

AGENDA & REPORTS

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2022

MAY 5-8, 2022



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

feasting at the theological banquet

The Theological Banquet with

The Reverend Janet Gear

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

feasting at the theological banquet

Janet preaches, teaches and leads retreats. She was raised in Vancouver, she has supported the life and work of The United Church of Canada and ecumenical partners primarily in three areas: education for ministry and leadership, social justice and community organizing as well as theology and faith.

Janet has served the Theology and Faith Committee during the writing of *A Song of Faith*, and currently writes and offers workshops on theological diversity in congregations.

For 15 years she was part of the teaching faculty at Vancouver School of Theology. Janet attended UBC and the graduate Theological Union in Berkeley California. She lives in North Vancouver with her family.



God connects with each of us in unique ways. We search for words and images to speak about our profound experience – that’s Theology! In her research, Rev. Janet Gear has identified five distinct ways United Church people tend to express their ‘theologies’ – that’s the Theological Banquet.

AGENDA

THURSDAY MAY 5, 2022

- 2:00 Registration Opens
- 3:30 New Regional Rep Orientation
- 4:45 Light Meal
- 5:30 Opening Music
Acknowledge Territory
Welcome
- 6:00 Opening Worship
In Memoriam
- 6:30 Business: Introduction to AGM
- 7:15 Theme: Learning the Languages
- 8:45 Announcements & Adjournment



FRIDAY MAY 6, 2022

Morning Session

- 8:30 Opening of the Meeting
Worship
Announcements
- 9:30 Theme: Finding our Homebase
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Governance Overview with Dan Hotchkiss
- 12:15 Lunch Break

Afternoon session

- 2:00 General Council Guest
Business - Listening Phase
- 2:45 The work of the Region: Affirming Ministry
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 Business
- 5:15 Grace & Announcements
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:45 Gathering Announcements
- 7:00 Worship (Missional)
- 7:30 Theme: Grit & Grace
- 8:30 Closing Announcements

SATURDAY MAY 7, 2022

Morning Session

- 8:30 Gathering & Opening Music
- 8:45 Worship (Ecumenical)
Announcements
- 9:30 The work of the Region:
10:15 Stewardship with Vicki Nelson
10:35 David Ferguson Fund
10:40 Break
- 11:00 Office of Vocation with Brenda Fawkes
Introduction of Candidates for Ministry
- 11:30 First Third Ministry
- 12:00 Announcement & Grace

Afternoon Session

- 12:00 Lunch Break (*Network groups who wish to meet*)
- 1:00 Gathering with Music/Worship
- 1:30 Theme: Part Four - Table Talk
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Business: Decision Phase
Affirming Ministry Vote
Executive Nominations
- 4:15 Gratitudes
Closing Motions
- 5:00 Theme Part Five - Undivided Love
- 5:30 Closing worship mash up
- 6:00 Dinner - Honouring Retirees and Celebrands



SUNDAY MAY 8, 2022

- 10:00 am
Celebration of Ministry Service with
Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING 2022

We acknowledge that we are gathering and meeting from the traditional territories of Treaty 4, Treaty 6 and Treaty 7, and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3, home of the Nittstapi, including the Siksika, Piikani and Kanai, the Tsuu'tina Nation, and Îyârhe Nakoda Nation.

These are also the traditional meeting grounds and traveling routes of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Ktunaxa and Nakoda Sioux peoples.

We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps and guardianship have marked these lands for generations and affirm our commitment to the principles and actions of reconciliation.



Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the people who have traditionally called it home for thousands of years is a way to continue to live out the church's Apologies to the First Peoples of North America. The acknowledgement supports our calls to others to pay respect to Indigenous peoples. It is also one way the church can work toward right relations—by repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery that assumed the land was empty when European explorers, traders, and settlers first came.

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PRESIDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Rev. Vicki McPhee

As I write my Report for the Chinook Winds Region Annual Meeting, we are in the midst of planning our first in-person gathering in nearly three years. Three years! I've fact-checked this number several times because it seems too wild to be true. But the fact of the matter is that our last in-person gathering was the FIRST regional meeting of the newly established Chinook Wind Region. In the three years that have followed that meeting in Lethbridge in June 2019, the Region has held its Annual Meetings via Zoom due to the pandemic that struck us in 2020. We have also met regularly for Town Hall gatherings and Clergy Coffee Hours via Zoom.

Not being able to meet in person while developing and building the structures for our new Region provided some unforeseen challenges that we have had to work our way through. We did not all know each other when the Region was formed. The Region's staff were new to most of us. The roles the staff filled were also new. While many of us have participated as much as we could in virtual gatherings and information sessions, it has not been easy to get to know one another. The Executive of the Region met earlier in March, and we acknowledged that we had barely begun building our Region's foundations when the pandemic shut everything down. And so, as we were all trying to figure our way through the shifting rules and restrictions and the staff doing their best to support communities of faith throughout the Region, the Executive continued to meet and worked on developing the policies and governance structure that could best serve the Region.

After nearly two years of consultation with the Region and working with Dan Hotchkiss, author of, Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership, the Executive has finalized the Executive Policy Handbook for Chinook Winds Region. These policies will be used by the Executive to work within our governance structure and best support the Executive Minister and staff of Chinook Winds Region to achieve our goals of Effective Leadership, Healthy Communities of Faith and Faithful Public Witness. The policies will be updated regularly by the Executive. The Executive Policy Handbook will be presented to the Region at the Annual Meeting.

The Executive continues to support the ongoing work of the Affirming Working Group as they prepare the Region to vote, at the upcoming Annual meeting, on whether Chinook Winds Region will become an affirming Region of the United Church of Canada. Chinook Winds Region entered into partnership with Pacific Mountain Region to share leadership, education and awareness campaigns for the affirming process taking place in each Region. There have been several opportunities to learn about what it would mean for the Region to become affirming. Hopefully you have had a chance to join one or more of their many dynamic and engaging events.

Partnership with Pacific Mountain Region has extended beyond the affirming process. Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions have developed a shared ministry for children, youth and young adults



—known as First Third Ministry ('first third' being those people in the first third of their lifetimes).

This exciting initiative will support Communities of Faith to offer programming for children, youth and young adults as well as working closely with camping and campus ministry initiatives. The foundation of the First Third program is leadership development for young leaders.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the Annual Meeting in May. I am also looking forward to working with the hybrid model of meeting. As we have learned during the pandemic, it has been a gift to discover and develop alternatives to attending meetings in person. Whether it be because of illness, weather or long distances, it will benefit the church, the staff, ministers and our volunteers to continue to work on options so that all can participate in the work of Christ's church.

I would like to offer great thanks and appreciation the staff of Chinook Winds Region. Your commitment to the church and your faith-filled leadership has been invaluable in supporting and equipping lay-leaders, ministry personnel and communities of faith. Thank you for all you do Treena, Mauricio, Stephen, Chris, Shelley, Jes, Geoffrey, and Joel! You are a blessing to our Region.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Treena Duncan



After three years in this job, I continue to enjoy finding my way around Southern Alberta. Mostly, 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 Chinook Winds 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 Red Deer to begin to prepare for a Regional Meeting in Red Deer. Two years later, we are excited to be coming together (finally!) for our first post-pandemic 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, with the help of consultant, Dan Hotchkiss, to develop our Regional Policies 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**. 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 Leadership into the Region, 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. I am sorry that Stephen Harper is moving on due to personal reasons and look forward to welcoming the Rev. Dr. Karen Medland into the role of Pastoral Relations Minister in June. 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 and will continue to add value to our life and ministry here in Chinook Winds.

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 – actually THE big priority for our work. We are dedicating resources to supporting Cluster gatherings, and finding other ways to connect with each other, both online and in person. We know that being intentional about cultivating and maintaining relationships is particularly important to our future.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

continued

What keeps us in that alignment, what keeps our spiritual GPS online, is community – it is each other. It is where we come to remember that we are loved and called to walk in love, to be fed and fuelled, 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 Alberta 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.”**

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper

We get some pretty crazy weather in Central and Southern Alberta. Which is fun for me, because I am a weather nerd. I love the weather! I am fascinated by record temperatures, either record highs or lows, and I am also fascinated by how storms form. I love to watch as thunder clouds form. Now don't get me wrong. I wouldn't want to be caught outside, that's why I rely on individuals like David Spence and Dory Rossiter to give me an accurate forecast so that I can avoid the worst of the storm and instead watch it pass by from the safety of my home.

We have just been caught in a storm, but instead of thunder and lightning we are experiencing a massive 1 in 100 year pandemic storm. The problem with these kinds of storms is that they are much more difficult to predict.

Early in 2020, word got out that a virus was spreading in China. As concerned as we were for the people of Wuhan, I think many worldwide, secretly hoped this would be an isolated illness that would not travel.

However, as it started its move westward, it soon became apparent that this would not be something that is localized,

but something that would affect all of us as a global community.

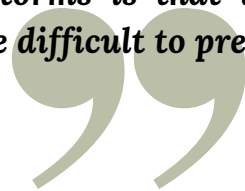
On March 15th 2020, word came from the province that nonessential businesses would be closed, mass gatherings were no longer allowed and we were to stay at home, isolated from family and friends as much as possible. The virus had asserted its grip on us too. If we had a crystal ball, we would have been shocked to see that just over two years later, the various shutdowns that we experienced would be so catastrophic, that Canada would record its highest unemployment rates ever, many businesses would be shuttered, many would get sick, and most churches would be closed to public worship during this time.

However, as hard as this time has been, the work of the church has continued. We have done this through determination and creativity, to continue to be the hands and feet of God in our little area of the world. We have figured out new ways to provide pastoral care, worship and connect. Even though for a large part of the last two years, we have not been able to meet and connect in the ways that we used to, we have continued to provide a shelter in the midst of the storm.



We have weathered the pandemic and are now looking forward to life after. As we emerge from this time in our collective experience, let us take comfort in the fact that we have persevered, let us continue to draw strength from one another, and let us remember the words of *The New Creed*, that regardless of what we face as individuals or as a Church, that we are not alone. God is with us. May you experience God's presence, peace, and provision as we look forward to life after the storm.

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OFFICE OF VOCATION

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. 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				

OFFICE OF VOCATION *continued*

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 Leadership 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.

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

CELEBRATIONS

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2022

CELEBRANDS

RETIREES

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A PLACE AT THE TABLE
feasting at the theological banquet

CELEBRANDS

Kimberley Holmes-Younger

Kim Holmes-Younger graduated in May 2021 with her Master of Divinity from Vancouver School of Theology. She has worked at several United Churches over the past nine years in various positions including Community Engagement Coordinator, Youth Minister, Communications and Student Minister Positions. Kim accepted a call to full time ministry at Parkdale United Church in Calgary in October 2021.

Kim has a passion for pastoral care, teaching, social justice, and preaching. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, watching soccer, cooking, travelling, and reading. She has been married to her husband Neil for over 21 years and they have a daughter, Kaie (16).



As a foodie, I got very excited about this year's theme for our Chinook Winds Regional Gathering, "A Place at the Table: Feasting at the Theological Banquet. It reminds me of great big family dinners with everyone squished at a table for 8. Somehow, we always managed to squeeze in 10!

Growing up in my family, there was always room at the table for one more. Often my dad would invite random strangers to our table. It was perhaps more of "theological buffet" - no topic was off limits, even religion and like theology the food kept coming. We learned about different religions, practices, and how people experienced God in their lives in so many different ways. I learned a lot about evangelism, service, social justice, being a good neighbour and even spirituality at our theological buffets.

As I reflect on ordination - my public call to serve God and the Church - what stands out to me most in reflecting on the "5 Theological Streams: Lived faith and God in action" was ecclesiastical. I because I feel that I am truly called to be servant of the church and of God. I am called to the sacraments, I am called to the word, and I am called to pastoral care. I feel closest to God when I am sitting in a hospital room holding the hand of a dying person, when I am writing a sermon, or when practicing the sacraments. I feel the presence of God when I am giving my time and talent to the church. I feel I am in communion with God when I am gathered in a crowd of people singing and worshipping God. This is when I feel God working most in my life.

I feel the presence of God when I am giving my time and talent to the church. I feel I am in communion with God when I am gathered in a crowd of people singing and worshipping God.

