIONS-COUNCIL/

The Pastoral Relations Council has four roles:

1. It acts as a decision-making body to establish operational policies/procedures, and oversee the work of its sub-committees;
2. Through the Executive Minister, it recommends the establishment of or change in Regional policies related to pastoral relations, to the Executive Council as well as identify gaps and pastoral Relations trends;
3. It reviews existing operational regional and denominational policies to ensure coherence and continued relevance; and
4. It functions as the oversight body for each of the associated and sub-committees.

Our committee includes Carol Martin (chair), Victoria Andrews (staff support), Shannon Tennant (ordained minister and Chair of the Pastoral Relations working group), Aaron Miller (ordained minister), Greg Powell (ordained minister), Donna Zeigler (Designated Lay Minister), and Laura Turnbull (retired ordained minister). Since our last report in October 2020, we have met online 5 times. The PRC finalized the Pastoral Relations Supervisor practice and procedures which became effective January 1, 2021, approved policies and practices for Sacramental Elders and approved a change in the limitations policy recommendation for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. As well, we began discussions to identify criteria for recognized ministries, and a complaint process for Congregationally Designated Ministers both of which we hope to finalize in the fall. The Chair and staff support also met with the Community of Faith Council Chair, Jim Simpson and staff support Kathy Davies to discuss areas in common between the two committees.

There are three committees that are part of the Pastoral Relations Council: Ministry Personnel support, Pastoral Relations Working Group and Lay Leadership Support.

Ministry Personnel Support:

This committee, (previously known as Spiritual Care Network) is chaired by Karen Millard Sumaliling, with staff support from Marc Coulombe (RM), and Brenda Wolff, oversees and coordinates the Region's responsibility to encourage and support Ministry Personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practice.

Our current team members are: Karen Millard Sumaliling, (Chair) Marc Coulombe (RM support staff), Brenda Wolff (staff), Karen Millard (chair) Eric Hamlyn, Teri Meyer, Tammy Lindahl, Lori Megley-Best, and Jane Harding. In the last 7 months, since our AGM in October 2020, we developed Email reflections for the seasons of Lent and Advent and cards for ministry personnel as we were notified of pastoral situations.

During these Covid times that have been challenging for everyone of us, we have been praying for all our Ministry Personnel. Our team has been working to develop programs, events and systems that better celebrate those currently working as Ministers, those that are retiring and are retired and those moving to our region.

In the 2021/22 upcoming year, we will:

- hold a monthly clergy retreat online called "The Gathering Place" (every 2nd Tuesday of the month);
- continue to develop a welcome package for newcomers to the region;
- create care packages; and
- build a pastoral care team to support clergy as needed.

There is still a significant amount of work to be done in supporting ministers as we grow into our new roles as the Ministry Personnel Support Team.

Your Ministry Personnel support team seeks to offer care in specific pastoral circumstances please let us know if you have prayer request or would like to support us in this ministry.

Karen Millard Sumaliling (Chair)

Pastoral Relations Working Group

The Pastoral Relations Working Group continues to approve Community of Faith Profiles and Position Descriptions as Communities of Faith embark on the process of finding Ministry Personnel and then having a final look at the ensuing Call and Appointment Forms. It meets weekly if there is something to do, and sometimes has the opportunity to do things like review sites for suitability for Supervised Ministry Experiences and receive requests for changes in Pastoral Relations. One member, Stuart Appenheimer, is retiring this year and will be missed for his wisdom and for his puns (which are the good kind).

Shannon Tennant (Chair)

CONTINUES

PASTORAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

CONTINUED

Lay Leadership Support

Lay Leadership Support Committee (LLSC), chaired by Linda Ervin with staff support from Gail Miller, oversees and coordinates the Region's responsibility to provide ongoing leadership training for lay leaders.

In this past year the committee finalized policy, process and procedures and created handbooks for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL), and for Sacraments Elders. The Committee connected with potential LLWL candidates, conducted interviews, and issued licenses.

The committee researched and acquired a licensed subscription to Thinkific, an online learning platform that will host training and role specific community connections (networks) for lay leaders. We are nearing completion of the first course, M&P – General with plans for two more follow up M&P courses exploring the material in more depth. We will continue to work on generating training for a variety of lay leadership roles. We will be online as Sage: Online Learning for United Church Leaders.

Our current members are: Teressa Augustine, Suzanna Bates, Derry Bott, Maxine Coffey, Anjanee Gayan Dyck, Linda Ervine (Chair), Ken Jones, Gail Miller (RM), Carla Wilks, and Brenda Wolff (staff).
Gail Miller (RM)

This report is prepared with deep gratitude to all the PRC committee members and to all the subcommittees, chairs, members, and staff for your faithful and committed work. Special thanks to Victoria Andrews for working with me to organize and develop our work as well as drafting materials for the PRC committee consideration and review.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Martin
Pastoral Relations Committee

CAMP SPIRIT

WWW.CAMPSPRIT.CA/

Rooted & Growing in Love

Camp Spirit is celebrating its 10-year anniversary and celebrating a new relationship as part of Pacific Mountain Region's First Third Ministry. Camp Spirit is a day-long summer program for children ages 5-11 and youth ages 12-14 that sends staff teams to different sites each week, hosted by local Communities of Faith, and seeks to provide accessible and excellent faith-based programming close to families who need it. Camp Spirit seeks to grow ministry with children, youth, young adults, and families in creative, relevant, and faithful ways.



Camp Spirit began in 2012 as a partnership between four Communities of Faith in the Lower Mainland of BC. This partnership was born out of a desire to have excellent faith-based programs at each Community of Faith in the most effective way possible. A staff team was hired to travel to each different location to provide leadership for full day-camp experiences. Camp Spirit's program was developed to live out the mission statement and the values of Financial Accountability & Stewardship, Inclusion, Hospitality, Relationships, Outreach, and Excellence.



Financial Accountability & Stewardship

Camp Spirit prioritizes accessibility for families and is committed to bringing financially accessible programming close to the families who need it. Camp Spirit's extensive bursary program, supported by church and government grants and by donations from participating Communities of Faith, ensures that any camper who wants to attend camp is able to do so.

Inclusion

Camp Spirit's programs for campers are intended to build fun and safe communities for campers to explore stories, art, games, and songs on themes that nurture their spirit and support them to live lives of faith, hope, compassion in the world. Camp Spirit brings an open approach to faith-based programming and welcomes participants of any and all faith backgrounds. Camp Spirit strives to honor each child's spirit and unique relationship with the Spirit and hopes to create space to explore and wonder about that relationship in whatever ways may be meaningful to each child.

Hospitality

Camp Spirit lives out its commitment to hospitality in establishing camp locations close to families, leading to an expansion for four sites in 2012 to fourteen sites in 2019. This has also led Camp Spirit to expand beyond the Lower Mainland: in 2016, Camp Spirit began offering program on Vancouver Island; and, in 2018, Camp Spirit offered programs in Prince George. Camp Spirit also lives out hospitality and accessibility in welcoming campers regardless of financial need as well as campers with all levels of support needs. Staff and volunteers work together to make sure that programming is adaptable to the needs and interests of campers. Camp Spirit also uses inclusive and gender-neutral language to offer welcome to all campers. Meals and snacks are provided at each site to make participation as simple as possible for families.

Relationships

Camp Spirit partners teams of equipped staff leaders with the leadership and gifts already present in the hosting Communities of Faith. Local volunteers and Site Coordinators are essential to the success of Camp Spirit in their support of the promotion of camp, financial support of bursary programs, and use of their sites. Most importantly, Communities of Faith provide volunteers that support preparation of snacks and lunches, and offer programming during Community Engagement times. Volunteers share their gifts and passions with campers, from knitting to juggling to woodworking to dog training to yoga and more! These program pieces give campers the opportunity to build connections with adults and with their local Community of Faith.

CAMP SPIRIT

CONTINUED



Outreach

Campers are invited to deepen their relationship with their local communities through outreach projects. Camp Spirit sites have participated in a variety of outreach projects which connect campers to the needs of their communities. These include camp-wide projects, like collecting socks for a sock drive, and site-specific projects that connect campers to the local community of faith's outreach work, like painting a lending library or building peace poles. Camp Spirit also seeks out opportunities for campers to learn about their local communities, for example by visiting local community gardens or bringing in wildlife experts to teach campers about biodiversity.

Excellence

Camp Spirit is dedicated to preparing youth and young adult leaders with the tools to lead excellent and effective programming. Camp Spirit's leadership development seeks to embrace and highlight the gifts each leader brings and support their "growing edges" to create well-rounded and skilled leaders. Camp Spirit has expanded their leadership program to include more staff and to include programs that support the leadership development of youth volunteers and of older campers. In 2015, the Youth Crew program was

developed to support youth volunteers over multiple weeks of camp. This program offered training before the summer and provided an honorarium for youth volunteers. This program has grown significantly to involve in 2019 35 youth offering invaluable leadership to camp programs by helping in age groups, supporting community gathering times, and acting as camper support buddies. In 2016, a Leader-In-Training program was established to promote leadership development for campers aged 12-14. These programs support the growth and development of youth and young adults and provides Camp Spirit and the wider community with skilled and thoughtful leadership.



Camp Spirit in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges to offering programming, both in the facilitation of staff and youth crew training and in the camp programs themselves, and simultaneously increased the need for spaces of community and connection, particularly for children. Camp Spirit adapted programming to serve communities in need of community and in need of childcare during tumultuous times. Camp programs were run throughout the summer with reduced capacities and in compliance with provincial health and safety guidelines. Camp Spirit was also still able to introduce a third staff team dedicated to providing programming on Vancouver Island. This new staff team lived out the Camp Spirit mission for communities who needed it in new parts of the Region. Altogether, Camp Spirit ran day-camp programs at six sites, support by seven Communities of Faith, entirely outdoors. Camp Spirit also offered online camp programming to support campers who were unable to attend in person but still wanted to be a part of the Camp Spirit community. Virtual camp programs and Camp@Home kits supported campers and families in providing faith-based programming and activities while staying home.

