

AGENDA & REPORTS

PMRC | 2022



LIST OF EDITS
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4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
Thursday June 9 - Sunday June 12, 2022
GM WHOVA PLATFORM | PRINCE GEORGE BC



EPHESIANS 3: 14-21



Welcoming Jeff Chu 朱天慧!



Jeff comes to us with an enthusiasm for a faith with longer tables, more connection with the land, decolonizing systems and difficult conversations.

THURSDAY JUNE 9

7:15 pm "Hopes, Dreams, Aspirations"

FRIDAY JUNE 10

9:35 am What Does the Church Need to Repent of?"

7:00 pm "Who do you want to be in the world?"

SATURDAY JUNE 11

9:35 am "Blessing"

Celebrations and Parties!



In-Person and Live Streaming:
youtu.be/kr1hxPZljil

Agenda

https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ucocj_202206/Agenda

THURSDAY JUNE 9

3:30 pm New Regional Representatives
Orientation
4:00 pm First Third Program begins
5:00 pm Supper
6:10 pm Opening Music
6:45 pm General Meeting Opening, Worship
7:15 pm Theme Session #1 "Hopes, Dreams,
Aspirations"
8:15 pm Vespers
9:00 pm Campus Ministry Pub Night!

FRIDAY JUNE 10

8:45 am Gathering music & Announcements
9:00 am Morning Worship
9:35 am Theme Session #2 "What Does the
Church Need to Repent of?"
10:35 am Break time
11:00 am Business Session: Why Do We Gather?
12:00 pm Lunch Break (CLUSTERS)
1:25 pm Theme Practice
1:45 pm Sharing the Work of the Executive:
President's Address
2:00 pm Proposals - introduction & listening
phase
2:30 pm General Council Guest
3:00 pm Break time
3:30 pm Sharing the Work of the Executive:
Executive Accountability
4:30 pm Music & Movement!
4:40 pm PMRC Staff Introductions
5:00 pm Stewardship: Vicki Nelson
5:25 pm Announcements and Grace
5:30 pm Dinner Break
6:45 pm Gathering music
7:00 pm Theme Session #3 "Who do you want to
be in the world?"
8:15 pm Announcements & Vespers

SATURDAY JUNE 11

8:45 am Gathering music & Announcements
9:00 am Morning Worship
9:35 am Theme Session #4 "Blessing"
10:35 am Break time
11:00 am Proposals - discussion phase
11:15 am The Work of the Region
12:00 pm Lunch (NETWORKS)
1:25 pm Theme Practice
1:45 pm The Office of Vocation
2:15 pm The Wider Church
2:30 pm Indigenous Ministry
3:00 pm Break time
3:30 pm Music & Movement!
3:45 pm Final Business Session & Proposals
decisions
5:00 pm Gratitude!
5:15 pm We are an Affirming Ministry - Let's
Celebrate!
5:50 pm Closing worship
6:00 pm Affirming Region Street Party!



GM 2022 AGENDA
How to use a "QR" Code

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

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President's Message

Rev. Blair S. Odney

It is not the critic who counts, not the (one) who points out how the strong stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the (one) who is actually in the arena..., who at best knows achievement and who at the worst, if (they) fail, at least fails daring greatly so that (their) place shall never be with the cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt, Sorbonne 1950



Hello my beloveds,

I've been wracking my brain for the past two months wondering what God is calling me to write in my last written message to the region as President. Is there a word of peace that you might remember? Is there an empowering message of inspiration that will fly off the tips of my fingers, as I click away on the keyboard of my office laptop? One thing is for sure; my heart is filled with real hope as I think about the United Church of Canada at this time in our history.

As I write this, I'm looking out my office window into the greenery of Tipperary Park in New Westminster as the sunshine pours in. (It's been raining for weeks, so this break of bright light feels especially appropriate in this moment.) From this little corner of the region, looking out over my surroundings, I realize that the context of our ministries is everything. Where we find ourselves absolutely defines how we will respond to the call of the gospel to be, and bring, good news. And from my perspective, it has never been more important to be the denomination of the Christian church whose most recent credal statement begins with "God is Wholly Mystery."

In my community on the six-block walk from my home to my office, I hear at least 5 different languages. I see the skin tones of people from the far East, southeast Asia, West Africa, the middle-east. The Caucasian population of the local high school makes up 25% of the student body. The LGBTQ2S+ community is migrating from the west end of downtown Vancouver into my city because housing is more accessible. Men's groups are operating. Seniors are gathering in coffee shops. Folks who sleep in the street sometimes find refuge under the canopy of the church I serve. All are longing for an encounter with the holy mystery. All wanting the hand of grace to touch their aching hearts.

I believe that God is already doing the things we could ever hope or imagine, and we are being called to catch up. I believe we are called to be rooted and grounded in the love that has changed us, to be conduits of that love in a world longing to be loved. I'm sure each of you could tell a similar story about the context of your ministries. What do we do with the context? Is God ahead of us doing the work of incarnational theology somewhere else? Are we players in the unfolding work of mending God's world?

President's Message

continued

A phrase from Roosevelt's quote above, has been turned into a book by Brene Brown – the researcher, social worker, academic who has spent most of the past 30 years researching, studying, and writing about shame, vulnerability and the power of risk taking. Daring Greatly. Whenever I encounter her teaching, I'm inspired again. Is now the time for our denomination to risk everything, for the sake of the gospel? From my context, I hear more and more people living on the outside of the status quo in which the church once had a major stake, crying out to be claimed again, loved again, held again, graced again, by that Holy Mystery that we say is. Is it finally time for new wineskins?

Never before has the Region been more poised to think and act strategically on behalf of the gospel, making decisions about where we want this love to be grounded so that the Holy Mystery we name, can be proclaimed. What does daring greatly mean today? How will we resource these courageous acts of risk taking? Never before have communities of faith in the region had such a role in fulfilling the whole church's ministry - Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice from Healthy Communities of faith and ministries, served by Effective Leadership, giving powerful testimony, and Faithful Public Witness, to the gospel of love.

That's why I'm so excited that we are meeting in person for the first time since 2019, in Prince George. I want to talk about these things. How I look forward to seeing your faces in person, giving a hug to those who wish, and experiencing a felt sense of "my church." I'm just as excited that we have figured out how to meet with people who are unable to make the journey, but who will be present on-line.

I'm especially excited that Jeff Chu is our theme speaker, former journalist now faithful follower who asks good question. He will touch on the core themes from the Ephesians passage - identity, risk taking, letting go, imagining, responding to call. Our work and worship will include the active participation and discernment of children, youth, young adults. National General Secretary the Rev. Michael Blair will join our meeting, uniting our own intention around the church's mission. He will also preach at our Celebration of Ministry on Sunday morning.

In and through it all, we will be rooted and grounded in love daring to witness to what God is already doing in the world.

It will be so good to see you.

In Christ,

Rev. Blair Odney
President

Executive Minister's Message

After three years, I continue to enjoy finding my way around this role. But there are many days when I wish that there was a clear and simple path to guide my work, something easy like a GPS. Generally, when I'm getting around, especially now when I am finding my way around my second Region in Alberta, I rely on a GPS to get me to where I intend to go. It considers all the different ways to go, traffic, hazards and accidents and tells me how best to safely make the journey. I listen intently for the next direction prompt and trust that it will get me where I want to go, guided by a confident and re-assuring voice. But sometimes I have missed a turn and I get this abrupt, "RECALCULATING" in a voice that seems annoyed that I did not listen to the clear instructions that were provided. I carry on and it keeps recalculating and at a certain point, I think it is just going to say to me, "Look, if you don't need me, just do what you want. I am not going to help any more!"



I think that the GPS also reflects the life and journey we have been on during this pandemic. RECALCULATING has become our theme. This has been an unpredictable two years, and we had been travelling along through life when suddenly, we had to recalculate. The GPS hadn't been updated, there were no roads, no simple and safe path to the destination.

Throughout these past couple of years, the Communities of Faith in Pacific Mountain Region have stepped up to the challenges in front of them. The leaders in this region have 'recalculated' with incredible creativity and resilience. Scripture is filled with stories of spiritual ancestors who responded to God's call to 'recalculate' and found their lives going where no map would lead them. Moses woke up one morning thinking he was tending sheep for a living and ended up leading his people out of captivity in Egypt. Mary was minding her own business growing up in Nazareth when the angel Gabriel appeared and recalculated her life's journey. Recalculating is a theme for our time and for our life with God.

In early March 2020 a hopeful planning group met in Victoria to begin to prepare for a Regional Meeting in Victoria. Two years later, we are excited to be coming together (finally!) for our first post-pandemic in-person Regional Gathering; but our new reality means that some of us will not be in person but will join in online. Life and work will be different now, and we are excited to have our first try at a hybrid meeting. We have taken precautions to make this meeting as safe as possible for those around us and ourselves.

Despite the challenges of the context of COVID, the work of the Region has continued. The Executive has worked hard to develop our vision for ministry so that the staff have a framework from which to lead. Our three areas of focus for the Region are: Effective Leadership, Healthy Communities of Faith and Faithful Public Witness, and as we consider these overarching goals we have established areas of priority. The Region and its staff are focussed on supporting and resourcing the Region's Communities of Faith and Ministries within these frameworks.

You will see, by reading the reports of the various ministries across the Region that we have accomplished a lot this year. We have established an amazing First Third ministry, expanded Leadershift to include online and hybrid options, and we have delved deeply into the work of reconciliation and becoming an Affirming Region. Through it all, it is a privilege to work with the staff team, who are skilled and committed in their work. We are blessed to have many staff and are mindful of our privilege as a Region, and are sharing our resources. Our cross Regional partnerships are flourishing and offer mutual benefit to all parties; this reminds us that we are not alone in our ministry and partnerships between Regions, Communities of Faith, and beyond will continue to add value to our life and ministry here in Pacific Mountain Region.

Executive Minister's Report

continued

The combination of the pandemic and the loss of Presbyteries has made staying connected to one another a challenge. The staff and Executive see this as an important part of our work. We are committed to exploring ways to build partnerships among Communities of Faith and to find new ways to be the church in the context of diminishing resources, both human and financial. We know that being intentional about cultivating and maintaining relationships is particularly important to our future.

We have named Leadership development as another important area of priority and we live this out through a robust First Third Ministry which fosters and builds leadership for the future church. Leadershift creatively offers programs which respond to providing support, challenge and skill development for all types of leadership. I really encourage you to take a look at the upcoming "Total Clergy Well-being" offering, which is a rarely offered, life-changing and deeply enriching experience.

What keeps us in that alignment, what keeps our spiritual GPS connected to that satellite, is community - each other. It is where we come to remember that we are loved and called to walk in love, to be fed and fueled, and to go back out into the world and witness to that love. Joan Chittister, writing in Wisdom Distilled from the Daily, reflects on the significance of community:

*In community we work out our connectedness to God, to one another and to ourselves.
It is in community where we find out who we are ... Alone, I am what I am, but in community I
have the chance to become everything that I can be. And so, stability bonds me to this group of people
and to these relationships so that resting in the security of each other we can afford to stumble and
search, knowing that we will be caught if we fall, and we will be led where we cannot see by those
who have been there before us.*

Led where we cannot see, caught if we fall, encouraged to recalculate.

The way the GPS guides me on the roads is how I believe the Holy Spirit guides each and every one of us on our Adventures as followers of Jesus and as a Region. God is patient. God is persistent. No matter how clueless we are or far afield we go, her patient, persistent refrain is, "Recalculating."

Blessings,

Treena Duncan
Executive Minister Pacific Mountain Regional Council
May 2022



Celebrations

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GM 2022 | JUNE 9-12, 2022

Rev. Jonah Lin 林景熙 - Admission

I completed my masters in the year 2006 in Taiwan at Tainan Theological College and Seminary as a Master of Divinity. I was then ordained in the Presbyterian Church after having worked in Labour Concern Center PCT. I then moved to Vancouver in 2016 and served in a Taiwanese congregation in PCC.

March 2020 I came and started serving for Amazing Grace United Church, which due to COVID -19 was on lockdown. I spearheaded efforts to bring AGUC online and start remote ministries and had a warm welcoming and lots of help / support from PMRC, especially from the clergy in Surrey. Overall, I am very interested in multicultural / intercultural community development ministries and strive towards building a more connected intercultural group.



Melanie Ihmels - Commissioning

I began this journey into Ministry in January of 2013 when I received my call during a windstorm at Saxe Point Park here in my home of Victoria, BC. God works quickly in my life and by May I was a full Candidate and in school in September with the full support of my home church, Esquimalt United behind me. I graduated from the Centre for Christian Studies in 2018 and spent the next three years working in several short term and sabbatical positions in the greater Victoria region with the United Church.

In August of 2021, I was offered an interim position at the Mustard Seed Street Church as its full-time Hospitality Pastor. I accepted the role and in January of this year, it was offered to me on a full-time basis. This role is categorized as a Recognized Ministry Position and allows me to practice ministry with our most vulnerable populations. I love the challenge and ecumenical work that comes from a role working in the Vancouver Islands' poorest postal code!



Philip Francis - Ordination

God came calling in my 60's, while I was managing client investment portfolios - I left my job and enrolled as a full-time student at VST - first in the Diploma Program, then in the MAPPL and finally in the M.Div program, graduating in May 2021. Field Education at First United Church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside convinced me that it was not too late to become the person God meant me to be. I hope this transformative experience will also inspire others, later in life, to respond to God's call into pastoral leadership.

The pandemic has accelerated many of the challenges faced by the church in preceding years. Our foremost need now is to become relevant and responsive to the needs of the many in our communities, of all ages, who experience loneliness, social isolation or marginalization, and who yearn for a place of belonging and spiritual growth. Our churches are uniquely placed to offer a spiritual home through inspiring worship, intercultural learning opportunities, and impactful local outreach programs. Above all, I believe, we have to model a different type of community, grounded in "loving one another, as I have loved you", both within our churches and in partnership with other faith traditions and community organizations. I look forward to being part of that vision.



Retirees

2021-2022

Those retiring from ministry in 2021 – 2022 were asked to provide a short description of themselves, their ministry, and their journey to retirement. They were also asked what they see as the biggest challenge for leadership in the coming time.

For all these gifts, we give you thanks!



Heather Anderson – Retired February 1, 2021

I am one of the fortunate ones who grew up in families and communities that were well rooted and grounded in Love. I've had the privilege and joy of living and working in B.C., Alberta, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan; in science and music and theatre and popular education and church; partnering with people of many faiths and of no organized faith; being urban and rural and family-farm based (yay Saskatchewan!); as able-bodied, and now disabled and isolated since five years ago.

Along the way I met an amazing farm, an amazing farmer (+RIP) and our two amazing daughters. Also an assortment of dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rats, birds, pigs, cattle, grasshoppers (think plague), and bees.

Between being ordained in 1985 and retiring in 2021 I think I really preached only one sermon – God is Love, who created each person beloved, and calls us together to create communities of love in action. I think it's the one sermon I grew up with, and it allowed me to stay within the institutional church for so long. (That and, as a minister, being paid to go to church!) It showed me the truth of Cornel West's claim that "Justice is what Love looks like in the public sphere."



Sharilynn Upsdell – Retired March 1, 2021

Born into a military household with seven moves in early childhood instilled "change is normal" and innovation as necessary. After one year of Sunday school, I was chagrined, at the "mature age of ten" to be denied opportunity to answer the baptism questions myself. My questioning began early. My curious spirit was open to exploring new places and ideas with intimate friends in a broad array of faith expressions.

A treasured photo depicts me in early ministry. I'm 15, encircled by my peers – our bright red jackets contrasting with the lush green surroundings. I stand leading a Guide's Own outdoor worship service. Community, thanksgiving, and respect for all creation valued. Connecting to the holy was vital. Another memory – I'm among 3000 Guides/Scouts at camp in Sweden, singing and praying in harmony, sharing different cultures and languages. A passion for broader connection was fanned.

Retirees

continued

Married, children, and a few “gap years” later, I dipped my toes back into faith community at Rutland United – offering creativity, and leading youth activities steeped in faith and action. God nudged me deeper. 1992 presented opportunities at Westbank United as Staff Associate and KO Presbytery Youth Minister, serving both eleven years. Concurrently life was in transformation, while I studied Diaconal Ministry with the Centre for Christian Studies. Upon graduation/commissioning and re-marrying in 2003, I was blessed to be settled among the Tsimshian people in Lax Kw'alaams, Prince Rupert Presbytery. Residential School issues were not yet part of mainstream awareness and the learning curve was steep. We were enriched by tender stories, embraced by faithful people, and immersed in strong cultural life and imprinted by the common heartbeat resounding in Tsimshian drums. I welcomed the voice of the drums in the church more than a century after they were banned by missionaries.

As ministry shifted to Aldergrove United, Fraser Presbytery YAYA Ministry, IOCO United (supply), and First United, Kelowna Family and Outreach (supply), my diaconal heart found a new passion. Serving almost a decade as the (DUCC) Diakonia of the United Church of Canada representative to DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean), international experiences expanded my consciousness of cultural richness and struggles in the world and across denominations.

A family decision to remain in the Okanagan meant exploring new ministry options. A care-home chaplain invited me as a volunteer, then short-term supply, morphing into almost 10 years Chaplaincy at Good Samaritan Heron Grove, Vernon, and Mountainview Village, Kelowna. A wonderful fit for my pastoral style and creative soul. Embracing and learning from the deep stories of those in care, I sat knee to knee, gathered in circles, singing heart songs, empowering faith and offering an accompanying presence of God to a last breath. Even amid exhausting COVID protocols, it has fed my soul to be part of unearthing the glimpses of new life with those in various stages of life's journey. The dedication of my health care colleagues has been inspiring.

After 30 years in ministry, I enter retirement with an ongoing sense of adventure. My spirit yearns for more time in nature, with my partner Ed and family, creativity engaging the holy in everyday living.

When I entered ministry in 1992, my 386 personal computer was not designed to access the internet. Youth ministry was gaining momentum in the Okanagan with volunteer leaders. Lay people interested in serving were often appointed as Staff Associates with no automatic church court privileges. By the mid-1990s I had at least nine youth ministry colleagues in Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. A generation of young “church geeks” were finding engagement in the wider church gatherings. By 2000, statistics indicated average households had an extra 20 hours of employment each week, drastically changing the volunteer base for churches and limiting the availability of parents to support ministry with teens. Now, as many baby boomers dance with retirement and/or supportive living, cell phones more info than the 1990s computers, and internet use is the new norm for some as meeting in-person has been limited by COVID and many seniors into their 90s are iPad savvy. Elders, perhaps absent from the church for 20 years due to health issues, their favourite hymns are likely from the early 2000s, rather than the “traditional” care home type services of

Retirees

continued

early and mid-1900s; a desire to continue learning and exploring their faith stories is alive and theology is likely one full of questions and understandings that encourage personal and shared confidence that life has always been full of challenging and rewarding transitions.

Healthcare has become a societal focus with COVID, and a challenge arises for increased faith community involvement in justice issues there. Alongside care staff shortages and ever diminishing dollars for chaplaincy, leadership is challenged to new practices in our multi-cultural, multi-faith settings as folks continue to yearn for connection to the transcendent in non-traditional language and practices.

Our challenge as a church is to continue to trust in God's spirit that opens us to new life in unexpected ways. An adage I've found helpful in recent years may be a mantra for many in these days of continuing change: "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

My prayer for each of us, is the deep well of God's spirit pouring from us as we sing, "Every day is a day of Thanksgiving... you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me..." believing individually and corporately, the challenges and the gifts will never be exhausted.



Maureen Anderson – Retired April 1, 2021

"In The Garden" (C. Austin Miles)

You Tube: Anne Murray

"My Love Colours Outside the Lines"

(Gordon Light, Andrew Donaldson, Benjamin Bergey)

More Voices # 138, (2007) You Tube: Pacific Spirit UCC

"Some Days Are Better Than Others" (Charlie Major)

You Tube: Charlie Major

God gave me a vision in church one Easter Sunday. I had asked the cross what its meaning was. One of my images of Jesus appeared on the cross. "I am God. I feel everyone's pain. Do you want to feel it too?" I said yes. I felt such intense pain, that after a millisecond, I told it to stop. It was then that I knew the cross was about God in the world and God with each of us. That vision and others, including those calling me into ministry, has been at the core of my faith, ministry and biography. God is not some high in "heaven" or beyond our reach deity. God is with us and loving us and wanting us to love each other. This has, and will continue to be, my ministry.

*"Say what you mean, mean what you say,
and do what you say you are going to do." (Barbara Coloroso)*

The biggest challenges are the mixed messages in clergy support. When one is called into ministry, one faces a difficult and challenging path, supported and guided by peers and various bodies of the United Church. Ministry, and the leadership you name us to, requires more clear and concise relational dialogue in all phases of our lives in the church. I think of it as when the oxygen mask drops in an airplane emergency and we are told to put the mask on before we look for others to care for. The United Church's mask drops sometimes, doesn't drop other times, occasionally doesn't have enough oxygen, is sometimes difficult to find and on occasion... is taken away too soon.

Retirees

continued



Cindy Terry – Retired April 1, 2021

I grew up in Treherne, Manitoba. I am grateful that my mom took us to the United Church every Sunday; along with Sunday school, she encouraged my participation in Messengers, Explorers, CGIT, and choir. There was such a magnetism toward the church, for me. I learned to pray when I was very young. I knew God was with me and I often talked with God. The church and time in prayer were my safe places.

As an adult, I remained very involved in the church while pursuing a career as a dental assistant/instructor and raising a family. In 1990, at the annual meeting of Conference, Jim Hatherly approached me and said, “May I ask you a question that has been asked of me, but I’ve never asked anyone before? Have you ever thought of going into ministry?” I was a single parent of two small children and gave all sorts of reasons why that was impossible. I said, “Besides, I haven’t heard a great booming voice asking me to do this.” Jim laughed and said, “Cindy, you do know that God talks through other people?!”

One turning point in my faith journey took place at Northwood United Church. April 2, 2006, I was in the pulpit and had just started into the opening prayer when everything went black. I had shooting pains up my neck. Pam Dawson, an ICU cardiac nurse, was in church that day; she handled the medical crisis expertly. Brenda Wolff stepped up and managed all the details, until late in the evening, in such a calm, positive way. Both were Divine gifts given to me. After the CT showed a dissention in my ascending aorta, the cardiologist told me, “You need open heart surgery immediately. This is very serious and life-threatening.” Again, I heard a voice: “Cindy, you’re going to be okay. You’re going to be just fine.” Post-surgery, I learned that I had had only a 2% chance of living through the surgery.