CELEBRANDS *continued*

Rachel Nadon

Originally from Ontario, Rachel Nadon has made Alberta her home. She moved west looking for work and hoping to continue her career in millwork and furniture design. Soon after arriving in Calgary she started to attend Northminster United Church after spending 10 years away from church life. She became active in her congregation at Northminster United Church volunteering to teach in the Sunday Morning KidZone Program, employed in Youth Ministry and helped with everything Family Ministry related. After a few years, she started to identify her call to ministry and in 2016 became a diaconal ministry student at the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, MB.

In preparation for school, she stepped away from working full time and started to work part-time in a grocery store and continued her paid role in youth ministry while completing her Christian Education and Worship Field Placement with Northminster United Church. She completed her Social Justice Field Placement while volunteering at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary. She was able to serve McDougall United Church in Calgary in a student appointment position as the Pastoral Care Coordinator while completing her Pastoral Care Field placement. Having the opportunity to use her experience and hours from this part-time position for her Pastoral Care Field Placement meant that she had more energy and time to put into her ministry studies.

Taking courses online and having the opportunity to travel to St Stephen's College Edmonton, St. Andrews College in Saskatoon, SK, and the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, MB for the completion of her external theology courses helped to enrich Rachel's faith formation and deepen her spiritual growth while increasing her knowledge base in her ministry studies. Due to challenges caused by the pandemic Rachel took two years to complete the integration year component of her ministry training. During the first year of her integration year courses, she continued to serve McDougall United Church as their Pastoral Care Coordinator and Youth Minister. Then, she moved to Drumheller, AB to serve Knox United Church in a solo ministry appointment for the completion of her studies.

Rachel is planning to continue to serve Knox United Church, Drumheller, after she is commissioned and is looking forward to further exploring Dinosaur Valley and serving this amazing faith community in rural Alberta.



Rachel's journey into ministry has been an enriching life-changing experience. She has met so many people along the way who have been co-learners in this life-giving ministry journey. She is looking forward to seeing what God has in store as she becomes commissioned into The United Church of Canada, and where this new path will take her.

Soon after arriving in Calgary she started to attend Northminster United Church after spending 10 years away from church life. She became active in her congregation at Northminster United Church volunteering to teach in the Sunday Morning KidZone Program, employed in Youth Ministry, and helping with everything Family Ministry related.

RETIREEES

Jan Richardson



Jan Richardson is transitioning back to being an active lay person (aka retiring) after 32 years of paid-lay and diaconal ministry. Central Alberta has been, and will continue to be home. Her ministry with Stettler United Church is the book-end (alpha & omega) for also being with Knox, Killam; Sunnybrook in Red Deer; and Knox, Drumheller. In 1996 Stettler happened to host the Alberta & Northwest Conference gathering where Jan was commissioned!

Their place at Buffalo Lake (same lake as Bar Harbour United Church Camp) will now be Jan & Bob's home & hub. Re-creational space indeed! Listen for the sound of drum circles being held 'round the fire -- as saskatoon muffins are served -- and drop by to join in the rhythm of the Spirit!

Ray Goodship

Rev. Raymond Goodship was ordained in 2003 in Sudbury Ontario, in Manitou Conference after earning a BTh at Queen's Theological College. Ray, partner Christine, and their three teenage sons settled in Blackfalds Alberta to serve the Bentley/Blackfalds Pastoral Charge for seven years. Ray served Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer from 2010 to 2012 before accepting a call from St. Andrew's United Church in Cochrane, Alberta.

In retirement, Ray and Chris are moving back to the Bentley/Blackfalds area to be closer to family. Ray has too many hobbies to list but music, cycling, and playing hockey top the list. Ray expects to spend much of his time hanging out and getting in as much trouble as possible with grandson Sutton.



RETIREEES *continued*

Pauline Bell

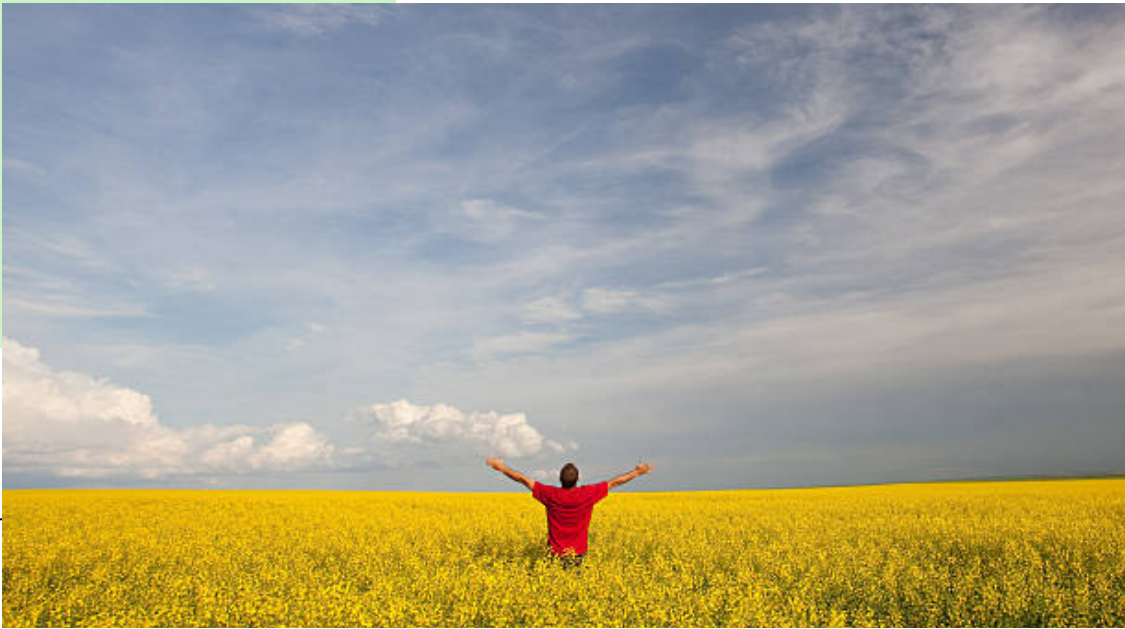


Rev. Pauline is retiring – yet again. After many years in the teaching world of northern Ontario, Pauline retired in order to regroup, retrain, refresh into the world of ministry in the United Church of Canada. Retraining began in 2004 at Queens Theological College, moved to St. Andrews College, and then to internship at Spirit of Peace United Church in Spirit River, AB. The trail led from Alberta to St. Stephen, NB (St. James pastoral charge), to Consort, AB (Knox United – Consort), then into retirement in Lethbridge, AB – for a period of time. Once again, the trail moved from retirement into more active shared ministry with the church family of Foremost United.

Retirement beckons again. This time, husband David, puppy Muffy, and I expect to coast into our next stages with wisdom gained, faith deepened, hope enduring, and openness to whatever adventures life brings into our realm.

A sign “Abounding Grace” sits above a door of our home; it names both our reality and our hope. We have been so blessed!!!

ANNIVERSARIES



Seventy Years

Oliver Seward

Sixty Five Years

Ronald Dougan
Austin Fennell

Sixty Years

Richard G. Clarke

Fifty Five Years

Helen Reid
Terrance Shillington

Forty Five Years

Michael Ward
Rita Cattell
Marilyn Evans
J. Paul Mullen

Forty Years

R.A. Roderick Sykes
J. Paul Mullen

Thirty Five Years

Elizabeth Richards
Brenda Kersell

Thirty Years

Peggy McDonagh

Twenty Five Years

James Farrell
Ronald Dougan
Austin Fennell

Twenty Years

Nancy Nourse
David Pollard

Fifteen Years

Susan Bowyer
Robert Lewry
Murray Laverty
Glenda Wert
Rhonda Pigott
Leila Currie
Eva Stanley

Ten Years

Pamela Scott
Tracy Robertson
Ruth McArthur
Lynn McKinnon
Vicki McPhee
Julia Kimmett
Traci Hubbard

Five Years

William Weaver
Eva Biederman
Esther Crews
Justin McNeill
Oh Wang Kwan

"The whole message of the Christian scripture is based in the idea of metanoia, the change of heart that happens when we meet God face-to-face. Even a cursory knowledge of history reveals that Christianity is a religion about change. The Christian faith always changes--even when some of its adherents claim that it does not."

-Diana Butler Bass

MEMORIALS



Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps

May 5, 1942 - March 4, 2022

Some journalists called him “prophet in a baseball cap,” others dubbed him a controversial Christian. The Very Reverend Dr William Phipps, outspoken advocate for Earth and human rights, died peacefully at home on March 4, 2022.

William Frederick Allan Phipps was born in Toronto May 4, 1942, the son of Cora Stinson and Reginald Phipps, and brother of Elda. He had a middle-class Toronto upbringing, and he seized every opportunity to grow and learn throughout his life.

Bill graduated from Osgoode Law School in 1965, from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago in 1968 and was ordained by The United Church of Canada

in 1969. He used his law degree to help establish the first poverty law office in Canada, but the call of the church became stronger. He served as minister at Thorncliffe United and Trinity-St. Paul's United in Toronto, establishing a reputation for bold leadership in the areas of LGBTQ rights, peace, poverty, and homelessness.

In 1986 he moved to Edmonton to work in church administration, and there, opportunities to learn from Indigenous peoples arose. He attended The Dene National Assembly in 1987, supported the Lubicon Cree, and travelled the Mackenzie/Dehcho Valley.

In 1993, Bill moved to Calgary to become minister at Scarboro United. His work continued to bridge the church and the world. Well into his retirement, he represented the church nationally and internationally in places of conflict, such as The Philippines, Central America, Middle East, Congo, Sudan, and East Timor. When Bill was elected 36th Moderator of The United Church of Canada in 1997, The Ottawa Citizen published a scathing editorial and subsequent interview criticizing his views on the ordination of gays, Indigenous peoples, economic justice and theology. Bill's responses prompted national conversations and hundreds of interviews about the nature of Jesus, the role of the church in society and a moral economy. Some called him saint; others heretic.

With Rev Clint Mooney, he presented Bearing Faithful Witness, a study document on Jewish-Christian relationships at Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto. With Rev Ted Reeve, he founded Faith and the Common Good, Greening Sacred Spaces and Eco-Commoning.

In 1998, on behalf of The United Church, Bill issued the first Canadian Apology to First Nations survivors, their families and communities for the harms done by the church at the 13 residential schools the church helped run. He returned to congregational ministry in 2000, ran for the NDP in 2002, authored Cause for Hope and retired in 2007. He never stopped working, particularly on the climate crisis around which he brought people together in workshops across Canada.

Bill loved paddling Algonquin Park, camping, especially on Lake Superior, in the Rockies and Haida Gwaii. He enjoyed a good laugh, too. When covid struck, he and Carolyn made YouTube videos, such as, Camping with Old People. He was a great Toronto Blue Jays fan, attended their first game in 1977 and in August 2000 he was delighted to throw out the first pitch. Bill received awards, medals and honorary doctorates, but said his best honour was becoming grandfather of Kate and Foster Phipps-Chong, Toronto, and Michael and Tristan Van Metre, Yellowknife.

He leaves his beloved wife Carolyn Pogue, their children, Sarah Phipps (Don Chong) of Toronto, Jeremy Phipps (Jodi) of Winnipeg and Andrea Czarnecki (Blair Van Metre) of Yellowknife, his sister Elda Thomas of Toronto, as well as family and friends far and wide.

MEMORIALS *continued*

Ed Bardock

November 18, 1931 – October 11, 2021

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Edison “Ed” Bardock on Tuesday, October 11, 2021 at the age of 89 years. Ed was born in Bellevue, Alberta on November 18, 1931.



Ed was a school administrator who also served The United Church of Canada in multiple ways.

He chaired South Alberta Presbytery for several years as well as presbytery committees. He also served on the Executive of the former Alberta and Northwest Conference and its Appeals and Grants Committee as well as the National Church's finance committee. Ed was a member of McKillop United Church in Lethbridge where he also served in leadership roles. [Read more](#) about Ed.

Ed is survived by his wife Doreen; daughter Jane Ann (Bill Peters) and her children Caleb and Taylor, daughter Colleen (Clark Bertagnolli) and her sons Trevor and Jordan; son Randy (Debbie) and their children Cody and Courtney.

A Family Service and Interment took place in Trochu, and a Celebration of Life will be planned for a later date.

Gary Goran

October 15, 2021

Gary W. Goran of Medicine Hat passed away peacefully, surrounded by special friends, on Friday, October 15th, 2021 at the age of 75 years. After Gary's retirement as an ordained minister, he began a new chapter as a Life Celebrant at Saamis Memorial Funeral Chapel.