Camp Spirit's Future

Camp Spirit began as a ministry of Shaughnessy Heights United Church under the supervision of an Oversight Board composed of Children & Family Ministers from nearby congregations. In 2021, Camp Spirit was transferred to be a part of Pacific Mountain Region's First Third Ministry. This better reflects Camp

CAMP SPIRIT

CONTINUED

Spirit's ministry with youth, children, and families across the region as well as the continued call for Camp Spirit to serve campers and families across the region. Staff were hired at the regional level to support Camp Spirit, including an Executive Director, as well as an Administrator and Animator positions with specific responsibilities to support the planning and implementation of Camp Spirit.



This Summer 2021

Camp Spirit seeks to continue to provide programming in safe and accessible ways for families and campers who seek connection and community now more than ever. Camp Spirit's ministry on Vancouver Island will expand to 28 sites. A fourth staff team has been added to build new partnerships with Communities of Faith in rural and Indigenous communities across the region.

Thank you!

We are grateful for the financial support that we receive to ensure Camp Spirit continues. Many individuals and communities of faith support the Camp Spirit Bursary Fund and, as a result we can continue to offer full bursary to any child who needs it. We appreciate the contributions from St Andrews Wesley United Church and Aldergrove United Church who donated significant money from the sale of their buildings to support Camp Spirit ministry. These funds will be invested and used wisely in the coming years as Camp Spirit continues to grow. We receive yearly support to our operating costs (leadership development, costs to support camps in rural and northern communities, staffing, program costs, etc) from various ProVision Grants, Gilmore Park United Church, Shiloh-Fifth Avenue United Church, and the Vera Thompson Fund at Pacific Spirit United Church.



Camp Spirit Mission Statement:

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



CAMPUS MINISTRY

[CAMPUSUNITED.CA/](https://campusunited.ca/)

Campus Ministry in the region has been full of change throughout this past season. COVID-19 forced most campuses to continue to be completely online which required ministry to do the same. The online exhaustion of students peaked throughout all this, with online student clubs and events dropping from over 700 in the Fall of 2020 at The University of British Columbia (UBC) to less than 90 in Spring 2021.

The outgoing campus ministers at UBC and The University of Victoria (UVic) continued to connect the best they could with online mediation, yoga, spiritual care and direction sessions, as well as a unique online event called "The Chaplain's-In" which included chaplains from across Canada.

The region recently completed a review of Campus Ministry and its viability which resulted in bringing the two part-time campus ministers at UVic and UBC onto regional staff under First Third Ministry, hiring a Campus Ministry Animator, and establishing a Campus Ministry Advisory Group.

Henri Lock, the Campus Minister at UVic, retired after over 28 years of ministry to students. Henri helped establish the Multi-Faith Centre at UVic and created an environment for students to explore and grow in new ways of faith—leaving a lasting legacy on the campus and its neighbourhood. Bethel Lee, the Campus Minister at UBC has transitioned out of the role and we were honoured to have her entrepreneurial energy at the helm of events and ministry at UBC for nearly three years. We're happy to welcome Greg Powell and Aaron Miller to the First Third Team as the new Campus Ministers at UVic and UBC, respectively.

"University is hard, let's get you connected with a faith community."

Campus Ministry is continuing to evolve and shift along with our ever-changing post-Christian culture. With over 60 universities, colleges, and trade schools within our region, the opportunity to connect and care for students is great and growing. The new Campus Ministry Animator, Daniel Martin, is working alongside the First Third team to connect with congregations, young adults, and campuses across the region to build new connections, find ways to support new and existing ministry to students, and close the cracks our young people so often fall through in the transition to young adulthood. Expect Daniel to be reaching out to your congregation to learn more about your ministry vision and passions as well as what young adult life looks like in your local community and church.

WE EXIST TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER. FROM ONLINE EVENTS TO CAMPS TO DINNERS TO BIBLE STUDIES TO BEACH DAYS. IT'S ALL A PART OF CAMPUS UNITED.

For more information and to get/stay connected with PMRC Campus Ministry, head over to campusunited.ca to engage.

*Respectfully submitted by
Daniel Martin, Campus Ministry Animator*



FIRST THIRD MINISTRY

WWW.FIRSTTHIRDMINISTRY.CA

Hello Pacific Mountain!!

What a unique seven months it has been since we last gathered and we last had a chance to present you with a report! It has not been without its challenges, but it has also been an incredible opportunity to learn how we can do things differently and collaborate more openly with amazing people from across the Pacific Mountain Regional Council! In addition to this, we have entered an exciting partnership with Chinook Winds Region to collaborate, serve, and support First Third Ministry.



We have been building and expanding our staff team over the first half of 2021, adding two new Animators (Jake Highfield and Lindsay Veenstra), a new Administrator (Natalia Cabrera), a Campus Ministry Animator (Daniel Martin), and Chris Mah Poy also joins the team from Chinook Winds Region. It is an exciting time of expanding possibilities.

Pacific Mountain Regional Council First Third Ministry is excited support the ministry of Camp Spirit!

First Third Ministry Staff is actively involved with Camp Spirit this summer serving in various roles including as staff chaplains, director, administrator and supervision. We are excited that Cathy Cryder will join the Camp Spirit team as the Executive Director as of July 1, 2021.

First Third Ministry continues to build our ministry, programming, and mission around the Purpose and Vision Statement presented to you in Autumn 2020, which is to CONNECT, EQUIP, and IMAGINE.

We CONNECT by providing support and advocacy for those in ministry and leadership in local communities of faith, being a conduit for resource sharing and collegial connections, and enriching the experience and knowledge of our United Church of Canada identity through resources, events and more.

We seek to EQUIP those in leadership in Solo Ministry, in communities of faith specializing in First Third and or Intergenerational ministry: lay, recognized accountable ministers, and volunteers, and youth and young adults.



Conversations and Community

We engage in conversations that inspire God's gifts of creativity and imagination, empower children, youth, and young adults to initiate and lead from their areas of passion, and support local and regional groups who imagine and seek to implement innovative ways to minister with those in the first third of their life.

We have been focusing significant energy on ways to feel connected as a community of God despite the challenges of the pandemic: Online Evolve (a YAYA conference) was held in November 2020, there have been games nights, movie nights, worship with children and youth through ZOOM, young adult book studies and intentional online gatherings, building a youth quilt for the Annual General Meeting worship service, virtual gatherings with past attendees of in-person events, online children's retreats, as well as one-on-one connections with ministry staff and exciting conversations with communities of faith about ways to bring First Third Ministry to life in their local context.

Supporting Faith at Home

We began creating our Faith@Home kits in 2020 as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. They have grown into a huge success with more than 800 families across the country receiving them and the program continues to grow.

"Faith@Home" are small mail-out packages that can be ordered by communities of faith for their families/households. The packets contain a magazine filled with activities, bible stories, ideas for at-home faith formation activities, worship rituals and spaces, clear instructions and materials.

We are currently sending out kits for the Church Calendar including Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, Lent/Easter, Pentecost, Fall/Thanksgiving, and a Summer Camp themed kits for the summer months (in collaboration with United Church Summer Camps). All these resources are available to all communities of faith with full financial support as needed.

FIRST THIRD MINISTRY

CONTINUED

We are committed to equip leadership for their ministry in local communities of faith.

Rev. Mary Nichol leads weekly Leader Gatherings and has hosted many workshops and seminars including:

- Deepening Skills for Trauma Oriented First Third Ministry – three cohorts over the Fall 2020, Winter and Spring 2021
- Two Book Studies – Spiritual Conversation with Children by Lacy Finn Borgo (June 2020) and The Gift of Wonder by Christine Aroney-Sine (Fally 2020)
- Spirituality of Play with Dr. Lakisha Lockhart (June 2020)
- Nurturing Wonder in Creation with Leah Kostamo with A Rocha Canada – Environmental Stewardship (June 2020)
- Creating Sacred Moments at Home with Rev. Traci Smith (November 2020)
- Hosting at First Third Team at Festival of Biblical Storytelling Conference (March 2021)
- Hosting a First Third team at Children's Spirituality Summit and InterGenerate Conference (May 2021)
- Plans for the Fall 2021: Cohort Learning: First Third Ministry in Small Congregations; Speaker Series in partnership with LeaderShift

We are planning for an in-person gathering for intergenerational families at Camp Pringle this July and at Camp Fircom in October and a return to in-person regional and cross-Region youth gatherings in late autumn. We are cautiously optimistic that a young adult retreat planned for September 2021 will be able to happen at Loon Lake Resort in Maple Ridge. We are hoping to have a 100-person gathering in Kamloops BC in late October that will include youth from both Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Council). We hope to create easier access for those who live in our northern half of the Region. We continue to ensure that these gatherings are not cost-prohibitive for anyone regardless of location or any other factors through travel grants and bursaries.

Regardless of the pandemic restrictions, we are hosting a region wide confirmation program this fall for youth and their leaders – 6 weeks of online programs with youth from across the regions, resources for communities of faith to support mentoring and community building with youth in their home churches and area-based confirmation retreats in the winter of 2021. We are excited to host another online Children's Retreat on June 19, 2021.

All our scheduled events and details about these events can be found on our website at www.firstthirdministry.ca. If you are not on our mailing list, please consider signing up so that you receive updates and news. We depend on you to share information with your community of faith, let us know how we can help!

*Blessings in Christ,
Pamela Evans*

for the First Third Ministry Team of Pamela Evans, Mary Nichol, Natalia Cabrera, Sarah Prestwich, Jake Highfield, Lindsay Veenstra, Daniel Martin, Tressa Brotsky, and Chris Mah Poy.



INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

PACIFICMOUNTAIN.CA/MINISTRY/INDIGENOUS-MINISTRY/

Ephesians 1:15-19 NSRV

“I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.....”

I pray revelation and insight to all, and a way to respond to Creator. We each have gifts and calling, we seek the wisdom and ask for guidance in our work, our path and our pilgrimage with Creator leading us. Peace and Blessing to all.

Rev John Snow Jr.



I appreciate that I can share the work of Indigenous Ministry for PMRC, by being able to put together a note with my partner. The work of our region continues with my Ministry and call. In 2017, I was able to participate with the journey of the United Church Clergy to Palestine – Israel with Sabeel. I saw firsthand some of the issues that each face and felt the angst of the Palestine – Israel conflict.