After several years of recovery, I took the Pacific Jubilee Program for spiritual directors. I did it mostly for myself, to deepen my own movement to true self. It is an excellent program. I had four phenomenal mentors. Even though I’m officially retired, it’s still in my plans to offer spiritual direction and companionship.

I’ve been very blessed by God’s grace throughout my life—for example, the fire in the day care of Pine Falls United, Manitoba where I was settled; tragically, it killed a three-year-old Indigenous girl, destroyed the church building, and devastated the community. Secondly, my health broke down mid-way through my ministry, forcing me to go on disability. I loved being a minister. When I couldn’t go back to work, I was confronted with the question, “Who am I if I can’t be a minister?” I feel I’m a lot further down the road in detaching from active ministry. But I don’t think I’m at the point of total contentment with simply “being.” In the times of greatest challenge, I’ve felt blessed by God’s grace and guidance.

I love the United Church, and in my view the biggest challenge for our church is healthy relationships: we need to get over the need to always be “nice” and learn positive ways to manage conflict. We find it difficult to speak up to injustice within the church because we don’t want to cause a fuss. With lack of action, some become discouraged and leave the

Retirees

continued

church, while the issue remains. To have right relationships within a congregation, there needs to be more transparency, as lack of open communication leads to gossip and misinformation. Wouldn't it be awesome if we could just be respectfully honest with one another and set our intention to live out of the Spirit of Love/the Divine within? It's vital.



Julianne Kasmer – Retired July 2021

I have had the privilege of growing, living and learning on the occupied/stolen unceded lands of many Indigenous peoples and currently reside on the traditional territory of the Lek'wungen speaking and WASANEC peoples. The United Church was an important part of my early childhood. During a series of moves around B.C., it kept me grounded. As I entered my teens, our family lost touch with the United Church and I found community in youth programs at evangelical churches. I found fun and fellowship there,

but not an authentic theological home. Focus on personal sin and salvation and a literal interpretation of scripture fed neither my mind nor my soul. I found engagement with faithful people of many denominations over the years, but not a home. In my thirties, my growing children's deepening spiritual needs and my own helped me find my way back to the United Church. Thanks to Rev. Norm Thomas and the shared wisdom of the theologically engaged, progressive women of Knox United Church, Parksville, I was baptized at the age of 38.

As I began to understand the depth of the church's involvement with Residential Schools and the ongoing intergenerational effects on Indigenous peoples I became part of the leadership of the grass-roots, ecumenical, Vancouver Island-based reconciliation effort "Pilgrimage Towards Right Relationships" in the late 1990s. Soon after, Rev. Chuck Rayment surprised me by suggesting I explore a calling to ministry in the United Church. Rev. Dr. George Affleck (UCC) and his wife Fronia were instrumental in my United Church education and were incredible mentors and gracious and generous employers for many years throughout my time of discernment and study. Dr. Doreen Johnson and the congregation of Denman and Hornby Island United Church took a chance on me during discernment (for me, two tries at the one-year process), and I continued to serve them as a student (sponsored by Knox church in Parksville) and after studies at VST, as Licensed Lay Worship Leader for almost 12 years.

In 2010, I was invited to serve Cumberland United, and after a year's internship and significant discouragement from the church, thanks to the persistence of Rev. Foster Freed and a congregation who continued to affirm my call, I was ordained in 2011. In 2013, I began a ministry of presence as Chaplain at Our Place Society, a community ministry in downtown Victoria. I retired from that particular and very special ministry in 2021. All the varied parts of my journey have been blessed with incredible communities of engaged, hopeful, deeply and profoundly spiritual mentors. Love, justice, right relationships – these have been the

Retirees

continued

touchstones of my life and ministry. The world is crying out for an authentic spiritual life that speaks to the ecological, economic and deeply divisive realities of our time and calls us to action through the power of the Spirit. May we find the wisdom and courage to work together with all people of good faith to transform our world while there is still time. All my relations.

The realities of our present times – ecological, economic (deeply tied to our unjust relationship with the environment, wealth and Indigenous communities and peoples) and political, along with isolation and spiritual despair require new ways of being in solidarity and community – not merely with others in the United Church or even the Christian tradition, but with all people of good faith, including those who espouse no religious faith or tradition, but who are deeply engaged in the work of the world. We need to listen deeply and humbly to the wisdom and leadership of Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers. United Church leaders need to be educated, trained, supported and willing to work across age groups, cultures and religions and to connect with (and connect!) leaders who are affecting the changes our world needs. Start local. We follow the example of Jesus, who first walked the hills and valleys of his home in Galilee, learned and was challenged by the strictures of Empire, religious certainty and tradition and pointed us toward a dangerous, demanding and costly walk to right relationships, beginning with our relationship to the Divine and one another.

We must adapt our training institutions and structures within the United Church to educate and support leaders who discern and empower the gifts and skills of laity, who work collaboratively in the community, and who are able to nurture their own spirituality as well as that of those they lead. For that we need to ensure that we are building strong communities of mutual support for people in ministry and encourage a culture of safety, vulnerability, humility and interconnectedness. Teams of people who may also work outside the church for part of their income, gifted in different aspects of ministry and working from a central hub to serve several communities of faith could be a way of building collaborative shared ministries – preachers, musicians, pastoral care ministers, justice teams, children and youth ministers and elders, teachers, and administrators each using their best gifts to support the ministry of the whole.

During my 23 years in ministry, I drove a taxi, provided home care for seniors, and worked in administration and consulting alongside part-time paid work in the church. This practical type of ministry will become more common as we deal with the reality of diminishing funds. Shifting the culture of our whole United Church structure, and especially our theological training will be the biggest challenge to accomplish these goals. I believe we can do it. Friends, let us love one another as we have been loved. It sure helps.

Retirees

continued



Michael Collison – Retired January 1, 2022

I began my life journey in the year 1950 on the St. Lawrence River near Brockville, Ontario. My extended family had long standing connections to the Methodist Church which dovetailed into the United Church of Canada in 1925. At 18 years of age, I attended a confirmation class with a new minister, who led the class in prayer of repentance and dedication/faith in Christ as Lord. I felt my heart strangely warmed in the manner of John Wesley!

The minister came from an Anabaptist tradition. He preached against the Vietnam war, which inflamed the leaders of the congregation – and he was fired from his position. This experience taught me that Christian faith is meaningful and has power, is often the object of scorn, and even hatred. My academic studies began with history at Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier), continuing with theology at Queen's Theological College and an extra year at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago.

I pastored for five years in Manitou Conference in the Port Loring two-point charge near North Bay. This was a time of learning the reality of pastoral ministry – lots of weddings, funerals, and also hunting, fishing, and cross-county skiing. The people in this charge worked in trapping for furs, mining and lumbering, salt of the earth. Loved it! Then on to Niagara Presbytery to Pelham Community Church (United). This community heritage was of the Evangelical United Brethren, which can be translated as German Methodist. A plaque on the entrance to the church read: Deutsche Evangelische Gemeinschaft. It was a vibrant community with an effective youth ministry, including a youth band. The previous retired minister from EUB tradition and graduate of Colgate Rochester Divinity School sat next to me in the choir all the time in my ministry; he was a very supportive colleague.

During my time at Pelham, I married my first wife, Valerie, and a year later we together did a pastoral exchange to a Presbyterian church at Invercargill, New Zealand – next stop south, Antarctica! The pastor whom I exchanged with later became the moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. I highly recommend to all people in ministry international, trans-cultural experience. This opens one's eyes to the larger Christian world.

I returned to Pelham for a few years, then made the decision to complete my ThM studies at Regent College in Vancouver beginning in 1991 – my first vision in Chicago in the '70s. At Regent, Valerie and I both completed master's degrees. She passed away of cancer in 1995. In 1997, I returned to Invercargill for part-time ministry. In 1999, I married Christine, who also holds a Regent master's degree, and renewed active ministry in the United Church in Hope, B.C. as a presbytery placement. I received a call from Knox Presbyterian church in Dannevirke, NZ (North Island) as an interim moderator for the year 2001.

In 2002, we returned to Canada, and I accepted a call for ministry at Mt. Lehman United Church in Abbotsford. Since that time, I remained in a part-time position in customer sales at Regent Bookstore on the UBC campus, where I am still employed. This ministry has been the

Retirees

continued

most extensive of my pastoral career – both in years and in spiritual impact. It has provided me with unwavering support in its quest to serve its community, grow in spiritual maturity and reach out to the Mt. Lehman and Abbotsford areas. International awareness has also grown, especially through connections with A Rocha's environmental care and impacts in both South Surrey and southern France. The challenges of generational shift, United Church governance changes and COVID ministry have been significant in recent years. I trust that the foundations which I've strived to strengthen will serve well to transition this blessed Christian community to its next chapter.

What do I see as some of the greatest challenges facing church leadership as we are now in a new era coming out of COVID-19? These last nearly three years for myself as I began to look toward retirement, induced stress in not being able to see over the horizon. This was common for all clergy and staff. We need to be mindful of ultimate hope during times of discouragement and dim hope. There has been frustration and unrest in most churches. There is a sense people want to get back to the way it was. That's not going to happen. We have been discouraged; social relationships and public worship and other opportunities for fellowship have been disrupted significantly. Koinonia has taken a beating! Clergy naturally feed off the relationships with the people of their parish.

People have been divided about things like masks, vaccines, and public health measures. There is social unrest where different visions are attracting people in our congregations and wider community. Now are we dealing with racism, and the deep historical issues of Indigenous peoples that call for compassion, reconciliation and honesty.

We also need to be aware that technology is here to stay and will evolve. The concept of hybrid worship is even more important than hybrid cars! At the same time, we desperately need to gather incarnationally as the body of Christ. We are going to have to return to the first things of Christian discipleship if we are going to get through our discouragement. We need to see this as a new emerging time of hope.

A recent Barna Group study has said pastors are tired, worn down, and questioning their calling. We have been under a constant barrage of opinions for every angle. We need to listen to the voice that cuts across politics and refuses to be pulled into various ideologies and refuses to answer to governments and the world system. We need to hear the voice that became flesh – Jesus calling us to renew our role of embodying hope in a broken world. My ministerial friends, turn down the voices of the world and hear again the Word made flesh in Christ.

What is most essential in the coming time for effective Christian leadership? We are invited to be completely dependent on Messiah, Jesus. He invites us to draw near to Him through His Word, through worship, through prayer, and through other spiritual practices so we can continually rediscover what generous, humble, kind, and faithful leadership looks like. As we realign our expectation of leadership with God's, we discover a grace that will carry us through these coming times.

Retirees

continued



Rev. Philip Newman – Retired April 1, 2022

My journey began close to the rich fertile soil of Southwestern Ontario where I grew up on a farm, loving the space to roam and explore and be. This is where my faith took root and grew into a strong sense of call to ministry. It is a faith that was nurtured by the sure heart of an encouraging United Church faith community in the town of Essex. Internship experiences took me first to Long Reach, New Brunswick, where I learned to sail and canoe/kayak and

where I first fell in love with the people of a congregation, and secondly to Naramata Centre where I deepened my love for ministry in the great outdoors, and with children and youth – so much so that my first son was born during the internship just to prove this point.

After receiving Testamur from Emmanuel College in Toronto in 1982, I was launched into full-time ministry back again in New Brunswick as a trained lay minister followed by ordination in 1983 by London Conference. In this settlement charge I found myself among a supportive collection of households from three congregations and somewhere there came to the realization that I was not called to change the world, but to love it. It was a time of finding my legs. A new call in 1986 took me as an associate minister to a growing congregation in Paris, Ontario, with growing needs and I jumped into the ministry of outreach and mission, children and youth, and Christian Development. Here, I learned much from a wise and compassionate lead minister. It was a time of maturing. The Spirit next nudged me to London, Ontario in 1996, to a congregation full of possibility and imaging where I had great fun as lead minister, learning much about how the church can serve the community that surrounds it. It was a time of deep hope and discovery.

And then in 2015, I made a leap to West Vancouver where once again in amongst the waves and rocks and treed mountains of the North Shore I discovered another group of people hungry to discover their real identity in Jesus Christ and their place in the humbling universe. It was a time of falling in love with God's people all over again, and a time of bringing to a close "active" ministry and embracing a new rhythm, retirement. This is a time of continued openness to what Spirit has in mind. It is also a time of deepening fun and adventure with my three sons, their spouses, six grandchildren, and Kim, my awesome partner and closest friend.

As we move forward, wise faith communities will become students of what's happening and seek to find a new way to be Church that's biblically faithful and culturally effective. Adept leaders will figure out where culture is going, figure out how to meet people where they're at, and then lead them to where they need to be.

There is a lot that is unclear. What was is gone. What will be hasn't yet emerged. For example, Sunday services are important for a host of reasons, but for many churches, the Sunday service has become either all the church does or the main focal point by which everything else revolves. Focusing all your efforts on one hour on Sunday ignores the other 167 hours in a week. The pandemic was helpful for some faith communities who discovered ways to be Church other than gathering.

Retirees

continued

Some churches function like restaurants that decide that if you want to eat, it can only happen in a one-hour window and only in this particular building, and if you miss it, you miss it. Think about it. What future would there be for a restaurant whose mantra is: You can only eat our food in our building? We're only open one hour a week? We don't do much in between.

Naturally, Church is a lot more than one hour of performance or participation on Sunday morning (a little harsh, but that's what it's become in some cases). A lot of the innovation that has to happen in the Church needs to take place outside of Sunday and outside the building. People don't live in the church building. They live in the community, where they interact with all kinds of amazing people all day long, every day. Churches that equip people where they live and work and play will have a promising future. And these faith communities will live to give away their life for the sake of the community in which they find themselves.



Rev. Cheryl Black – Retiring June 30, 2022

I attended Emmanuel College and was ordained by Hamilton Conference in 1977. I served in Saskatchewan Conference for 15 years and then moved to BC Conference. Here I have served West Point Grey United Church (Vancouver), Highlands United (North Vancouver), and St. Aidan's/Broad View United (Victoria). I have had the privilege of doing ministry in the United Church of Canada for 45 years and I am grateful to all who have been part of this journey.

The biggest challenge is to nurture a spirit of flexibility, innovation, and courage to meet the opportunities of this new time within our congregations and our leadership. If ministry and "church" is not "fun" – that is, engaging, creative, outside the box and forward thinking, then find ways to make it so. We need bold action, innovative stewardship, strategic partnerships, and new ways of being so we can pass on to successive generations the vital, progressive understanding of God active in the world.



Rev. Albert Ramsey – Retiring June 30, 2022

When I became an intended candidate for ordered ministry in the mid-'70s in Victoria, I was by and large innocent of the nature of church life, having only sporadically attended services at Metropolitan United, whose youth group welcomed me in my teens.

Theological school offered little more insight into what was to come, the instructors being, as a colleague put it, an odd aggregate

The biggest challenge is to nurture a spirit of flexibility, innovation, and courage to meet the opportunities of this new time within our congregations and our leadership. If ministry and "church" is not "fun" – that is, engaging, of humans, all of them still trying to process their 18 unfortunate months in ministry. There was, though, one bright light, a professor who had just come to the school after decades of working in actual churches. And he told the truth about what was ahead. Not long before graduation he said to us, Churches will drive you crazy,

Retirees

continued

will pay you badly and often begrudgingly, criticize you zealously, consume your free and family time, compare you unfavorably to your predecessors, and astonish you with the pettiness of their internal politics. However, in each place you work there will be at least one saint. They will generally be great in years but not in numbers or influence. But they will be light and air and strength to you. Draw courage from them.

He proved to be entirely right. Working for churches was sufficient to send a person straight up the wall. Yet there really were saints. Some were cantankerous, some utterly hilarious, some as sweet as ginger-pecan pie. And they got me through. I am enormously grateful for every one of them.

Aside from the financial stress of work drying up in our denomination, I expect that the greatest challenge for clergy in days to come will involve not taking institutional decline personally. And heaven knows there will be board members and others wanting them to assume full responsibility for waning numbers.

The brightest of my classmates adopted as a personal mantra, "This is not my fault." I recommend doing the same.



Kevin Sprong – Retiring 2022

I had been a minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa for over 30 years before coming to the UCC. I served in large suburban congregations as well as small rural congregations in both South Africa and Canada.

Increasingly I believe Karl Rahner was right when he said "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all."

Christian as well as other Mysticism influence all I do from liturgical worship and preaching and social activism.

The biggest challenge will be to figure out how to minister to people on the Internet. One author said something like Our grandparents worshipped on the farm our parents worshipped in the suburbs but now we worship on the internet.

Anniversaries

Ordained, diaconal, designated lay Ministers 2022

5 Years

Eric Hamlyn (OM)
Donald Schmidt (OM-ADM)
Ming (Ibi) Chuan (OM)
Christine Boyle (OM)
Ian McLean (DM)
Trevor Malkinson (OM)
Diane Halkett (OM)
Warren McKinnon (OM-ADM)
Alan Lai (OM-ADM)
Jinsoo Kang (OM-ADM)
Wayne Hughes (DLM)

10 Years

Alice Hanson (DM)
George Meier (OM-ADM)
Leenane Shiels (OM)
Cheryl Perry (DLM)
Gilbert Jackson (DLM)

15 Years

Victoria Andrews (OM)
Tim Bowman (OM)
Jeff Seaton (OM)
Elizabeth Bowyer (DM)
Karen Millard (OM)
Carmen Lansdowne (OM)
Maxine Pirie (OM)

20 Years

John Bullas (OM)
Bethan Theunissen (OM)
Blair Odney (OM) (in Ministry)
Dorothy Jeffery (OM)
Dan Chambers (OM-ADM)

25 Years

Daniel Kirkegaard (OM)
Helen Waddell (OM)
Angela James (OM)
Keltie van Binsbergen (OM)
Hilde Seal (OM)
Rod MacKinnon (OM)
Kim Horwood (DM)
Kelly Grittner (DLM)

30 Years

Will Sparks (OM)
Tim Stevenson (OM)
Alexander McGilvery (OM)
David Drake (OM)
Sally McShane (OM)
Catherine Angus (OM)
Colin Kang (OM-ADM)

35 Years

Robert Norris (OM-ADM)
Laura Turnbull (OM)
Mark Green (DM)
Edith Newman (OM)
Wendy Read (OM)
Lily Watson (OM)
Jay Olson (OM)
Audrey Lans (OM)
Lillian Soga (OM)
Eleanor Stamm (OM)
Juanita Austin (OM)
Wade Allen (OM)
Edward Hughes (OM)

40 Years

Richard Fairchild (OM)
Daniel Bogert-O'Brien (OM)
Alison Woods (DM)
William Laurie (OM)
Stuart Lyster (OM)
Connie Thompson (OM)
James Short (OM)
James Hatherly (OM)

45 Years

Janet Cawley (OM)
Allan Saunders (OM)
Reed Cudmore (OM)
Wilfred Carson (OM)
Michael Collinson (OM)
Randy Antle (OM)
Mary Steele (OM)
Robert McRae (OM)
Eric Stephanson (OM)
Christopher Levan (OM)
David Martyn (OM)
Daniel Newell (OM)
Gary Paterson (OM)
William Cantelon (OM)
Cheryl Black (OM)
Jack Smith -St. Cyr (OM-ADM)

50 Years

Kenneth Dean (OM)
Wilber James (OM)
Barbara Langton (OM)
Deryl McCrindle (OM)
Charlotte Caron (DM)
Linda Ervin (DM)

55 Years

Colin Johnstone (OM)
Dorne Cornish (OM)
David Smith (OM)

60 Years

Robert Stobie (OM)
David Fearon (OM)
Robert Scales (OM)
John Cashore (OM)

65 Years

James Manly (OM)
George Millard (OM)
Barry Cooke (OM)
Clifford Henning (OM)

Memorials

2021-2022



Rev. Muriel Edith Baird
June 4, 1940 - September 8, 2021

Edith was a beloved wife, mom, nana, sister, cousin, leader, companion, and woman of faith and integrity. She will be sadly missed by her dear family, and by so many others: at Crossroads, Northwood and Knox United Churches, in the circles of the wider United Church across B.C. and Canada, in interfaith circles in the Lower Mainland, and among her many devoted friends.

Edith was predeceased by her beloved husband, the Rev. Bob Baird (2004), and her son Cameron Baird (2009) and is survived by her loving daughter Leanne (Kirk) and grandchildren Carson and Paige, as well as her brother Morley (Sharon), her dear cousins, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

Edith was a candidate for ministry from Royal Heights United Church (Delta, B.C.), and was ordained in 1987. She served with great compassion, integrity and joy in ministry with Fleetwood United in Surrey, which, with her leadership, amalgamated with North Surrey United to form Northwood United Church. She then served at Knox United in Vancouver. Edith maintained lovingly connected relationships with her past congregations after retirement in 2005, when she settled in at St. John's Strawberry Hill United Church. Traveling with that congregation on its journey to amalgamation with Royal Heights in 2009, Edith brought her gracious, wise and compassionate presence as a retired minister into the life of the Crossroads congregation, also offering a steady source of support to the settled ministry personnel at each moment.

Edith had recently completed writing her memoirs before her death, which is a great comfort and gift to her family. In recent years, she had endured some medical setbacks, but always bounced back with her characteristic joy and humour. Edith continued to evolve a strong and sturdy faith that embraced difference, accepted others with compassion, and looked to mend the brokenness that besets our world. She was a courageous and beloved woman of great integrity, and her death is a loss that will take some time to heal.

A service of praise and thanksgiving to celebrate her life took place at Crossroads United Church (Delta) on Saturday, September 25, 2021 with the Rev. Cari Copeman-Haynes presiding and Dr. Bruce Harding leading music ministry.

Memorials

continued



Rev. Richard Grant Bracewell

May 20, 1928 – October 31, 2021

Grant Bracewell died at the age of 93 at home, Crescent Gardens Retirement Community, in Surrey, B.C. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Murray, as well as two of his children, Bruce and Louise. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Eleanor, his daughters Donna (David) and Maureen (Jean-Luc), his 10 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and a large and loving extended family and circle of friends.