Gary purposely connected with people and every family that he served was important to him. His life and his words impacted countless people along his journey. He was charming, steady, faithful, and humorous; and was gifted with an infectious laugh. His memory will be held dearly by those lives he touched and by those who loved him.

At Gary's request, there will be a private time of remembrance. Memorial gifts in Gary's memory may be made to the S.P.C.A., 55 Southview Drive SW, Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E8. Condolences may be sent through www.saamis.com or to condolences@saamis.com subject heading Gary Goran.



MEMORIALS *continued*



Greig Jonelle McLellan

January 8, 1954 - February 5, 2022

Jonelle passed away on Saturday, February 5th in Calgary, Alberta. Her family will miss her deeply, but we are relieved that she is at rest after a very difficult period of illness. 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 of Canada. For decades she sang in choirs and participated in ministry 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, BC 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.

Reverend John Coe

April 12, 1944 - October 13, 2021

John Coe, beloved husband of Maureen, died October 13th following complications from a fall. He is also survived by daughter, Jackie (Jeff) McKay; son, David (Melanie) Coe; grandchildren: Leah, Zack, Hannah, Noah, Benson, and Pearson; brother Robert (Bob) Coe; sister Edna Helwing; and extended family and friends. Predeceased by parents Wilma and John (Jack); and sister Eva Isaacson.

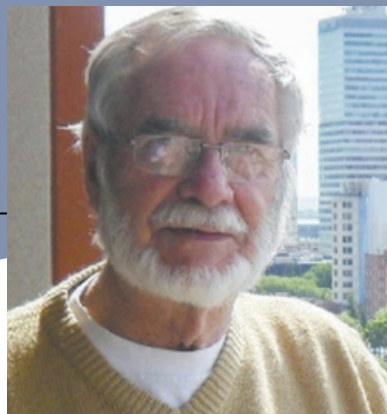
John was independent, determined, and adventurous in spirit from an early age. He worked diligently in a variety of positions: radio announcer, truck driver, fire fighter, pilot, Chief Flying Instructor (Calgary Flying Club), owner of the first Oil Analysis Program in Western Canada (ROAD Program), computer instructor for the physically challenged, and ordained minister with the United Church of Canada. He served at churches in Timmins and Hamilton in ON, and Happy Valley Goose Bay in Labrador, while attending Emmanuel College (Toronto), and subsequently St. Paul-Ashmont, Alix-Delburne, and Bowden-Betchton pastoral charges (Alberta). John was a self-taught early adopter of the use of computers and used his skill to develop web pages for the church and local businesses. Following his retirement in 2009, John and Maureen fondly developed their acreage east of Bowden, AB and had just moved to Red Deer. A Celebration of Life is taking place Saturday April 30, 1:00 pm at the Paterson Community Centre 27th Ave, Bowden. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made to Bowden United Church, Red Deer Hospital Foundation, or charity of choice.



MEMORIALS *continued*

Reverend Robert Wright

April 18, 1932 – October 13, 2021



Robert was born in Kerrobert, Saskatchewan on April 18, 1932 to Edna and Wilbur Wright; a one-room schoolteacher and a farmer.

Robert is survived by his five children, Robert, Richard, Jennifer, Wendy, and David; as well as nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Ruth; and brother, Keith.

A studious boy and an even brighter teenager and adult, Robert attended the University of Alberta before enrolling at Union Seminary in New York State, where he earned a master's degree in theology in 1956. He is also the holder of an honorary doctorate from McGill University.

His early years in the ministry were spent in New York City's Spanish Harlem before arriving in Welland, Ontario in the early 1960's, where he served as the Minister of All People's United Church for 25 years. Robert's life of community service stemmed further than he could reach for the pulpit.

A man of change who sought to make the world better for everyone through social activism, faith, and leadership; he stood for election in four federal elections ('68, '72, '74, and '79) as a New Democrat. Robert returned to the west in the late 1980's to work for the United Church's Western Canada office before embracing an opportunity in 1997 to work shoulder to shoulder with the residents of Whitefish and Saddle Lake First Nations, serving as minister, social worker, and friend to many - his crowning achievement and a position he held until three weeks prior his passing. Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared through www.parkmemorial.com

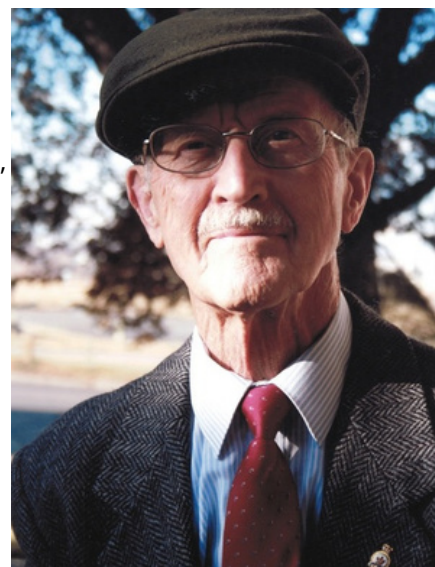
Reverend Stanley Bessey

February 5, 1926 – February 4, 2022

Friday, February 4, 2022, was a sad yet very special day for the Bessey family, relations, friends, and community. Stanley Ross Bessey, a husband, a father, a minister & a friend passed away peacefully and comfortably that morning at the age of 95, one day short of his 96th birthday. His transition from this life celebrates a life well lived filled with immense breadth of experience and adventure. Founded in his earliest years growing up in a family of 8 brothers and sisters (the younger of two sets of twins) in a small rural community that borders Alberta and Saskatchewan during the Great Depression years, his strength of character was forged early on into a life of service to others.

Soon after his graduation, he enlisted with the Canadian Army and received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal upon honourable discharge at the end of the Second World War. Returning to civilian life, his adventures took him across Canada, serving first on the C.P.R., then for a brief time with the McColl-Frontenac Oil Company, and later as a civilian contractor with the RCMP, K Division, in Aklavik, N.W.T. Together, with his brothers and sisters, in 1948 he helped to build a home from the ground up at 3310 Centre Street North that "love for family had built", still standing to this day, which together enabled their parents to move and retire to Calgary.

Returning to his education, first at the University of Saskatchewan, where he met his loving wife, Shirley MacFarlane (Saskatoon), and then culminating at the University of Alberta, where together in attendance with the largest ministerial group at that time to have graduated from St. Stephen's College, he was ordained into the Christian ministry of the United Church of Canada in June of 1959.



MEMORIALS *continued*

Reverend Stanley Bessey Continued...

Prior to his retirement in 1991, he served as a minister in the United Church for over 30 years at a number of community pastorates across Alberta: Oyen, Crossfield, Calgary (Montgomery), Tofield (Ryley and Holden), Bashaw (Mirror), and Acme (Beiseker). At each pastoral charge, he also served as chaplain at the local Royal Canadian Legion branch. It was at Crossfield that he and his wife were blessed by the birth of two children, Heather and Spencer. During this time, Stanley found life fulfilment through his spiritual journey in the church, at the legion, and in scouting, reading, travel and community volunteering. He enjoyed many hobbies - woodwork, photography, stamp & coin collecting, painting, gardening, and participating in sports - hockey, curling, skiing, hiking & swimming. He enjoyed music and the arts. He held a deep appreciation of life with its challenges & opportunities.

He enjoyed meeting people & was grateful for his many friends & acquaintances he was privileged to meet. The years he dedicated to raising a family with his wife were reflected in his passion to expose their children to nature and the beauty of God's creation; camping and hiking, cross-country skiing, travel and exploration together of various places within the vast geography of Western Canada. For him, life was a divine gift enhanced by the devotion of his wife Shirley, the love of his children, and family overall.

In a similar way, his retirement years also reflected his love for people and his enjoyment of learning from a variety of cultures and ethnicities. He was an active participant in his local church community and also enjoyed travel with his wife Shirley to foreign lands. Those who knew him appreciated his genuine warmth and caring of others, his ready smile; as a neighbour shared - "He was such a kind and gentle soul and the epitome of a good human being."

Stanley throughout his life's journey was a humble, faithful and dedicated servant in Christ. Years into his retirement, in October of 2009, he graciously accepted the honour of Minister Emeritus from the United Church of Canada in deep appreciation for faithful service at his home congregation of Forest Lawn United Church.

He will be lovingly remembered by Shirley, his wife of 63 years; his children, Heather Bessey, Edmonton, AB and Spencer Bessey (Leanne), Calgary, AB; his twin sister, Ruth Wilkins of St. Catharines, ON; and by numerous nieces and nephews. Stanley was predeceased by his parents, Joseph & Frances Bessey; and by his siblings, Cliff Bessey, Orville Bessey, Dalton Bessey, Lloyd Bessey, Dorothy Gusella, and Laura Snyder.

MEMORIALS *continued*

Reverend Dr. George Rodgers

1938-2021



The Rev. Dr. George H. Rodgers, a long time and well-loved minister of the United Church of Canada, died on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at the age of 83.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 48 years, Heather; his daughter Kyla (Sean Gillis); his son Mark; brother Don (Sharon); sister-in-law Ruth; nieces Ylan and Laurren and nephews Grant, Greg, Garnet, Ken, and their families; sister-in law Pam (Stan McDougall), Shirley MacArthur, Shawn MacArthur and Jennifer Foster.

He was predeceased by his parents Alex and Alma Rodgers; his brothers Brian and Bobby; his in laws Irene and Don Flood, and Allan MacArthur.

George loved his family, his church, the Saskatchewan Roughriders, St. Louis Cardinals, the Edmonton Oilers and Johnny Cash. He enjoyed singing tenor in the church choir and the Josephburg Men's Choir, hosting radio shows on CJSR with his son Mark, playing bridge, writing, reading, live theatre, travelling, and doing the daily crossword and Sudoku.

He was a devoted and loving husband and father. He loved spending summer vacations at Naramata Centre with Heather, Kyla and Mark and enjoyed visits with family in Regina, BC, Calgary and Cape Breton. In later years, he and Heather looked forward to trips to Mexico each winter, and were fortunate to travel and to cruise to many beautiful destinations.

George grew up in Regina. He attended the University of Saskatchewan earning a Bachelor of Arts, St. Andrew's College Saskatoon earning a Bachelor of Divinity, Chicago Theological Seminary earning a Master of Theology, and St. Stephen's College Edmonton earning a Doctor of Ministry.

George was ordained in 1962, and served in pastoral ministry in Pelly and Swift Current Saskatchewan, and in Calgary, Sherwood Park, and Edmonton Alberta. He also served on staff at the Prairie Christian Training Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle and at St. Stephen's College in Edmonton. George's last position before retirement was as Executive Secretary of Alberta and Northwest Conference of the United Church.

In his 60 years of service as an ordained minister, George was involved in many different aspects of church life. He was a commissioner to General Councils and a member of the General Council Executive as well as being elected President of Alberta Conference. George chaired and was a member of a wide range of Presbytery, Conference and National committees. He also served as Interim President for St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's Colleges and was Minister Emeritus at Sherwood Park United Church. He taught courses at St. Stephen's College and at the Department of Extension at the University of Alberta.

A dynamic speaker, he was a lifelong learner, was well-read, and kept up with the best thinkers and contemporary theologians of the day. He lived with integrity, was a strong churchman, an excellent teacher, and a caring and compassionate minister. We are grateful for the gifts and graces George shared through his years of ministry, for his gentle presence, for his ability to listen and respond with thoughtful guidance, and for his sense of humour. His presence among us will be missed.

A Celebration of Life was held on April 9, 2022 at 2 pm at Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park, Alberta. For those who choose to do so, donations may be made to the Life and Work of Sherwood Park United Church.

MEMORIALS *continued*

Rev. Prescott (Scotty) Harold Burrill **1925-2022**



**“Well done good
and faithful
servant.”
Mathew 25:23**

On Easter Monday, April 18, 2022, Prescott Harold Burrill experienced the Resurrection in all of its fullness, as the sun set on his earthly life and as he rose victoriously with the Son in another.