Pain and suffering have been part of our experience and call as Indigenous people. I could identify with the refugee camps and the confined nature of existence on lands that were once thought to belong to the Palestinian people. Part of this understanding of being colonized is in the experience of the Indigenous past and present. This call has been part of the ongoing work of the church through the United Church Apology, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Report and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

During my time in Palestine – Israel, my partner asked me to bring home some Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. This was the beginning of combining the gifts of Christianity and for me the recognition of the gifts of the spirit from my Indigenous Elders. Over the next two years, I spoke of these gifts of each coming from Creator and that the combined gifts of the spirit began to form part of my Ministry. A ministry that was and is grounded in the Morley Ecumenical Conference of 1970.

My partner and I prepared gifts of the spirit for the congregation and were met with overwhelming emotion and approval. We used these gifts to offer prayer for each and as a guiding light for their faith. We were able to finally offer a reflection of the gifts of the spirit in our Epiphany Article earlier this year, 2021 and published on the National United Church blog. This is one of the ways we were able to hold the Christianity gifts along with the Indigenous gifts. For me, in each instance these gifts were given by Creator to those who were searching for signs and wonders and recognizing the vision being imparted in their respective cultures. This made me think of the saying where there is no vision the people perish. For me, the vision of these gifts given by Creator is part of our call and worship to do this ceremony and honour these gifts in remembrance of God our Creator.

It is with this vision from Palestine – Israel and the oral traditions of the Stoney Indian Ecumenical Conference and the vision of the Indigenous teachings that we offer this writing of the Epiphany and gifts of the spirit that incorporate the Indigenous theology and teachings. Not all Indigenous people smudge and each use different forms of prayer and ceremony. These are all different and varied as the nations received the word and encounter with Creator. For me, there is no right way or wrong way, we are all different.

My Stoney Nakoda people teach that the Creator loves diversity and that we are to observe and learn the lessons from nature's university. We learn from creation and that is ongoing gift from Creator. It is in this humble offering and teaching that we combine the gifts of the spirit from the Indigenous and Christian teachings. It confirms our understanding that there is One Creator, and we are part of that Creation.

This began part of my Ministry in January 2021 and was influenced by the pilgrimage to Palestine – Israel. Before that trip and latest pilgrimage was my

INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

CONTINUED

own journey beginning at the Morley Indian Ecumenical Conference that is chronicled in my Late Father's book, *These Mountains are our Sacred Places*. I have used this book widely as many of you know and there are many teachings and comments coming back to me and my family that seek for more sharing of our learning circles and seeking more understanding of the teachings of Indigenous Theology and Christianity.

Here I am sharing part of the post on a national blog and the full posting on the PMRC website, along with the posting on the Sandy Saulteaux website. This was a continuation of development of my call to Ministry and to hold the Indigenous Theological teachings with those of Christianity. Many of my elders hold these two together and each is a blessing to learn and understand revelation.

I am happy to provide links and insights for the Epiphany articles also posted at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. I am also sending some of the links that were part of my reflections from my pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

- [The Creator's Abundant Gifts](#)
- [Matthew Chapter 2](#)
- [Come and See](#)
- [Jeremiah Chapter 29](#)

We recognize the work of our Indigenous Student Clergy and now Graduates. Indigenous Awards, Certificates and Degrees, Scholarship and Awards

Tony Snow

- The Ethel Ruth Erb Memorial Scholarship for Proficiency in Ministry or Pastoral Work

Gloria Ruth Snow

- Certificates
 - Indigenous Studies Program Certificate in Theological Studies
- Murray K. Pruden
- Degree
 - Master of Divinity

Please visit the [PMRC Indigenous Ministry Webpage](#) for all the events that have taken place and those upcoming events for the Region and beyond. Note, upcoming Training with PMRC and Chinook Winds

As we move forward as a church, I encourage all to share in their gifts and wisdom. We have been blessed with great leadership. We are part of the implementation for the TRC calls to action. We are witness to the work contemplated in the articles of UNDRIP. I am confident we will be equal to the task and we are well able to meet the obligations set before us. Thank you for your continued support and helping the Indigenous Ministry to grow beyond our Region as we work with Chinook Winds and others faithful to the calling.

Those who are able I encourage to share our work and to participate in our events and help grow the understanding of the United Church through the implementation of the TRC, the UNDRIP and to implement the calls to the church and to build relations to lift the communities of faith.

May Creator continue to bless you all in your work.

Portion of the Lenten Series for Chinook Winds and PMRC Led my Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Regional Council Reverend John Snow Jr., Indigenous Minister, PMRC

The Lenten series has been attended by close 1000 participants, we thank the speakers, Moderator, and former Moderators for their wisdom in this series. From our precious Elder Alberta Billy to our Leadership in PMRC we are blessed with vision for the Church. This series has led to the latest series of Training which is entitled the Wisdom of the Elders. We are grateful to Treena Duncan and Allison Rennie for ongoing support to enable the work of the church to continue in both PMRC and Chinook Winds Regional Councils. Our work along with the Lenten Series leads us to Red Dress day noted on our Website, and the Easter services that were held as well in both regions. Our teaching and dialogue continue in the format that we learned from Sandy Saulteaux of the sharing circle and is part of the foundational teachings from the Morley Ecumenical Conference of 1970's.

Lenten Series

- [Session 1](#): Ahogichipabi (w/ Rev. Michael Blair)
- [Session 2](#): Wogidaîyâmi (w/ Dr. Gabrielle Lindstrom)
- [Session 3](#): Wîjaîchinabi (w/ Very Reverend Jordan Cantwell)
- [Session 4](#): Waahogipabi (w/ Moderator, Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott)

Remainder of the series to be posted on the Indigenous Webpage along with other events for Indigenous Ministry work at PMRC and Chinook Winds Regional Council.

*Respectfully,
Rev John Snow Jr, Indigenous Minister*

LEADERSHIFT

[HTTPS://WWW.LEADERSHIFTPM.CA/](https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/)

**Network of Biblical
Storytellers Canada**

One online-event, by the numbers

*Festival of
BIBLICAL
Storytelling*

23 live theme and
workshop leaders

\$3100 CDN Whova online
conference application

199 people logged on
to weekend Festival

10 Exhibitor booths

5 tech check and rehearsal
for resource leaders

25 live or prerecorded
storytellers

207 hours of content

This Changes Everything
The Peacebuilding Power of Scripture Telling

9-11 April 2021

33 sessions recorded
and available post event

310 hours by
volunteer vision
planning team

6 online tech volunteers

136 hours of in house staff time
(admin, communications,
technical, program, finance)

3 pre event
orientation session
to Whova

unlimited viewing potential
for all registered participants
to end of October

56,432 clicks on sponsor
and exhibitor icons

12,799 km furthest distance
someone did not have to
travel to join the festival!

1620 private messages sent
during event on Whova

67% direct program
costs covered by
registration fee

8 time zones to manage

LEADERSHIFT

CONTINUED

Our Commitments

We learn and promote learning.

We take time to apply learning within LeaderShift and promote opportunities to equip and transform leaders in PMRC and CW 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 Region 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.

We offer experiences grounded in a spectrum of theological identities 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 through integrative and applied learning. We are interested in 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.

What We Hear

"You aren't giving me enough lead time to fit things into my schedule."

"Thanks for making this event affordable for our whole team to attend."

"Is there a bursary I can apply to?"

"You should get _____ to lead something!"

"I don't live in Chinook Winds or Pacific Mountain Region. Is it okay if I register?"

"I can't attend another thing on zoom. Doesn't matter how excellent it sounds."

"Excellent online experience!" "Amazing workshop!" "Can we please do this again in person next time?"

"Thank you for your persistence in helping me participate online."

"Smaller group size helped me feel able to join in."

"Exciting to have such a large group of people participate!"

"Do something that's not so focused on congregational ministry please."

"Thank You LeaderShift, and Thank You Pacific Mountain for all you are offering."



LeaderShiftPM.ca

LeaderShift

- Director: Allison Rennie
- United Online Partnership: Andria Irwin
- Communications: Tressa Brotsky
- Registration & Program Support: Brenda Wolff

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

(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 and online conversations that focus on intercultural discussions. 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](#)), and come together occasionally for educational events and other opportunities for dialogue. An executive 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.

We honour these 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 and relationship.

2020-21 Activities

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic required the WIMN’s Interim Executive to change its plans for holding an in-person education event in September. We instead offered a highly successful online event – **New Wine: Western Intercultural Ministry Gathering** over three Fridays – September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2020. The gathering focused on presentations and discussions on creating missional, sustainable, intercultural ministries together, with leadership provided by Rev. Tony Snow, from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and Coordinator for Indigenous Right Relations, Chinook Winds Region, and Rev. Dr. Eric Law, Founder/Director of the Diverse Leadership Inst., Los Angeles, California. The online format allowed us to expand the reach of this education event and we had over 60 persons attending the sessions on each day.

Annual Meeting

WIMN hosted its Annual meeting on November 17, 2020, in conjunction with one of its Chai/Coffee Sessions.

At that meeting the members of the Interim Executive that had guided the Network’s activities for 2019-20 were pleased to welcome new members to lead the Network.

The new Executive for 2020-21 comprises:

- Co-Chairs: Deborah Richards (Pacific Mountain) and Kurt Katzmar (Northern Spirit)
- Secretary: Kathy Yamashita (Chinook Winds)
- Elder: Kay Quon
- Chinook Winds: Alwin Maben (past chair)
- Northern Spirit: Chelsea Masterman
- Living Skies: Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau
- Prairie to Pine: Kwang Beom Cho, Damber Khadka, Bill Millar
- Staff support: Julie Graham, Chris Mah Poy, and Emo Yango (General Council).

The Executive meets monthly for about 90 minutes, and this provide an opportunity for us to connect about activities in our region, as well as engage in planning discussions. The sessions are lively!

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

CONTINUED

Looking Forward

The new Executive has been discussing how the Network will engage in supporting and living out the call within our regions to be an Intercultural Church, as well as how we build intercultural social values and communities by working with other organisations in our provinces like Multicultural Councils and Multifaith bodies. Those discussions will continue throughout the year and we hope to find ways to engage the network in these engaging conversations. We have been heartened and energized by the engaging conversations that we have had during our New Wine intercultural gathering in fall 2020 and various Network Chai/Coffee times held in 2020 and early 2021.