Grant lived a life of adventure and service. After completing his undergraduate degree, he spent a year and a half working as a purser on the Union Steamships which served remote coastal communities. After a year of medical school, Grant was called to the ministry, earned his Master of Theology, and was ordained as a United Church Minister in 1955. For the next 11 years, he served in the communities of Bella Coola, Merritt, and North Delta, BC. In 1967, he earned his Master of Library Science degree and the following year became the first Theological Librarian at Emmanuel College (University of Toronto) and Coordinator of all the libraries of the Toronto Schools of Theology until his retirement in 1993.

He retired with his wife, Eleanor, to settle in South Surrey where they became very involved with the community at Crescent United Church and he volunteered for many years at the United Church Archives. The ministry and academia were his two passions, and he served the United Church in various capacities throughout his life.

A memorial service took place on November 10, 2021 at Peninsula United Church, with Rev. Janice Young presiding.



Rev. Arthur James Griffin

February 9, 1921 – November 23, 2021

Art Griffin died at the age of 100 at his home in Kitsilano, Vancouver. He was predeceased by his wife, Pearl, as well as two of his children, Nancy and Bruce. He is survived by his loving sons, Dale and Scott; his daughters-in-law Carol, Lynda and Jennifer; his seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Art was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After a childhood filled with winter sports and choir singing, he travelled to Vancouver in 1939 with a boys' cricket team for the National Junior Cricket Tournament at Brockton Point. He fell in love with the beaches, the year-round cricketing weather, and in time, his bride Pearl. After working as a piano tuner at Kelly's Music in Vancouver and serving in the RCAF in World War II, Art completed an undergraduate degree at UBC and a Divinity degree at Union College (winning the gold medal in Theology) before joining the clergy of the United Church of Canada.

Memorials

continued

Through his long career, Art passionately preached the gospel of social justice and spread his compassionate and inclusive view of the church community at Port Kells United Church, Failsworth Methodist (Manchester, England), Cedar Cottage (Vancouver), Trinity (Port Coquitlam), St. Stephens (Edmonton), Brechin (Nanaimo), First United Church (Vancouver) and St. Andrew's (Mission). In retirement, Art enjoyed the warm community he found at West Point Grey United Church.

He will be remembered by all for his musicality, sincere kindness and unfailing good humour.



Rev. Kenneth 'Paul' Taylor
May 4, 1941 – November 13, 2021

Surrounded by the love of his family, Paul Taylor died gently and peacefully on November 13th, 2021 at the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville, Nova Scotia. Paul was born in Woodstock, New Brunswick to parents Ken and Helen (nee Turbill) Taylor. He moved to Saint John with his parents and grandparents, Sid and Luena Turbill, when Paul was 2 or 3. In his younger years, he gave

leadership to various youth groups through his church, Park Avenue United, and became involved as a camper and leader at Camp Wegesegum in New Brunswick – a place he always held dearly in his heart. In the early 1960s, Paul married Madeline Flewwelling and they moved to the Toronto area, where Paul attended Covenant College to become a diaconal minister. Then on to Winnipeg, Nestor Falls, Ont., and Millstream, New Brunswick. While at Millstream, Paul completed his theological training at the Atlantic School of Theology, and was ordained by Maritime Conference in 1980.

As an ordained minister, Paul served various churches in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and on the Gaspé coast. In 2006, he moved with his wife, Rev. Valerie Taylor, to Vancouver until recently, when they returned to Nova Scotia in August 2021. Among many things, Paul will be remembered for being an athlete in his earlier years (inducted into the Saint John Sports Hall of Fame for basketball), his bad jokes, his playful and teasing nature, his love of cards, and his love of the outdoors.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, Paul was predeceased by his two sisters, Grace Oliver (Gordie), Marilyn Millican (Jim) and daughter-in-law Crystal (Shawn). He will be greatly missed by his wife of 31 years, Valerie; his five children: Mike (Tanis), Danny (Linda), Shawn (Lisa), Janelle (Kirby), and Joel (Lana); his two brothers Arnold (Nancy), Wayne (Jeannie), and sister Shirley Thompson, as well as grandchildren Zachary, Matthew, Cameron, Kristen, Jacob, Lily, Katie, Kalan and Luke; step-grandchildren Matthew (Amy), Jessica (Jordan), Ashley (Andrew), Emma (Travis), and step-great-grandchildren Isabella and Daxen, along with many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Paul's life took place on November 21, 2021 at Aylesford United Church, Nova Scotia with the Rev. Dr. John Moses presiding.

Memorials

continued



Rev. (Kathleen) Eleanor O'Neill
1931 – February 12, 2022

Eleanor O'Neill died peacefully on February 12, 2022, leaving many grieving family and friends. She was predeceased by husband John William O'Neill (2015) and grandson George William Zwiers (2019). Eleanor and John were married for 60 years, and they were blessed with three sons: Mark (Lisa), Kent (Teresa) and Graham (Helena); grandchildren Teralee, (Brandon), Charla (Kevin), Alicia (Johnny), Megan (Stefan), Kaylin (Chris), Shannon (Chad), Sean,

Aaron (Sarah), Brendan (Jaclyn), and Eve; great grandchildren Sofia, Wyatt, Riley, Carson, Mason, Everett, Gustav, Oliver, and Elsie.

Eleanor was born in Toronto in 1931 where she met John in childhood. They married in 1955 and moved to Manning, Alberta where John was starting out as a United Church minister. Their growing family lived in Lethbridge (Alberta), Connecticut, and Richmond (B.C.) In 1986, Eleanor was ordained by BC Conference and shared a pastoral charge with John at Lynn Valley United Church in North Vancouver.

Retirement came in 1994, but Eleanor continued to participate in many church and community activities in North Vancouver. She moved to Berwick retirement home in Campbell River in 2016, where Mark and Kent and other family now live. She enjoyed her time at Berwick until December of last year due to declining health related to a series of small strokes.

Her life was a journey of giving and loving everyone with completeness and unconditional acceptance. A memorial service for Eleanor was held on March 12, 2022 at Campbell River United Church. Subsequent interment of her ashes at Highlands United Church Memorial Garden took place on April 9th.



Rev. Greig Jonelle McLellan
January 8, 1954 – February 5, 2022

Jonelle was born January 8, 1954, to Bruce and Cay Jorundson in Flin Flon, Manitoba. She spent her childhood and high school years in Flin Flon before moving to Saskatoon to attend university. It was there that she met the love of her life, John. They were married in August 1975. Jonelle and John spent much of their life together in Manitoba, first in Winnipeg, where their son Andrew was born, and then on their treasured land in Ninette. This was a happy time

full of work, gardening, community service, and enjoying rural life. Jonelle was a lifelong member of the United Church. For decades she sang in choirs and participated in ministry

Memorials

continued

through music. In 2004 she was called to leave her career in accounting and deepen her religious life by becoming a United Church minister. She held postings in Alberta, B.C., and Scotland until retiring in 2018.

Many things brought Jonelle joy. She loved being a mother to Andrew and stepmother and grandmother to John's children and their kids. She reveled in a good game of cribbage, a puzzle and drives in the country. She felt a real connection to all things Scottish. She and John traveled to the country many times. They enjoyed Scottish country dancing and her posting as a minister in Ardgour was a highlight.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, John; her mother Cay; brother Devon (Donna); sister Michelle; son Andrew (Suki); stepchildren Colin (Heather); Andrea (Andrey); Lochlin; Jordan (Paige); grandchildren; Ashley, Devon, Taylor, Lucy, Elizabeth and Kimberly; as well as extended family. Jonelle was predeceased by her father Bruce.

A celebration of Jonelle's life will be held in Calgary in August 2022.



Rev. Evelyn Jean Rigby
January 10, 1947 – March 3, 2022

Evelyn Rigby died peacefully at her home in Salmon Arm, B.C., with two of her children by her side.

Evelyn was born in Trenton, Ontario to Jack and Gertrude Rigby. She found her life calling serving several United Churches throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Her work began in Haida Gwaii in 1995 and

culminated in Coronation, Alberta in 2015. The impact of her life and years will be felt for generations to come within her family and in the many churches and congregants she poured herself into.

She will be greatly missed by all of her children, and grand treasures as well as her surviving siblings, Susie (Bruce) Simpson, Ron (Dana) Rigby; her beloved sisters-in-law, Marilyn, Lenny, and Verna; her children David (Teresa) Kirkwood, Rachel (Mark) Chequis, Naomi (Scott) Gagliardi, and Rebecca (Gordy) Chadwick; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Evelyn was predeceased by her parents; her husbands David Rybka, Dennis Kirkwood and Norman Lermineaux; and siblings Jack, Gord, George, Lorraine, and Wayne.

A celebration of life was held on May 7, 2022 at Five Corners Pentecostal in Salmon Arm.



Business

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GM 2022 | JUNE 9-12, 2022

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 Accountability Report

<https://pacificmountain.ca/administration/regional-council-executive/>

Rooted Grounded Love

To the Members of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council

Peace and grace to you all in the name of the One who lives and animates our lives. We are very excited about joining with you at the first in-person gathering since the beginning of the pandemic. We come to Prince George, ready to have conversations that matter about the strategic movement of leadership on the executive, as we respond to the dynamic movement of God's Spirit.

As you already know, three anticipated outcomes guide every decision, every conversation, every action in the Pacific Mountain Region Executive. It's a lovely trinity, really, and like the Holy Trinity, these outcomes are in relationship, one to the other, and then to the three. The question posed with every move is "how will this decision lead to healthy communities of faith and ministries, effective leadership, and faithful public witness? These three outcomes have been at play for nearly the entire time the church on the western side of the Rocky Mountains has operated under policy governance.

Over those years, one or another of those outcomes has taken centre stage as governors and staff have sought ways to strengthen the church's work in that area. And yet the three outcomes dance together to help the church proclaim the renewing gospel of Jesus Christ with hope and perseverance. We believe in fact, that healthy communities of faith and ministries, empowered by effective leadership are in and of themselves faithful public witnesses to the gospel.

So rather than continuing to tell the story of membership decline and church closure, wringing our hands, perpetuating a misguided mission of survival, the executive continues to invite every community, ministry, and outreach program to see itself as a player in an unfolding story of health. This is not to say the communities of faith will not close, it is to ask the same strategic question "how does this closure contribute to healthy communities of faith and ministries, effective leadership, and faithful public witness?

Over the past two years, the region's Executive has worked closely with Dan Hotchkiss, consultant to church governance bodies throughout North America, assisting those judicatories to be more responsive to the call of the Spirit, strategically formulating an annual or bi-annual plan for ministry. In 2016, the Conference Executive contracted with Dan to help the executive reflect on its effectiveness. The Region's executive acted on the advice and is meeting much more regularly, addressing questions of mission effectiveness, urgency of call, and making difficult choices among so many possibilities. It begins with a pulsing question that shapes each meeting; until the Executive has chewed on it long enough to formulate goals for the Executive Minister to accomplish within the limitations set.

And so, for the past two years, the region's Executive has been wrestling with a pulsing question: Living in the context of multiple political, social, and regional polarities, how do we live out our call to be the Church? In response, the Executive named three strategic priorities to which significant leadership and financial resources have been allocated.

Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

The first is a priority that circles around identity. Who are we as church in the Pacific Mountain Region? Once such outcome was the process to become an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. We are very excited to be celebrating this decision in Prince George. And still, other questions have emerged. The region continues to partner with First Nations and PMRC Indigenous Ministries to be a reconciling church even with the dark legacy of having operated five residential schools. How will the church surrender its colonial past and help empower healthy communities of faith and ministries?

The second priority is healthy communities of faith. As the executive named this priority, appropriate questions emerged. What is health? Where should healthy communities be? What does it mean now, to be in covenant relationship with communities of faith seeking to be places of Christian formation and discipleship, and faithful public witness? Who will determine health? By what criteria? How does one church closure lead to empowering new ministry, or strengthen existing ministry? We are guided by the passage in the book of Acts which reads:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:42-45)

It is from this text that we received a vision that all communities of faith and congregations have a role in the unfolding creation of mission strategy in the region.

The third priority is the long game. Recognizing that the whole church has paid scant attention to the Christian formation of children and youth, young adults and their families – ministry with those in the ‘first third’ of their lives – the region’s Executive has asked the Executive Minister to allocate significant resources and intention to changing this demographic. While the holy mystery of God can be encountered anywhere, discipleship response is shaped in community. And faith is formed, in community. The Executive believes that healthy communities of faith and ministries are fundamentally intergenerational.

The Executive recognizes that all of this has been animated by a generous and committed staff team, led by Executive Minister Treena Duncan, whose talent and gifts, unflappable grace and unfailing good humour shape the regional culture. All the staff are remarkable in what they bring to the region’s ministry; their creativity, patience, tenacity and gracious willingness to serve.

This work will continue.

Now, having worked very closely with Dan Hotchkiss over the past year, to effectively crystalize the ministry planning cycle, the region has developed three over-arching questions to which they will turn their attention. You can expect to see processes of engagement throughout the region over the coming year.

Regional Executive Accountability Report

continued

1. What is the region's role in managing property and wealth?
2. How does the region need to change in order to become an antiracist community?
3. Where and with whom is the region called to promote health, growth and the flourishing of communities of faith in the region?

When the Executive feels confident that it has consulted widely, goals will be established to address these questions.

Financially, the body of the Region's work is supported by significant bequests and investment income, a regional allocation, as well as allowances through the national church's new funding system. Many of you attending the financial forum which laid out the region's financial situation in greater detail. Together with the Region's property portfolio which is a major plank in consideration of mission strategy, the Region is well-positioned to sustain, and find new ways, to proclaim the gospel, rooted and grounded in love.

There is a side bar of note in the work of region. With deep gratitude for a legacy gift from Trinity United Church in Vancouver, "Engaging the Spirit" is a program which has generously funded new church ideas in the region. The term "church plant" is not part of our denomination's lexicon, but it surely conjures the image - planting seeds that may someday grow. "Weird Church," "Wild Church" "Abby Church" "West Side Community" are just some of the names that point to the church catching up to where the spirit has already been working in the region.

To write of all of this and not mention the seismic impact that the COVID19 pandemic has had on everyone in the region, would be to deny what has been a common experience across the church. In fact, these past two years can be described as Kairos time - time before covid19 and time after covid19. Who we are, how we do church, and what is our purpose have all come under scrutiny.

But, like the refiner's fire that turns a clump of rock into shining gold, what can be seen in the deep fatigue of a pandemic, is resilience, strong faith, people who love each other, and a generous God empowering it all in grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. S. Blair Odney
President, PMRC

Regional Executive Committee Members

Jim Angus	Laura Hermakin
Katherine Brittain	Peter Jones
Beverly Brown	Thea Sheridan-Jonah
Jenny Carter	Blair Odney, President
Anna Chambers	Mauricio Araujo, PMRC Assistant to the Executive Minister
Ibi Chuan	Treena Duncan, PMRC Executive Minister
Bob K. Fillier	

Ends Policy Summary

<https://pacificmountain.ca/administration/regional-council-executive/>

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

A. Valuing Human Diversity

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

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.

Ends Policy

continued

C. Leadership

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

1. Ministry personnel are:

- a. Supported
 - i. Persons are recruited for ministry.
 - ii. Ministry Personnel are called, appointed and compensated.
 - iii. Ministry Personnel have quick access to professional assistance and support in matters related to ministry;
- b. Connected
 - i. Ministry Personnel are connected to colleagues and the wider church.
 - ii. Ministry Personnel gather for collegueship and cooperation with others in the Region.
- 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.

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.

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

Ends Policy

continued

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.

- Covenantal Ministries will receive quick access to assistance and support via regional staff and communities of faith.
- Covenantal Ministries will receive quick access to assistance and support via regional staff and communities of faith.
 - Relationships will be governed by an attitude of reconciliation, as described in the “Calls to the Church” (2018).
 - Ministry personnel with appropriate training and abilities are recruited.
- Non-English speaking and intercultural ministries are treated as partners in ministry.
 - Cultures, history, and present contexts are respected.
 - Ministry personnel with appropriate training and abilities are recruited.
- Children, youth, young adults, and their families will be offered opportunities to be engaged in intentional faith development.
 - Ministry and programs will be high quality, Christ centered, and inclusive of a diversity of Christian theologies.
 - Ministry personnel/leaders with appropriate training and abilities are recruited.
 - Ongoing appropriate training and education is provided to equip people for ministry with children, youth, young adults, and their families.

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.

Guidelines for Business Procedures

continued

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/?) that:

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

Business Committee Motions

continued

12. All registered voting members who are online and onsite will vote using the simplyvoting.com website. An email will be sent to each voting member using the email provided at registration for each vote.

13. All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (defined as \$2,000 or over) shall be considered “in principle only” and, if adopted, be referred to the Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.

14. In accordance with Section C.1.2(b) of The Manual 2022, Regional Executive Minister Treena Duncan and former Moderator Marion Best be named as members of Pacific Mountain Regional Council with full voting privileges.

15. Corresponding Privileges be granted to the Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, Vicki Nelson, General Council deployed staff, all other invited guests, registered visitors, and staff (other than those who are full voting members of The Region) with voice, yet no voting privileges.

16. The Chairperson of the Business Committee will present proposals. The President will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. A speaker from the body making the proposal will be permitted to speak to it. When the President discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that it is ready to hear a motion on the proposal, the President will invite the Chairperson of the Business Committee to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.

17. Proposals directed to the General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 9:00 p.m. Friday, June 10, 2022. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the Proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in an order as determined by the Business Committee. Similar proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.

18. If The Pacific Mountain Regional Council does not agree with a proposal where the General Council is the court of action, it will not be sent on to General Council unless a separate motion to transmit with non-concurrence is made and passed.

19. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to The General Council, Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information.

20. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be labeled on the floor of the plenary space and the chat box in Zoom. For a procedural point of order members of the council

Business Committee Motions

continued

are to use "Point of Order" at the start of their statement both onsite and on Zoom™. For a prayer request, members onsite are asked to identify they are making a prayer request. On Zoom® members are asked to use "Prayer:" Members are encouraged to consult with the Business Committee before making a point of order, requesting prayer, or making a point of personal privilege.

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

22. Verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.

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

24. Payment of member expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. Late claims submitted after June 30, 2022 shall not be paid.

25. Nominations close for the one (1) vacancy on The Pacific Mountain Regional Council at 8:15 pm (close of day) on Friday June 10, 2022.

ENABLING MOTIONS

M/S (B. Fillier/ ?) 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™ be appended to the record of proceedings.
5. The meeting adjourns following the completion of business as ordered and the benediction concluding the Celebration of Ministry service, June 12, 2022.

Proposals Guidelines

pacificmountain.ca/proposals-to-general-meeting-of-the-regional-council/

We recognize that individual members, Communities of Faith, Covenantal Ministries, Regional Committees/Councils/Groups, and Regional Council Members may want The Pacific Mountain Regional Council or Executive to take action on a specific issue or concern. You 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 (2022), 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.

Proposals Guidelines

continued

- **Why is this issue important?**

Provide the background needed to consider the proposal in two (2) pages or less. What's the issue or challenge or gap being identified? Why is that the case? What ENDS Policy supports the proposal? Is there a need for a revised or new ENDS Policy?

- **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:

- <https://form.jotform.com/220966453175259>

Or see screen grabs of the same form on the next pages:

Proposals Form

<https://form.jotform.com/220966453175259>

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?

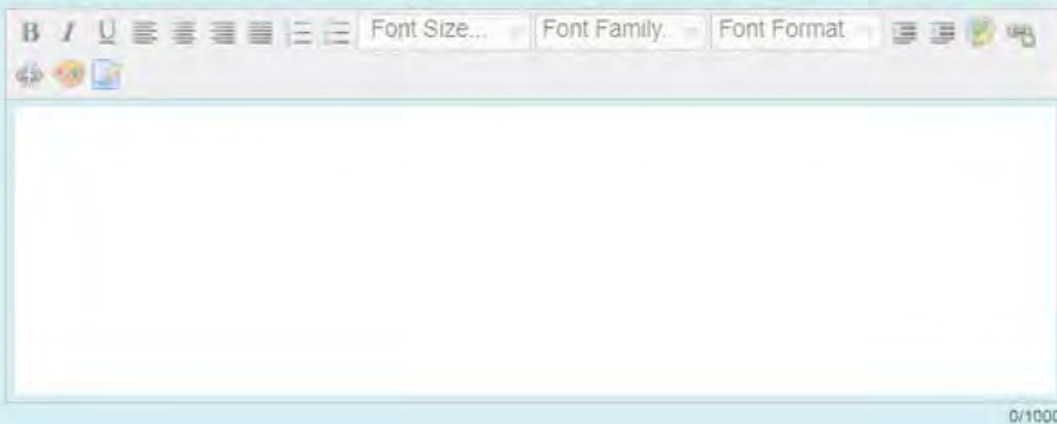
Proposal *

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

0/125

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' field. It features a toolbar at the top with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, font size, font family, font format, text color, background color, and link/unlink. Below the toolbar is a large, empty white text area. At the bottom right of the text area, the character count '0/1000' is displayed.

0/1000

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, indent, outdent, font size, font family, font format, and other formatting options. Below the toolbar is a large, empty white rectangular area for text input.

Community of Faith (if applicable)

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

Governing Body Comment (if applicable)

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

Confirmation *

- ☐ I am ready to submit this proposal

Nominations Committee

[pacificmountain.ca/administration/volunteer-with-the-regional-council/](https://www.pacificmountain.ca/administration/volunteer-with-the-regional-council/)

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

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! This past year we had few responses to any of our calls for interest; so please pay close attention to the nominations when they are sent out. We try to limit our seeking to spring, (just-prior-to) summer, and fall. 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.

Due to illness within the committee and staff, we have not sought out the openings that need new members right now. However, we are still seeking expressions of interest for Pastoral Relations Council, Pastoral Relations Working Group, Lay Leadership Support Committee, and Finance Advisory Council.

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

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

President Elect

pacificmountain.ca/administration/volunteer-with-the-regional-council/

Deborah Richards - President Elect

Welcoming Lay minister, Deborah Richards from Northwood United Church, as Pacific Mountain Regional Council's President Elect!



I have been an active lay member of the communities of faith to which I have belonged – The Moravian Church in Jamaica, and for the last 25 years as a member of the Northwood United Community of Faith in Surrey BC.

My participation in the work of the church community to which I belong comes from a deep belief that being a servant leader in my community is an open expression of my faith and that I have leadership gifts that I can share with the church. My lay leadership models are both of my parents who served their communities of faith in the Moravian Church in the Caribbean in roles such Sunday school teacher and treasurer for the congregation.