Prescott, known to friends as “Scotty”, touched many lives with his humour and gentle disposition. His whole life, he sought to follow in his Master’s footsteps. He offered words of hope and encouragement to all he met, even during his final days living with Alzheimer’s. This example of servanthood and forgiveness blessed many and all who knew him were blessed by his presence. Along with his beloved wife Shirley, he served pastorates in Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Alberta. Scotty was an avid sportsman who enjoyed fishing, duck hunting, and hunting for big game. Being a Maritimer, lobster was his first love, but when that wasn’t available, wild meat was a close second and he was always eager to share his hunting bounty. When hunting and fishing season were over, he could be found on the dance floor square dancing.

Prescott is survived by his two sons, Harold (Frances), and John (Anne Marie); six grandsons, and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Shirley, and his brothers, Henry, Fred, and Charlie Burrill.

Memorial Services were held at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, Calgary on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. You’ll find a recording of the service here: https://youtu.be/bNCzi3-An_Y on the day of the service. Condolences, memories, and photos may also be shared and viewed here.

A special thanks is extended to the staff at Sage Hills Retirement Residence for their loving care of Prescott in his final years. He returned their love and called them all family.

To our father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and trusted friend;

“Well done good and faithful servant.”
Mathew 25:23

REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Presiding Officer;
Executive Minister;

Vicki McPhee
Treena Duncan

Joanne Anquist
Kevin Dorma
David Pollard
Gloria Snow
Trevor Potter
Kathy Yamashita
Anne Yates-Laberge
Francis Liu
Bill Moore

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Rev. Brenda Fawkes
Office of Vocation Ministry
for BC, Yukon and
Southern Alberta



Vicki Nelson
Stewardship Animator
for Pacific Mountain Region
Northern Spirit Region
Chinook Winds Region
Living Skies Region
Prairie to Pine Region



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Karen Norrie
Chinook Winds Bookkeeper
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John Den Hoed
Chinook Winds
Treasurer
"John Den Hoed"
<jdhpc@denhoed.com>

BUSINESS

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING 2022



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

feasting at the theological banquet

PROPOSALS TO CW REGION

Proposals to Chinook Winds Region NOOK WINDS REGION We can imagine different kinds of conversations happening during the business of this Regional Gathering.

We have three different kinds of proposals; each proposal will receive time for discussion on the floor.

Educational: If the major intention is to inform the Region about something important, this kind of proposal will allow time to present the issue and the significant information needed to be heard. There will be time for questions and comments but we will not engage in debate or a vote since there is no necessity to make a decision.

For Conversation: If the major intention is to hear what others have to say about an issue there will be time on the floor to pose a question or concern. The microphones will then be opened for conversation without the need for a motion to be made.

For Decision: If the desire is for a decision or action to be made on behalf of the Region then this kind of proposal begins that process. A clear outcome is named as part of the Proposal. Open conversation and debate and, finally, a vote follow.

As you consider your Proposal, please consider what kind of conversation or outcome you wish to have at the Meeting and frame your Proposal accordingly.

Please use the template attached to this document to help or submit it electronically [HERE](#)

If you are making a Proposal that calls for action, consider the financial and other costs of implementing that Proposal and include those in your proposal.

PROPOSALS TO CW REGION



Chinook Winds Region - Proposal 2022

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2022

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 your proposal.

Source *

From where did this proposal originate? (Proposals can come from individual members of the Regional Council, Communities of Faith, Clusters, or Networks. Proposals from individuals must have a seconder)

Type of Proposal *

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

PROPOSALS TO CW REGION *continued*

Proposal *

A rich text editor interface for the 'Proposal' section. It features a toolbar at the top with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, and unlink. To the right of these icons are three dropdown menus: 'Font Size...', 'Font Family.', and 'Font Format'. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for writing the proposal.

What is the issue you want to inform the council about, have the council discuss, or have the council make a decision or take action on?

Background *

A rich text editor interface for the 'Background' section. It features a toolbar at the top with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, and unlink. To the right of these icons are three dropdown menus: 'Font Size...', 'Font Family.', and 'Font Format'. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for writing background information.

Background information that gives rational to the proposal.

Funding Implications *

A rich text editor interface for the 'Funding Implications' section. It features a toolbar at the top with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, and unlink. To the right of these icons are three dropdown menus: 'Font Size...', 'Font Family.', and 'Font Format'. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for writing funding implications.

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

Community of Faith (if applicable)

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

PROPOSALS TO CW REGION *continued*

Community of Faith Comments (if applicable)

Cluster or Networks Comments (if applicable)

Confirmation *

☐ Proposal is complete and I am ready to submit it.



CHINOOK WINDS EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

The Chinook Winds Region of The United Church of Canada is seeking nominations for its Executive which will take office at the rise of the General Meeting May 6-7.

The Executive will consist of eight (8) to eleven (11) people including the Presiding Officer and the Executive Minister, the exact number to be at the discretion of the Nominations Committee. No one will be a member by virtue of office in another council, committee, or organization.

- The term of a member of the executive shall be three years with the ability to renew a term once.
- The goal would be to have 1/3 of the Executive Council to be elected each year, ensuring continuity of wisdom and welcome of new voices.
- The Chinook Winds Regional Council Executive shall elect a Presiding Officer annually from its membership. No one person shall serve more than a three-year term in that office
- The Presiding Officer shall be responsible to chair the Chinook Winds Regional Council Executive meetings, and the General meetings of Chinook Winds Regional Council, and to be an Ambassador for the Region, be a member of General Council, and other duties as required..

The slate presented to the region will include people who:

- connect to and listen well to the people of the Region;
- articulate the perspectives of the Region;
- consider the well-being of the whole Region;
- hold "the big picture" front and centre in decision making; *have good individual and group judgment and discernment skills;
- bring skills in church and community governance.

Further, the slate will reflect the many diversities of the Region as far as possible including:

- Gender
- Age
- Indigenous Identity
- Urban, Rural, Geography
- Culture
- Ordered and Lay After carefully considering the Nominations received, an Ad Hoc Nominations Committee will create a slate of Candidates to be presented to the gathering for Election

After carefully considering the Nominations received, an Ad Hoc Nominations Committee will create a slate of Candidates to be presented to the gathering for Election.

At the discretion of the Presiding Officer corresponding members to particular meetings might be invited to ensure needed viewpoints or information needed are present during discernment and decision making. Corresponding members would be named on a meeting there will be no permanent or term corresponding members.

The Executive will meet a minimum of four times a year, at least twice of which will be face-to-face.

The Executive will be a governance body, focusing on:

- Ensuring it is well-informed and knowledgeable about the church and society, particularly in a context of constant change;
- Listening well to the people and communities of faith of the Region;
- Articulating together the vision and desires of the Region;
- Naming the desired outcomes of the work of the Region;

CHINOOK WINDS EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

continued



Using Policy Governance policies and practices as the operating model;

- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the Executive Minister against the stated policies to ensure fiduciary responsibilities and expected Region outcomes are met;
- Selecting and appointing an Executive Minister in partnership with other appropriate church councils.
- Directing the Executive Minister through clear policies;

If you are interested in submitting your nomination or nominating someone else for the Executive of Chinook Winds Region please fill in the following nomination form. You can submit a nomination [HERE](#) .

Nomination will be received until 4:30pm MST — May 7th.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE MOTIONS

Order paper 1: Constituting the Court and Organizing Business

1. That the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council be held on May 5-8, 2022.
2. The roll of the 4th Annual General Meeting of Chinook Winds Regional Council shall consist of those members of Chinook Winds Regional Council who register prior to 5:00 p.m., Thursday May 5, 2022. Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the roll.
3. The bar of the council be established as the Upper Hall of Gaetz Memorial United Church: Red Deer, and the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered delegates.
4. That Vicki McPhee, Presiding Officer, be affirmed as the meeting chair, Kathy Yamashita as recording secretary, and that the Business Committee consist of the following: Taylor Croissant (chair), Susan Brodrick, David Pollard, Kathy Yamashita, and Pam Young.
5. That voting be conducted via Simply Voting, and Allan Buckingham be empowered to tabulate, and report results of votes to the Business Committee Chair.
6. Regional Council staff, General Council guests, candidates for ministry not in an appointment, and invited presenters, be appointed as corresponding members of the court.
7. Subject to such changes as the Business Committee might make and announce, the agenda as printed shall be the working basis for the order of business.
8. The rules of order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised in business shall follow The Manual, 2021: Appendix – 3. Meeting Procedures, or for matters not covered, Bourinot's Rules of Order.
9. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.
10. Proposals directed to the Annual General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 8:30p.m. Thursday, May 5, 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. Proposals that are alike may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.
11. All unfinished business shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.
12. The Regional Council Executive Minutes are received for information and included as part of the Record of Proceedings. (The Manual, C.3.1.4)
13. The reports distributed in the agenda booklet, the interim financial reports, and the report of the Nomination Committee be received for information.
14. The minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of The Chinook Winds Regional Council held May 7-9, 2021 held over Zoom™, be received for adoption.
15. Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before 5:00pm on Saturday, May 7 without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.
16. The plenary portions of the agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on the Chinook Winds Regional Council website.

GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCEDURES

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 Presiding Officer.
- The correct manner in which to address the Presiding Officer is: "Presiding Officer ..."
- Each person may address the Presiding Officer 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 Presiding Officer 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 Zoom electronic platform where the online meeting will be hosted. Only eligible voting members logged into the Zoom platform will receive a request to input their vote once a vote has been called by the Presiding Officer. In the case of technical issues during voting, the Presiding Officer 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 Presiding Officer will cast the deciding vote. heading

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 Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer may seek the advice of the Regional Executive Minister or the Business Committee.

FINANCE

Chinook Winds Regional Council
Updated Treasurer's Report
2021 Financial Highlights

*Amounts are expressed in thousands of dollars .
Data based on draft information available April 26, 2021*

Receipts for 2021 of \$1,293 exceeded the budget by \$494.

Most of the increase came from:

Investments (Note 1)	\$	234
UCC Grants for legal fees (Note 2)		107
Proceeds from sale of property		95
Donations		25
Federal Grant		23
		<hr/> 484 <hr/>

Expenses for 2021 of 1,129 exceeded the budget by \$57.

Most of the expenses which exceeded the budget are:

Professional fees (Note 2)	149
Grants	28
Consulting fees	25
Office	20
	<hr/> 222 <hr/>

Most of the expenses which were below budget are:

Committees	(77)
Meetings and conventions	(46)
Programs	(44)
	<hr/> (167) <hr/> 55 <hr/>

The net excess of receipts over expenses is \$435. [494-57]

Note 1 Subsequent to year-end the Region's marketable securities experienced a decline in value. As at the end of the first quarter 2022, there has been a reduction in fair market value of \$208.

Note 2 The \$208 Professional fees includes \$154 legal fees. The \$107 Legal Fee Grant from the United Church of Canada was used towards those fees.

Other items

- \$199 of the \$369 investment income has been allocated to the David Ferguson Music Bursary Fund, First Third Ministry Fund, Indigenous Ministry Fund, Alma Reynolds Bursary Fund, Clara Thompson Internship Fund and Canyon Church Camp Society.
- At the end of 2021 the undistributed Mission and Support Grant Fund balance is \$133.
- Proceeds from sale of property includes \$72 residual balance from the sale of the St. Mathew's United Church.
- The loan to Ogden United Church for the Hub29 Project was increased by \$220 to \$380 during the year.

See the draft summary financial statements on the next page

FINANCE *continued*

Draft Summary Financial Statements

Amounts are expressed in thousands of dollars.