The following decisions have been made about Network activities for 2021:

- Given ongoing uncertainty about in-person gatherings and church building re-openings this coming fall, we have decided not to hold a longer in person or online gathering in 2021. Instead, shorter programs and other opportunities will be the focus. We pray that in 2022 we will be able to be together again in a larger in-person gathering.
- The Network's Intercultural conversation (Chai/Coffee) times will continue through 2021. Our

hope is to have 3 or 4 such conversation times during the year. In February we enjoyed a really rich national and intergenerational conversation focused on the question 'Who do we want to be as we re-open our communities?'

Upcoming Events

Our next Chai/Coffee gathering in this series will be Thursday June 3, likely at 9:00AM Pacific, 10:00AM Mountain Daylight (AB)/ Central Standard (SK), 11:00AM Central Daylight (MB and NW Ontario), and noon Eastern.

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
Kurt Katzmar and Deborah Richards
Co-Chairs
On behalf of the Executive of the Western
Intercultural Ministries Network*



CAMPING - REGIONAL CAMPS

CAMPING MINISTRY

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 \$150,000 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 the extent possible. The Region's First Third Ministries initiative developed and supplied camps with "Camp at Home" packets and 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 began in 2020 and continue;

- Strengthening connections between the Region and the camps previously affiliated with the former presbyteries
- Exploring how the Region's emerging First Thirds Ministry can further connect and support camps, particularly the faith element of camping.
- Updating the Camp Fund projections to ensure its resources are allocated to meet emerging needs post COVID.

Ian Fraser



NARAMATA CENTRE

WWW.NARAMATACENTRESOCIETY.ORG/

What happens to a Retreat Centre when you can't meet in person? Well, if you have a great team, a supportive Board and invested stakeholders- you widen the circle, step outside the walls, and deepen the breadth and depth of your impact.

Welcome to Naramata Centre in the year COVID 2020



No longer were we the summer retreat of your childhood memories – travel restrictions ended that rather quickly. No longer were we the place to gather together and be led in song by our much beloved California music leaders, Jean and Jim Strathdee – singing restrictions enforced. And lastly don't even dream about that slip and slide on Columbia Lawn for the children – how would that have worked?

Here; however, is what we were able to do and **WOW** even now, one year later, we are proud and happy about this pivot.

- Starting in April, 2020 we launched Sacred Pause online and accompanied it with a variety of different videos taken at Naramata Centre. Our onsite Sacred Pause was local to the village of Naramata and immediate vicinity. Our online version gave immediate access to all of our stakeholders and provided a different way of staying connected to the Centre.
- By May we had fully immersed ourselves in the online environment. As a mission oriented organization we were concerned that online programming would not create the same type of

- community impact as our onsite retreat program experiences. Through some careful testing and research we discovered that we could maintain our commitment to community connection by limiting our program size and ensuring our program leaders embodied the values of Naramata Centre.
- Here is a link to our Online Program Pass which, for one flat fee, not only gives you access to over 40 online programs offered during the year but also the ability to invite a friend at no additional cost. A big thank you goes out at this point to UCC, Embracing The Spirit, by providing \$4K in initial funds to assist in the testing of this concept and then a subsequent grant of \$25K to take it to the next level. This is our way of continuing to create community. I was recently interviewed by Edge and talked about our success and challenges in launching this new social enterprise.
- While our onsite regular summer participant numbers might have decreased from just over 1000 to 450 adults year over year, we did manage to increase outreach across BC and Alberta with daily streaming of morning music and evening gatherings to over 2000 views per week. During one week in August we had over 9000 participants watching our live streamed activities!
- We also incorporated online programs into our summer weeks by encouraging onsite participants to participate online in the COVID-safeness of their campsites or cabins.
- In the Fall we held our AGM and an informational Town Hall. The online Town Hall was offered to give our community the opportunity to hear not only about our strategic shift but also the update on our land development project. Our 2021 AGM will be held on June 16th, 2021. A recording will be available on our website and registration will open the first week in June.

And Now?

We are energized to continue this path. Changes bring opportunity and opportunity channels into impact. Similar to you, we will continue to be impacted by yet another year of COVID restriction. Our online programs are here to stay – it is how we stay connected while physically apart. Summer Programs will be offered onsite and through Art, Movement and Conversation you will find opportunities to grow in Mind, Body and Spirit in smaller limited numbers. During the Fall, 2021 we will be redirecting our energy into three retreats focused on

- Caregivers,
- Those seeking to embrace and understand Change and
- The Youth Leadership of Tomorrow (stay tuned).

We are also excited to be working in Partnership with Naramata Inn to re-open our kitchen – providing opportunities for our Retreat partners to feed Body, Mind and Spirit.

Our land development work continues and while this may seem like a very long

journey for our stakeholders, it is a journey which we envision will serve the Centre of today and tomorrow. Speaking of land redevelopment – we are overjoyed with the recent community outreach which ended with a portion of the Naramata Centre beach being sold back to the local community – funded by community residents, friends near and far, and the Regional District of Okanagan and Similkameen – through a public campaign championed by Naramata Slow.

Finally, it is with much gratitude that we recognize and thank all of our program and community partners, Pacific Jubilee, United Church of Canada, Pacific Mountain Region, Holistic Centre Network, Vancouver Foundation, Purppl and United Way. Your support holds us up, enriches our participants and shines a light on our future. Let's connect, because.... You Belong Here

Susan Smith
Executive Director



Centres of Education

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

A YEAR OF IMAGINING EVERYTHING DIFFERENTLY

Pandemic - The pandemic (re)shaped everything in 2020...

Spring - onset

With the pandemic onset in Canada, within days we went from wondering whether our plans would be impacted to making the decision to move all circles and events online. Our staff began working from home as cities shut down. It was a time of enormous uncertainty. Students and staff plunged into online life. Our spring learning circles were creatively and quickly adapted for online gathering. Our Banquet and Annual Service of Celebration in person events were cancelled, and graduation instead marked with a Virtual Tea.

Summer - space to breathe

Online learning continued with the Relationship learning circle. Our Learning on Purpose circle was cancelled; and new students were invited to participate in a LOP-Lite orientation program. Woodsworth House re-opened to staff.

Fall - second wave

Staff continued to flex working from home or at the school. Our learning circles continued to be online, including: Integration Year, Ministry as Listening, Eco-Justice, Ministering by Word and Example. Some students proceeded with field placements, while others focused on external courses, which were widely available online.

Progress - Sometimes just pressing on felt like progress, but we did more...

Education

We continued to innovate online pedagogy. In April we held a series of pandemic responsive workshops on topics such as Online Annual Meetings and Trauma Informed Pastoral Care. We held 10 Learning Circles online, including three new one circles: Power and Privilege Circle, Eco-Theology Circle and Ministering by Word and

Example Circle. We continued with free-of-charge public workshops with our CCS Fridays series, exploring topics including Queer Biblical Interpretation, Apocalypticism and (the still popular) Online Annual Meetings. Members of our learning community presented and participated at conferences including the Christian Left Conference (Emmanuel College), Competency Based Theological Education Conference (Competency Based Education Network) and Liberating Our Bodies: Sexual Politics, Queer Resistance and Religious Alliance Today (Jakarta Theological Seminary).

Justice

2020 started with Indigenous blockades of rail lines that brought an early silence Winnipeg from absent railcars. A deeper silence accompanied the first months of the pandemic, along with stark truths about who was vulnerable in our society. The silence was broken in the summer by Black Lives Matter protests raging against George Floyd's murder. CCS renews our affirmation that Black Lives Matter, our commitment to right relationship with Indigenous Peoples and stands against anti-Asian racism and violence.

Transformation

In the midst of change, challenge and response, we learned more about the resilience of field based education - students have continued to learn with local committee and in local context, including field education. Our networks of connection were strong and flexible enough to hold us together through isolation. We found this to be true for our staff team as well - practices of connection with



invaluable when everyone was dispersed and isolated at home.

Planning - while trying to plan for the future in 2020 often felt like gazing into a foggy crystal ball, some things became crystal clear...

Recruitment

Theological schools can no longer rely on a steady intake of students being identified and encouraged through denominational processes of call and discernment. We will be moving forward with hiring a part time Recruitment Coordinator in 2021 to connect with potential diploma, certificate and continuing education learners.

Sustainability

A longterm future for the Centre must include financial sustainability. Denomination funding is decreasing. CCS donors remain committed to diaconal education, and blessed us with extraordinary generosity in 2020. Our investment in Development education resulted in large fundraising increases.

Partners

- We are blessed with collaborative, generative 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 Year Book, Financial Statements and Annual Report may be found at:
<http://ccsonline.ca/event/ccs-annual-general-meeting-2021/>

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

VST.EDU/

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vancouver School of Theology adapted well to the move of all our programs and operations online due to public health protocols. VST's investment in online learning facilitated this transition. Further investments in electronic resources, software systems for the library and student records support are crucial to our model of hybrid learning. The United Church is well represented on our board and faculty, and among our sessional lecturers, staff and student body. We welcomed the Rev. Rebecca Simpson to the VST faculty, and The Rev. Dr Pat Dutcher-Walls has retired. Prof. Mari Joerstad will begin as our new Dean July 1, 2021. The faculty of VST is prolific in its publications with over 10 books, and numerous articles, in the past year. Lecturers of international repute have visited the school in person and online. VST's summer school features Prof. Miroslav Volf, of Yale Divinity School, and our double virtual convocation (classes of 2020-2021) will see over 60 graduates, with Prof. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, of Princeton Seminary, as the speaker. VST is expanding its classroom space and renovating its facilities to accommodate the unprecedented growth in the student body. The Rev. Curtis Bablitz is the winner of the 2021 VST TEG (thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leader) Award.

THOUGHTFUL, ENGAGED AND GENEROUS CHRISTIAN LEADERS

In 2021, we not only taught adaptive leadership, we lived it out. The faculty, students, staff, Board, and administration of the school showed resilience, kindness, trust in God and a degree of mutual support that bears witness to the gospel. Our hybrid delivery enabled us to move all our classes online with the help of a

wonderful IT department, and to teach students on five continents who registered for courses and programs. Auditors of our courses significantly increased and the training of our faculty for online instruction was a providential blessing. Zoom and Canvas, while not without limitations, are essential and flexible enough to provide engaging online learning. In January of 2020, VST was acknowledged by In Trust Magazine (for theological schools across North America) as one of six – and the only Canadian – schools that have undergone significant transformative change. “Recognizing they could no longer maintain the status quo in this radically changed environment, six theological schools took bold, drastic action.”