Also my mother served in an administrative role in various church organizations in Jamaica and my father as treasurer for the Provincial Elders Conference in the Jamaican Province of the Moravian Church. I come to service in the church with these strong role models, who served with integrity in their paid and volunteer roles and with humility.

I have served the United Church in recent years in the following roles:
Northwood United Church

- 2010 – 2017 – Chair, Ministry Board
- 2018 – 2021 – Ministry Board, Presbytery and then Regional Representative to PMR
- 2018 to present – Trustee

Pacific Mountain Region

- 2020 to present - Coordinator – Intercultural Ministry

2020 to present – Member – Executive, Western Intercultural Ministry Network (Co-Chair for 2020-21)

At the national level – United Church of Canada GC43

- Commissioner
- General Council Executive (2018 to 2022 term)
 - Chair, Business Planning Committee
 - Member General Secretary Supervisory Committee

President Elect

continued

As an active lay leader in my community of faith at Northwood for most of the 25 years that I have been a member and more specifically as Chair, and with my three years of recent service on the GCE I think I bring together the following gifts to the role of President, if chosen to serve:

- my love for the Church,
- my wish to contribute to the continuing journey that the wider church takes as we seek meaningful paths to live out our call to service in our communities in an ever-changing world.
- Prayerful discernment and guidance as a member of a Council Executive to support the communities of faith in the region, so that those communities can in turn be vibrant communities in their local area.
- An understanding of governance roles
- An inquiring mind
- Collaborative skills

Service for me in any role in the church has always been about how my gifts and skills meet the needs of the church at this time.

This opportunity to serve is about the opportunity to share the gifts that I have been given with the wider church for the glory of continuing God's work in the region.

I am eager to serve. Many of the words in 1 Peter 5:1-4 seem 'right' for my discernment to this call: *'To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness to Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.'*

Prayerfully submitted,

Deborah Y Richards



Finance & Property

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GM 2022 | JUNE 9-12, 2022

Finance Advisory Council

pacificmountain.ca/administration/volunteer-with-the-regional-council/

Respectfully Submitted: Ken Fanning, Chair

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

Membership: *Katie Bowyer; Treena Duncan, Executive Minister; Ken Fanning, Chair; Jane Harding; Mike McAuley; Houston Mo, Director of Finance and Property; Gordon Robinson*

2021 Financials (For the 12 months ending December 31st): Despite the uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region continues to be in sound financial standing.

The Region ended the year with an accounting surplus of \$3.7 million and a healthy working capital of \$256,000, which further strengthens its financial position. Fund balances for the year ended December 31, 2021 increased by \$3.7 million, or 7.5 percent, primarily due to strong performance of our managed investment portfolio, and secured funding from General Council Office and endowments held by the Vancouver Foundation.

Compared to the budgeted deficit of \$510,000 in the Operating Fund, the Region generated a surplus of \$428,000, which is a result of savings realized from virtual gatherings.

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 2021 financial statements. Additionally, our auditors did not identify any material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or areas of noncompliance with laws and regulations.

With a healthy balance in unrestricted reserve, the Region is well-positioned for the transition to a post-pandemic world and continue to provide support and resources to its members and communities of faith.

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

Investments: In 2021 investment returns averaged 12% (2020 – 16%) 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 2017 to 2021 the Region had an average annual investment return rate of 9.9%. 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 on page 54 of the Agenda Book).

Finance Advisory Council

continued

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current	415,219	1,392,005
Investment	68,236,710	57,749,863
Loans	2,764,343	2,810,483
Capital Assets	9,515,762	10,128,059
TOTAL ASSETS	80,932,034	72,080,410
Liabilities		
Current	158,374	186,896
Funds held in trust	25,126,045	19,715,775
Deferred contributions	1,339,123	1,413,518
Due to Property Development Council	510,421	723,730
TOTAL LIABILITIES	27,133,963	22,039,919
Fund Balances		
Invested in capital assets	8,176,640	8,714,541
Restricted	38,830,948	35,073,163
Unrestricted	6,790,483	6,252,787
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	53,798,071	50,040,491
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	80,932,034	72,080,410

Complete audited statements available on request.

Summarized Statement of Operations

	2021	2020
Revenues		
Investment income	2,894,246	2,104,920
Grants and contributions	2,353,834	1,242,598
Jardine, VanDusen and RM Cherry Funds	1,006,867	1,003,132
General Council Office	673,375	713,000
Loan interest and other	272,594	251,747
Programs	48,293	32,782
Regional assessments	-	117,863
TOTAL REVENUE	7,249,209	5,466,042
Expenses		
Grants	1,576,305	2,115,499
Salaries and benefits	1,497,890	1,489,783
Programs and committees	1,492,447	1,026,609
Office and sundry	216,532	176,013
Investment fees	259,631	229,524
General Meeting	25,257	46,747
Professional fees	24,845	24,138
Executive	20,333	17,962
Amortization	658,324	657,951
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,771,564	5,784,226
Surplus (deficit) before the following	1,477,645	(318,184)
Change in fair value of investments	2,279,935	3,746,601
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	3,757,580	3,428,417

Mission Support: In 2021 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. In 2021, the Centre made repayment of both principal and interest on a monthly basis with a 25-year amortization.

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

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

E-mail: kfanning@shaw.ca
Phone: 250.248.2490

Property Resource Team

pacificmountain.ca/administration/volunteer-with-the-regional-council/

BUILDING COMMUNITY

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

THE PORTFOLIO

The Portfolio refers to congregational properties currently being redeveloped by the Region in partnership with BC Housing and 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 four projects in the Portfolio.

1. Como Lake United, Coquitlam Recently Completed
2. Brechin United, Nanaimo Completion Summer 2022
3. Lakeview United, Vancouver Construction Start 2022
4. 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 benefit to the wider community. In this case, that benefit is the provision of much needed purpose-built rental housing. The projects will contribute hundreds of units of rental housing across BC. The purpose of this endeavour is to provide affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households. The income from the rental housing will be used to repay the mortgage. The housing will be owned by BC Community Renewal Society, a charitable organization or the Three Point Housing Society, a non-profit organization, both with a direct relationship with the Pacific Mountain Region of The United Church of Canada.

PROJECT UPDATE

The construction of Como Lake United has been completed and residents have begun moving into the residential suites. The construction of Brechin United will be completed this summer with occupancy shortly afterwards. Construction financing for Lakeview United is expected to be in place this year with construction start in late 2022/early 2023. Brighthouse United has chosen to not move forward with a redevelopment due to our inability to secure funding for the project. First Met United is undergoing a new feasibility study and project plan in partnership with Three Point Housing Society and United

Property Resource Team

continued

Property Resource Corporation. The Community Renewal Society is currently conducting a feasibility study for Wilson Heights United, Korean United and Northwood United. The rising interest rate environment and inflationary pressure on construction costs are making it more difficult to achieve funding for projects. Current government funding programs will likely need to change for new church redevelopment projects to be viable.

Respectfully Submitted



Don Evans

Executive Director, BC Community Renewal Society of the United Church of Canada



ProVision Report

pacificmountain.ca/support/church-finance-grants-and-funds/provision-fund-and-grants/

May 2022

The ProVision Fund continues to be important and constructive in the life of the United Church of Canada in its Pacific Mountain Region. In 2021, there were 32 grants made totaling \$728,500, all aimed at assisting new ministry projects or community outreach programs. These were awarded by the five ProVision Fund committees operating through 2021. While the pandemic situation resulted in fewer applications, there continued to be important successes.

Through to the end of 2021, there were five ProVision Funds and Committees administering this work. However, Dec. 31, 2021 saw the coalescing of the ProVision Funds and committees in the Fraser, Comox-Nanaimo and Westminister Areas into the Region ProVision Fund. As of January 1st, 2022, the whole Region, except for Victoria Area, is being served by the PM Region's ProVision Fund and Committee. When the Victoria Area ProVision Fund coalesces into the Region Fund at the end of 2022, all areas of our Region will be served into the future by the one ProVision Fund and its committee.

The history of the ProVision Funds, since they began in 2011, is impressive. There have been 473 grants totalling \$6,327,260 to the end of 2021. This is a remarkable testimony to the foresight of the Conference and Presbyteries in establishing financial vehicles to aid and promote new ministry programs and projects.

Some recent examples include grants to assist:

- Inlet UC (Port Moody) in a community art project that will feature a cooperative mural inspired by its redevelopment project: "The Springs".
- Cheam View UC (Chilliwack) with its immediate launch of a community service program before the redevelopment of its downtown property.
- James Bay UC (Victoria) with its association with the dynamic choir "Sing Your Joy".
- West Point Grey UC with its intercultural programs including music and children's ministry.
- Port McNeill UC with further development of its "Garden of New Beginnings".
- Camp Spirit with its growing program which will provide 31 week-long day camps in 2021.
- Campbell River UC in continuing its long-running and highly valued Hot Breakfast Program.
- Duncan UC in sharing the costs of the Cowichan Community Reconciliation Project.
- St. Andrews (Kaslo) with their community dialogue Church planning project.

All Communities of Faith, Networks and Clusters in Pacific Mountain Region are eligible to apply for a ProVision Fund grant. The committee looks forward to creative and important proposals that fit within the vision of the Region and meet the Fund's criteria. The criteria and Application process are thoroughly outlined here: [ProVision Fund and Grants](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon How
ProVision Fund Committee Secretary

Stewardship Animator

pacificmountain.ca/support/church-finance-grants-and-funds/provision-fund-and-grants/



Greetings,

After one year in the role of Stewardship Animator I have had the pleasure to virtually meet and work with several generosity-keepers from the Pacific Mountain Region. Whether it has been through townhalls or direct participation in programs I am running, I have started to get to know the amazing, faith-filled people of this Region. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way we may have connected over the past year, or could in 2022, is through the learning program, Called to be the Church: The Journey. These trainings are designed for community of faith leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase giving and deepen connections within your community of faith. There are currently two different modules to help with this work. One Pacific Mountain participant provided this program feedback, "Our Stewardship Team came away from this course inspired and grateful - ready to invite! This program covered all the bases. We will definitely be sharing nuggets with our community of faith!." You can learn [more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission & Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you, across the whole United Church, in 2021, \$240,000 in Mission & Service funding supported a number of ministries in your Region. Your generosity through Mission & Service strengthened ecumenical work, shared ministries, fought for economic justice, and more.

Beyond our borders, Mission & Service also provided \$500,000 in Covid-19 emergency funding, plus \$250,000 towards Covid-19 vaccines. This is on top of support provided to our partners around the globe. And this continues to be a priority as Mission & Service is receiving [donations](#) for the crisis in Ukraine. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Pacific Mountain, and around the world. Thank you for your gifts.

Stewardship Animator

continued

Sharing inspiring 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 distributed and told, however they certainly have not gone away. New stories are frequently posted. For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also videos that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you, the people of Pacific Mountain Region. I have been blown away by the dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness and joy of the people here. You have found meaningful ways to faithfully create community during a challenging time. It is amazing, and so are you.

In gratitude,



Vicki Nelson
Stewardship Animator for Chinook Winds Region
VNelson@united-church.ca
1-800-268-3781 Ext. 2045



Mission & Ministry

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GM 2022 | JUNE 9-12, 2022

Archives and History Committee Report

pacificmountain.ca/ministry/the-pmrc-archives/

The Regional Archives is thriving. Considering that archives relate directly to our past, it may be surprising for some that the Committee is constantly discussing current issues. Most of our work centres on the calls to reconciliation, broadening our narrative, community partnerships, and providing opportunities for our church's youth and young adults.

Research Services

During 2021, the Archives provided services for 170 researchers, 31 of whom were in-person visitors (down from regular numbers due to the pandemic). Significantly, queries from or relating to Indigenous peoples made up 25 percent of the total requests.

Acquisitions

Of the many new collections and accruals last year, two in particular help diversify our holdings:

- Fong Dickman sermons and manuscripts: A small collection of records of an early Methodist/United Church minister to the Chinese communities in Vancouver, Nanaimo, and New Westminster.
- Vera Bell (nee Lyon) photographs: A wealth of images of nurses, students, and community members at two United Church hospitals during the 1950s and '60s (at Hazelton and Queen Charlotte City).

Reconciliation and Decolonizing our Archives

To improve access, transparency, and accountability, the Archives has published a series of six guides to our Residential School records. These were the records identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as being relevant. The guides are published on the Archive's web page at <https://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/the-pmrc-archives/>

Following a visit with members of the Tseshaht First Nation last summer, the Regional and General Council Archives have provided archival-quality digital copies of all United Church records relating to the Alberni Indian Residential School. We have also begun providing digital copies of holdings to First Nations communities as we establish closer relationships (per the church's commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.)

Projects

Youth and Young Adult collections: The Archives Committee is committed to hiring younger members of our church to acquaint them with our collective stories and to develop skills that support leadership. With a Young Canada Works grant, we hired Leah Chambers to catalogue and rehouse our holdings of youth, young adult, and campus ministry records, which includes about 1,000 photographs.

Archives and History Committee Report

continued

Leah writes: “[The experience] gave me a glimpse into the similarities and differences between the lives of young people today and the lives of young people a few generations ago... [It] opened my eyes to the way that we record, share, and remember the past for future generations.”

New Collections Management System (CMS): The Archives has published all collection-level descriptions of our holdings on the national United Church online catalogue. We are mid-way through publishing our photograph descriptions on that same site. The catalogue will enable researchers to search across national and regional collections; it can be found at <https://catalogue.unitedchurcharchives.ca/>

Re-description: In keeping with the United Church’s commitment to inclusion, reconciliation, gender equity, and anti-racism, we have updated our collection-level and photograph descriptions to acknowledge and contextualize outdated or potentially offensive language.

Making Room for Women in the Archives: We have now completed this oral history project, which relates to an era of profound transition in women’s leadership within the United Church (mainly 1960s to ‘80s). We have recorded 30 interviews and acquired 12 private collections from women, thanks to this project. Excerpts of selected interviews are available at <https://pacificmountain.ca/archives-making-room-for-women/>

Respectfully submitted,

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



Members of the Regional Council Executive visited the Archives for a tour and lively discussion at their September 2021 meeting.

Affirming Regional Council

<https://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/justice-network/affirming-ministry/>

Homophobia, transphobia, and gender-based discrimination and violence remain a problematic concern in many religious institutions. In our faithful response to this reality, and in believing in the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, we seek to be an antidote to social, political, spiritual, and theological frameworks that would mistreat *queer folks and exclude them from full belonging in the church and beyond.

A formal process was initiated in preparation for the 2020 General Meeting to think about becoming and being an Affirming Regional Council, including formal membership in Affirm United/S’Affirmer Ensemble (AUSE).

During the Fall of 2020 and Winter/Spring of 2021, the Affirming Ministry team, co-chaired by Bob Fillier and Laura Hermakin, hosted a series of educational events that spoke to the major themes of what it means to be Affirming. This included a Lenten study and discussion series led by Elizabeth M Edman, based on her book “Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ people know about life and love and how it can revitalize Christianity,” an evening with Austen Hartke on his book “Transforming: The Bible and The Lives of Transgender Christians” and more.

During Town Halls and special sessions, stories from folks in the queer community were told concerning the importance of creating affirming spaces in which they could feel safe to work, worship, and live out their spiritual calling in spaces where they would feel welcomed and affirmed. The Task Group also solicited feedback from Regional Representatives, Regional Council staff, ministry personnel, and lay leaders, on what it might look and feel like to belong to an “Affirming Region.”

On June 12, 2021, at the 2021 General Meeting, the gathered membership of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council voted “yes,” with a majority vote in the high 90s, to become an Affirming Region! The 2021 vote included approval by PMRC membership of the following 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.

Affirming Regional Council

continued

What does 2SLGBTQAI+ mean?

"2SLGBTQAI+" stands for: Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Asexual/ Androgenous, Intersex, Pansexual, and the + is for all ways of gender, identity and sexuality beyond the limitations of the acronym "2SLGBTQAI+". We place 2S, for Two Spirit, at the front of the character string. This is to acknowledge that Two-Spiritness is older than any Christian belief system and was celebrated in Indigenous cultures before the shaming and attempted erasure by the colonizing church, and Christian settlers. The "2S" identifier and its prominent placement, signifies the commitment we make to honouring Indigenous Two Spirit and the gifts and talents they bring to community.

*We often use the word "queer" to encompass the beautiful expansiveness of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions that have for too long been labeled as "The Other" – and, as such, a disenfranchised minority voice.

Distinguishing between an Affirming Council, and an Affirming Community of Faith

The Regional Council is a decision-making body responsible to serve and support and provide leadership for Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight. Being an Affirming Regional Council means that the work of the Regional Council is carried out with respect and adherence to the principles spelled out in the above statement, and as a member of AUSE. Individual communities of faith who wish to become Affirming need to make the decision for themselves, if they so desire, to become an Affirming Ministry. The Affirm United website provides information about the Affirming process for both individual Communities of Faith and Regional Councils (<https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>).

Being an Affirming Council

Since the 2021 "yes" vote in favour of being an Affirming Regional Council, PMRC has undertaken the following key steps in continuing the process of living out this commitment.

- Taken out formal membership in Affirm United (AUSE) and have now become the ninth of the United Church's sixteen Regions (at last count!), to have attained Affirming Regional Council status.
- Created the Affirming Action Group, which includes volunteers who will help in providing guidance for the Regional Council to implement its commitments to the Affirming process. Current members of the Action Team are: Blair Galston, Thea Sheridan-Baker, Daniel Martin, Rev. Sunny Kim, Rev. Emily Cooke, Rev. Katherine Brittain and Lynda Brind-Dickson, with staff support from Jane Dawson, PMRC Minister for Justice, and guidance from Pam Rocker, Affirming Connections.

Affirming Regional Council

continued

- Developed a work plan for identifying how we will integrate our Affirming commitments into all aspects of the Region's work, including support for a Network of Affirming Ministries, review of Regional policies from an Affirming lens, ongoing learning opportunities for Regional staff, ministry personnel and lay leaders, annual opportunities for celebration as a way of ensuring our status as an Affirming Region are public, intentional and explicit and other ways of continuing to live into our commitments to inclusivity for all. This work plan is a living document that will continue to evolve as steps towards implementation are shaped through further input and dialogue. At the time of compilation of this report, the 2022 work plan was still under review by AUSE. It will be shared through Regional communications channels when it has received final approval.

We welcome support from all over the Region as we live into being Affirming and put our faith into tangible action! We hope that the Region becoming Affirming will give you confidence to know you are included here, open you to being challenged and inspired, and spur you and your community to find more ways to live out the unconditional love of God.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jane Dawson (and Pam Rucker)
On behalf of the PMRC Affirm Action Group



Camp Spirit's Mission

Rooted and Growing in Love

Camp Spirit's Vision

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



Looking Back

During the summer of 2021, 26 Communities of Faith welcomed Camp Spirit. Even with COVID 19 restrictions, 492 Day Campers (ages 5-11) and 111 Leaders-in-Training (ages 12-14) participated in Camp Spirit. Many sites filled their registration quota well in advance of their week of camp. Sometimes we were able to be creative with staffing to open spots for children and youth on the waiting list. In other situations, this was not possible.

Of the 26 Communities of Faith that hosted Camp Spirit in 2021, 11 were new sites. One of the things we have learned over the eleven years that Camp Spirit has been operating is that there is a significant leap in participation from the first to second year of a site's involvement. We eagerly anticipate making new and deeper connections in the summer of 2022.



In terms of staffing, Camp Spirit 2021 employed an Executive Director, Administrator, 4 Program Directors, and 13 Program Coordinators. We also employed 44 Youth Crew for between 2 and 4 weeks each. This is a huge leap from our first year when we hired a Program Director and 4 Program Coordinators.

Financial Accessibility

Camp Spirit prioritizes financial accessibility for families. 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 can do so. As well, this support has helped Camp Spirit create valuable, fair, reliable employment opportunities for numerous youth and young adults over the past 11 years. It has also enabled Camp Spirit to nurture a value of engaging with children and youth in ways that honour and prepare them to respond to God's call to leadership within and outside of the United Church of Canada. We are deeply grateful for the individuals, government and church grants, and Communities of Faith that have contributed generously to Camp Spirit's bursary and operating funds.

Camp Spirit

continued



A Place to Call Home

For the past 3 summers, Camp Spirit has called Jubilee United Church on Gray Avenue home base. Jubilee has provided Camp Spirit space for:

- Staff pre-camp training & end-of-summer closure
- sorting and storage of supplies (which multiplied exponentially with COVID protocols and the increased number of camps)
- and, for the summer of 2022, a Camp Spirit Summer office space.

Jubilee provides all of this to Camp Spirit with a large dose of hospitality and free of charge. Their generosity has enabled Camp Spirit to have a place to gather, do important work, and to use our resources to grow our ministry.

Summer 2022

The theme of Camp Spirit 2022 is Creation Celebration. The curriculum was written by a team of Camp Spirit Summer Staff members – along with the Executive Director. We celebrate creation in 31 locations in the PMRC. Our Summer Staff team has grown. This year we have hired 6 Directors, 1 Summer Administrative Assistant, 10 Senior Coordinators, 7 Junior Coordinators, 1 Food Coordinator. We will also be engaging up to 50 Youth Crew between the ages of 14 – 17 years. We will travel to some new locations and return to some sites that were unable to host for the past two summers (due to COVID).



As Camp Spirit's ministry continues to grow, it feels important to take time to pause, breathe, give thanks, and discern where God is calling us next. How can we continue to deepen our leadership development ministry with youth and young adults? How can we continue to strive to offer inclusive, faith-filled, inspiring, justice-seeking ministry that is "Rooted & Growing in Love"? Of course, this important work is ongoing and integrated into every element of Camp Spirit. In the fall of 2022, we will set aside some time and space to dive more deeply into these questions.

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

Cathy Cryder, Camp Spirit Executive Director



Campus Ministry

campusunited.ca/

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council (PMRC) Campus Ministry Network (Campus United) has been focused on stabilization and growth over the past year. COVID-19 forced most campuses to flip-flop between online and in-person learning and had conflicting COVID-19 protocols that left students carrying more anxiety and stress than in a traditional school year.