Statement of Operations				
	2021		2020	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	
Receipts				
Denominational Assessment Share	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325	
Denominational Mission & Service Share	240	240	289	
Region Assessment	1	-	60	
Regional Executive Minister & Administration and Cross Region Support Grants	108	99	99	
Legal Fee Grant	107	-	-	
Federal Grants	23	-	-	
Assessment income and grants	804	664	773	
Proceeds from property sold	95	-	2,818	
Investment income	369	135	14	
Donations	25	-	2	
	1,293	799	3,607	
Expenses				
Salaries and contractors	460	462	334	
Grants	258	230	351	
Professional fees	208	59	33	
Consulting fees	67	42	68	
Office	47	27	43	
Programs	41	85	52	
Archives	29	27	29	
Travel	10	6	11	
Meetings and conventions	5	51	17	
Committees	4	81	5	
Communications	2	2	1	
	1,131	1,072	944	
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over expenses	\$ 162	\$ (273)	\$ 2,663	

Statement of Financial Position						
	Operating Fund	Internally Restricted Funds	Externally Restricted Funds	2021	2020	
Assets						
Current						
Cash and equivalents	\$ 174	\$ -	\$ 124	\$ 298	\$ 3,640	
Marketable securities	384	2,871	105	3,360	-	
Accounts receivable	-	-	13	13	-	
Current portion due from related parties	-	-	-	-	58	
Goods and services tax recoverable	2	-	-	2	2	
	560	2,871	242	3,673	3,700	
Restricted cash	10	-	-	10	10	
Due from related parties	959	408	75	1,442	1,222	
	-	1,529	317	5,125	4,932	
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Current						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	33	-	2	35	16	
Current portion due to related parties	30	-	-	30	18	
	63	-	2	65	34	
Fund balances	1,466	3,279	315	5,060	4,898	
	\$ 1,529	\$ 3,279	\$ 317	\$ 5,125	\$ 4,932	

Data based on draft information available April 26, 2021

STEWARDSHIP

Written by Vicki Nelson

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 Chinook Winds. Whether it has been through town halls 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 Chinook Winds participant provided this program feedback, "Best program for stewardship that a 79 year old has ever been involved." 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 Chinook Winds. Your generosity through Mission & Service strengthened camps, campus ministries, food security, Affirming work, 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.



our donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Chinook Winds, and around the world. Thank you for your gifts.

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 Chinook Winds Region. I have been blown away by the dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness and joy of the people in southern Alberta. 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 Western Canada including Chinook Winds Region
VNelson@united-church.ca
1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045

GRANTS REPORT

Rev. Joel Den Haan,
Community of Faith Strategy Consultant

Thanks to the generosity of donors to your United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund, Chinook Winds Region has been able to offer significant support to various ministries and outreach initiatives across Central and Southern Alberta. For both the 2021 and 2022 grant seasons, the Region was provided with \$240,000 in new funding from Mission and Service.

Highlights of our work in 2021-2022 include:

- Significant and continued funding for the Chinook Winds Region Indigenous Ministry, through which ministry lead Tony Snow and other participants have been able to provide online learning opportunities, with participation from all of Chinook Winds Region and across Canada. In addition, this funding has helped nurture the Urban Indigenous Circle even when gatherings we restricted due to COVID-19 protocols. The Urban Indigenous Circle is intended as a ministry by and for Indigenous people living off reserve, where traditional practices and theological reflection can help Indigenous people find centeredness, belonging and a space for spiritual practice outside their ancestral homes. Other ministries of reconciliation offered through the Region's Indigenous Ministry have included education and reflection on Orange Shirt initiatives recognizing residential school legacy issues, Red Dress initiatives focusing on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and special programs to help build understanding in light of recent discoveries of unmarked graves at residential school sites across Canada.



- Youth and Young Adult work has continued to be a priority for our program funding grants. Campus Ministries in Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat have benefited through the generosity of your contributions to Mission and Service. The Regional Youth Ministry in partnership with St. Andrew's Regional Ministries has extended its outreach even with pandemic restrictions in place, through online engagement with programs such as the Naked Faith monthly youth worship.



- Program Funding through Mission and Service has also helped Chinook Winds Region advance Affirming ministries, and in the 2021-2022 season Affirming Connections has helped our communities of faith better understand pathways to becoming a truly inclusive and welcoming place for gender and sexuality-diverse persons. Notable was an extensive publicity campaign against Conversion Therapy, which helped build momentum toward legal bans on this practice enacted at municipal, provincial, and federal levels in the last 18 months.
- Chinook Winds Region program funding has also been directed to local outreach in various places. Food programs based out of local congregations in the Calgary area have been supported in both 2021 and 2022 (an example is shown below), we have assisted with new programming for spiritual formation and outreach in communities such as Okotoks and Canmore, and we continue to provide support to a unique summer ministry at Waterton United Church.

GRANTS REPORT *continued*

- Looking ahead, Chinook Winds Region will continue to support meaningful initiatives that positively impact our communities throughout Central and Southern Alberta. We are considering funding strategies for the coming years that will build resilience, strength, and effectiveness as our communities of faith move out of the uncertainties of pandemic life, into the emerging ministry context now taking shape throughout our Region. We look forward to keeping you informed about the work of the Region, and of your Mission and Service Fund, as we move into the future together.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

From Leanne Templeton

At times, navigating the past two years of pandemic has felt like being adrift in a storm with forty foot waves all around. Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regional Council Archives work is generally a team affair with longtime volunteers Gayle Simonson and Phyllis Verhaar working alongside the Regional Council Archivist to provide services.

The physical separation from records, volunteers, and Government of Alberta reference staff was a sudden shock and, I admit, it took some time to identify how reference and preservation services at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) would continue to be provided safely. For a significant amount of time, all in-person meetings and private record deposits were halted. Eventually, a quarantine process for the isolation of records was established and limited records began to trickle in. Some communities of faith chose to send their records to the Northern Spirit Regional Council Office at Kirk Centre, in Edmonton. Here, volunteers began to meet again in the summer of 2021 to review and process new deposits. Unprocessed records from the vaults at the PAA, however, were not moved off site at any point during the pandemic. This coming together again was sporadic, with spikes in COVID-19 numbers thwarting any plans for full reopening.

Archival work, instead, shifted focus to improving descriptions, finding aids, increasing digital records capacity, researching Residential Schools and Day Schools, identifying Indigenous records within the holdings and elsewhere, improving access for Indigenous researchers, and increasing communication with other repositories to gain a fuller picture of where records relating to Chinook Winds communities are located. Communication channels

with ministers and office personnel remained open throughout the pandemic, as birth, marriage and burial records, requests for photos, architectural drawings and schools continued to pour in daily.

Many church members used pandemic isolation time to sort through records at home or in church storage rooms. This has resulted in a number of pending deposits waiting to be sent to the archives.

Outreach with communities of faith has been strong, with the Archivist acting as a listening ear to those who are shut in, to those who are struggling to adapt to change, to those dealing with a community closure or complex records questions. The constant reprioritizing and evaluating urgency of research queries has been a challenge to manage, but researchers have been patient and kind as we navigate periods of limited records access. Currently, the Archivist is permitted on site one day/week and is the only non-government employee granted access to the vaults. I consider this, and all of my work in the region, to be a blessing.



AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS



Affirming Connections Report

May 2021 - April 2022

Events, pages 1-6

Programs and Projects, pages 6-8

EVENTS

Affirming Leaders Day

May 22, 2021

Last year, our third annual day of learning occurred online attracted 86 attendees. The theme was "Peace and Protest: Creating Change with Love and

Intention." The day featured sessions from St. Stephen's Anglican Church People's Warden and activist Heather Campbell, Christian singer-songwriter Semler, pop culture critic and scholar Anthony Oliveira, and civil rights activist/former colleague of Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. James Lawson, Jr.

We heard from many attendees that were impressed by the quality of speakers, and that they never would've been able to access an event like this if it wasn't online. We look forward to continuing this annual event and see it as a critical piece of honouring affirming people and ministries by investing in accessible, affordable, and quality development opportunities.



Partnership with Calgary Justice Film Festival

June 8, 2021

During Pride Month, Affirming Connections co-presented a free virtual screening of the film *Sex, Sin & 69*.

AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS *continued*



Sex, Sin & 69 is a historical, retrospective film about the 1969 legislation to 'decriminalize' homosexuality. Told through contemporary voices including queer academics, historians, activists, artists, and community builders, the film attempts to challenge our understanding of queer history by shining a light on widely adopted misconceptions surrounding decriminalization.

These community partnerships are important, as we connect to the greater community outside of church and increase awareness to Affirming spaces that exist.

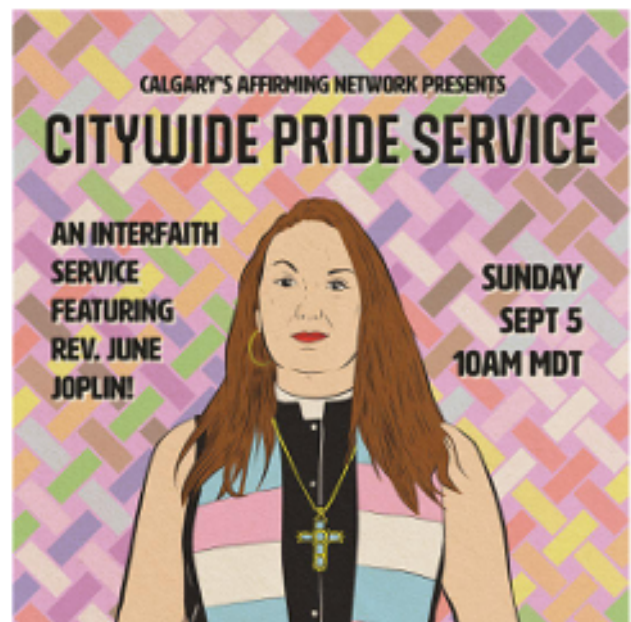
Citywide Pride Service

September 5, 2021

In collaboration with the Affirming Network of Calgary, we presented the 3rd annual Citywide Pride Service! We had about **200 live viewers** in addition to several churches that broadcast our service to their congregations via Zoom in lieu of their own Pride services.

Highlights:

- We had more attendees than ever before (2,800 views and counting), with representation from the U.S., Europe, and all over Canada.
- We were honoured to have active participation from the Jewish, Muslim, Indigenous, Unitarian, Anglican, Lutheran, Inter-Mennonite, Campus and United Church communities. In total, we had 31 faith communities involved in the service.
- We will be partnering with the amazing Affirming ministries in our area again this year to put this on again in September of 2022!



Jumpstart Your Affirming Journey Online!

October 26, 2021

Respondents from our May 2021 **Survey of Chinook Region churches** expressed a need for more support with beginning the process of becoming Affirming. Many respondents also expressed a concern that their Affirming process has stagnated due to the pandemic and the reduced ability to bring their congregation together.



To address this, we hosted an online event focused on how to begin or continue the Affirming process online.

Guest speakers included an experienced Affirming Ministries Coordinator from Affirm United, a minister from a church that became Affirming during the pandemic, and a young leader who co-chaired their Committee.

Hopeful Perseverance: A Year in Perspective, LIVE Conversation

December 2021

Affirming Connections and the Urban Indigenous Circle presented a conversation with special guests to reflect on the year behind us and welcome the year ahead with hope and renewed energy!

Special guests:

- Dieulita Datus, co-founder of Ubuntu – Mobilizing Central Alberta
- Rev. Jacob Van Pernis, Associate Minister at Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary
- Dr. Kris Wells, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) for the Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth at MacEwan University



AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS *continued*

Spirituals In Story and Song

February 2022



This past Black History Month, we joined filmmaker and historian Cheryl Foggo and her daughter, musician Miranda Martini, for a mixture of learning, conversation and music, as they reflect on the rich history of spirituals—from the Underground Railroad, to the Civil Rights Movement, to their important role in Foggo and Martini's own lives.

Queer Virtue, an evening with Rev. Liz Edman

February 2022

LGBTQ2S+ people are a gift to the church and have the potential to revitalize our faith and faith communities.

As part of the lead up to National Affirming PIE Day, Affirming Connections and Affirm United hosted a special one-night-only event where we chatted with Rev. Edman, author of the book "Queer Virtue." She gave us some key insights on what she has discovered in her work and how the elements of "queer virtue" can challenge us to rupture false binaries, to "queer" lines that pit people against one another.



Everyone Gets A Slice! Affirming Panel

March 2022

Looking at the LGBTQIA2S+ acronym, which represents an endless diversity of identities and expressions, we acknowledge that some of the people who are represented by these letters often tend to get left out or underserved.

AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS *continued*

Our guest panelists shared their stories and expertise, inviting us to consider which folks we may not have included in our Affirming programming and educational efforts. We featured:

- Jamie Arpin-Ricci, author, activist, and pastoral leader at Little Flowers Community
- Dieulita Datus, community organizer and co-founder of Ubuntu – Mobilizing Central Alberta
- Chris Cochrane, Trans activist, educator, public speaker, Support Service Educator for The Youth Project, and Vice Chair of Halifax Pride
- Rev. Andrea Brennan, Priest at Christ Church and Minister at Knox United Church, Fernie, BC



National Affirming/PIE Day 2022

March 14, 2022

This year was the fourth annual PIE Day! Every year we curate new worship service templates, host resources and marketing materials on our website, promote nationwide PIE Events, share our PIE videos including the new video from Rev. Richard Bott, and much more!