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. We don't rush to thin relevance but linger with scripture, tradition, scholarship and conversation with Indigenous neighbours and people of other faith traditions. Our students are engaged, willing to get involved in the world, not just waiting for the next one. Our theological ethos is designed to nurture practitioners who are making a difference for God and the gospel. We are convinced that the Risen Christ is always already involved in the world (we're missional); we discern that movement and respond to grace wherever we find it – and it is surprising where it is found. 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.

FACULTY

United Church faculty include The Rev. Dr Steven Chambers and The Rev. Suzanne Sykes. The Rev. Dr Brian Thorpe, The Rev. Cari Copeman-Haynes, The Rev. Dr Hyuk Cho, The Rev. Michael Blair, Ms. Amy Crawford and The Rev. Mary Nichol have been sessional lecturers in the past academic year. Many United Church clergy have been guest speakers and leaders in our chapel services. Mr. Lonnie Delisle is our Musician-in-Residence. We continue to work closely with the Pacific Mountain Region on the certificate for children and youth ministries. The Rev. Dr Pat Dutcher-Walls retires at the end of June 2021 from her work as Dean. The Rev. Rebecca Simpson has been engaged as the new Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation with the former Director, The Rev. Dr Ross Lockhart, becoming the Dean of St Andrew's Hall. Principal Richard Topping's contract has been renewed for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2021. A new Dean, Dr Mari Joerstad, from the Kenan Institute at Duke University and a Professor of Hebrew Bible, will begin her employment with VST beginning July 1, 2021. We are grateful to Ms. Treena Duncan and The Rev. Ingrid Brown for serving on the search committee.

The faculty have completed a volume together entitled Theological Studies: A Thoughtful, Engaged and Generous Approach. It will be published in 2021 as part of the 50th anniversary of VST and is edited by Profs. Harry Maier, Richard Topping and Ashley Moyse. Our faculty continues to be prolific in research and publication. In the fall of 2020, at least five new books for publication were in the works by various members of the faculty. In 2021 more than 10 new volumes have appeared, either edited by or written by our faculty. The faculty continue to deliver important scholarship in a number of registers for the upbuilding

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

CONTINUED

of the church. A new series of podcasts called Bruderholz will be offered in 2021. It is a series of interviews with faculty about their work for the church and the world.

VST BOARD/EMPLOYEES

Mr. Michael Francis is the insightful and cheerful chair of the Board at VST. We are so blessed by his work. The Board meets four times a year, and has representatives from the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches, as well as the community at large. We follow a policy governance model. The Rev. Dr Doug Goodwin, Ms. Cheryl Jourdain and The Rev. Michelle Slater are our United Church members. Mr. Iain Black, President and CEO of Maximizer CRM, is our Chancellor. We launched our new brand and website in 2020 and a new Student Information System and OpenAthens software for easy use of online resources through our growing collection of electronic resources in 2021.

PARTNERSHIPS

VST thrives because of its partnerships. We are a theological school preparing students for Christian leadership in the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches. In addition to these core partnerships, we work with the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia, Huron College at the University of Western Ontario (for UCC students), St Mark's College at UBC, and Durham University, United Kingdom, to deliver our degree programs from the B.A. to Ph.D. levels. A new course in the Sauder program includes leading transformational change. In late 2020, we signed agreements for faculty and student exchange and course sharing with St Andrew's, Quezon City, Philippines, and Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia. These partnerships

encourage us to engage in theological education that, while geared to the Canadian context, is global in its sensibilities.

GRANTS/FINANCES/FOUNDATION

Vancouver School of Theology has achieved a balanced budget for the sixth year in a row with growth in programs and while also building a reserve for capital purchases and maintenance. This has been possible through the prudent financial management of our Vice-Principal and CFO, Ms. Shari Coltart, the excellent leadership of our Audit and Finance Committee and the Foundation Board, chaired by the Venerable Ronald Harrison. The Foundation provides an important and generous revenue stream for the operations of the school. United Church members of the Foundation board include Dr Joy Begley and Mr. Graham McIsaac.

VST has completed the expenditure of the \$400,000 Luce Grant for Indigenous Ministry through the Teaching House That Moves Around, led by The Rev. Dr Ray Aldred. In the last year of the program, eight communities with 151 participants were engaged in Indigenous communities in Canada and the United States. A three-year grant from the United Church of Canada totaling \$225,000 will enable this work to continue in the Northwest communities within the Province of British Columbia. This ministry will take theological education to Indigenous communities in Northern British Columbia using indigenous methods and instructors and is one way that we are following up on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In addition, significant gifts were received at VST to support ongoing and new programs. Our Sauder School

of Business program, where students learn the essentials of administrative and managerial excellence, will be completely endowed through a major donation of 1 million dollars, half of which we have already received. We received donations of almost \$70,000 to support the program in the meanwhile. We have also received significant gifts for student recruitment in Asia (\$30,000) and a recent grant of \$250,000 toward promoting congregational flourishing. We have hired a Director to lead our new project for Congregational Flourishing through Community Engagement, Mr. Chris Pullenayegem, who began January 1, 2021. Mr. Pullenayegem comes to us from the National Offices of the United Church of Canada where he served as Faith Formation and Mission Program Coordinator.

VST is constructing larger classroom spaces and renewing Epiphany Chapel to accommodate the growth of the student body and to keep our buildings and technology ready to support theological education for the 21st century. Not all the school's strategic initiatives are fully funded, and we welcome support.

ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT

The headcount for spring 2021 is 243. This represents an increase of 47% over 2018. The number of course registrations in the spring of 2021 is 445, an increase of 41% over spring 2018 (and an increase of 11% over spring 2020). The number of full-time students in the fall of 2020 was 89, in the spring of 2021 it is 106 (an increase of 17%).

The Anglican Church of Canada has the largest cohort at 60 students, United Church the second at 55 students and Presbyterians third at 45. We have a significant number of United Church of Christ students (12) and a growing number of students

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

CONTINUED

from other Christian churches (57). For the fall of 2020, we had the largest number of applications, acceptances and incoming class members in the history of the school. Over 60 students began their programs, including two more doctoral students in the Durham Ph.D. program and two students in our joint BA program at St. Mark's have now begun their M.Div. programs at VST. Our Explorers Weekend, under the direction of the Rev. Julie Lees, continues to build our domestic applications both when done in person and online. VST Sunday saw members of the VST community engaged at almost 50 churches across the country online. We are grateful to our partner churches who welcomed this effort.

SPECIAL LECTURES

Vancouver School of Theology has welcomed a series of world-class lecturers and church leaders to special lecture series at our school in the service of our mission. In the past two academic years, we welcomed Prof. Norman Wirzba of Duke Divinity School, Prof. Candida Moss, University of Birmingham, Prof. Tony Campolo, Prof. Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary, Artist Dr James He Qi, Rabbi Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University, and in the summer of 2021, Prof. Miroslav Volf, who will teach in our summer school which takes place July 5-16 and includes outstanding multiple opportunities to learn. <https://vst.edu/vst-summer-school/>. Online Summer School 2020 saw an increase of 37% in course registrations. The G. Peter Kaye Lecture with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, held online, had 1024 people in attendance and is the most well-attended lecture we have ever had.

VST will host Religion & Thoughtful Activism Online Academic & Community Conference on May 25th to 27th, 2021. This program is offered through our Interreligious Studies program and will feature Ms. Shachi Kurl, President, Angus Reid Institute, Roots Palestinian-Israeli Network. <https://vst.edu/inter-religious-studies-program/conference/>. The Indigenous Studies Program Summer School takes place online July 12th to July 23rd, 2021. This is an opportunity for students who are often isolated from one another to gather, learn, and worship together. Ceremony and Sacrament will be taught by Mr. Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. <https://vst.edu/isp-summer-school/>

CONVOCATION 2020/2021

On May 11, we confer degrees and certificates over 60 graduates in our online convocation for the classes of 2020 and 2021. Twelve students will receive the certificate in Leadership Excellence from the Sauder School of Business. We will also present the Principal's Thoughtful, Engaged and Generous Leader Award to Archdeacon Clara Plamondon (2020) and The Rev. Curtis Bablitz (2021), who exemplify the leadership we aspire to encourage. This award is made to clergy in the first ten years of ministry. We will award four honorary doctorates – to Prof. Santa Ono, President of UBC; Rabbi Marcia Prager, Director and Dean of Aleph Ordination Programs, the Rev. Doug Goodwin, former General Secretary of British Columbia Conference and Regional Executive Minister for the United Church and to Mr. Rupert Lang, Organist and Director of Music, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

Our convocation speaker is Prof. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, author of *Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Gospel and Pastoral Care*, Academy of Parish Clergy Book of the Year, 2015. She will conduct an online workshop – “Keeping an Open Heart in Troubled Times” – on May 12. This day after graduation event is part of our ongoing project for revitalization and is funded through the Hugh and Helen Mogensen Fund.

Vancouver School of Theology is grateful for our partnership with The United Church of Canada and offer our prayers and greetings to the Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions.