Campus United hosted prayer walks at various campuses across the region, gave out free ice cream sandwiches to welcome students back to campus, held online chaplain and spiritual care hours, led Bible studies on Instagram Live, hosted a Lower Mainland Ash Wednesday Service and created podcast content in addition to the work done on the physical campuses. Campus United also hosted listening sessions at Simon Fraser University (SFU) to learn where students are at, what their spiritual needs are, and what they like about Jesus. This is in preparation of launching new ministry at SFU this Fall. This position and the expansion of Campus United is in thanks to generous donations from St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in Vancouver and Broadview United Church in Victoria. A fundraising campaign with thank you gifts of United Church socks was also launched in December 2021.

Below are reflections on the past year of ministry from our existing Campus Ministers. For more information and to get/stay connected with Campus United, head over to campusunited.ca to engage.

Respectfully submitted by: Daniel Martin, Campus Ministry Animator



The University of British Columbia (UBC)

Rev. Aaron Miller, Campus Minister UBC

This has been a predictably difficult year to begin a new ministry position. Nevertheless, it has not been without its bright spots! Through the fall term, I and my team have had many opportunities to make good connections with students, building new relationships and deepening existing ones. It has been a gift to connect with colleagues through the University Multifaith Chaplaincy, at UBC, for both collaboration and mutual support in this often-nebulous work. Through the fall we also hosted a monthly event called Open Table which featured spiritual practices, silence, and prayer, with the goal of counteracting the sometimes-overwhelming demands of student life.

The return to online-only classes in January was discouraging and stalled some of our momentum. But we were able to maintain contact with many of our students, offering support, and meeting one-on-one, or in small groups in COVID safe environments. Starting in

Campus Ministry

continued

March, we gathered with a group of students to work through a resource created by University of Guelph Ecumenical Chaplain, Andrew Hyde, called My Daily Discoverment: 40 Days of Vocational Discernment for Young Adults. That gathering is already planting seeds for what's next!

Here's what a student named Anjali has to say about Campus Ministry: *"UBC's United Church Campus Ministry has been a place of refuge and restoration during my undergraduate degree. During a formative time of exploring what I believe about myself, the world, and what it has to do with God, I am grateful that this Campus Ministry has been there to journey with me. I have found the spaces created by UBC United Church Chaplains to be inviting and non-judgemental, welcoming me at whatever stage I was at in my faith journey. From Yoga Chapel, Spiritual Direction, to Vocational Discernment Dinners, these ministries have supported me spiritually as I recovered from trauma, became Jesus follower, and commissioned my life to be in service of the Lord. I am fundamentally a different person, pursuing deeper, more enriching ways of being, thanks to the impact United Church Chaplains have had on my life. I am grateful that I feel comfortable inviting friends of all faith backgrounds to Campus Ministry initiatives, and truly believe there is a deep yearning on campus for the invitation to Jesus that the United Church can provide. Thank you so much for investing in students at UBC. I for one am forever changed!"*

We are grateful to be a part of this important ministry, and eager to continue joining in God's work on the campus of UBC! -- Aaron



The University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

Kendra Mitchell-Foster, Campus Minister UNBC

Campus Ministry in Prince George is beginning to flourish since launching in January 2022. After a restructuring of the Interfaith Spiritual Care Centre, and a shift in vision and leadership, we find ourselves in a close-knit and committed interfaith community that is interested in seeing the spiritual lives of the campus community richly supported.

Since January, we have held a World Interfaith Harmony Week panel with local people to discuss what it means to be interfaith, we have held a weekly Interfaith Vigil for Peace, we have connected with students via social media with an Instagram Live Lenten series using the 40 Days of Engagement with Anti-Racism, and we have made some solid connections with the First Nations Student Centre, the Women's Centre, the Muslim Students Association, and UNBC Student Life.

Campus Ministry

continued

Weekly chaplaincy hours were fruitful with lively discussion. One student in particular would come every day to the centre to pray and would want to discuss and learn about the differences and similarities between Islam and Christianity. He is a devout Muslim, and so bright and open. He would often say thank you for the discussions, and even recommended his sisters to come and ask questions and learn about other faiths. As we were leaving the Chapel space one day he said "It is so good to have a place to come to with people who are curious and open to discussion. These are questions that I don't think I could ask anywhere else." -- Kendra



The University of Victoria (UVic)

Rev. Greg Powell, Campus Minister UVic

Having started in May 2021, this was a year of orientation, experimentation, and adaptation for me in the role of Campus Minister at UVic. Working with the student leaders and other spiritual care providers of Inclusive Christians has been a treat and delight. Getting Running with the Spirit off the ground was also a highlight that allowed for important encounters with a small (but important) number of students. Despite plenty of support and the best efforts of those around me, I never quite found my footing in this role and so my last day will be at the end of April. I have seen how vitally Multifaith integrates into students' experiences of wholeness and I am so heartened to know the Multifaith Centre, its programs, and the students and community are so very well supported. May all know peace and thriving. -- Greg



"I moved to Canada last year and since then I was struggling with depression. But the Running with the Spirit program by UVic Multifaith Centre really helped me. Every Thursday with the mentoring of Greg I have practiced new ways of running and breathing while feeling the connection between myself and the surrounding nature. I really liked those few minutes after each session that we were meditating and praying. Now I appreciate this excellent experience to run while socializing and learning. It has been a new start for me to run and recover my physical and mental health again."

- Kiana Kia, UVic Master's Student

Community of Faith Council

pacificmountain.ca/administration/community-of-faith-council/

Greetings all,

As I am sure we are no exception, your Community of Faith Council found 2021 to be a year that brought challenges and opportunities. We continued to meet only virtually which did allow a way of meeting which was more efficient both in the time of our individual members who are based throughout the province and for the saved cost to both the Region and the environment.

Our purpose is to support and encourage healthy communities of faith in their life and work through developing means and strategies for supporting and empowering their ministry.

As a full council, we met three times during the year and our task groups met frequently in between. We continue to learn the breadth and depth of the communities of faith around this region through the self-assessments we review as well as inviting intentional storying telling from a different community of faith at each of our meetings. We hope through this process to bring forth trends and ways to support the ministry being done.

During 2021, we received 23 self assessments and the task team that focus on this review were impacted by the dedication and care of ministry that is being done. Some of the trends that we found were:

- Desire for connection with the wider church
- Known trend of smaller groups feeling the burden of aging, excess infrastructure and trying to do more than their existing resources allow
- Need for tech support and understanding as we live fuller into a reality where virtual gathering is not going away
- Many commented on the value of doing the self-reflection, in particular when a group of them do it together as opposed to only one voice

Based on the self assessment learnings, we gathered with the Regional Ministers to have a conversation around experimenting with ways to support small and rural communities of faith to maintain their local ministry and to continue to gather as a faith community by creating a support structure that will offer resources and leadership, while lessening the administrative load. We hope to see a target of running a pilot in 2022.

We continued to work on the processes around Amalgamation and Oversight. We will be rolling out the idea of Learning & Assessment Teams as a way of coming along side a community of faith to support their growth & learning.

A significant priority for 2022 is to support and encourage ways for communities of faith to network and connect with each other to support their ministry and fellowship.

Community of Faith Council

continued

Our sub team, Working Approvals Group, continued to do their important work supporting communities in their decisions around property and investments. Stepping down from the group this year were Cheryl Swedburg and Jennifer Swanson and we appreciate their willingness and ability to serve the church in this capacity. Joining Michael Hare, Ken Fanning, Simone Carrodus and Patrick McGrath this year are Joseph Kaiser, Nancy Colton and Arleigh Alexander and we are grateful to the care and attention they bring to this work....

As well, from our main council, Lawrence Sankey stepped down this year and we are grateful for the time, energy and perspective that Lawrence brought to the work of our council. Joining this year was Heather Clark and Joseph Kayser and we are grateful for the fresh eyes and ideas that they bring to our work. Continuing to serve our Ruth Stebbing, Simone Carrodus, Shannon Carson, Janice Young and Sally Bullas and I am grateful for the wisdom and care they bring to this work. The support from Regional staff, Kathy Davies, Victoria Andrews, Brenda Wolff, Jes Beckerley and Treena Duncan allowed us to do this work in ways that we could not achieve with out them.

With gratitude for being able to serve our church in this way

Jim Simpson
Chair
Community of Faith Support Council.

First Third Ministry: Building Relationships, Emerging Opportunities

The First Third Ministry of Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils is grateful to be able to support Communities of Faith and Regional Ministries in their work with children, youth, young adults, camps and campus ministry. First Third Ministry Connects, Equips and Imagines with United Church of Canada communities of faith to inspire individual in the First Third of Life to live Christlike lives of justice, hope and compassion in the world.

In 2021 we concentrated our efforts on building relationships and resourcing Communities of Faith in Pacific Mountain Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council; holding consultations with communities of faith, sharing resources, providing leadership development training, and building ministry networks.

Our inter-regional staff team has been busy developing regional programs, and visioning with Community of Faith partners.

Some of our 2021, early 2022 ministry highlights include;

- Resourcing Communities of Faith and families with Faith@Home Kits
- Building a writing team from Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds for upcoming issues of the Faith@Home magazine
- Providing ongoing leadership development and peer to peer support through the weekly First Third Leaders Gathering
- Providing training opportunities for leaders, including Mental Health First Aid for youth and youth leaders in partnership with LeaderShift, Anti-Racism Workshops, for youth leaders, Adventures and Faith and Family Study with Susan Lukey
- Holding First Third Ministry consultation and planning events with Communities of Faith and regional ministries including Camping Ministry and Campus Ministry
- Animating the virtual Imagine Retreat in 2021 with congregational leadership from Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain regions
- Animating the Inter-Regional Youth Queer Virtue program with Affirming Connections and the Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Affirming Working Groups
- Animating the Inter-Regional Online Confirmation program in partnership with the Go Project
- Planning the Regional AGM Children and Youth Program

We are also looking forward to our upcoming events, including;

- YouthTrek 2022 at Kamloops United Church and Waterton United Church in October for Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain youth and their leaders
- Holy Listening Retreat 2022 in November for United Church young adults
- Campus Ministry Connector Training for campuses in Burnaby, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George, July - August 2022
- Children and Family Retreats Winter-Summer 2023

We are also looking to develop intentional ways for youth and young adult leaders to take an active role in the full life and leadership of the Church.

First Third Ministry

continued

This coming year First Third Ministry will be developing a Regional Youth Council that will provide intentional leadership by, and for United Church youth in both regions.

It is with thankfulness and optimism that we look toward our upcoming ministry events, continued relationship development and ministry resourcing.

With joy and thanksgiving,
The First Third Ministry Team



Natalia, Sarah, Lindsay, Chris, Mary, Pamela

Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain 2021 Annual Report - Leadership



Weekly Leaders Online Gathering

Hosted by Rev Mary Nichol and Chris Mah Poy, First Third Ministry Staff, for all those in leadership with Children, Youth, Families, Young Adults in a United Church setting - whether paid or volunteer in dedicated ministry with children and families, or a piece of your ministry. A time to share and listen to each other's first third ministry context. As well, this is a time to gather ideas, ask questions and learn from each other.



CCYFM - Certificate in Children, Youth and Family Ministry through VST *The Art of Children and Youth Ministry January Intensive Course*

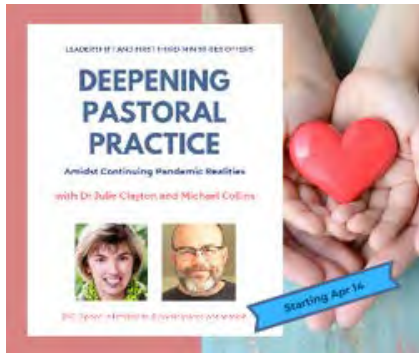


Godly Play Training Online in January and February - The Heart of Godly Play

Creating sacred space - Building and working in community
- Nurturing spiritual development - Learning religious language - Using silence, story, and play to make meaning

First Third Ministry

continued



Deepening Pastoral Practice - Cohorts in February and April

This four-week workshop focused on a framework to assess and evaluate current pastoral practice and what is needed to address the ongoing traumatic waves that impact pandemic-ridden congregations. Attention was given to understanding the complex nature of family systems.



Festival of Biblical Storytelling 'This Changes Everything' in April

& **Children's Spirituality Summit** In partnership with Inter Generate Conference in May

Two different cohorts of leaders attended both the storytelling festival and the children's spirituality summit. Following each event participants met to debrief the event with the hope to process and create a plan to integrate the ideas learned.



LeaderShift's Tools, Tech & Testimony - Summer

First Third Ministry Team hosted a summer session on 'How Can I Best Offer First Third Programming/Ministry as Hybrid Model?'



RE-ENTRY with First Third Ministry - Summer and Fall Sessions

A three-part, small group time for congregational ministry leaders to meet and discuss what First Third Ministry is like in their context - and imagine together, "What's next?"

Indigenous Ministry

pacificmountain.ca/ministry/indigenous-ministry/

Indigenous Ministry Report – PMRC highlights for 2022

Our work in PMRC has been conducted virtually for the last two years of the Pandemic, while the needs have not diminished the call for faith, love and hope continues in community. Many of our communities are in need and any and all help, particularly outreach, will be important as we go forward in our regional work.

Multiple events have occurred with the help of PMRC staff and Chinook Winds staff, hosting Indigenous virtual events for 2022 which include:

- 6 weeks of Indigenous Lenten Series for 2022 with Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds and Reverend John Snow, Indigenous Minister, PMRC and Gloria Snow, Chinook Winds
- Virtual event for February, Pink Shirt Day – anti bullying campaign
- Events for Red Dress Day in May 5/22 – with speakers from Hawaiian cohort from the United Church of Christ Hawaii
- Graduation of John Snow and Tony Snow receiving M.Div., from Vancouver School of Theology, UBC, May 10/22.
- Attending many virtual, ecumenical gatherings with Anglican, Roman Catholic Churches, and other interfaith groups including work with Synagogues and Mosques.
- Attending graduation ceremonies at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, June 4/22
- Attending PMRC AGM in Prince George, June 9-12/22
- Upcoming book studies to be announced
- Virtual events including wisdom of the elders and review of calls to the church – for PMRC and Chinook Winds
- Events of Indigenous Day – observances June 21/22
- Upcoming events for the fall including Orange Shirt Day Sept 30/22



Reverend John Snow (Pacific Mountain Regional Council) and Tony Snow & Gloria Snow (Chinook Winds)



Indigenous Ministry

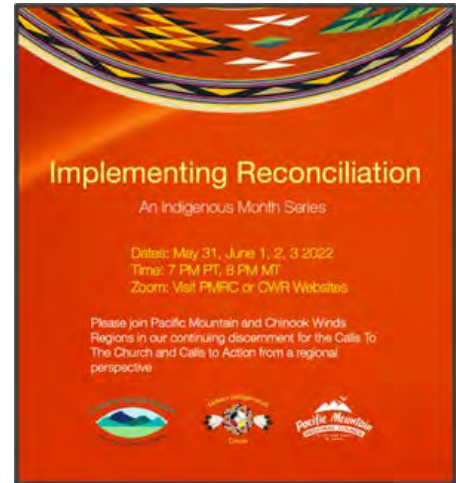
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The work with Kamloops United has been to address many of the victims of the floods and fires these last few summers. Our hearts go out to the unmarked graves and reparations work, where a fund has been set up by PMRC. Work of implementing the TRC and UNDRIP calls to action and articles are a going concern with a focus on Reconciliation and the unmarked graves.

Work in Port Alberni continues following the legacy of retired Reverend Minnie Hornbridge and the resolution to address and listen to needs in community at Port Alberni. Two very important meetings along with the Moderator Richard Bott have occurred to listen to community. Ongoing work in community has also been occurring at Camp Pringle.

We have many plans for work in indigenous ministry in the future. Upcoming activities will include preparation of Indigenous Day and Indigenous month for PMRC and some activities with Chinook Winds, through virtual and actual gatherings. Support and reconciliation work will continue in PMRC and outreach to community. We will be hosting virtual events for Implementation of Reconciliation, and we will also be hosting World Environment Day.

Report from Rev. John Snow
Indigenous Minister, PMRC



VST Graduation of M.Div., for Rev. John Snow, PMRC and Tony Snow, Chinook Winds, May 10, 2022. The ceremonies were held at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

Justice Network

pacificmountain.ca/ministry/justice-network/

*Jesus announced the coming of God's reign—
a commonwealth not of domination
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.”*
- Song of Faith (2006)

We live in a time of many challenges, with great inequities between peoples, and collective harm to our earth community. As church, we have been complicit in injustice. And yet we continue to be called to witness in love and justice to the liberating, healing Christ risen in this place and time. Together, we strive towards repentance, repair, and right relations with all peoples and the planet. The vision of the United Church of Canada includes a commitment to “daring justice” as we seek to live our faith in all we do.

Similarly, within the Pacific Mountain Regional Council, the mission and vision articulated in our Ends Policy document specifically calls us to be prophetic and proactive in bearing faithful public witness as a church that courageously responds to God's call of abundant life for all.

As these vision statements attest, the church's engagement in work for social justice is a responsibility of the whole people of God. This encompasses all levels of the church – local, regional, and national – as well as the actions and intentions of each person. We are followers of a tradition that calls us to seek justice and challenge oppressive forces of power (even when such forces lie within). Taking the teachings of our Christian faith seriously, we are bound by a call to radical transformation centred on an economy of generosity and sustainability where love of God and neighbour are guiding principles. In the words of General Secretary Michael Blair, the invitation to engage in deep spirituality as people of faith, “is an engagement to enrich and enliven our acts of justice in the world. They are not two different things. Hear me. They are not two different things.”

As an expression of PMRC's justice commitments, a consultation process was carried out in 2020-2021 to explore how the Region can support continuing work for social justice and action in the tradition of our faith (<https://pacificmountain.ca/8054-2/>).

Three key social justice issues identified in the Consultation Report are:

- Righting relationship with First Nations, recognizing both the need for reparation of past injustices by the settler church, and the unique contribution and leadership of the Indigenous Church at the national level and through PMRC's Indigenous Ministry (<https://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/indigenous-ministry/>)
- Support for gender diversity and inclusivity, including the process of becoming an Affirming Regional Council (<https://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/justice-network/affirming-ministry/>)
- Engagement with the national church's resolution to being an anti-racist denomination (<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism/>).

Alongside these ongoing efforts, the Consultation Report identified a wide range of other concerns engaging the hearts, minds and actions of the people of PMRC, including:

- Climate change and ecological justice
- Guaranteed Livable Income
- Just transition to a green economy
- Just Peace in Palestine and Israel
- Refugee sponsorship
- Intercultural ministry
- Global peacebuilding
- Affordable housing and homelessness
- The BC overdose crisis
- Food insecurity
- and more....

In each of these areas there are multiple points of entry and modes of connection where congregations and individuals are active in their neighbourhoods and in partnership with other denominations, faith traditions and secular organizations to work for positive change at home and abroad. Across the almost 200 communities of faith around the Region, many have Social Action committees and/or designated staff or volunteer positions taking leadership in these efforts. Although these actions may be well known in the local community, they often fly under the radar. One of the opportunities in this report is to give a shout-out to the hard work done by many hands to help make the world a better place, and to encourage you to share your story with others around the Region.

Minister of Justice Position

A further outcome of the Consultation Report was to recommend the creation of the Minister of Justice position launched on August 1, 2021. This is a part-time staff position (21 hours per week) intended to provide encouragement, support and connection for the ongoing work of social justice within the Region and beyond.

A core finding of the Consultation Report is the importance of building and maintaining relationships, based on the understanding that all justice ministry is done more effectively through meaningful and respectful connections among communities of faith across the region and with civil society partners. Opportunities to share, learn and gather to inspire each other and work together in specific justice actions were also identified as vital facets of this work.

Recent Activities

In the 10 months since the Justice Minister position has been in place, a number of initial steps have been taken to support the ministry of social justice in PMRC. This work takes time and collaborative effort and will continue to develop as the position becomes more established.

Justice Network

continued

- **Justice Network Newsletter** – this newsletter is prepared and distributed (with the able assistance of Alexandra Barr, PMRC Receptionist) every two weeks as a vehicle to share information about justice resources and events happening in PMRC, across the wider church and with community partners. PMRC members are also encouraged to share stories about what is happening in their local area as a way of building a wider awareness of social justice initiatives around the region.
- **“Just” Conversations Online Gathering** – this is a monthly online drop-in gathering for people around the region to gather for mutual support, resource sharing and action planning. Social justice work can often be lonely and overwhelming, so the more opportunities for connection that are available the more it is possible to build stronger relationships, morale, momentum, and plans for collective action.
- **PMRC Website** – the PMRC website is regularly updated (with Tressa Brotsky, PMRC Communications Specialist extraordinaire, at the helm) to share resources and information about various justice initiatives and events within PMRC (<https://pacificmountain.ca/ministry/justice-network/>)
- **Social Justice Cluster and Network Support** – Providing one-on-one and small group support for individuals and communities of faith to explore opportunities for advocacy, funding support, and strategic planning around matters that are close to their hearts in living out their faith in the world.

Looking Forward

A number of initiatives are in the works as the PMRC Justice Ministry continues to take shape, including plans for:

- a Region-wide engagement in climate conversations to support further awareness and action in response to the climate crisis;
- an online workshop on tools and skills for social justice networking;
- an online reflection and discussion series to explore the scriptural and theological grounding for social justice, building on the key insight shared in the Consultation Report that “a theology of justice including an informed reading of scripture should be at the heart of the church’s reason for existing and mobilization into action”;
- an in-person Social Justice Gathering, building on the formative “Rising Hope” gathering that took place in Chilliwack in 2015.

Contact Us

If you would like to receive the Justice Network newsletter, share what is happening in your part of the Region, connect with others who share similar social justice interests, or join the Work Team for the Social Justice Gathering planning process, don’t hesitate to be in touch.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jane Dawson
Minister for Justice, PMRC
jdawson@united-church.ca; 672-514-7390



LeaderSHIFT Report

<https://www.leadershiftuccan.org/>

LeaderShift is now a ministry of both Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils! This is good news. The LeaderShift staff: Allison Rennie Director, Jes Beckerley Administrative Support, Tressa Brotsky Communications, Rob Crosby-Shearer Church Planting Project.

UPCOMING! Bold Witness, Relentless Grace

Conference! Please make note of the in-person event coming this November at Symons Valley UC. We are so thrilled to sponsor this Symons Valley event, hosting Sarah Bessey as keynote speaker and many other stellar speakers and panelists. If you are not able to travel to Calgary to enjoy the in-person conference experience, consider hosting a Satellite Conference!