Across the country we witnessed folks celebrating with PIE themed services, pie fundraisers, pizza and games nights, educational Zooms, open mics, book

clubs, and more! Thank you for working to make your community more Publicly, Intentionally, and Explicitly Affirming!

AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS *continued*

Affirming Leaders Day - May 14, 2022

As Spring approaches, new possibilities start to emerge. This year for our LGBTQ2S+ and Allied Professional Development event, we bring you four amazing sessions that will invite you into new ways to lead and to create change, both in your own life and in your community.

Featuring:

- A keynote from Kai Cheng Thom, MSW, MSc, QMed, an author, performer, somatic coach, and mediator
- A workshop and performance with J Mase III, a Black/Trans/queer poet & educator based in Seattle by way of Philly
- A workshop with Heather McCain, founder and Executive Director of Creating Accessible Neighbourhoods



Programs + Projects



Mentorship + One-on-One Consults

In addition to programming events and creating resources to help support churches on Affirming issues, Affirming Connections also provides more tailored advice as needed through one-on-one consultations over email, Zoom and phone. This includes mentorship for churches as well as support and resource connection for family, loved ones, or individuals struggling with personal faith and/or LGBTQ2S+ issues.

This need was more pronounced in 2021, as in-person support networks continued to shrink, leaving many queer folks and allies feeling more alone, especially in more isolated areas. The need for this customized approach has increased with faith communities, clergy, and lay leaders as well, as many are struggling to define what their own Affirming status and journey can be, among tumultuous global events and competing priorities in the life and work of their church.

AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS *continued*

Chinook Winds Region Affirming survey

May 1-31 2021

In order to learn more about the churches in the Chinook Winds Region and how best Affirming Connections could support them, we ran a survey of the region throughout May of 2021. The survey had 62 respondents (33 from within Calgary, 29 from outside of Calgary), and the information we gleaned from the responses has been enormously useful in planning our 2021 projects. We continue to use these insights as we plan and prioritize our 2022 initiatives.



"Small Town, Big Impact" Affirming Video Series

September 2021 - present

During the summer we analyzed the data from our Chinook Winds Affirming survey and used it as a guideline for our next production. Based on the most requested information and the demographics asking for that information, we are developing a video series of "how-to's" for the Affirming process, with an emphasis on how to begin approaching the subject and what this can look like for **smaller or more isolated communities**.

Our hope is that this series **will fill in some major gaps that have been leaving many cities out of the conversation around Affirming efforts**. A one-size-fits-all solution does not exist and unfortunately, more highly populated and visible communities often get the most attention. It's increasingly clear that a more targeted approach to the unique challenges faced in smaller cities in the Chinook Winds Region is required and we want to be a part of meeting that need. No community needs to feel alone on this journey.

The series will be released later this Spring!

AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS *continued*

Conversion 'Therapy' Is Now Banned In Canada!

As of January 8, 2022, it is now officially ILLEGAL to try to change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity, who they love, and how they express themselves. Across Canada conversion "therapy" is now considered what it has always been - CRIMINAL.

This was only possible because survivors have told their stories and advocates have never given up.

We are so appreciative of the people of faith and faith leaders who have spoken out and strongly condemned conversion "therapy" as harmful, deadly, and not theologically sound. And those who have sent letters, started petitions, spoken at your city council, and so many other ways you've advocated - it all mattered.

We know that it will take a diversity of strategies to eradicate these practices and the harmful theology that undergirds them. Watch for future events on how we can continue the momentum!

Why this matters:

Data from June 2021 shows that as many as one in ten (10%) gay, bi, trans, and queer men and Two-Spirit and non-binary people (GBT2Q) in Canada have experienced conversion practices. Of particular concern, the data shows that 67% experienced conversion "therapy" practices in religious/fait-based settings, and 72% started conversion "therapy" practices before the age of 20. These numbers further emphasize the urgent need for Affirming communities of faith to be loud and proud in their words and actions!

CONVERSION
"THERAPY"
BANNED IN CANADA!



affirming presents

Spiritual Podcast Club

Discover affirming spiritual podcasts and discuss them in a fun, supportive environment!

7:00-8:30 p.m.
October 21st, 28th
& November 4th

Free,
registration
required

featuring
QUEEROLOGY
hosted by Matthias Roberts

Spiritual Podcast Club

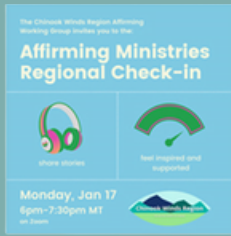
September - November 2021

We selected a different podcast each month, and curated a playlist of three must-listen episodes of that podcast. Participants were sent the link to one of the episodes each week, and the discussion group hosted by Affirming Connections gathered on Zoom to discuss each one, with the last meeting culminating in a live discussion with the podcast host.

We've now developed a template that will be "packaged" and released so that churches can

customize to their own community and host on their own!

AFFIRMING PROCESS WORKING GROUP



As the Chinook Winds Regional (CWR) Affirming Process Working Group, we present this report to our 2022 gathering. Since CWR voted to embark upon the Affirming Process for the Region in September, 2020, we have offered numerous opportunities where folks in the Region were invited to participate and engage. As we always say, it's important to remember that this process is for the work of the Region only and that individual congregations and faith communities are still invited to discern their own path surrounding if and when they embark on an Affirming process. Whether your faith community is interested in becoming Affirming or not, we still wanted all your voices to be heard. Thank you for participating and sharing over the last 19 months and although we had hoped this last year could be in-person, the pandemic just wouldn't allow it. But you engaged with us nonetheless and for that we are truly grateful.

We began this report with a collage of some of the events we hosted throughout our Affirming Process and we are proud to say that we've engaged in consultations with various people and groups throughout our work together. We set out to make every event meaningful to the participants and have you all experience transformation.

We acknowledge that both celebrating-and-lamenting-at-the-same-time applies to what many of us have been experiencing with the pandemic, but also with this Affirming Process of ours. On one hand, it's extremely exciting that we are exploring how to be more justice-filled on the Regional Level and we're open to hearing some hard stories and being challenged to see things in different ways. On the other hand, we are allowed to lament what/how we once were. We are going to be continually challenged by God to see what love really means. We are going to be invited to see through God's eyes and see and experience only love for others; for we will see God's light shining through every and all.

- An **Affirm Refresher** was hosted by Pam Rocker at the January 27, 2021 Town Hall which kick started our engagement with you all. Specific items the Working Group made sure were addressed in the months following include: seeking engagement from as many people who are interested with little or no extra work from Clergy who were already stretched thin; engagement from all ages, if possible; and a theological study on biblical passages historically misinterpreted as anti-Affirming.

AFFIRMING PROCESS WORKING GROUP

continued

2021 Lent Book study on *Queer Virtue* by Rev.

Liz Edman was a collaboration between Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions. For the working group and the planning team, there were many instances of transformation with the *Queer Virtue* Book and its themes. To look at the queer experience as something that the church and we, as Christians, SHOULD be striving for was transformative. This book study was so successful, that we opened up the learning to **youth and young adults for one night, live, with Liz Edman**. Over 40 young people were in attendance.

- **Austen Hartke, author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*** gave us a whirlwind tour of the clobber passages in the bible that are often used to shame and abuse
- **Special Q&A Town Hall with former moderator The Very Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson** sharing his personal stories and giving us the deep insight from a queer person's lens was outstanding.
- We also have the **opportunity to meet with four other Regions in Canada** to share their perspectives on going through or becoming an Affirming Region; what struggles and learnings have been experienced, sharing ideas on how to make sure people know our Region is Affirming, what might be some tools of continued engagement, and to spend some time discussing policies and where we need to consider changes.
- At the **2021 gathering**, we had break-out rooms where conversations could take place in a more intimate fashion. The feedback was to take another year before we vote on becoming an Affirming Ministry to allow for more of these types of conversations. So that's what we did.
- In January, 2022, we had **an event for folks from Affirming Congregations to come together** and share their laments at what could not be done and their celebrations at all that were accomplished. No matter where you are on your journey, it is all good.

- Our final event was an **Ask Anything Night** at the end of March where we set up break-out rooms where folks could filter in and out of with their questions.

Our biggest regret was that Gloria Snow was unable to continue on the committee and we were not able to explore how the Region can better engage with the Indigenous communities in the depth that we had hoped. If CWR votes in favour of becoming an Affirming Ministry, we look forward to that being a priority with the new Affirming Working Group which will continue the work we began.

During this Chinook Winds Region's Affirming Process Journey, we have been reminded again and again that transformation happens through the most unexpected of places and experiences. Our transformation happens because God plants seeds of hope in our hearts. In Jesus, we have the ultimate role model on how to lead people through transformation. The unpredictable Spirit keeps us on our toes while we dive into what church should represent and how we can become transformative agents to those we serve when we embark upon tough and needed justice issues like anti-racism, reconciliation, and affirming. It's hard work, but our faith demands it and we are called to make transformation a part of our living and our giving.

And here we are; ready for the vote on whether to become an Affirming Ministry within Chinook Winds Regional. Work has been done, and continues to be done, on the Region's policies that simply need updating as well as new policies that need to be created. Some feedback we've received that should continue to be considered going forward include:

- How to continue having an Affirming Working Group going forward who will consider conversations / dialogue / engagement / Affirming Commitment as part of their ongoing work.
- How the Region can better engage with the Indigenous communities?
- What might be the Region's responsibility in responding then mediating disputes relating to Affirming issues at the congregational level?

AFFIRMING PROCESS WORKING GROUP

continued

- People need support beyond their congregation so Affirming concerns should be raised with M&P, and, if declared not safe, then with the CWR Pastoral Relations Group. Any guidelines and resources need to be included in M&P material.
- Include a policy around safe space and ensuring safe space with all planning of events in partnership with other inter-faith communities and organizations.
- How would one know they are in an Affirming Region if no one told them?
- How would it impact the life and work of the Regional Council, Regional Events, Regional Staff, and Regional Committee work?
- Provide an anonymous survey to queer folks in the Region to ask them what they would want to see in an Affirming Region.

On behalf of the Chinook Winds Affirming Working Group, we thank you all for your dedication to this process, your engagement in the conversations, and your willingness to be on this important journey together.

As our final piece of work, we move that the current CWR Affirming Process Working Group be disbanded, and a new Affirming Work be created to continue this important work.

Respectfully Submitted by the CWR Affirming Process Working Group:

Rev. Tracy Robertson

Bill Moore

Rev. Darren Liepold

Lawrence Hrycan

Evangeline Robertson

Keith Murray

Dieulita Datus

Pam Rocker from Affirming Connections

Chris Mah-Poy as Chinook Winds Regional Council staff



BEING GOOD RELATIONS NETWORK

Being Good Relations Network (BGRN) 2021

Submitted by Sharon Woodhouse and Mary Shearer

Our purpose:

- share what is happening In Right Relations in our churches and regions:
- share current information on Indigenous activities and social justice issues,
- share information online with our Facebook page (see more below),
- organize and/or support planned UC happenings with an Indigenous focus and
- encourage any United Church or person to join our network (see more below).

Who are we?

The Being Good Relations Network was formed shortly after the United Church governance structure changed. It is open to any United Church or person that wishes to join. The network spans both Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regions and presently 10 churches are involved. Julie Graham, Justice Lead for Living Skies Region and Prairie to Pines Region enriches our meetings with information from these two regions.

Work in 2020

This past year under the the leadership of Cecile Fausak, we have managed to have a virtual meeting every 8 weeks. We try to keep up to date on members' activities in their church and offer support and a listening ear for these ongoing activities.

In 2020 a deeply flawed New Education Curriculum for K to 6 was released by the Alberta Ministry of Education. School Boards, teachers and citizens who had an interest in Reconciliation rejected the Indigenous component of the Social Studies the curriculum . Our BGRN encouraged members of their congregations to do a letter writing campaign to their local MP's and to Adriana La Grange to explain why the new proposed curriculum was so wrong. The Social Studies Curriculum is now under review.



BGR has also discussed, and taken some action on the following:

- The Indigenous Child Welfare Class Action Suit sponsored by the Remembering the Children Society
- The discovery of unmarked graves at several old residential sites
- Supporting the Indigenous Gathering Place Society to obtain their own gathering place in Calgary
- Supporting an Ally Tool Kit being written by Chinook Winds. When completed this will give churches in both regions the ability to access many tools that will enhance their journey towards Reconciliation.
- Discussion has ensued as to how we can engage and support witnesses from congregations around Alberta. This discussion is still ongoing.