Richard R. Topping
Principal

Pacific Mountain REGIONAL COUNCIL

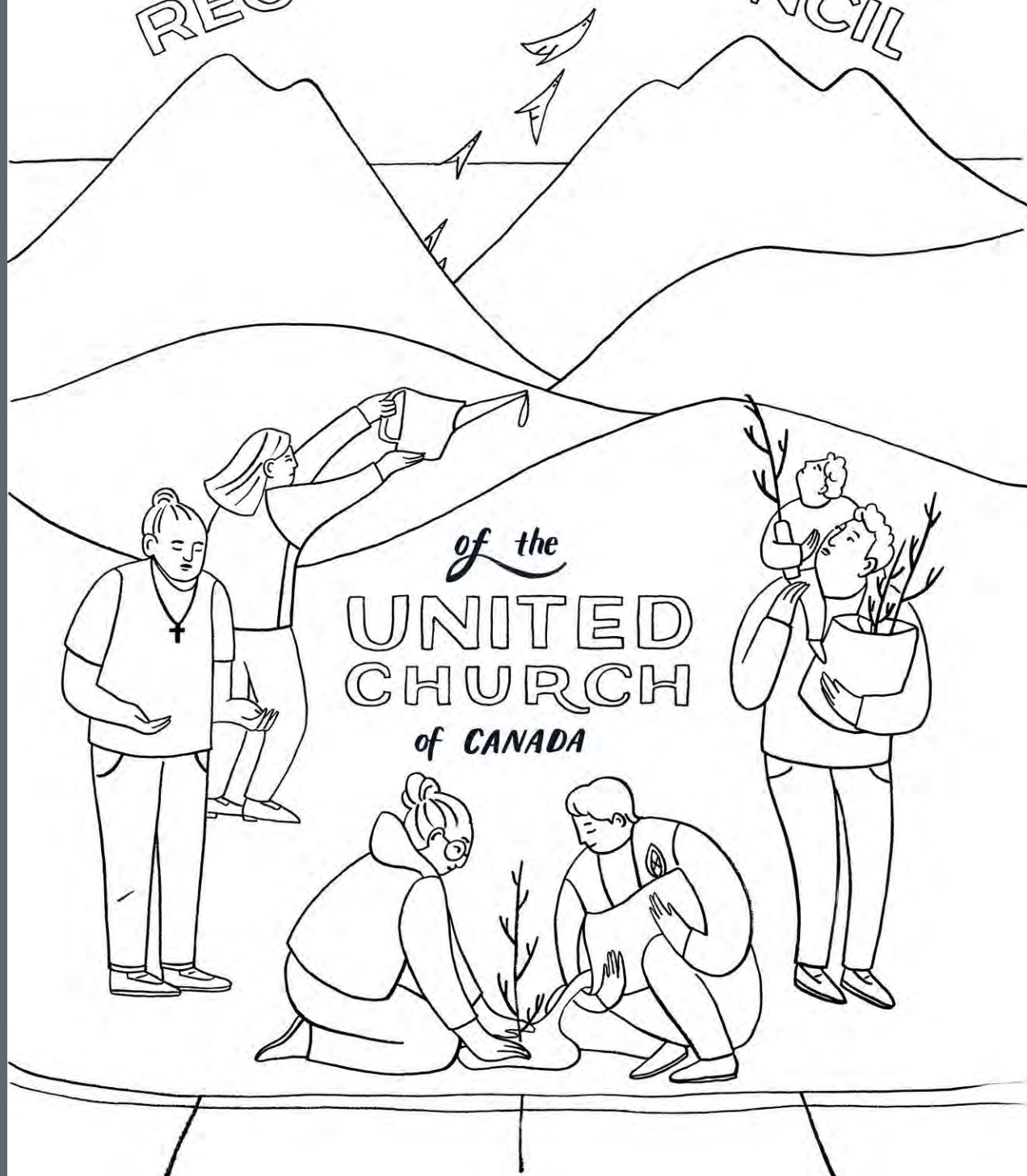
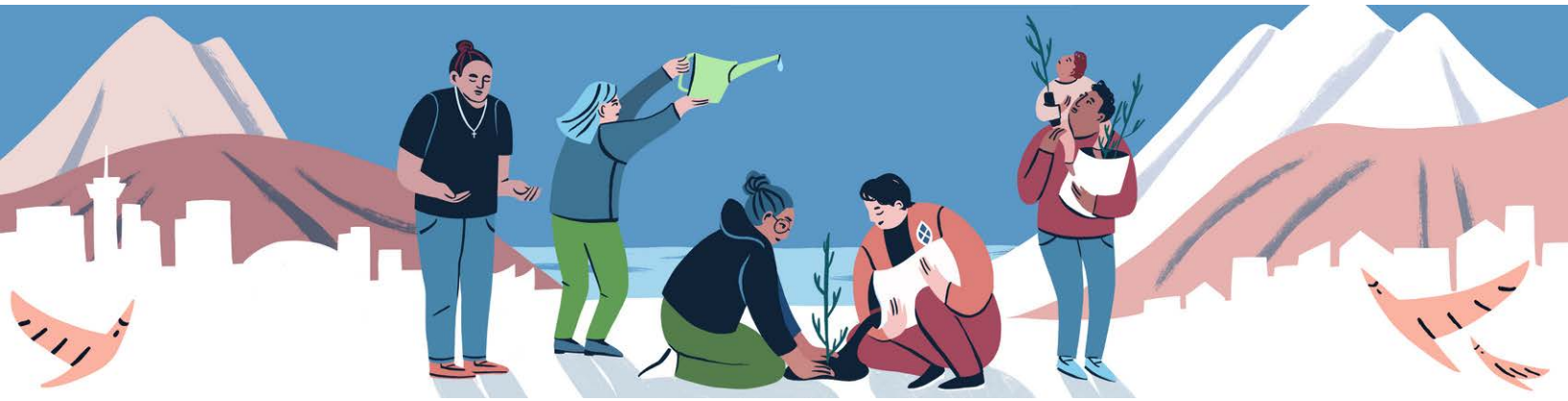


ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY THIESSEN

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JUNE 2021

Record of Edits to PMRC GM 2021 A&R Booklet

V7 Friday June 11, 2021

- Corrected
 - Friday Night Keynote time in the Agenda
- Additions
 - Agenda page - Invitation to wear Orange Shirts on Saturday June 12
 - Two Retirees added, Page 7
 - Page 23, Link to Proposals on the GM webpage



PMRC executive, staff and ministers invite us each to wear an Orange Shirt during the GM on Saturday June 12

V6 Thursday June 10, 2021

- Corrected
 - Keynote Links in the Agenda, Page 4 fixed typos
- Updated
 - Pages 22, 23 Business Committee Motions updated to their V2.4

V5 Wednesday June 9, 2021

- Adjusted
 - Agenda
 - Links to YouTube Keynote Presenters corrected
 - Saturday day afternoon and adjournment times changed
 - Page 64 Order of tracking edits changed to most recent first
 - Page 65 DRAFT MINUTES from 2nd Annual GM 2020
- Corrected
 - Page 4 spelling of Nadia Bolz-Weber
- Additions
 - Page 37 PROPOSED Affirming Ministry Regional Statement

V4 Tuesday June 8, 2021

- Additions
 - Page 22, point 16: "The threshold of..."
 - Page 23, point 25
- Adjusted
 - Page 23, points 24, 27, 29, 28
 - Enabling Motions point 5

V3 Monday June 7, 2021

- Edits to pages 22, 23 Business Committee Motions:
 - Seconder: K. Brittain
 - 23. Nominations of "Regional Executive Council" added, "President-Elect" removed
- Edits to page 28 Nominations Report
 - corrected spelling of David Boyd, Jennifer Goddard-Sheppard
- Correction to page 3, Reports list:
 - 21 Guidelines for Business Procedures
 - 22 Business Committee Motions
- Addition of this page to the Reports list:
 - 64 Records of Edits to PMRC GM 2021 A&R Booklet

V2 Monday June 7, 2021

- original document

with hope and abundance

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2021

**Minutes of the Second General Meeting
Pacific Mountain Regional Council
The United Church of Canada
WHOVA and Zoom
October 16 - 18, 2020**

First Session, 1:00 P.M. Friday October 16, 2020

**Opening Worship
& Celebration of
Ministry**

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council gathered in person at Highlands United Church and online in an opening worship and Celebration of Ministry worship service, which included the ordination and commissioning of four (4) ministers. The Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, preached on Exodus 3.1-6.

Second Session, 3:00 P.M. Friday October 16, 2020

Authority

Pursuant to the authority of the first General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada (2019), the second General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council convened on the online platform Zoom™ and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it by President Blair Odney. A quorum was present.

Zoom™ is an online platform which allow members to communicate with one another at the same time.

**Indigenous
Relations
Acknowledgement**

Members of the Council were invited to acknowledge the relationship with the Indigenous Peoples where they were located.

Introductions

President Blair Odney welcomed those present to the Regional Council Gathering. He introduced the Business Committee and members of the Regional Council Executive, especially Treena Duncan, Executive Minister, Bob Fillier, Chair of Business, and Allan Buckingham, Technology Coordinator. Treena Duncan offered thanks for the staff in Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

Allan Buckingham led an experiment through the voting procedure using the online platform.

Bob Fillier led a short explanation of the business coming forward; proposals, business information, meeting flow, etc. He then presented an opening omnibus motion and enabling motions for the delegation of work of the Council.

Opening Motions

M/S/C (B. Fillier/T. Duncan) that:

- 1. The Roll of the 2nd 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 October 16, 2020. Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll.*
- 2. The Bar of the Council shall be the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered members.*

3. *The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Mauricio Araujo, Tressa Brotsky, Allan Buckingham, Treena Duncan (Executive Secretary), Bob Fillier (Chair), Laura Hermakin, Blair Odney (President).*
4. *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 (2019) or Bourinot's Rules of Order.*
5. *At the discretion of the President, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.*
6. *Subject to such changes as the Business Committee might make and announce, the agenda as printed shall be the working basis for the order of business.*
7. *Proposals directed to the General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 9:00 p.m. Friday, October 16, 2020. 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. Like proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.*
8. *All unfinished business, including non-General Council proposals, shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.*
9. *Voting shall be carried out by members using the Whova electronic platform where the online meeting will be hosted. Only eligible voting members logged into the Whova platform will receive a request to input their vote once a vote has been called by the President. In the case of technical issues during voting, the President can choose to accept votes sent in by email from voting members when submitted under the same email used during registration.*
10. *All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (\$2,000 or over) shall be considered "in principle only" and, if adopted, be referred to the Region Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.*
11. *Corresponding Privileges be granted to Nora Sanders, General Secretary and Jane Harding, General Council Office staff.*
12. *Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before 5pm on Saturday, October 17 without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.*
13. *Payment of member expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. Late claims submitted after October 30, 2020 shall not be paid.*
14. *The minutes of the 1st General Meeting of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council held May 30 – June 2, 2019 in Langley, BC, be received for information.*
15. *The Plenary portions of the Agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council website.*

16. The Regional Council Executive Minutes are received for information and included as part of the Record of Proceedings. (C.3.1.4)

Enabling Motion

M/S/C (B. Fillier/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 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 benediction on the evening of Saturday, October 17, 2020.*

President's Address

President Blair Odney addressed the Council reflecting on our connection even when we are not together, and used Kenneth Burke's metaphor of the unending conversation whereby the banquet table is continually being joined and exited by people who engage in the conversation. He shared that when the Executive meets, it reflects on the question "what kind of church do we want to be, need to be, for whom, at what cost?" That is the question that the Council engages in this unending conversation which continues this weekend.