LeaderSHIFT Commitments

We learn and promote learning.

We take time to apply learning within LeaderShift as well as promote learning to transform leadership to be more effective in the face of current and future realities in ministry. We make mistakes. We are committed to growing and changing along with all leaders in our Regions.

Since the last General Meeting we have been learning about how learning environments are changing in response to the need for integrated online and in-person environments. Some offerings will continue to be online only, some will likely be in person only. But now we are dedicating ourselves to developing integrated options. These integrated events require some different planning, different technology and some learning to do well – we are just getting started!

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 marginalized. This includes increasing the numbers of BIPOC and gender diverse resource people in the coming year.

In the past year we have made some steps in this direction, and acknowledge there is still an over representation of voices coming from the dominant majorities in our church and society.

We remove barriers to participation.

We use our resources to promote more equitable accessible 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 continue to develop pathways to equitable participation for all – technology is not the only solution.

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 is an important lens for our planning.

Progress toward a variety of offerings that may meet and nurture diverse faith identities continues. The Festival of Biblical Telling is helping create a network of people who are passionate about sharing the good news, and Wild Church training is helping deepen the community of those who being filled by the mystery of Spirit way outside the usual habits of congregational life.

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, team learning.

In addition to short one session workshops, we are creating and offering more opportunities for learning that takes place over a longer duration of time, and with teams of learners. Research strongly indicates that this type of learning can lead to sustained behaviour change and transformation! Moving from Decision Making to Discernment with Susan Beaumont is one of these types of events.

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 partners.

LeaderSHIFT is a small team with big hopes. It is a blessing to be able to highlight the work of colleagues and partners. The indigenous led group called KinSHIFT is one of groups we promote. They are offering outstanding learning in becoming an ally in reconciliation – if you haven't already checked out their work and workshop series, please do so. And LeaderWISE continues to be a companion in support for clergy through these challenging times.



Allison Rennie
Director

The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project

<https://www.leadershiftuccan.org/>

Annual Report – 2021-2022

I've decided to write my report, this year, in a 'Frequently Asked Questions' format, based on some of the questions I get asked in my role. So, here we go...

What is the LeaderShift Church Planting Project?

The LeaderShift Church Planting Project is an initiative that supports 'new communities where Christian faith is nourished, and discipleship practiced' within the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church. The original "Trinity Fund" was derived from half of the proceeds from the sale of the Trinity United building in Vancouver – and interest has built on that fund. With the assent of the former Van-Burrard Presbytery, who also wrote the terms of reference, that fund was set up to establish or re-establish some form of United Church presence in areas or with demographics that we aren't yet engaging. When we first started up we were called Embracing the Spirit BC but changed the name to avoid confusion with other similarly named initiatives.

Most of our new communities are what we would call "planter-driven" – that is, they are started by someone who has a vision or feels a call to start something in a specific place. Planters must be 'appointable' as UCC Ministry Staff of whatever category. We believe that these communities should have the capacity to evolve into fulsome expressions of Church – where there are elements of word, sacrament and pastoral care happen – as different as those things might look from context-to-context. Sometimes we use the word "Church Plant", other times "Church Start" and other times "New Community of Faith" – aware that each of these terms holds strengths and weaknesses – but that they're all getting at similar things.

Are there still funds left?

We've funded 14 initiatives (2 have since closed) – and, even so, there is some money left. We have over \$300,000 set aside for planting a new community in or near Pemberton, BC. Depending on how invested funds perform in the months to come, we have up to a \$350,000 (depending on how the fund performs in our investments) set aside for new small to medium sized applications. We tend to fund for 3-5 years on a declining grant basis – and I personally believe there is a sweet spot between over-funding and under-funding these new communities. Many of our planters/starters are multi-vocational. One of my goals is to seek new sources of funds to rebuild this fund. Hint: If you're selling a building, or another asset – and want to see new forms of Church plant and thrive, please drop me a line.

Why is there specific support for new communities, while it's harder for existing communities to get funds and other forms of support?

There's a lot I could say about this – and I think it's an important question – and one I have a lot of room for – since I personally have a love for both inherited and emerging expressions of Church. I believe that we, as a Region, do need to be supporting both existing and new Communities of Faith – as both have big gifts to offer the world. I wrote a bit more at length on why to fund new expressions here:

<https://churchforvancouver.ca/creating-conversation-planting-churches-in-a-time-of-cataclysmic-change/>.

If this is a question or concern that you have, I would be more than willing to have a conversation with you. I will say that, as a Region, though my focus is on new communities, I

The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project

continued

do see ways that existing / traditional congregations are being supported by my colleagues, and by various mission, EDGE and provision funds – though those forms of support are understandably different than the kinds of support we offer for new communities.

How are the plants / starts doing?

For the most part, quite well. Covid-19 has, changed everything, of course – and it's been a tough time for so many of us. Having said that – these starters/planters have an amazing capacity to pivot and adapt! Even though many of them were just getting going as Covid hit, most of the plants have established an identity (including web presence), are building a team and building community on the ground. Some are even 'franchising' – creating multiple expressions in a wider geographic context (hats off to Wild Church!). Many are making strides toward fiscal sustainability through diverse revenue streams – grassroots giving, community partnerships and/or social enterprise. For some, it feels like they're really just getting going – for others, they are starting to root nicely into their contexts and build a thriving community. It really is exciting work that I'm honoured to help nurture. For so many of the planters, it feels tenuous – even when things are going well and many of the supports of an existing congregation are being built from scratch.

On the tough side of things, we've amicably ended two of our projects, The WayPoint Centre (housed out of EagleRidge United) as well as United Online (housed out of Highlands United). In both communities, Covid radically shifted course for our plans – and, also in both communities, the lead planters moved on to new and exciting calls in the Chinook Winds Region. Both starters are taking their learnings into their new contexts and we are growing from what we learned there as well.

Why full time for the Regional Minister?

In September 2021, I transitioned into a full-time role where I had been half-time. The invested funds had been performing extremely well, which allowed for this shift without any decline in commitment to the new communities. In addition to now having over a dozen new communities, many of which required increasing travel and virtual support as they grew and adapted out of Covid-19 lockdown, myself, Treena and the granting team discerned new priorities for the initiative which include telling the stories of the new communities and rebuilding the fund so we can build and support another dozen-or-so new communities of faith! The storytelling and fundraising work are exciting new elements of what the LCPP initiative will be doing. God is doing good things, and we have a story to tell.

What are some of the new things being done?

I'm working on a podcast called Vocare (Latin for 'call') with Amy Haynes from Chinook Winds Region (Amy works at St. David's United and is a VST Student) which will interview UCC and ecumenical guests working on the edges of the church about their call stories...

A group of planters/starters are also working on a follow-up to Resurrect 2018 – hopefully for spring 2023 (God-willing!). This will be a gathering of starters / planters and others interested in what God's Spirit is doing 'on the edges of the inside' (Richard Rohr) of the Church. We've had some initial conversation with First Metropolitan United about holding that event there.

The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project

continued

As we've re-opened, or in some cases opened for the first time, I've started working on videos of the plants. Hopefully we'll have at least one of these for this gathering – one from Weird Church in Cumberland.

We now have a monthly Zoom Happy Hour for planters (and friends) to check in with each other about their work. Myself, members of the granting team and planters / planter teams check in once a month... We also have folks who come along and observe. If you're interested in joining us sometime, let me know.

What kind of work do you do?

It seems different every day. A lot of it is support of planters – vocational and practical conversations. For plants held by the region, I approve expenses and help out with insurance and HR and budget matters. For those held by congregations I sit on liaison groups between the plant and the existing congregation. I write covenants with planters to guide their work. Since a lot of this is uncharted (at least in modernity/post-modernity, and in the mainline) – I spend time trying to find ways to do things differently within our existing structures – which sometimes involves some fancy footwork and strategic conversations. In cases where a potential planter/starter is interested in discerning – I work to find a process (sometimes piggybacking on New Leaf's Discernment process). We also connect folks with mentors or coaches, upon request. I do some amount of work sharing the stories of these new communities (as noted, podcasts, videos, public speaking – including talking to existing communities or the wider church about things we're working on). In some cases, I work closely alongside other Regional Ministers to strategize and even 'put out fires'. I also make visits for special events – like covenanting our new planters in Port Hardy, or dedicating a Labyrinth that one of our plants worked on – usually taking time to connect one-on-one with our planting/starting teams. My favorite part of the work is the people work – listening to the joys and struggles and praying for and with the planters in the amazing work they are called to do.

How are the plants held corporately?

We've developed a few models on how to do this. Put most simply – they are usually held at the Regional Level (i.e. Wild Church, Weird Church, Feast and Fallow, Westshore Community of Practice) or they can be held locally by a congregation (i.e. O'mans Nama, Courageous Community Center, The CUP). When held Regionally, they are operating under the charitable status and insurance of the Region – and this is seen as a short(ish) term solution to allow them to develop their own wings until they are ready to launch out on their own. And we also have a few anomalies: In one case one of our plants is held

Nationally (Zimbabwe Methodist United) and two are held ecumenically (The Emmaus Community and the AbbeyChurch) – who are held by the Anglican Diocese of BC as a shared UCC/ACC ministry. One of our plants is held under First Third Ministries – Foxes and Fowl – but continues to network with the planter/starter network. We also support, in conversation, some emerging plants or replants in the Chinook Winds region – and those folks join our Happy Hour as well. With diverse expressions, we're aware that one 'container' doesn't fit all.

The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project

continued

Are there other things you do?

I have been seconded to the Strengthening Invitation / Growth Strategic Objective Working Group of the National Church. I also sit on the New Ministries Steering Committee for the United Church of Canada Foundation. I'm a part of the LeaderShift team with Allison, Tressa and Jes or Brenda and meet weekly so that my work is integrated into the wider LeaderShift work. I tag team with Gail Miller to represent the Region on the Road to Reconciliation group in Port Alberni – which meets monthly to foster conversation between Residential School Survivors and settlers. This makes sense as this group came out and is related to one of our plants (CCC) in Port Alberni. I sit on the Denominational Catalysts group of the New Leaf Network, which supports ecumenical Canadian Church Planters – this gives me a healthy wider perspective on things – and also participate in gatherings of the ecumenical planters which happen as part of St. Andrews at UBC. I continue to work as a volunteer, mostly on weekends, with my own home community of faith, the Emmaus Community - and their Sunday worship expression, The AbbeyChurch – where I occasionally preach and often play music. I've found it important to keep a part of a local new(er) community of faith, as it gives perspective to my role as a Regional Minister.

Any other new plans for new communities?

As noted above, we still hope to do something in Pemberton with those designated funds. I also have some conversations happening around an eco-village or neo-monastic intentional community plant – which I think could be an amazing new community of faith... Other than that, I've had some conversations with some of you about 're-booting'; creating, from scratch, a new expression of church in buildings where an existing congregation won't make it... and there is still room for other visions! If you are closing a congregation, let's have a chat!

Can you give a snapshot of what's happening in some of the plants?

Wow... There are so many good things happening amidst the struggles of our times – I'm reluctant to do this – because there is so much good work (and struggle!) happening – but here are a few: The Feast And Fallow project is about to open their café in the new site of Oakridge United, emphasizing food justice and eucharistic spirituality... Weird Church has partnered with both a preschool and an art gallery and continues to build a resonant Sunday afternoon worshipping community – they've developed a 5-year plan for sustainability and building an amazing team... Wild Church now has multiple expressions across the Okanagan and building community and sustainability through giving.... O'man's N'ama are looking to engage deeper into reconciliation work, with Sheila Cook, one of their Indigenous leaders dreaming about resourcing abandoned church buildings within Indigenous Communities as a 'circuit rider'... AbbeyChurch has grown since re-opening with new people, including a number of younger families, joining in their Sunday afternoon worship life... Westshore Community of Practice has started up a regular Campfire Church and other contemplative expressions... Zimbabwe Methodist United are looking for a worship space after their community was hit hard by Covid here and back in Zimbabwe and continue to grow online... There are so many more things I could say about every single plant – but hopefully that gives an idea!

The LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project

continued

Where can I find out more?

I've been working with Tressa Brotsky to get our website(s) updated. There is a full list of plants – with links to their web presence at www.pacificmountain.ca/new. For those interested in planting, there is more information on the LeaderShift website <https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/> - just click on the “church planting project” menu across the top and follow the links.

Of course, I'm always happy to have a conversation about your potential call to starting a new UCC community in the PM region – my cell is 778 977 7562 and my email is rcrosbyshearer@united-church.ca.

As noted above, I'm also happy to chat with your board, your congregation or staff team about how the LCPP can connect with your Community of Faith.

Final words...

The final thing that I'll say is that I believe that Church Planting / Starting is a work of God's Holy Spirit – and I'm excited to come alongside the work that God is calling us, as a Region, into in new communities of Faith across the Region.

I'm grateful for your prayers and support in this work.

In Christ,



Rob Crosby-Shearer
Regional Minister for Church Planting - May 2022

Office of Vocation

<https://pacificmountain.ca/support/office-of-vocation-ministry/>

Submitted by Office of Vocation Minister, Rev. Brenda Fawkes

Faithful, Well-Quipped and Effective Ministry Personnel

The Office of Vocation is almost three and a half! The mandate of the Office of Vocation (OV) is to ensure faithful, well-equipped, and effective ministry personnel, where applicants are encouraged, candidates for vocational ministry grow in learning and competency and where allegations of ministry personnel misconduct are dealt with quickly and fairly and action taken for the well-being of ministry personnel and communities of faith.

Applicants Encouraged:

The Office of Vocation provides opportunities for applicant discernment. Over the pandemic there have been offerings online including workshops, video resources and attendance at events held by Theological Schools. In addition, there is a newly minted podcast called: It's Your Call <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/its-your-call/id1592000429?i=1000548240264>

Many applicants are supported at the outset through individual conversations with the Office of Vocation minister.

Candidacy Pathway

The Mountain Candidacy board assesses all applicants and candidates for ministry and supports them through the Candidacy Pathway process. The Board meets three times a year for interviews and in-between for education and business meetings. Members of the Mountain Candidacy Board are:

Linda Lee Henriksen (Chair), Colleen Blair, Heidi Koschzeck, Ian McLean, Laura Turnbull, Leenane Shiels, Murray Groom, Richard Chung, Robin Jacobson, Samuel Grottenberg, Vicki McPhee

As this is a General Council year; there will be new board members in the fall. Fortunately, 2/3 of the current board is carrying on for another term providing continuity. We will be joined by new members at the rise of the General Council. I want to thank the current members of the board whose term is coming to an end. Even though many on the board were familiar with the pilot candidacy pathway most of the church was not. These board members gave themselves to the challenge and privilege of the work. They forged ahead, finding ways to work together, setting norms and patterns, navigating the new structure and making the new process their own.

Office of Vocation

continued

Like all of us, they were forced to adapt their work in the face of Covid restrictions. Their dedication, good humour, wisdom, faithfulness and honesty in helping candidates and applicants discern their call has been outstanding and the church has been well served.

In particular I want to thank Linda Lee who has served as Chair of the Candidacy Board. She has provided wisdom, expertise, stability and compassion.

The number of candidates in Chinook and Pacific Mountain Regions are as follows:

Region	Total	Diaconal	DLM	Ordained	Applicant
Chinook	12	1	1	7	3
Pacific Mountain	29	3	1	21	4
Total	41				

The Office of Vocation Ministers also staff and resource The Ministry of Supervision Course at least once per year. In 2021 we offered this course in partnership with the Vancouver School of Theology and over 40 people attended online. These supervisors are key to the ongoing formation of candidates for ministry.

Oversight and Discipline of Ministry Personnel

The Office of Vocation is identifying a pattern among the ministry personnel that come before the Response and Remedial Committees – of the 34 cases, they are predominantly male ministry personnel (80%) often with little collegial support, serving where there is no system of constructive feedback within the community of faith or beyond it, and where there was reluctance to seek help from the wider church early enough. Areas of growth typically identified for directed programs are self management and relationship management (emotional intelligence), understanding the community of faith as an emotional system, using ministerial power appropriately and developing expertise in conflict management. Others are related to professional boundaries. Engaging conversations are happening regarding how these skills might be developed earlier in ministry formation or as part of ongoing continuing education.

I am grateful in the Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions for the partnership work and ministry of Leadershift as well as the Volunteer Chaplains and Spiritual Care Network and the resources it puts toward education, support, ministry wellness and life-long learning so that leaders have support.

Office of Vocation

continued

I have had many conversations with ministry personnel across both of 'my' regions and am continually thankful for the faithfulness of our leaders. I am also acutely aware of how difficult it has been to minister during a pandemic and it has taken a significant toll on our mental, spiritual and physical health. Any work done by the Office of Vocation is approached with the desire to keep and return folk to effectiveness if there have been barriers to that for some reason.

The Office of Vocation takes seriously its responsibilities with respect to ensuring standards for accreditation are being met. These include annual declaration of criminal charges and mandatory training. Each year there are fewer ministry personnel failing to be in compliance with these standards and more and more confidence in our ChurchHub! In the year ahead, there are many staff transitions that will occur in the Office of Vocation. However, we also look forward to increased understanding of the work and the opportunity to increase health, joy and vitality in ministry leadership.

Blessings and Peace,



Brenda

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 sub-committees.

Our committee includes: *Carol Martin (chair) Victoria Andrews (staff support) Shannon Tennant (ordained minister and Chair of the Pastoral Relations working group), Donna Zeigler (retired designated lay minister), and Laura Turnbull (retired ordained minister). We welcome David Boyd (ordained minister), who has recently joined the council.*

Aaron Miller and Greg Powell are, as of Sept 2021, employees of the region and therefore no longer members of the committee. Thanks to both for their thoughtful contributions to the work.

Over the past year, we have finalized the Recognized Ministry practice and procedures and developed recommendations for Executive consideration regarding policy in this area. We have collaborated with Community of Faith Council to develop Pastoral Relations considerations related to Communities of Faith amalgamations.

There are 3 committees of the Council: Pastoral Relations Working Group; Lay Leader Support Committee; Ministry Personnel Support Team

Pastoral Relations Working Group:

The Pastoral Relations Working Group (PRWG) meets weekly to act on and/or make decisions on behalf of the Regional Council (RC) with respect to the following:

1. approving Community of Faith profiles and declaring vacancies;
2. approving all ministry positions [I.1.2.6.4, I.1.3.2];
3. approving changes in terms of calls or appointments (I.1.9);
4. receiving and approving requests from ministry personnel to end pastoral relationships [I.3.1.4];
5. ending calls or appointments with ministry personnel and other staff in cooperation with the Community of Faith [C.2.8 (a & b)];
6. initiating the ending of pastoral relationship when notified by the Office of Vocations (OV) [I.3.1.7];
7. deciding whether a position is accountable to the governing body or region, i.e. categorizing Congregational Designated Minister (CDM) positions [I.1.11.2];

Pastoral Relations Council

continued

8. approving sabbaticals [I.2.3.5] and any leave more than three (3) months [I.2.3.6];
9. appointing Interim Ministers;
10. approving supply appointments [I.1.8] and approving the renewal of supply appointments [I.1.8]; and licensing and re-licensing Sacraments Elders, DLM, candidates to administer the sacraments (C2.9).

(Items 1-4 and 7 take most of the PRWG's time.)

This year the Committee added responsibility for approving Recognized Ministries within the Region as well. One of its future directions will be to include attendance at Regional Meetings as an expectation for service to the wider church in all position descriptions for ministry personnel. We also keep a beady eye out for systemic injustices, although we haven't fixed them all yet.

The committee includes: *Shannon Tenant, (Chair/ordained minister), Martha Ashbaugh, Pat Ridler, Susan Sullivan, and Keith Simmonds (diaconal minister). We thank Stuart Appenheimer who has left the committee this year because he retired.*

Lay Leader Support Committee:

Online Learning Platform

- Developed familiarity with online learning platforms, eventually choosing Thinkific
 - developed custom branding (Sage: Online Learning for United Church Leaders) for PMRC on Thinkific
- Created and Decided on first project for SageThinkific which is M&P training
- Discerned and Developed priority order of possible Sage next Thinkific programs: Trustees & Board Chair next
- Research resources for Sage projects – contract with Ddigital animator found for project management for the Thinkific platform

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

- Reviewed Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Compliance
- Development of PMRC LLWL Handbook for Policy, Practice and Procedures
- Ongoing Management of Program
- Orientation program for inquiring LLWL candidates developed and Implemented
- Create and manage a network of LLWLs to connect for study, support etc.

Sacraments Elders

Development for PMRC of Sacrament Elders Handbook for Policy, Practice and Procedures
Lay Leadership Gatherings and Networks:

- In process of creating networks for lay leadership groups, planning a region wide lay leadership gathering for spring 2023

Pastoral Relations Council

continued

General

- Revising working format of committee. Moving forward: moving to work group model: go to group of your passion and set the goals and implement the project.
- consulting with Justice Minister and LeaderShift for points of intersection

Current Committee Members: *Ken Jones, Carla Wilks, Maxine Coffey, Anjanee Gyan-Dyck, Linda Ervin: Chair and our amazing Staff person Gail Miller, backed up by Jes Beckerley and Brenda Wolff.*

Thanks to Suzanna Bates, Terresa Augustine, Derry Bott for their service to the committee.

Ministry Personnel Support Team

The work of the Ministry Personnel Support team of the PMR is to Support the spiritual life and well-being of ministry personnel

Our Terms of Reference:

- Caring pastorally for ministry personnel and families experiencing loss and hardship in partnership with Director of Regional Ministers:

In 2021 we did this work by:

- Praying for Ministry Personnel and their families at our monthly meetings
- Sending cards when we are able to support people in a time of grief or illness.

Initiating programming to enhance health, joy and excellence in the practice of ministry in partnership with Leadershift. In 2021 we did this work by:

- The monthly gathering time
- The Advent and lenten devotional series

Caring pastorally for retired members and those on Long Term Disability

- In 2021 we spent time developing our work in this area. Members who are retired or on long term disability are welcome to all of our programming.

Celebrating retirements of ministry personnel

- In 2021 we worked with Fox and Bee to create videos celebrating retirees for the General Meeting

Welcoming and orienting new ministry personnel to the region.

- In 2021 new ministry personnel to the region received a welcoming phone call from a member of the team.

Pastoral Relations Council

continued

We are currently working on developing a Welcome handbook for ministry personnel new to the region.