Our Facebook Page

BGRN Facebook page has current Indigenous information about the latest news, events, books, webinars, series, and actions that can be taken to continue on the path of Reconciliation. Tilly Meyer and Cecile Fausek monitor the Facebook page. Google - Being Good Relations Circle Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit

BAR HARBOUR CAMP



2021 was a COVID continuation. As with the rest of the world, we seemed to live in a whirlwind of changing rules and regulations to help keep the world and all of its people safe.

Changing group regulations meant that renters cancelled because they couldn't do their gathering safely. Some site improvement work was done to provide individual camp sites that we hope will help us supplement our income. We will be offering bookings for those sites early in 2022.

The water plant managed to freeze and pipes burst. While the cost was covered by Insurance it took an immense amount of time to fix.

We were able to pull together 2 weeks of Summer Camp. This was very last minute decision and not in our original plans at all. We are very grateful for those who came as staff for that short time and provided a great camp for 100 Campers. We were meticulous in following the Provincial Guidelines and certainly learned a lot through this experience.

We took advantage of some Government grants/loans to help us through this most trying time. Even though we didn't have renters or a large summer program, utilities etc. still have to be paid.

As we move toward 2022, we are planning for four weeks of Summer Camp and have already received bookings for group rentals. Dates for Summer Camps were released by the end of January.

Our Annual Meeting was held on February 7th. It was online — you can get information packages and your link to attend by emailing : info@barharbourcamp.com. A \$5 membership fee is required to vote: you can e-transfer to Paulette@barharbourcamp.com

Our Board is looking for new faces and voices to help us into this next season. If you are interested please join us for the Annual meeting... there will be some spaces that we need to fill.

Thank you for your continued support of our camp. We are proud to continue a tradition of faith-based laughter for children.

CANYON CHURCH CAMP

Submitted by Christina Whittmire

The CCC board of directors had another long year of waiting and meetings with Parks Canada. Parks Canada has now done an archeological survey of the camp area and we have sensitive areas that we will have work around when we rebuild. I don't believe this will impact our rebuild plan too much. However, before we can start construction, we need to get our license of occupation renewed by Parks Canada. They keep asking us to present them with more information, the latest of which is a full septic plan developed by an environmental engineer which is to be added to our proposal. Our old septic field no longer meets provincial regulations and needs to be replaced, as it is too close to the river.



We are limited in area for the placement of the new septic system because the river is so close to camp, and there is another stream on the East side of camp. In order for the septic plan to be created, there were test pits that were dug, and we required permits to do that work. All of these things take time. I am happy to say that we hired a fabulous engineer who put together an environmentally friendly system and is willing to work with Parks Canada on our behalf to get the permits in place and install the new system. We have added his report to our proposal for Parks and now wait for their approval to move ahead.

Meanwhile, we are working behind the scenes to keep the camp spirit alive. Our social media accounts have been active with "Remember when" photos and camp facts. We are always looking for items about camp to put on our Facebook and Instagram pages, so if you have something you would like to share, please send us an email or a message through Facebook.

If you are interested in staying "in the know" about camp, you are welcome to attend any of our board meetings which are held on Zoom, usually at 7 pm the first Tuesday of the month. You could even join the board if you wanted! You could also sign up as a church representative and get the inside scoop on all the happenings by email. If any of these are of interest to you, or you have any questions or would like to play a role in the camp rebuild, please contact us at campcanyon@gmail.com. You can also call our board chair, Christina Whittmire, directly at 403-328-9944.

We are looking forward to the year ahead with optimism and are very grateful for your continued support as we work towards re-opening and filling our camp with kids once again.



KASOTA EAST CAMP

Red Deer Presbytery Camps Society operating **Kasota East Camp (KEC)**

Kasota East Camp is a children's summer camp located on the beautiful shores of Sylvan Lake. We offer a dynamic camp program for all ages, and as well facilities for groups to use in the fall, winter, and spring. There is something for everyone at Kasota East Camp!

An ACA & UCC Accredited Camp: You can count on KEC to meet or exceed all industry standards for camper safety, quality programming, and facility management.



**ALBERTA CAMPING
ASSOCIATION**



Board: (as of AGM, January 20, 2022):

Shari Hanson	<i>Chair</i>
VACANT	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
VACANT / Kathy Broks acting	<i>Secretary</i>
Amity Sponholz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mandy Alcide	<i>Director (Personnel)</i>
Kathy Broks	<i>Director (Membership)</i>
VACANT	<i>Director (Property)</i>
Nancy Nourse	<i>Director at Large</i>
John Hull	<i>Director at Large</i>

KEC Management Team:

Megan Anderson	<i>Director of Summer Programs</i>
Angela Wymann-Richter	<i>Director of Camp Operations</i>

KEC CHAMPIONS: Representatives from congregations to support KEC's continued connection with founding congregations. We ask each Church Board in Central Alberta to appoint someone to this role to liaise fundraising, communication & community building around KEC.



2020-2021 remained painfully quiet with no summer camps for second summer. However, it was a year of exciting projects and site improvements at Kasota East Camp (KEC). In early spring, with continued uncertainty of overnight summer camps, we decided it was the right year for a project that would provide us a tangible goal centred on a summer of fundraising activities in 2021.

Project Pavilion: During a previous (2014) Visioning process, stakeholders identified a new covered kitchen space as one of KEC's 3-year goals to provide more programming and rental space in the absence of Smith Hall. After careful thought, the Board of Directors decided that 2021 was the right year.

Summer 2021 saw Phase 1 of this project, with our new outdoor Pavilion successfully erected. It is beautiful new outdoor program space. We all worked hard supporting this project through Bottle Drive Month, Inspiring 'Do It Yourself' Fundraiser Campaigns, Donor Tiles Campaign, Paddle for the Pavilion, and Snowball Week that engaged camp alumni. This provided our KEC community, supporters and volunteers opportunity to maintain connection to each other and camp, raise awareness of camp and collect funds in support of Project Pavilion.



Phase 2 of this project will improve the function of this space for summer camp programs and activities, as well as for renters. Once completed, this Pavilion will have seasonal running water and electricity, a central fireplace with venting, and roll-down shutters on the doors and windows. If successful with a grant to match funds raised, we hope to complete Phase 2 in 2022.

Other Site Improvements: Not having camps in session provided us a rare opportunity to complete such programming related site improvements. This coming summer we are so excited to test out our new Hammock Village and Archery Range Net Posts. Staff cabins were all painted and soffits and fascia repaired where needed.

KASOTA EAST CAMP *continued*

Paint and repairs also provided to older cabins. Vesper wood repairs, trees and brush cut and trimmed as required.

Youth Volunteer Squad (YVS): Because we were unable to operate camps, KEC offered this free summer leadership opportunity for youth. Each week over the summer, our 4 YVS recruits joined Megan online to learn about leadership, communication, and planning. Together they coordinated a YVS Leadership Retreat, the Tie-Dye T-Shirt Fundraiser, Paddle for the Pavilion, and a mini Camp Cleanup. All 4 recruits plan to apply as volunteer counselors!

Together, we all have the responsibility of stewarding the legacy and the future for offering summer camp programs based on the ethos of the United Church of Canada and teaching the radically inclusive love of Jesus. We still have much work ahead and we need a full Board to support the critical roles and goals we have set for ourselves. If you or anyone you know feels called to supporting camping ministry, there are opportunities to serve and help strengthen KEC!

Submitted by Shari Hanson (*Chair, Red Deer Presbytery Camps Society*)

[Register](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Donate](#)

Summer Phone: 403-887-5757 | **Rentals & Off Season:** 403-392-1423

Mail: Box 8951 Sylvan Lake, AB T4S 1S6

info@kasotaeastcamp.org



www.kasotaeastcamp.org



[kasotaeastcamp](https://www.facebook.com/kasotaeastcamp)



[@kasotaeastcamp](https://www.instagram.com/kasotaeastcamp)



KASOTA WEST CAMP



CAMP KASOTA WEST was closed for winter, spring, fall rentals and summer camps. Online programming was available during the summer but it was not as successful as the previous year. Most young people were already inundated with computer programming.

We did however have permission to have group rentals in the month of August. Every weekend was booked. It was so wonderful to have people of all ages enjoying our facilities and the lake.

In June we had a significant amount of damage when vandals broke into the dining hall and medical building. In the dining hall fire extinguishers were discharged all over the walls, ceiling, kitchen equipment and floors.

Outside damage to other building consisted of removal and damage to 26 window screens, broken windows and plates broken and knives and forks thrown on the roof of some buildings.

In the medical building where we store craft supplies for the winter, acrylic paint was smeared on the walls and floor and holes poked in the walls. It was a huge mess.

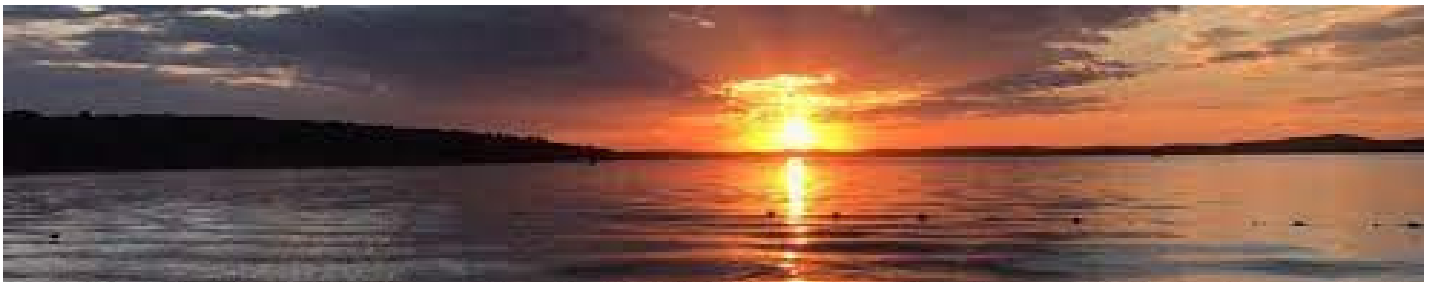
All is back in good shape thanks to the Insurance and Service Master Restore and their crew.

The beach and lake adjacent to the Camp was very popular and the camp was constantly vulnerable to trespassing. People using the beach and open areas as an off-leash dog park and not picking up after their dogs.

It became necessary to do something to secure the camp for youth and rental groups using the site.

In November we installed a 2-metre-high chain link fence, along the west and north boundary of the property. Along the lake front the fence includes, three gates, 1 - 6', 1 - 20' and 1 - 40', to provide access to the lake from the property. This would not be our first choice, to install a fence, however, the safety and security of the participants has to be considered.

We are very excited to be planning for camp and camper's, in person, for summer of 2022.





YYC Campus Ministry Annual Report 2021-2022

Hi there! We're YYC Campus Ministry!

We represent the United Church of Canada on the U of C, MRU and SAIT campuses, building open Christian community for post-secondary students in Chinook

Winds Region. We partner with the Lutheran Campus Ministry to equip a team of Young Adults to do outreach ministry with Young Adults.

Message from Chaplain Tim: Almost Normal!

The last two months of this semester (March - April 2022) were almost normal! We were hanging out in our multi-faith cribs* playing drums, feeding the hungry (that's everybody), waving the Pride Flag, talking our faces off and being the champions of progressive Christianity on Campus. We do outreach and when we're done we do some more outreach: over 1700 face-to-face contacts in the month of

September, until the pandemic caught up with us. YYC Campus Ministry is now a part of the First Third Ministry of Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Region. What a gift this change has been for us! First Third has brought administrative support, long-term strategy, resources, connection to the wider Church and alignment with Regional mission priorities. Things are good over here. *crib is Gen Z-speak for "home", ie.: home-on-campus.



From University Administration...

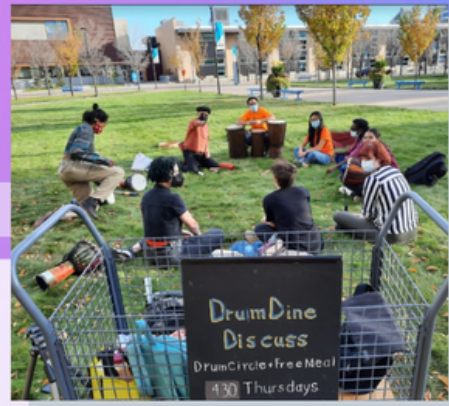
"The YYC Campus Ministry staff are a quintessential part of the campus community as they provide a radically inclusive space for all students to feel welcomed and loved. Students have been saying that their favourite part of the UCalgary Faith and Spirituality Centre is the baking, meals and positive, warm, hospitable presence provided by the YYCM staff."