Blair believes that we are the church that is needed in the world at this time, that we are connected to a gospel tradition that stands as Jesus stands; meeting the outcast and the stranger right where they are, inviting them into their next best selves. He encouraged each of us to proclaim an incredible gospel, together, that frees people to mend the world.

Retirees

The following retirees were recognized throughout the gathering via video: Rev. Hilde Seal (OM:97), Rev. Jim Hatherly (OM:82), Rev. Phillip Spencer (OM:91), Karen May Wood (DLM:10), Rev. Kathy Hogman (OM:84), Rev. Armand Houle (OM:95), Rev. Foster Freed (OM:90), Rev. Chris Levan (OM:77), Rev. Debbie Bentham (OM:10), Sandi Parker (DLM:10).

The retirees were invited to respond to one of the questions: a) "Thinking about your years of service in ministry, what are the most important things you have learned about leadership?" and b) "What wisdom might you offer to those still continuing in ministry about what it takes to Lead Beyond the Wilderness?"

General Council Update

The President introduced Nora Sanders, General Secretary, General Council, addressed the Council. Nora brought greetings from the staff of the General Council and spoke about the time we find ourselves in, and what it means for people to engage with our church in the midst of it. She highlighted the importance of connection both in person and when we are unable to gather.

Nora acknowledged that of the five (5) Moderators she has served with, two (2) of them have been from BC, and that the new directions that God is calling the church will be well served by Michael Blair.

Business**Executive
Accountability**

President Blair Odney shared some highlights of the work of the Regional Council Executive which has met eleven (11) times since the General Meeting in Langley (2019). He began by thanking Past-President Jay Olson and Executive Minister Treena Duncan. He reported that there were three (3) meetings prior to the pandemic in which there was a focus on governance and governance education, understanding a new level of functioning, engaging emerging questions of purpose and priorities, and the beginning conversation about a common “big question” for the Regional Council to unite discernment (“living in the context of multiple political, social, and regional polarities, how do we live our our call to be the Church?”)

Some emerging concerns were raised about the relationship between the Regional Council and development projects through the 3-Point Housing Society. This has led the Regional Council Executive to focus on the Ends concerning the use of property and how property can be a resource for ministry in the Region.

Work continues on an annual ministry plan with measurable and achievable goals, even amidst the pandemic in which specific decisions were required, including the development of a Loan program for communities of faith.

**Announcements &
Adjournment**

Following some brief announcements, the Council adjourned for dinner.

Third Session, 6:30 p.m. Friday, October 16, 2020**Gathering**

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

**Affirming
Conversation**

Bob Fillier and Laura Hermakin are co-chairing the Affirming Working Group of the Region and Bob introduced Pam Rocker (she/her) who has been contracted to help lead the process of the Regional Council thinking about becoming and being an Affirming Regional Council. Pam explained that this is a meaningful and inclusive process involving many different players to make it so.

Pam led us through a program addressing some key terms and definitions so that folks are speaking the same language; particularly, she shared about the umbrella term ‘queer’ as having been reclaimed by some members of the queer community, and the importance of continuing to add new letters and symbols to the moniker LGBTQ2SIA+ in order to create inclusion for everyone. It is important to feel represented and visibility leads to acceptance, and acceptance leads to an end goal. Our language should evolve to meet reality and try to be as expansive as possible.

Two key questions that are often asked are: does the Regional Council becoming Affirming mean that all communities of faith will be forced to become Affirming, and will all communities of faith in the Regional Council be considered Affirming if they haven’t gone through the process. The answer to both questions is no, each community of faith needs to make the decision for themselves, and if they so desire, they will need to go through the process.

Pam spent a bit of time talking about what it means to be “Affirming.” It is a process to engage a commitment to being inclusive. Regularly, communities of faith will consider themselves ‘welcoming’ but Pam reflected that that means there is someone on the inside welcoming those on the outside, and if there is a choice to welcome, there is also a choice to not welcome. Affirming means that “when you tell me who you are, I say ‘yes’ and affirm who you are. The process is intentional steps of exploration, discernment, and theological education to become actively inclusive.

Pam shared about National Affirming/P.I.E. day and defined P.I.E. as “Public. Intentional. Explicit.” These are important characteristics of a community of faith who has done the process to determine who they are becoming. Sometimes the process helps a community think about what other things are taken for granted that we just believe, and it helps discover how to be expansive about inclusion - it’s not just about queer folks, gender identity or sexuality, but asks the question what is our future. We are all in the process of becoming.

Three (3) members of the Affirm Task Group shared personal testimony about why they are called to the work of helping the Regional Council become Affirming: Tammy Lindahl, Laura Hermakin and Bob Fillier. Other members of the task group are Pam Rocker, Hyuk Cho and Sandy Hwang. The task group’s goal is to have done enough work through the next number of months that we can approach the decision of becoming Affirming at the General Meeting in 2021, but they recognize that we may not be quite ready yet. They will work with LeaderShift to engage the conversation and offer a place for deeper discernment, conversation, and wrestling. They are looking forward to fostering an Affirm Ministry Network to support existing Affirming Ministries and to support those who might be considering the process. The process will include many conversations with the Executive and Staff.

The Council was sent into breakout rooms to discuss the question: “What are ways in which society “rewards” you for fitting into sexual or gender identity norms, or conversely, doesn’t reward you and makes it difficult to express yourself? (e.g., how you express your gender, your career, your religious background, the way you dress, your romantic relationships.)

Following the breakout time, Pam offered some final closing words including these from Andrea Gibson: “There is so much kindness in consistently asking “Who are you now?” There is so much love in allowing people to be continually new to us. To love someone isn’t so much to know them, as it is to know their never-ending becoming.”

Worship

Laura Hermakin led evening prayer along with Amy and Casey Van Wensem who are leading music through the rest of the meeting.

Adjournment

The Council adjourned for the evening.

Fourth Session, 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 17, 2020

Gathering & Acknowledgment

The Council gathered online prior to the opening of the session and President Blair named that the United Church of Canada from coast to coast to coast is situated on the traditional lands of Indigenous and Métis peoples.

Worship

Tif McNaughton led morning worship which included song, scripture, a reading from Richard Wagamese “Embers” and reflections on the theme of relationship which were explored by Kimiko Karpoff and Kris Jensen. In worship the Council honoured the lives of those who have died since the last Regional Council gathering: Rev. David Kernohan Dickey, Rev. Cameron Reid, Rev. David Lovewell, Rev. Tineke Rijzinga, Rev. Sharon Moore-Cooke, Rev. Yoke Kihara, Rev. William Robert Adamson, Rev. James Erb, Rev. Blake Thomson Field, and Kenneth Thomas Haggerty. A prayer of thanksgiving for those who are retiring was offered.

Nominations

With the resignation of the Rev. Richard Chung from the Regional Council Executive, the Executive Minister requested the Nominations Committee to seek someone to fill the position. After seeking Expressions of Interest from within the Region, the Nominations Committee seeks to appoint the Rev. Ibi Chuan to fill that role.

M/S/C (G. Brownmiller/J. Highfield) that the Rev. Ibi Chuan be appointed to the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive for a term to be determined as part of the Executive's succession planning.

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

The President introduced deployed General Council staff Rev. Brenda Fawkes, the Office of Vocation Minister serving Mountain Candidacy Board, Pacific Mountain Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council. Brenda explained the work of the Office of Vocation and expressed appreciation to the members of the Mountain Candidacy Board. She also spoke about ChurchHub and the goal to get folks comfortable with it.

Brenda introduced both those candidates who were received into ministry during the Celebration of Ministry held in June: Joseph Kyser, Rebecca Giselsbrecht, Stevan Mirkovich, and Robin Murray, and those who were received into ministry during the opening Celebration of Ministry: Ryan Tristin Chapman, Murray Pruden, Lydia Ruenzel, and Kim McNaughton.

**Theme: Leading
Beyond the
Wilderness**

Treena Duncan, Regional Executive Minister, introduced Ron Heifetz, Founding Director of the Centre for Public Leadership at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and co-founder of Cambridge Leadership Associates. Ron introduced himself, sharing that thanks to technology he was able to join us from Hawai'i where he has been stuck through the pandemic. He began his career as a Medical Doctor hoping to follow in his father's footsteps as a Neurosurgeon. While studying, he worked two different jobs that led him onto a different path: one was working at a prison in New York City, and the other was working in a clinic at Rockefeller Center offering physical examinations to Corporate CEOs and Senior Executives.

At the prison, Ron became aware of patterns of social illness that were glaringly obvious in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This helped him become involved in activism: most of those he was helping were poor, black or latinx and experiencing injustice at a rate much higher than others. This made him want to become a doctor at a systemic level; healing communities and organizations of various sorts.

This led him away from medicine altogether, though he trained in psychiatry because it offered him more tools to think about people and social systems (like family and groups) and to scale back to larger social systems.

When he worked at the clinic at Rockefeller Center he began to take time to actually ask these executives about their lives and stressors. He heard from them about the challenges

of leadership and stresses that people in positions of authority are under and how they (mis)manage their stress.

Ron shared the example of a man who declared that he had difficulty hearing: not at work, and not in his car, but when he arrived home after a long day, his wife would tell him. Ron helped him understand that it was not a medical issue, but something else: the man had spent the entire day listening to people's stories and problems, and when his wife wanted to share about her day, he was tired out; work was costing him the intimacy of his marriage.

Conversations like this led Ron to thinking about leadership and the challenges of leadership. There were few places to be trained in leadership at that time (1982/1983) except at the Military Academy at West Point where they believed that leaders are not born, they are made, and it's up to the Military to take the talent and develop leadership skills in those people.