We also are working alongside a few retired clergy to offer a gathering for retired clergy in 2022.

A pastoral Care Team has been set up to offer spiritual care to those in need. Please watch posts for more details.

Our 2021 Ministry Personnel Support Team consisted of:

Lori Megley Best, Jane Harding, Eric Hamlyn, Lorraine Ashdowne, Tammy Lindahl, Karen Millard (chair), Marc Coulombe (staff support), Donna Dinsmore and Terri Myer (resigned from the committee during the year but we greatly appreciate the work they did while being a part of the team).

In closing, I want to highlight the contributions of staff: Brenda Wolff who will be missed by all of us, Jes Beckerley who has ably filled in while carrying her workload from Chinook Winds, Gail Miller (Lay Leader Support) and Mark Coulombe (Minister Support). Grateful to have such able participants on the council and on the committees and for all the good work they have done. Our PRC committee was ably supported by Victoria Andrews whose patience, understanding and knowledge served us well.

Next year, we are going to combine the Pastoral Relations and Community of Faith Councils to see if we can more effectively deal with the work. We will try this model for one year, but we are optimistic it will enrich our work in the region. Jim Simpson will chair the new group which will begin in the fall of 2022.

Carol Martin
PRC Chair

Regional Camping Ministry

<https://pacificmountain.ca/connect/camping/>

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

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

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

The camps vary considerably in size, scope of operation and staffing. For example, Koolaree, MacKenzie and Rock Lake have annual operating budgets between \$75,000 and \$175,000 and seasonal staffing. Pringle and Fircom operate with seasonal staffing and, combined, about eight full time equivalent year round staff, and operating budgets of \$780,000 and \$1,400,000 respectively.

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

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

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

- financial support to camps' operating budgets through the Camp Fund.
- expertise and guidance – as requested - to camp boards in areas of governance, finance, insurance, human resources and strategic planning and operations

Regional Camping Ministry

continued

- funding and project management for the repair, replacement or upgrading of major items of buildings and infrastructure.
- project management in the handling of insurance related matters including property claims
- representation on the boards of the Camp Fircom and Camp Pringle camp societies

Three initiatives begun in 2020 and continuing in 2021 are;

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

Ian Fraser

Western Intercultural Ministry Network

(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.
- The privileged, yet broken, who are seeking wholeness and justice.

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

2021-22 Activities

During the 2021-2022 period since the WIMN Executive provided an update to Regions the Network has continued to offer its Coffee Chai time series. These series offer opportunities for learning, discussion and reflection on themes related to interculturality. The sessions held between June 2021 – March 2, 2022 were:

- June 3, 2021 – *Let's Get Uncomfortable* – A follow up to a conversation between Damber Khadka and Rev. Bill Millar on the Open Out Podcast (#7) which focused on giving away power, creating a vulnerable space to support intercultural understanding.
- November 2, 2021 – *The Cultural Iceberg: The Clergy Collar* – A session where, following an overview of the Cultural Iceberg framework for creating intercultural understanding, Rev. Lee Spice and Rev. Piotr Strzelecki provided personal perspectives on what the clergy collar means to them and different cultural perspectives on the clergy collar

Western Intercultural Ministry Network

continued

Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions the network did not hold an in-person event for the network.

During the past year we have taken the opportunity at our monthly meetings to review the Terms of Reference for the Network and ask ourselves how we have engaged with each of the statements to date, and how we might move forward by building on areas of strength and develop stronger support and ministry for areas which we have not been able to truly focus our attention.

Annual Meeting

WIMN hosted its Annual meeting on November 2, 2021, in conjunction with one of its Chai/Coffee Sessions.

At that meeting the members of the Executive that had guided the Network's activities for 2020-21 largely remained chose to offer their gifts and stewardship for the work of the network for another year.

The Executive for 2021-22 comprises:

Co-Chairs: Deborah Richards (Pacific Mountain) and Kurt Katzmar (Northern Spirit)

Secretary: Kathy Yamashita (Chinook Winds)

Pacific Mountain: Alwin Maben (past chair)

Northern Spirit: Chelsea Masterman

Living Skies: Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau

Prairie to Pine: Damber Khadka, Bill Millar

Staff support: Julie Graham, Chris Mah Poy

Chinook Winds Region has nominated Rev. Dr. Oh Wang Kwon to join the WIMN Executive. We look forward to welcoming him to the next meeting of the Executive.

The group reaches out, as appropriate, to Emo Yango and Adele Halliday in the General Council Office for support in its work.

Our Elder Kay Quon has elected to take a less active role in the Executive moving forward. Kay has been a key member of the Executive for many years, and we value her wisdom. She will continue to join the Executive for meetings when possible, so that we can continue to benefit from her wisdom.

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

Western Intercultural Ministry Network

continued

Looking forward

The Executive will continue to build on the discussions we have been undertaking in the past year on how the Network will engage in supporting and living out the call within our regions to be an Intercultural Church. Our focus in the coming year will be on taking action to address some of areas which need more attention such as intentionally growing the network, continuing to build understanding at the community of faith level about being an Intercultural Church, and supporting persons with intercultural perspectives to step forward for nominations to regional and national committees and working groups.

Upcoming Events

Our Coffee/Chai time series will continue in 2022. We are currently working on a framework for topics for these sessions in 2022, and into 2023, with the goal of continuing to offer such conversations quarterly.

Stay tuned for more information in a few weeks about our June, September, and November Coffee Chai dates.

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

Deborah Richards and Kurt Katzmar

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Executive of the Western Intercultural Ministries Network

March 15, 2022



Centres of Education

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GM 2022 | JUNE 9-12, 2022

Centre for Christian Studies

<https://pacificmountain.ca/connect/camping/>

Centre for Christian Studies - 2021 A Year of Planning for the New

Students in Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds:

Letitia Berger, Mitch Creedy, Don Evans, Kendra Mitchell-Foster, Rachel Nadon, John Helps
Submitted on behalf of Ken Delisle and the Centre for Christian Studies

Pandemic – *It was certainly not going away...* Spring – New Rhythms

By the spring of 2021 staff had found rhythms of working together while working from our homes. We became quite adept at meeting through Zoom for staff meetings, committee meetings, student and mentor and field orientations, and we also made sure to schedule meetings with each other just to chat like we would if we were in the office together. Students were also becoming more comfortable and resourceful with online learning and we have been impressed with the ways students have worked creatively with their field sites to meet their learning goals under ongoing health restrictions.

This year we also held our Annual Service of Celebration online which allowed friends and family of the graduates to participate from across Canada.

Summer – New faces

This summer we ran our first UCC Admission Orientation program for ministers entering the church from other denominations. People joined online from time zones in Canada, India, Korea, Kenya, Congo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This meant people were joining the learning circle from every part of the day – morning, afternoon, evening and late into the night. Our Learning on Purpose circle was held for the first time online in August. Donors to the Matching Gift Campaign supported the development and implementation of this new way of offering the LoP. We learned from student feedback how to create space during the intensive learning circles for time to work independently away from the screen while also offering students opportunities to meet informally so they could chat about all the non-school stuff that matters to them. And, importantly, staff enjoyed valuable vacation time. We took advantage of the easing of COVID restrictions to visit family and friends throughout July and August.

Fall – Changes coming and other new things

Our learning circles continued to be online, including: Integration Year, Culture and Identity, and Right Relations. The Right Relations learning circle was a joint circle with Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre and CCS. It was designed and led collaboratively with the staff from both schools. This collaboration allowed staff from both schools to learn from each other's teaching methods, but best of all was the opportunity to talk and laugh

Centre for Christian Studies

continued

together. Right Relations was the first learning circle we ran in a hybrid format with sixteen people participating in person and sixteen people participating online. Some students proceeded with field placements, while others focused on external courses, which were widely available online.

In the fall Michelle and David both announced that they would be leaving CCS to pursue other ministry callings. Michelle returned to congregational ministry in London Ontario and David has begun the discernment process to enter ordained ministry in the Church of England. This set in motion the search process for two new additions to the CCS staff team and the announcement that Ken Delisle would serve as Interim Principal for the first half of 2022.

Progress – Education

We continued to innovate online pedagogy – the UCC Admission Orientation and Right Relations circles are just two examples. We held 11 Learning Circles online, including four circles that had never been offered online: Culture and Identity, Right Relations, Grief and Loss, and Ministry as Community Building. We continued with free-of-charge public workshops with our CCS Fridays series, exploring topics including How to Host an Online AGM, The Pandemic of Racism, Profiles of Diakonia, Indigenous Testamur, Unanswered Questions about 9/11, and Transgressive Devotion. Members of our learning community presented and participated at conferences including Diakonia of the UCC and Anglican Deacons Canada gatherings (attended by Lori, Michelle, Janet, Marcie). Janet and Michelle attended an online conference on Asian Women's Theology. David attended an online conference with a diaconal network in the UK.

Justice

Staff and students remain committed to ministry education that lives a theology of justice.

One aspect of this is our continued practice of revising assigned reading lists with an anti-racist, decolonial lens. Carrying on from last year, we are stringently assessing the whiteness of our assigned authors, and making changes, circle by circle. We do this with the understanding that auditing readings is not a box to be checked, but it is an ongoing practice we are committed to.

We understand that striving for anti-racist and decolonized education is not only about readings. When inviting chaplains, guest speakers, resource people, and education partners for learning circles we are prioritizing people of colour and Indigenous people.

Connecting

Our partnership with the social media firm, Strategic Charm, enables us to stay connected with old friends and reach new folks through Instagram and Facebook.

Our online learning circles have provided an opportunity for people to try a CCS learning circle who might not have otherwise made the journey to Winnipeg. This includes continuing studies students from the US, but it also includes continuing studies students from across Canada. The same is true for our CCS Fridays – in the past these were only available to those who make it to Woodsworth house at noon on a Friday. Now we regularly see people from across the country and occasionally we are visited by someone in the US or further abroad.

Community

The CCS community includes a vast group of generous donors and engaged alumni. As an example of our community engagement we saw a 48% response rate to the donor survey – most organizations don't receive more than 20% response rate. This year donor generosity supported the project to put the LoP online. The fact that they gave almost the same amount in 2021 as 2020 shows an outstanding outpouring of generosity when we were expecting to have some financial losses.

Students are persisting in their ministry formation during this protracted experience of distancing and Covid health precautions. They support each other as they support their local communities. It has been a tiring and challenging year – that is undeniable. But students remain engaged, inspired, and motivated to keep transforming themselves and the world around them.

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/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-Year-Book.pdf>

Greetings all,

Perhaps like many of you, we look back on 2021 and see a mix of challenges, opportunities, and a vagueness that Covid time seemed to cast over the year. One of the Centre's values since re-opening in 2015 has been Resilience where we say - We adapt in the presence of challenge and opportunity and this past year has proved no exception.

2021 was a year of transitions where the Centre staff team continued to navigate the changing rules of COVID, heat domes and the challenges of managing a site of aging infrastructure. Even through these challenges, we continued to see the beauty and joy of community forming, laughter at the lake, contemplative gatherings, worship and thanksgiving.

In 2021, we saw 50 online programs run and 627 people participate in them from homes across Canada. What sprang from a response of needing to close the Centre from in person events has become a way to provide learning opportunities throughout the year to an ever-expanding audience.

Despite ever changing Health Guidelines over how we could gather, we still saw 711 people attend a Summer Week Experience at the Centre where they could gather (safely at a distance) and experience being held in community. We are grateful for the many people who came and provided leadership through this evolving time.

The Centre was privileged to receive two legacy gifts in 2021. From the congregation of Princeton United Church, we were gifted \$110,000 from the sale of their building. These funds were placed in our stabilization fund and will help support the Centre through this time of transition. As well from the Estate of Joyce William Estes, the gift of \$26,000 for our Heartwood Bursary fund to help ensure the Centre remains accessible to all who want to come and be here. For the generosity and care of these people, we give thanks.

Our staff team continued to show their dexterity in navigating changing dynamics and we are grateful for the contributions of all. Near the end of the year, Susan Smith our Executive Director (ED) resigned, and we have been conducting a search for her replacement. We are grateful to Susan for her contributions to the Centre and heartened by the strong applicants to fill this role in 2022.

While our ED search continued, we formed a Program Advisory Team of past summer leaders to support our program manager, Joannie Kwok, and to provide broader feedback and input to help shape Summer 2022. We are excited by the ideas and themes being created, such as partnering with Camp Spirit to enhance our children and youth programming as well as with Wild Church adding sacred nature-based experiences. We encourage you to visit our website and register for your summer week experience. Many weeks & programs have filled already so please reach out to book your spot!

Naramata Centre

continued

Our board worked diligently through the year to develop policies that will help guide the Centre as we work to transition back to a governance board. A focus in the fall of 2021 was working on bringing clarity and alignment to our identity statement. Look for more updates on this during 2022.

Our programmatic partnerships with Pacific Jubilee for Spiritual Directors and the Pacific Mountain Region have worked to shape many of our programs through the year and we are grateful for their wisdom and care of these offerings. In addition, our partnership with the Naramata Inn has brought our kitchen back to life and we begin in 2022 to offer retreats and learning opportunities including the rich bounty of this agricultural area.

Our site planning efforts this year focussed on an analysis of our own septic needs and challenges which then progressed to conversations and action with the Regional District and local partners which could see significant change happen in 2022/23 as to how the Centre can meet this need. A solution that could be very beneficial to the Centre, the village and the environment is possible, and we hope to have more to say soon on this. This will have a critical impact on the rest of our site planning activities, so it was important to see this explored and, hopefully, resolved.

The Centre could not exist without a community of volunteers and donors who sustain and support us throughout the year. Through participation in Hearts & Hands; board and committee work; financial, behind the scenes or in front of the microphone, the Centre's work is richer and the community more vibrant because of your care.

Please be in touch with us as we continue to evolve how the Centre will be today and the years ahead – how we can play our part in the evolving world of our church and local communities of faith. How we can be a place where people can gather and give thanks for God's gift of Creation and take seriously our role as part of that Creation.

With Gratitude

Kathy Hamilton
Board Chair
Naramata Centre Society



VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY 2021-2022

The safety of the VST community and an excellent theological education are commitments that guide us through the COVID-19 pandemic. VST continues to invest substantial resources in online learning, teaching and formation. The United Church of Canada are very much a part of all the deliberative processes of the school – from governance to curriculum. VST is a going concern with seven years of balanced budgets and surpluses to support capital expenditures and maintenance. The renewal of facilities to serve theological education for the present is ongoing. Faculty are remarkably fecund in publications and service to the church. Three new professors support teaching, learning and research. VST expands its impact through multiple national and international strategic partnerships. Academic enrollment remains at highest levels in the history of the school. Professors of international renown who are invested in the life of Christ's church give special lectures and teach in our summer school. The Rev. Germaine Loveless received the thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leader award at convocation 2022.

THOUGHTFUL, ENGAGED AND GENEROUS CHRISTIAN LEADERS

The VST community showed deep resilience, creativity, hard work and compassion this past year. We have consistently followed two principles to guide us through this time. First, the safety and well-being of our community. Health, mental health and spiritual support, have been priorities. Extra resources were committed to online education, student support and to the well-being of the entire community. We have had the best attendance ever in chapel and at lectures. Student-initiated and staffed venues were born for fellowship and encouragement. We initiated "linger" - a program for students to visit before and after classes, chapel and other events at the school. We worked from home and have eased our way back to the building. We discovered that even introverts are not

that introverted. Second, we gave our best efforts to an excellent and timely theological education for the sake of the church and the world. Faculty have received training and support for online education that is pedagogically sound, spiritually encouraging, best practice informed and theologically robust. We have reconstructed our facilities for immersive hybrid learning that engages all students, online and in person. And God has sustained us in the work we are called to do.

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 wait for the next one. Our theological ethos is designed to nurture practitioners who giving their lives 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

Our United Church faculty and staff include: The Rev. Dr. Steven Chambers, Interim Director of Formation and Field Education, The Rev. Suzanne Sykes, United Church of Canada Chaplain, and Mr Chris Pullenayegem, Director of our Project for Congregational Vitality. The Rev. Dr. Hyuk Cho, The Rev. Cari Copeman-Haynes, The Rev. Mary Nichol and The Rev. Dr. John Young are among the UCC sessional and guest lecturers. Captain The Rev. Julie Lees does outstanding work as our Recruitment Officer.

The faculty have now seen in print their collaborative volume on theological education. Before Theological Study: *A Thoughtful, Engaged and Generous Approach* can be found in better bookstores. The sermons from last year's General Assembly were published by VST as *Fear Not, I am with You, I am with You, Fear Not*. Our faculty continues to be productive in publishing. On April 7, 2022, a faculty book launch celebrated 14 books produced over the last couple of years by our faculty. Faculty scholarship is directed to the life and flourishing of Christ's church for the world. Our new Dean and Professor of Hebrew Bible, Dr. Mari Joerstad, landed in Vancouver to take up her duties in August of 2021. A new Professor of Anglican Formation and Studies has been appointed. The Rev. Canon Rob James currently Chancellor at Wells Cathedral will begin at VST, July 1, 2022. A current search is underway for a United Church Professor of Formation and Studies, which we hope to fill by the summer of 2022. The Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson, Professor of Worship and Music, is the first Canadian post doctorate placement in Canada through the Louisville Institute. We are so grateful for these stellar additions to our faculty.

Vancouver School of Theology

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VST BOARD

Mr. Michael Francis is the wise and generous Chair of the Board at VST. We are a theological school preparing leadership for the United, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches and our board membership reflects that ecumenical composition. We also have members-at-large on our board. We follow a policy governance model. Our strategic plan was reviewed and updated this year. The Rev. Michelle Slater, Ms. Cheryl Jourdain, The Rev. Dr. Doug Goodwin are members of our board. This year we welcomed Ms. Catherine Evans as our Chancellor, officially at convocation 2022. She was elected a Park Board Commissioner in Vancouver from 2014-2018; was Chair of the Vancouver Public Library from 2011 to 2014 and has held a variety of policy and management roles in the governments of both British Columbia and Ontario. She is a lawyer, a consultant, and co-owner of Ethos Strategy Group - a communications and public relations firm based in Vancouver.

PARTNERSHIPS

VST extends its reach and magnifies its impact through strategic partnerships. In addition to our core partnerships with our sponsoring denominations, we work with UBC, the Sauder School of Business, the schools in the theological neighbour on the campus of UBC, Huron College at Western University, Durham University in the UK and St Mark's College to deliver educational programs from BA to Ph.D. Our relationships with Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia, and St Andrew's, Quezon City, Philippines, continue with visiting faculty teaching in our summer school and making guest appearances in classes. These relationships help us deliver a theological education that is contextually appropriate and global in its awareness. We expect that students and faculty will engage with our partners in Asia in a more rigorous fashion when travel is more easily possible.

GRANTS/FINANCES/FOUNDATION

Vancouver School of Theology has achieved a balanced operating budget for a seventh year in a row. In addition, we have allocated annual surpluses to capital expenses and maintenance. Our employees have received at least COLA increases in each of the past seven years. Our CFO and Vice-President, Ms. Shari Coltart, gives excellent leadership to the fiscal undertakings of the school in conjunction with the Audit and Finance subcommittee of the Board, chaired by Mr. Michael Francis. The VST Foundation is chaired by The Venerable Ronald Harrison, and it provides a significant revenue stream for the operations of the school drawn at 4%. United Church members of the VSTF board are Dr. Joyce Begley and Mr. Graham McIsaac.

VST will complete the expenditure of a Luce Grant for Indigenous Ministry (\$400,000 US) through the Teaching House that Moves Around this calendar year, now that we can meet in person again. The program will continue for another two years, in Northwest Communities in British Columbia, funded by a considerable grant (\$225,000) through the

Vancouver School of Theology

continued

United Church of Canada. This important ministry is a continuation of a 35-year commitment to Indigenous Ministry by the Vancouver School of Theology through its Indigenous Studies Program, currently under the direction of The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred.

A number of significant gifts were received by VST this past year. The Lilly Endowment awarded the school a \$1 million (US) phase two grant to retool and revitalize Field Education. We were successful also in phase one of this program in which we received \$60,000 (CAD) to do research on field education. The school has hired Anthony Robinson, as a consultant, and Robin Galey, as researcher, to help us with this important work. Another \$1 million gift to the school is complete and held in our foundation. Revenue from that gift will fund our program for administrative and managerial excellence through the Sauder School of Business, UBC. VST received a gift from the Louisville Institute that supports the first post doctoral placement in Canada. The Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson position is funded through a Lilly Endowment grant. VST has established a Project for Congregation Flourishing through Community Engagement with a grant of \$250,000 (US) from Murdock Trust. This grant is in its second year and resources are being collected, curated and shared with churches in a variety of modalities. Mr. Chris Pullenayegem is directing this project.

VST has completed the transformation of classroom space on the first floor of our building into a “zoom room” for our growing online student body. It is a first-class facility which serves our students well and provides a revenue stream through rentals. Renovations have begun on our Epiphany chapel to green the space, renew the building and install technology to support immersive online chapel services and teaching and learning. This project is fully funded through a \$1.1 million legacy gift.

ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT

The headcount at VST for the fall of 2021 was 91, a slight increase from the fall of 2020, +2. We enrolled 56 new students in 2021-2022. Our spring head count while up to 93, was down 10 from the spring of 2021. We attribute this to zoom fatigue and students deferring or withdrawing until such time as classes take place in person. Our enrollment is still very strong and amongst the highest in the history of the school. Tuition income, without an increase in the amount charged, has increased by 66% in the last 5 years. Of the three historic partners of the school, the United Church has the largest cohort at 44 students, the Anglican/Episcopalians have 41 students and the Presbyterians 35 (including international reformed students). VST continues to expand its ecumenical bandwidth, in keeping with the of its founders. 53 students at VST come from other Christian denominations, including Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Baptist, Orthodox and United Church of Christ (10 students). 5 students are enrolled in the Ph.D. program, which VST offers in partnership with Durham University, UK. The first students from our joint BA program with St Mark's College have begun courses in the M.Div. at VST. This combined program reduces the overall time to complete both degrees by one year. VST has a robust online recruitment program, engages online recruitment services, and holds

Vancouver School of Theology

continued

a VST Sunday, once a year, in which 50 churches across Canada participate. We are grateful to congregations where our students are welcomed.

