



Issue #2
August
2026

INSIGHTS

Connecting Lay Leaders

The
Importance
of Connection

Why Attend a Lay Leadership Workshop?

Lynn Leith

We attended our first Lay Leadership workshop on June 3 and 4th in Kamloops. The theme of the workshop was "Creating a Culture of Cooperation". Two full half days!

We didn't know what to expect, and we certainly didn't know anyone other than the Rev. Linda Ervin. Well, by the time of the end of the day, we knew a number of new friends as we shared ideas, hopes, and dreams.

What better way to start creating cooperation than weaving us together with an icebreaker exercise where we were all in a large circle. The first person held a large ball of wool; she held the string and threw it across to someone. That person said their name and where they were from, held the string, and threw it to another person around the circle, and so on until everyone had received the ball of wool. It affirmed that we are all woven together and would work together throughout this workshop and hopefully beyond. What a great start!

We covered topics such as how restructuring can impact change for the better, how to stay connected, and design opportunities that foster new partnerships with other community groups. We also shared ideas on how to create the future we want in 2035 and how we can become more spiritually visible. Not to assume what our community of faith needs or wants to be. Not to be afraid to be Holy Disturbers and experiment with new things. We also tackled conflict and how, as a family of faith, we resolve the issue. Do we ensure that everyone got heard?

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Contact Us!

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As the summer draws to a close, it is often the case where our Faith Communities begin to ramp up for the Fall months. Our second issue of Insights brings us two reflections, the first from Lynn Leith in Peachland who wrote about her experience of the workshop at the Regional Meeting in June, and a positive story from Marianne Lummin about connecting with Peer Support.



Helpful Advice in Peer Support

As Oasis United Church in Penticton looked into new ideas for stewardship, we ran into requirements beyond just being a "registered charity."

Word was going around that we would need a BC Society Number in order to sell and serve wine at a dinner silent auction event. While pursuing this, I found out it could cost as much as \$300! It raised immediate questions: "So how much are we charging for a ticket to this event? Do we have to raise it?"

I found out that someone in Kelowna could be a good resource to answer these questions. Jayne Brooks is a volunteer at Central Okanagan United in Kelowna and is a Lay Leader for Peer Support in the region. After sending her a note, she replied with a helpful answer in a couple of days! "They" have wine at dinners without having a BC Society designation. We would still need the actual BC Liquor license to purchase supplies, and those serving would need their "serving-it-right" certificate. As we already knew that piece, we were relieved that we did not have the added complication for us to run our event.

Additionally, Jayne shared information about Central Okanagan's food cupboard, which Oasis also has. As I learned, theirs is a bit different from ours, though, as they put on a weekly lunch for people to come in and enjoy. Whereas Oasis can only give out hampers of packaged food since the kitchen is not certified.

All of this kind of information is so helpful to learn even if the situations are not the same. We can learn so much as we venture along this path of faith.

Marianne Lumin

**Stewardship and Finance Committee
Oasis United Church
Penticton, BC**

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Time was an issue, so Rick Roberts quickly did an overview on how to attract and keep volunteers; his handout is most useful. We had the pleasure of meeting our new Pacific Mountain Regional Council soon-to-be President, Thea Sheridan-Jonah. We enjoyed her laidback approach and wise message to declutter and keep what is truly important; pray hard and do the Jesus stuff – no one else is.

We truly appreciated the camaraderie and the sharing of ideas. It got our "thinking caps" going and excited us to go back to our church family and share with them what we had learnt and experiment with new ideas – starting with a Prayer Loom where we cut different coloured/textured ribbons for people to weave through our Easter cross as they prayed for someone or for peace.

Lynn Leith

**Board Member, M&P, Worship Helper
Peachland United Church**

Below is a list of peer support volunteers and their contact information, presented in a clear chart for easy reference.

Peer Supports: Support for COFs and lay people that may be having an issue with governance or finance. To contact the following peer support people, please contact Rick or Carol with their emails listed below.

Corinne Durston

Oasis United Church
Governance/social enterprise

Terry Welsh

Central Okanagan United Church
Governance

Carol Martin

Oak Bay United Church
cmgmbc@telus.net
Governance/volunteer relationships

Jayne Brooks

Central Okanagan United Church
Treasurer

We Are NOT Alone Connecting with Congregations

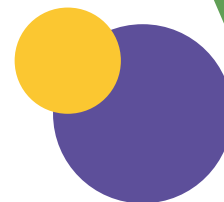
**A Lay Leaders Online
Gathering and Workshop
Tuesday, Oct 20, 2026**

7:00 pm

**For more information
and registration:**

<https://form.jotform.com/262295252029962>

**Register
by
October 19, 2026**



Ken Fanning

Parkville: Knox Pastoral Charge
Treasurer

Al Dube

Oak Bay United Church
Treasurer

Roger Eastwood

Lynn Valley United Church
Treasurer

Michael Hare

Aldergrove Pastoral Charge
Property/Trustees

Rick Roberts

Grace United Church
rickroberts0540@gmail.com
Community Connections/partnerships.

We want to be responsive to your needs, so please let us know if there is volunteer work that would benefit from peer support and that isn't present on our current list.