When he created the leadership program at Harvard, there were a variety of people who were coming into the program, and rather than making up case studies, he would draw on their own experiences. Helping them to focus on failures in order to desensitize them (because we fail everyday and have to learn to take corrective action in order to improvise on the next trial and possibility), he would challenge them into the practice of leadership. He was invited around the world to teach, train and explore this practice. As he entered into the (non) field of leadership studies, he began to understand that, like most academic disciplines, common words would need to be defined to a more precise, clear, and singular meaning and to use them in precise and analytical ways. For example, when people who were involved in Leadership used language like leadership, management, power, authority, influence, they were being used differently by different people; there wasn't a shared understanding. Ron's work was to deconstruct and define them more carefully.

Out of that deconstruction and defining, there are some common assumptions that many of us carry that are not useful, and misleading: leadership is a set of personal characteristics, and leadership is defined by positional power.

It is not useful to identify key traits of a leader as if they were static as many of those characteristics are desirable in a variety of types of people. Simply having the tools does not make one a leader. And leadership is not the same of being the boss, as we often see high levels of authority not providing leadership (i.e., a lack of leadership from our leaders).

Leadership is clearly not the same as authority, though they're usually equated as such. We're often talking about authority rather than leadership; and whether or not one leads from the position of authority or not is a different matter.

Leadership is work that is to be done; any trade, craft, or professional life of work is defined by the work: the kinds of problems being solved, not because of the tools or characteristics, but because of the type of work.

There are two types of work: technical and adaptive. Technical challenges are things that we have the know how, the expertise, the historical traditions and advances in the past to come up with organizational design and technology and training programs. But problems that

require real capacity due to a changing environment and evolving values cause us to develop new capacity: to learn new things, sift through what to bring forward and what to leave behind. Adaptive challenges are like the beautiful design of evolution; a system that learns on its own and continues to evolve.

How do we take the very best and rearrange a part of it and innovate so we can take the best of its kind into the future to meet the challenges of the environment. Ron tied this theory of adaptive challenge into our biblical story of the Zealots resistance to the Romans following Jesus' death. They started a war, they fought valiantly but finally in retreating to Masada, they admitted defeat and died by suicide. Heroic? Sure, but they ended up dead. We only know their story because it was written by a Jewish historian working for the Romans.

At the same time there was an adaptive leader who went to the Roman Governor and asked to start a school. In that school he brought together rabbis and asked them extremely painful questions: we have to redefine what it means to carry on this faith, what is essential, what is expendable, and what innovation will allow our people to thrive even when they're spread out. It is a painful question because it's wonderful to talk about what is precious to preserve, but it's painful to determine what to discard or throw out. Over the next century, Rabbis joined the unending conversation and ended up with four (4) significant innovations:

1. what would count as sanctuary - turn the physical structure into a social structure (the family)
2. what was the text - set a canon of texts to determine what would bring the best of humanity together; it was not assumed to be perfect, but the very best to solve the problem of giving their people something to hold onto no matter where they were
3. how would they pray - had primarily been organized around sacrifice and petition, and now evolved into more meditative, experiential and personal
4. what was the priesthood - the authority of the priest became irrelevant and the rabbis helped the text come alive in people's lives

These pressures forced the Jewish community into adaptive work that generated a set of innovations; what is necessary, what is expendable, and what really matters.

The Council was opened to questions, to which Ron responded.

Adjournment

The Council adjourned for lunch.

Fifth Session, 1:15 p.m. Saturday, October 17, 2020

Gathering

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

General Council Deployed Staff - Stewardship & Gifts

The President introduced deployed General Council staff Jane Harding who serves the Western Regions of the United Church of Canada as Stewardship & Gifts Officer. Jane spoke about the changes in the Philanthropy office at the General Council, including David Armour leaving the role as Executive Minister and Sarah Charters as acting Executive Minister.

Jane shared that her role is coaching and mentoring with communities of faith to assist them to understand the underpinnings of Stewardship. We know that congregations that give generously to Mission & Service have more money overall, and also more energy, volunteers, spiritual life, etc. They get it. This is how we float all the boats, so to speak. We live and support people at home and in the wider world.

Jane is working on some stewardship education opportunities, including one in partnership with LeaderShift called "Stewardship Buzz." She highlighted the website with great resources from the philanthropy unit and the "Called to be the Church: The Journey" stewardship program. By helping communities of faith to learn the value of stewardship and generosity, we will continue to live into our becoming. If at least three (3) members (hopefully including the ministry personnel) of a community of faith participates in one of the offerings of Stewardship Buzz, there will be a customized stewardship analysis provided to the community

Business

Remit #1 The 43rd General Council (2018) authorized one remit regarding language found in Article 10 of the Basis of Union. The question was 'does the Regional Council agree that:

- (a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.'

M/S/C (B. Fillier/L. Hermakin) that the Region agree with Remit #1.

This response will be forwarded to the General Council.

Proposal 20-01 *M/S/C (K. Simmonds / B. Fillier) that*

1. *The Pacific Mountain Regional Council calls upon Canada to appoint a special envoy to monitor and report on the human rights of children in Occupied Palestine through an E-Petition to the Canadian House of Commons; and*
2. *The Pacific Mountain Regional Council forward it to the Regional Council Executive for prioritization.*

Regional Priorities Blair Odney along with members of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Katherine Brittain and Peter Jones led a conversation on priorities for the Regional Council and the Regional Council Executive. This conversation began at the first general meeting of the Regional Council (2019) and continues.

The Council was broken into small groups to consider the following questions:

What is the current sense of purpose in your community of faith?

What is God calling your community of faith to become?

How can the Region help you fulfill that purpose?

It was requested that the feedback from the small groups be sent to Mauricio Araujo at the Regional Council Office and the Regional Council Executive will use this information in their continued discernment.

Point of Personal Privilege

Jennifer Cummings spoke on a Point of Person Privilege. Jennifer offered gratitude for the support that the Regional Council has offered to First Third Ministry, particularly the support of Treena Duncan, Executive Minister. Jennifer requested that the Regional Council Executive assess the wording in the Ends Statements of the Regional Council in relation to children, youth, and young adults (First Third Ministry). The President acknowledged that this request had been heard.

Theme: Leading Beyond the Wilderness

Ron Heifetz resumed our theme exploration. In a stable environment, change is unnecessary - one keeps doing what one does, and life would be wonderful. From our times as hunters and gatherers we lived simply and didn't need leadership; we simply learned from elders how to organize the small community, where to go in the rainy season, where to go in the dry season, how to protect yourselves from enemies and animals, and how to keep order. When we began to store food, things changed.

The lesson we learn from nature is that highly transformative change is highly conservative; if we try to graft something that won't take root, or mate two animals that cannot create offspring, the DNA that is lost is significant.

The phrase "people resist change" is not true: people love change when they're sure it's a good thing. They don't care about your style when you're given them good news! People are willing to suffer loss if they can see the (good) reason why.

There are three (3) categories of loss:

1. direct material loss: wealth, food, status, significance, control, power - which no one likes to give up
2. competence - and adaptive change throws us into the frontier of incompetence
3. loyalty: the risk of being accused of betraying, or the risk of being seen by others to have betrayed

When practicing leadership, you're the one that is challenging because the ones you're challenging have a lot to lose. They deserve compassion because you're asking the most of them. Leadership requires respect for the pangs of change.

The difference between technical and adaptive challenges come in terms of predictability; the adaptive path is uncertain whereas the technical path is more certain. In adaptive work you cannot predict which means that you need to prepare those with whom you're working to understand.

It's also rare that your challenges come separately: they mostly come bundled. Part of the challenge is requiring people to develop capacity, or determining when to call in an expert that can solve it in clear decisive ways. If your people don't understand that the challenges are adaptive, they'll expect you to fix them technically. One of the ways that people deal with adaptive challenges is to avoid them.

There are a variety of ways to avoid: distraction and lying are common forms of distraction. As we improvise in leadership, one of the unpredictable elements in the work is that you're never certain what type of avoidance people will engage in, so it is important to be gracious and generous as engaging them.

Ron spoke about a crisis life-cycle model: preparation, emergency and adaptive phases. In the pandemic the emergency phase is lasting much longer than anticipated, so the world is out of equilibrium. There are ways to manage the disequilibrium: action, presence, and heart. Have faith in people's resilience, and listen deeply: listen for losses, listen for different types of shame, and do less talking.

Everyone needs sanctuary and we all need anchors: confidantes, daily regular practices, and time away from the stresses of life.

There was a chance to ask some further questions, and Ron ended his theme time with the Council by offering the priestly blessing of our common faith: "May God bless you and keep you, may She shine her face upon you, may He turn his face upon you in these perilous times, grant you heart, grant you grace, grant you peace. Amen."

LeaderShift

Allison Rennie shared some of the programs being offered by LeaderShift which will integrate work on Adaptive Leadership. There will be a four-week workshop with Susan Beaumont called "How to lead when you don't know where you're going"; there will be an opportunity to be part of a circle of practice on adaptive leadership; and a chance to meet in November with Matt Miofsky to make the biblical connection to change, movement and adaptation "Leaning into the future without fear."

Gratitude

The President offered gratitude on behalf of the Regional Council to those who helped this General Meeting happen: special thanks to Ron Heifetz and Pam Rocker for their facilitation of theme and conversations about becoming Affirming; the Moderator and General Secretary for being present with us, the Regional Council Executive and in particular Bob Fillier, Jenny Carter, Laura Hermakin, Katherine Brittain and Peter Jones who took on particular roles for this gathering; those who led worship and those who offered background support, and Regional Council Staff; in particular Tressa Brotsky, Mauricio Araujo, and Brenda Wolff, and Allan Buckingham who is contracted to offer technical support. Lastly, the President offered thanks to Executive Minister, Treena Duncan who, along with everyone else, had a great learning curve to bringing this Gathering together.

In response, Treena thanked Blair as President for his gracious presence.

Worship & Adjournment

Brenda Fawkes and Steven Mirkovich led the Council in worship celebrating the Sacrament of Communion, and the President, Blair Odney, adjourned the meeting with a commission and benediction.

Optional Worship

The Regional Council provided a worship service for communities of faith to stream for Sunday morning. Nora Sanders, General Secretary, preached on Exodus 33.12-23.



Pacific Mountain Regional Council

Rev. Blair Odney, President

Ms. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister



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