SPECIAL LECTURES/SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

Vancouver School of Theology welcomed a series of outstanding lecturers in 2021 and 2022. The Somerville lecturer in November of 2021 was by award winning film producer Martin Doblmeier. His film *Spiritual Audacity: The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story* was the topic of discussion. Prof. Santa Ono, President of University of British Columbia, presented an online address entitled *Leadership and Faith in a Time of Crisis* in February of 2022. Our Visiting Distinguished Scholar for July of 2022 will be Prof Janet Soskice of Cambridge University, who will present a lecture entitled: "Who am I?" Self-love In the Days of Self-obsession" and teach in our summer school. All these lectures are fully funded through generous funding restricted for these events and held in the VST Foundation. All these lectures are recorded and available through our You Tube channel. Summer School 2022 will be held July 4-15 in hybrid format with VST welcoming outstanding scholars, church leaders and students from around the world. <https://vst.edu/vst-summer-school/>.

VST will host Religious Responses to Climate Change May 24-26. The program is offered through our Interreligious Studies Program and will feature, among others, Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, and Mr. Seth Klein and The Rev. Christine Boyle. <https://vst.edu/inter-religious-studies-program/conference/>.

Our Indigenous Studies Summer School program takes place July 11-22 in a hybrid format. Mr Adrian Jacobs will teach a course on preaching. <https://vst.edu/isp-summer-school>

CONVOCATION 2022

On May 10 we conferred degrees and certificates to 44 students. Our convocation was in person at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver six students received the Sauder School of Business Certificate in Leadership Excellence, having completed courses in excellence in administration, leadership in times of change, coaching and mentoring and understanding finance for non-financial officers. We presented the TEG (thoughtful, engaged and generous) Christian leader Award to the Rev. Germaine Lovelace, a VST alumni. This award of \$4,000.00 is to encourage excellent leadership by clergy in the earlier years of ministry. VST did not award any honorary doctorates this year. We have reviewed the terms to be more inclusive to a broader range of applicants and will renew awards in 2023. Our convocation speaker is Dr. Elin Kelsey, author of *Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis*.

Vancouver School of Theology is grateful for our long and fruitful partnership with the United Church of Canada. We pray for the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit at your regional meetings.

Richard Topping, President
Michael Francis, Chair of the Board

Pacific Mountain REGIONAL COUNCIL

of the
**UNITED
CHURCH**
of CANADA



Staff

pacificmountain.ca/connect/contact-us/

Pacific Mountain Regional Council
6000 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby BC, V5H 3C2
+1-604-431-0434 / Toll free (BC) 1-800-934-0434

General Email: pacificmountain@united-church.ca

Alphabetical by Surname

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AGENDA & REPORTS

V2 Thursday June 9, 2022

Corrected:

- p.7: President's report. It's the last sentence of the first paragraph
- p 10: Rev. Jonah Lin 林景熙 - Change Ordination to Admission

Updated:

- p. 40, 42: Enabling Motions 8., 12., 25.



4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
Thursday June 9 - Sunday June 12, 2022
GM WHOVA PLATFORM | PRINCE GEORGE BC



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**Minutes of the Third General Meeting
Pacific Mountain Regional Council
The United Church of Canada
WHOVA and Zoom
June 11-13, 2021**

First Session, 1:00 P.M. Friday June 11, 2021

Authority	Pursuant to the authority of the second General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada (2020), the third 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	Acknowledging that the buildings and ministries of The United Church of Canada from coast to coast to coast are on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples, Elder Ray Jones from the Gitxan Nation welcomed members of The Pacific Mountain Regional Council to the lands that host the Region. Members of the Council acknowledged the relationship with the Indigenous Peoples where they were located.
Opening Worship	Katherine Brittain introduced the worship team, Ibi Chuan, Pamela Evans and Jake Highfield, and musicians, Rhythm Unite. Worship for the weekend is focused on John 10:10. She described how worship is planned to unfold through the meeting.
Moderator Message	The Right Rev. Richard Bott, 43rd Moderator, spoke to the Council via video to express gratitude for the resilience of members of the United Church through the COVID-19 pandemic. He shared about the Strategic Vision process that the General Council Executive is attending to, and about the 44th General Council meeting.
Introductions	President Blair Odney welcomed those present to the Regional Council Gathering. He introduced the Business Committee and members of the Regional Council Executive, particularly Treena Duncan, Executive Minister, Bob Fillier, Chair of Business, Allan Buckingham, Technology Coordinator, and Tressa Brotsky, Communications specialist. The President welcomed the Moderator, the General Secretary, and former Moderator, Dr. Marion Best. The President invited Treena Duncan to introduce members of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council staff. Treena spoke about some of the staff changes which have occurred and future plans for the staff team. The President offered information about the meeting process and agenda. He invited members to recognize the challenges of online meetings and to partake in self-care as needed. He advised that there are chaplains available throughout the meeting if needed.
President's Address	The President, Blair Odney, addressed the Regional Council. The way that The United Church of Canada proclaims the grace of Christ is vital to healthy Canadian communities. The gospel of Jesus Christ, lived out in the living body of the healthy church, is significant to the spiritual renewal for all people.

The President addressed the news of the children who were murdered at the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops) Indian Residential School. He reflected on a reading of Richard Wagamese's book "Embers" and the importance of listening three times: listening, hearing and feeling. He shared his own history of learning about Residential School.

He also reflected on the connection between colonization and climate change and the power and importance of stories and the reality of the stories we tell about ourselves.

The President finished by reminding us that Christ meets us where we are, and loves us; even in the mess. Christ meets us in the myths and truths colliding and we stand to take a different first step. That is where life is found in its abundance. That is the promise of Hope and Abundance that will lead us through the hard times.

Retirees

The first of several videos recognizing retirees was shown. Throughout the weekend the following retirees were recognized: Rev. Stuart Appenheimer (OM:79), Rev. Bill Cantelon (OM:77), Rev. Minne Hornidge (OM:05), Rev. Ken Jones (OM:85), Rev. Maggie Watts-Hammond (OM:06).

The retirees were invited to reflect on the theme of "Hope and Abundance" and to share a story in which they experienced unexpected, abundant life during their ministry.

The President offered a blessing to each retiree after their videos were shown.

Business

Bob Fillier, Chair of Business, introduced the Business Committee Motions and highlighted a few of the particular motions.

Business Committee Motions

M/S/C (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.*

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 us "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 Commissioners 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.*

Proposals

Bob Fillier introduced proposals and how we would deal with them. There are two types of proposals: ones for General Council and ones for Pacific Mountain Regional Council. Those directed to the Regional Council that cannot be dealt with during this meeting will be sent to the Executive.

Proposal 21-01 "A Living Commitment to the KAIROS Palestine "Cry for Hope"

M/S/C (B. Fillier / K. Simmonds) that

Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada affirm the recent declarations by various human rights groups that the actions of the Government of Israel conform to the definition of an apartheid state; and

that The United Church of Canada join the international campaign of Boycott, Divest, and Sanction against the Government of Israel until such time as it respects international laws and the equal rights of all people living in Israel and Palestine; and

that Pacific Mountain Regional Council transmit with concurrence to General Council 44 (2022).

Proposal 21-02	<i>"A Task Group on Pension Equity for United Church Pension Plan Members"</i> <i>M/S/C (B. Fillier / K. Simmonds) that</i> <i>the 44th General Council of The United Church of Canada commission a Task Group to explore and make recommendations leading towards an equitable distribution of benefits (pension amount) amongst United Church of Canada Pension Plan members, and report to the 45th General Council for implementation and action; and</i> <i>that Pacific Mountain Regional Council transmit with concurrence to General Council 44 (2022).</i>
Nominations - President-Elect	Past-President Jay Olson interviewed one (1) candidate for President-Elect, Deborah Richards. Deborah is a lay person from Northwood United Church and is currently finishing up a term on the General Council Executive. She shared about her call to serve the church as a call to Christian Discipleship. <i>M/S/C (G. Brownmiller / B. Filler) that</i> <i>Deborah Richards be acclaimed as President-Elect of Pacific Mountain Regional Council to be installed as President at the 4th General Meeting in Prince George.</i>
Affirming Region	Bob Fillier, as co-chair of the Affirming Working Group, shared some history and information about the process of moving toward becoming an Affirming Ministry. Bob introduced Pam Rocker who reminded the Region that if the Region votes in favour of becoming Affirming, it does not mean that every community of faith in the Region become affirming ministries. Pam explained some of the commitments that would be required of the Regional Council and its staff. Franklyn James, a member of the Working Group, testified to the Council about his personal and life experience and why he believes in the work of becoming Affirming. Laura Hermakin, co-chair, spoke about the Regional Affirm Statement. The Council spent some time in small groups reflecting on the questions: "what feeds your soul in the draft statement?" and "what would make the statement even stronger?" Some reflections were shared and the Council was reminded that we would return to this conversation.
Proposals	
Proposal 21-03	<i>"Jubilee in a Land Now Their Own: forgiveness of refugee travel debt"</i> There were some questions about the proposal and it was advised that it be referred to the Business Committee to be brought back before the end of the meeting. <i>M/S/C (K. Simmonds / D. Moors) to defer definitely until Saturday, June 12th.</i>
Theme: Cameron Trimble	One of the gifts of COVID has been the ability to meet and work with people who we may not typically have the opportunity to. Because of this, Treena Duncan was excited to introduce one of our theme speakers, The Rev. Cameron Trimble, Executive Director and CEO of Convergence (formerly the Centre for Progressive Renewal). Cameron reflect on ministry at this time in our life as a church with reference to Abundance and Hope.
Announcements & Adjournment	Following some brief announcements, the Council adjourned for dinner.

Second Session, 7:00 p.m. Friday June 11, 2021

Gathering	The Council gathered online prior to the opening of the session.
Prayer	Ibi Chuan led the Council in prayer.
Theme: Nadia Bolz-Weber and Cameron Trimble	Treena Duncan introduced Nadia Bolz-Weber. Nadia reflected on ministry at this time in our church in terms of Abundance and Hope. In sharing she wondered about the future of the church and what it might look like. Regardless of what happens to the institution of church, people will still gather, share meals, and tell stories. There is much abundance in our faith story, but it is a story of a God who created out of nothing and that “nothing is God’s favourite material to work with.” Cameron Trimble joined Nadia and they continued to engage in a dialogue on the theme of Hope and Abundance. They invited the Council to ask questions to which they engaged and responded.
Worship	The Worship Team led evening worship. Sarah Prestwich, one of the First Third Ministry Animators, shared her story of collecting quilt squares from youth around the Region to create a Pacific Mountain Regional Council Youth Quilt.
Announcements & Adjournment	Following a few announcements, the gathering adjourned for the evening.

Third Session, 9:00 a.m. Saturday June 12, 2021

Gathering	The Council gathered online prior to the opening of the session. Members of the Council were invited to acknowledge the relationship with the Indigenous Peoples where they were located.
Nominations	As there have not been many nominations for the Regional Council Executive (under 30) position or General Council 44 Commissioners, the business committee extended the nominations deadline. <i>M/S/C (B. Fillier / G. Brownmiller) that</i> <i>the deadline for nominations to the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive and General Council 44 Commissioners be extended to noon, June 12th, 2021.</i>
Worship	The Worship team led the Council in worship including song, scripture and reflection on the theme of Abundance. In worship the Council honoured the lives of those who have died since the last Regional Council gathering: Rev. Dr. Alan Reynolds, Rev. James (Jim) Elliot, Rev. Frank Hanlan Ward, Rev. Gordon Oliver Cann, Rev. Peter Lemmer, Rev. Dr. George Hermanson, Rev. Barry Renton Thomas, Rev. Robert John Shank, and Rev. John (Jack) Hooper.
Indigenous Acknowledgment	The President invited members to acknowledge where they live and the relationship with the Indigenous folks in the area.
Prayers	Additional Prayers were named for the communities of McBride and Naramata, currently experiencing some trauma.
General Council	The President introduced The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, General Council. Michael spoke about the lens with which he comes to the work of General Secretary. While the church may be in decline as an institution, Michael challenged us to remember that God is not finished with us yet, God is still at work among us.

Executive Accountability	Michael shared some of the changes in staff at the General Council Office and some of the focus for the coming years. President Blair Odney spoke to the written Executive Accountability Report. He shared that the Executive discerned three mission/ministry priorities to which the region will focus its attention and allocate resources. Having those foci does not eliminate other necessary and core work as mandated by The United Church of Canada, however it does encourage decisions to be filtered through the lens of these priorities. The Ministry Priorities named are: (1) Identity: Reconciling, Affirming, Anti-Racist; (2) Healthy Communities of Faith; and (3) First Third Ministry. The President reported that following an amalgamation decision by Rundle Memorial United Church in Banff and Canmore United Church, national church oversight of Banff returns to the Chinook Winds Regional Council. He reported on Strategic Planning and succession planning for the Executive.
Proposals	Bob Fillier introduced two proposals in response to the discovery of the unmarked graves of two hundred and fifteen (215) children at the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops) Indian Residential School. After a prayer from Elder Jim Angus, the Council broke into small groups for reflection together, some of which were shared back to the gathering. We will return to these proposals later in the meeting.
Affirming Discussion	Laura Hermakin spoke again about the work of becoming an Affirming Region. Lauren Kirkey shared testimony about the importance of knowing affirmation. Laura asked the Council to refer to the Proposed Affirming Ministry Regional Statement, which is a living document needed in order to be accredited by Affirm United. <i>M/S/C (L. Hermakin / B. Fillier) that</i> <i>the Pacific Mountain Regional Council affirm the priority of continuing to become an Affirming Regional Council, endorse the Affirming Ministry Regional Statement, direct the Executive and Regional Executive Minister to complete the process of accreditation with Affirm United, and plan a public, intentional and explicit celebration for the 2022 General Meeting.</i> Having set the threshold for the affirm vote at seventy-five percent (75%), it was passed with ninety-seven percent (97%).
General Council Deployed Staff - Stewardship & Gifts	The President introduced deployed General Council staff Vicki Nelson who serves the Western Regions of the United Church of Canada as Stewardship & Gifts Officer. Vicki encouraged members of the Council to participate in the Called to be the Church program and to "Ask. Acknowledge. Thank."
General Council Deployed Staff - Office of Vocation	The President introduced deployed General Council staff The Rev. Brenda Fawkes, the Office of Vocation Minister serving Mountain Candidacy Board, Pacific Mountain Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council. Brenda expressed appreciation and concern for the Ministry Personnel in this Region. She offered praise to the members of the Mountain Candidacy Board. Brenda introduced the candidates who will be received into ministry during the Celebration of Ministry: Andria Irwin and Joanne Scofield to be ordained, and Rev. Jaylynn Byassee to be admitted.

Treena Duncan offered thanks to Brenda Fawkes, and offered blessings on the work she does. Brenda is a gift to the Region who does her work with grace, constantly connected to the Spirit, purpose, and mission.

Adjournment The Council adjourned for lunch.

Fourth Session, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 12, 2020

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

Proposals We returned to the two proposals that were considered earlier in the day. After further discussion, and prior to voting, The Rev. John Snow offered prayer.

Proposal 21-04 “Making it Right: Alberni Indian Residential Schools (AIRS) Bringing Lost Children Home”

M/S/C (B. Fillier / M. Hornidge) that

the General Council undertake the following action to further address the harm caused by its Alberni Indian Residential School:

- 1. offer to conduct a forensic archaeological search of AIRS in order to locate any bodies of children buried on the site in unmarked graves;*
- 2. offer to exhume, identify, and repatriate, as requested, the bodies of any children buried on the AIRS site to their home, or for appropriate commemoration ceremonies, and markers;*
- 3. offer to safely remove and dispose of the remaining AIRS buildings from the territory;*
- 4. develop a plan and funding model for a Healing Centre on the former AIRS site;*
- 5. develop a plan to engage in deep listening to the Indigenous Elders in the territories of the other United Church of Canada residential schools to determine actions to offer in each context; and*

that Pacific Mountain Regional Council transmit with concurrence to General Council 44 (2022).

Comments made will be transmitted with the Proposal to the General Council.

Proposal 21-05 “Making it Right: Alberni Indian Residential Schools (AIRS) Bringing Lost Children Home”

M/S/C (B. Fillier / M. Hornidge) that

Pacific Mountain Regional Council (PMRC) direct the Regional Council Executive to commit the appropriate fiscal and staffing resources over the next 4 budget cycles to:

- 1. offer to conduct a forensic archaeological search of AIRS in order to locate any bodies of children buried on the site in unmarked graves;*
- 2. offer to exhume, identify, and repatriate, as requested, the bodies of any children buried on the AIRS site to their home, or for appropriate commemoration ceremonies, and markers, including trauma care for those who undertake this work;*
- 3. develop a strategy within PMRC to host and share the stories of Residential School survivors that incorporates deep listening and relationship building, to be implemented by 2023;*

4. *state reconciliation ministry as a priority for the Pacific Mountain Regional Council;*
5. *proactively advocate for church bodies and government to implement the TRC Calls to Action;*
6. *commit to raising one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to help ensure that a Healing Centre is built on the AIRS site; and*
7. *advocate at all levels that the government of Canada take their legal and moral obligation seriously.*

The Council named several the saints, living and in the cloud of witnesses, who have gone before us in the work of reconciliation.

deferred Proposal 21-03 "Jubilee in a Land Now Their Own: forgiveness of refugee travel debt"

M/S/C (B. Fillier / S. Nixon) that

Pacific Mountain Regional Council develop, as part of its justice ministry, a strategy and resources within PMRC to advocate for the forgiveness of refugee travel loans and the inequity they cause.

Proposal 21-07 "Jubilee in a Land Now Their Own: forgiveness of refugee travel debt"

M/S/C (B. Fillier / S. Nixon) that

the Pacific Mountain Regional Council request that the General Council of The United Church of Canada advocate for the forgiveness of travel loan repayment required of refugees moving to Canada; and

that the General Council facilitate the development of a national network for refugee ministry that enables communities of faith and refugee ministries across the country to connect for education, advocacy, and support; and

that Pacific Mountain Regional Council transmit with concurrence to General Council 44 (2022).

Proposal 21-06 "Active Bystander Witness Training"

M/S (B. Fillier / L. Megley-Best) that

Pacific Mountain Regional Council develop and offer an online educational program that can be held in each individual congregation that will teach individuals and our communities of faith skills for which to intervene in situations where we encounter racist or hateful behaviour or speech.

M/S/C (D. Moors / B. Fillier)

that Proposal 21-06 be forwarded to the Regional Executive Minister for consideration.

Nominations - 44th General Council Commissioners

Graham Brownmiller, Chair of Nominations, expressed appreciation for the members who submitted nominations throughout the morning. There were twelve (12) nominations received, meeting the number that was needed. The expressions fulfilled the criteria that have been expressed by the Region as important. He met with past Presidents Jay Olson and Cari Copeman-Haynes, and together they affirm the nominations received are of the Spirit. Blair Odney will attend *ex-officio* (*The Manual 2021, D.1.1.d*)

M/S/C (J. Olson / C. Copeman-Haynes) that

the following slate be elected as commissioners to the 44th General Council, and that the PMRC Executive be authorized to elect alternates as needed.

Kirstin Autio

Cheryl Bear

Katherine Brittain

Emily Cooke

Albert Fowler

Laura Hermakin

Minnie Hornidge

Joseph Kyser

Katherine Paton

Keith Simmonds

Ruth Stebbing

Keri Wehlender

Deborah Richards

and an unnamed Youth Forum Pilgrim

Graham announced that there were no nominations for the PMRC Executive and Nominations will work with the President and Executive to appoint someone to be ratified at the next General Meeting.

Theme: Cameron Trimble

Cameron Trimble continued to speak to the importance of Hope in our future. She spoke about how we perceive stories, but that we are a storied people who tell them to help tap into the deeper wisdom and knowing that is held within them. The Council broke into small groups to reflect on the questions of: what is our probable future if we change nothing and continue on the obvious course? What is our desired future? What insights do you gain from seeing the gap?

After hearing some of the reflections from small groups, Cameron invited us to reflect on the ways that our ministries are being invited to change, particularly in the space between probable and desirable futures.

The President offered thanks to Cameron Trimble for her time with us.

Enabling Motion

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

- 1. The Regional Executive Minister be authorized to edit reports and minutes for the Record of Proceedings of this meeting.*
- 2. The Regional Council Executive be authorized to transact all business of the Regional Council until the next General Meeting of the Region Regional, except those matters prohibited by the Constitution and Bylaws of The United Church of Canada.*
- 3. All remaining ballots be destroyed – including the digital results.*
- 4. All digital records of public chat/comment boxes within Zoom™ and Whova™ will be appended to the record of proceedings.*
- 5. The meeting adjourn following the completion of business as ordered and the benediction received concluding the Celebration of Ministry service, June 13, 2021.*

Gratitude

The President offered gratitude on behalf of the Regional Council to those who helped this General Meeting happen: special thanks to Cameron Trimble and Nadia Bolz-Weber; the Moderator and General Secretary for being present with us, Vicki Nelson and Brenda Fawkes, the Regional Council Executive and in particular Bob Fillier, Laura Hermakin, Katherine Brittain, Ibi Chuan, and Anna Chambers who took on particular roles for this gathering; those who planned worship, Pamela Evans, Jake Highfield, Will Sparks, and Rhythm United, and those who offered background support: Allan Buckingham, Graham Brownmiller, Pam Rocker, Jim Angus, Will Sparks, and Regional Council Staff: in particular Tressa Brotsky, Mauricio Araujo, John Snow, Allison Rennie and Brenda Wolff. The President welcomed Deborah Richards to the role of President-Elect and thanked Jay Olson for her term as President and Past-President. Lastly, he offered thanks to Executive Minister, Treena Duncan for all she is and all she holds on our behalf.

Treena thanked Blair for his gracious leadership, naming the privilege and honour to serve with him; the Regional Council is grateful for his service.

Worship

Franklyn James and Sandy Hwang from the Affirming Region team led closing worship. Music, prayer and reflection on Abundance led us from this gathering into our continued ministries.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting with a commission and benediction.

Fifth Session, Sunday June 13, 2021**Optional Worship**

The Regional Council provided a worship service for communities of faith to stream for Sunday morning. This Celebration of Ministry worship saw the ordination of two (2) ministers and the admission of one (1). The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber preached a sermon on Luke 10:10-35.



Pacific Mountain Regional Council

Rev. Blair Odney, President

Ms. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister



Proposals

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
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Proposals

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Proposals



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