- Sarah Ashton, Pluralistic Engagement Coordinator, Faith & Spirituality Centre, U of C

Programs

Drum Dine Discuss

Our most popular program! We host a weekly djembe drum circle where students learn basic rhythms. We love to do improvised drum jams! We then gather for a



delicious feast of fresh bread and homemade soup, and hold a conversation similar to a sharing circle. We enjoy learning about one another by discussing both serious and goofy topics! Our community is especially passionate about drumming, so we established a "drum troupe" this year. So far, we've performed for a Mount Royal University event, and for a Sunday church service!



Women's Circle

Women's Circle is a safe and sacred space for women and non-binary individuals to enjoy tea, a cozy atmosphere, and comforting conversations.



Holy Bakery and Soup Making

Cooking and dining together is an essential part of our ministry! To promote a sense of community and welcome students into the Faith and Spirituality Centre at the University of Calgary, our Community Connectors prepare fresh bread and scrumptious desserts for our weekly suppers. The soup is also made with love by our staff and volunteers from congregations.



Compassion Cultivation Training

Campus Ministry staff assist with and participate in this intensive mindfulness program. The eight-week certificate program focuses on compassion for oneself and the rest of the world.

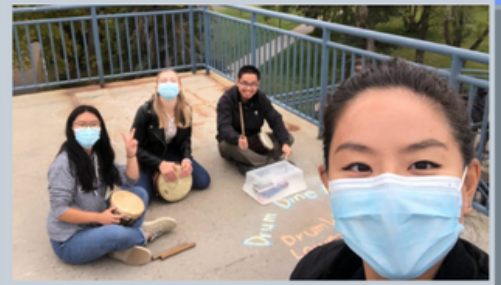
Dirty Theology

Dirty Theology is a chance for students to meet for theological reflection once every month. This program explores deeper meanings of faith, and sections of the Bible typically considered *challenging*, or *messy*. Dirty Theology is a partnership with St. Andrews' regional Youth and Young Adult ministry.

Highlights

Promotion

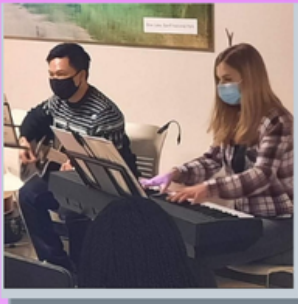
The best way to spread the word about our programs is to get creative! We've been busy inviting students through hand-drawn chalk signs, impromptu outdoor drum circles, and other "out-of-the-box" promotions.



Fundraising

The theme of this year's fundraiser, held on November 7th, was *Back to Life*. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have continued to develop the community of support around the Campus Ministry. And we raised \$25,000!

Worship



Though our main programs are geared towards multi-faith inclusivity, we endeavour to come from a place of love and hospitality in all that we do. This year, we have engaged with the Christian community through Evening Prayer services and participation in congregational worship.

Outdoor Activities

A large part of our ministry includes connecting with the outdoors! This year our activities included hiking, skating, a barbeque, and The Coldest Night of the Year - a walk to fundraise for homelessness.



From University Administration...

"Religion and 2SLGBTQIA++ identity historically have a fraught relationship and many students are highly skeptical of using any type of faith-based resources because of this. However, your staff have been change-makers on campus as their programming and presence have invited people in and created a space in which Queer youth can navigate both their religious and Queer identities. I am so grateful for all of the good work and leadership from the YYCCM team."

*- Sarah Ashton, Pluralistic Engagement Coordinator,
Faith & Spirituality Centre, U of C*



Notes From Our Team

Meet the Team!

Arguably the best student job you'll ever have! I love the baking, the music, and the amazing conversation.

- Maegan

I LOVE connecting with my peers and being part of conversations that you wouldn't find anywhere else on campus!

- Madi

I enjoy providing my fellow students with opportunities to make connections with others, a sense of belonging, and a fun time with drums. *Fun fact: I am very good at Tetris. On endless mode, I have maxed out the line counter.*

- Natalie

Jamming in the rhythms of drums, practicing hospitality with warm soup and bread, and listening to the amazing stories from one another is what I look forward to every week. It is a sincere pleasure to be a part of this vibrant, creative and supportive team!

- Herman

I love food and helping people. I enjoy working at Campus Ministry because in some way it is about helping people with food. *Fun fact: the only food I don't like at Campus Ministry is spicy soup.*

- Andrew

I love the cozy and welcoming work environment, our supervisors are supportive and encouraging. This work atmosphere allowed us to bring our unique talents to the team and students that we served.

- Jessica



Our Famous Bread Recipe

You too can make our famous fresh bread we eat with soup every Wednesday! Add 1 t salt, 2 T honey, 2 T molasses, 5 T oil, 2 C warm water, 3 C white flour, 2 C whole wheat flour, and 1 t yeast to a bread machine (in that order). Use the whole grain bread setting for a 3 lb. loaf, press start, and watch the magic happen!

Take Action to Support Your Campus Ministry!

You can help bring the United Church to Young Adults by becoming a donor. Cheques payable to: Chinook Winds. Please add note: YYC Campus Ministry

Chinook Winds
P.O. Box 98,
Okotoks AB T1S 1A4

 UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

FIRST THIRD MINISTRY

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 individuals in the First Third of Life to live Christlike lives of justice, hope and compassion in the world.

In 2021 Chinook Winds Regional Council began a partnership with Pacific Mountain Region to grow First Third Ministry in Central and Southern Alberta. In 2021 we concentrated our efforts on building relationships and resourcing Communities of Faith in Chinook Winds Region; 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 in Chinook Winds 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 Ralph Connor Memorial United Church (Canmore Young Adult Network-CYAN), St. Thomas United Church (Calgary), the Chinook Winds Camping Ministry Network, YYC Campus Ministry, Lethbridge Ecumenical Campus Ministry Partnership, Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry Partnership
- 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 Chinook Winds 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
- YYC Campus Ministry Connector Training August 2022
- Chinook Winds Children and Family Retreat 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. 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 Chinook Winds Region.

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

**CHINOOK WINDS &
PACIFIC MOUNTAIN
REGIONAL COUNCILS
IN PARTNERSHIP
TO SUPPORT
FIRST THIRD MINISTRY!**

FIRST THIRD MINISTRY *continued*



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



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?"



FIRST THIRD MINISTRY *continued*



Imagine Children's Retreat

- In June 2021 we were excited to have held an online interactive retreat for the Children (ages 7-12) of the Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils. We had the leadership of Chris Mah Poy (First Third Ministry Animator) and Lisa Penzo (St. Andrew's Regional Ministry) on our team to help plan and facilitate this wonderful time together. Our theme was the "Messy Middle" and together we had worship, sang songs, small group time, scavenger hunts, storytime, and much more. Over 25 children and their adults joined us for this awesome retreat. Each child also received an at-home package to help them to engage with the theme and time together.

Faith Quest Confirmation

- Partnered with the GoProject (see their website for more information: <https://thegoproject.ca>, we were able to offer an online Confirmation course and retreat for Youth from the Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils for Youth in the church. The curriculum was designed by the staff at the GoProject and Chris Mah Poy (Chinook Winds, First Third Ministry Animator) helped to facilitate this gathering and lead sessions with 15 youth looking to delve deeper into their faith journeys. It is the plan to offer another opportunity for Youth to engage in another Confirmation session and retreat for the year 2022-2023.

Outreach to Communities of Faith

- Weekly leader check-in meetings. Every week, congregational ministry leaders from both Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils gather to check in with one another and to help and share ministry resources. It is an integral gathering for these leaders to connect and share with one another.

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FAITH @ HOME RESOURCES



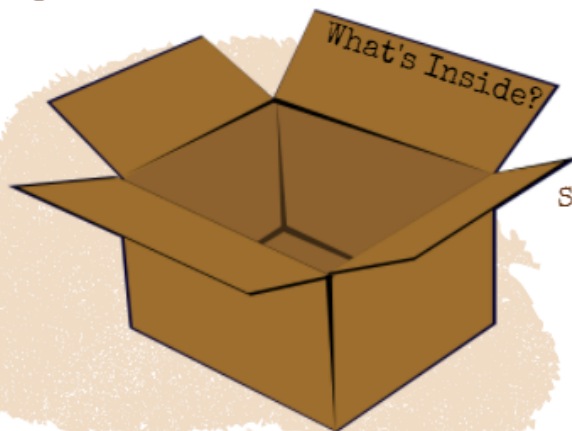
Faith@Home resources are provided each liturgical season to Communities of Faith to support their ministry with households in their community. Faith@Home packages contain magazines and a suggested supply list. Material kits are also available with supplies for some of the practices and activities.

In 2021, we provided...

- **Over 650 magazines + material kits** to 50 Communities of Faith, including 17 Communities in Chinook Winds Region
- **Over 250 magazines** to be distributed to families

Faith@Home kits include spiritual practices, crafts, games, and more to explore the themes and stories of the liturgical seasons.

30 communities ordered digital files to provide resources and activities tailored to their individual families.



Scan to check out our 2022 materials:



HOSPITAL MINISTRY *Submitted by Geoffrey Simmins*



By offering the gift of time and empathetic listening, hospital visitors provide a bridge between patients and their families and professional staff and can contribute significantly to a patient's well-being. Before the pandemic, Religious Community Visitors (RCVs) were valued and welcome members of the Alberta Health Services (AHS) team. The Alberta Health Services (AHS) Mission Statement is "To provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans." Volunteers are essential to help live out that Mission Statement.

As the AHS website reminds us, "Alberta Health Services has over 14,000 amazing volunteers who share a commitment to improving the quality of the patient and family experience. Volunteers are an integral part of the healthcare team, supporting and enhancing the work of our healthcare professionals.

"Our volunteers are engaged in meaningful activities and roles such as patient visitation, patient and family advisors, way finders, spiritual care, auxiliary members, pet visitation and much more. They come from diverse backgrounds but have one thing in common - a strong desire to make a positive impact on the lives and healthcare experiences of our patients, residents, clients and their families."

(<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services/page13213.aspx#visitor>)

National Volunteer Week for 2022 reminded us of the importance of volunteering in all sectors of Canadian society. Volunteering, they remind us, "Is Empathy In Action"; and "Volunteers Bring Heart To Canada's Communities." (<https://volunteer.ca/nvw>).

Since 2020, however, nearly all RCVs have been regretfully declined entrance to the hospitals. Only registered clergy were permitted to enter our acute-care hospitals, and even these in severely curtailed circumstances. Looking ahead, we still do not know when RCVs will be allowed into the acute-care sites for regular visits. This will depend on whether the Covid19 pandemic has been brought under effective control, and on whether and then how the system is set up to handle it to do what would be required to keep patients and staff safe according to the Medical Office of Health for our province.

Now, as we appear poised to emerge from the long shadow cast by pandemic, we appear nearly ready to welcome RCVs back into our Alberta Hospitals.

If you are interested in becoming a registered RCV, you will need to take an orientation program through Chinook Winds, and to register with AHS so that you can begin the application process. We are still determining when the next CWR orientation program will be offered, but in the meantime, any aspiring RCV is invited to go onto the AHS website and begin the application process.

General Information on AHS Volunteer Resources:
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page12616.aspx>

Calgary: Natalie Beaudet from Volunteer Resources (**Natalie Beaudet natalie.beaudet@ahs.ca**) will become your main contact and will guide you through the onboarding process. The link below will give you direct access to the application page.

MyImpactPage - Application Form - Alberta Health Services - Religious Community Visitors - Calgary Zone (betterimpact.com)

For other locations, the best bet is to contact the Volunteer Resources department. However, here below are links that people can use to register through the Better Impact System so that the Volunteer Coordinator in the appropriate region will reach out to them. The first one is for Red Deer and the second one is for the south zone, which includes Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Pincher Creek, and smaller communities adjacent to these centres.

Central Zone (Red Deer)

MyImpactPage - Application Form - Red Deer Regional Hospital Religious Community Visitors (betterimpact.com)

South Zone

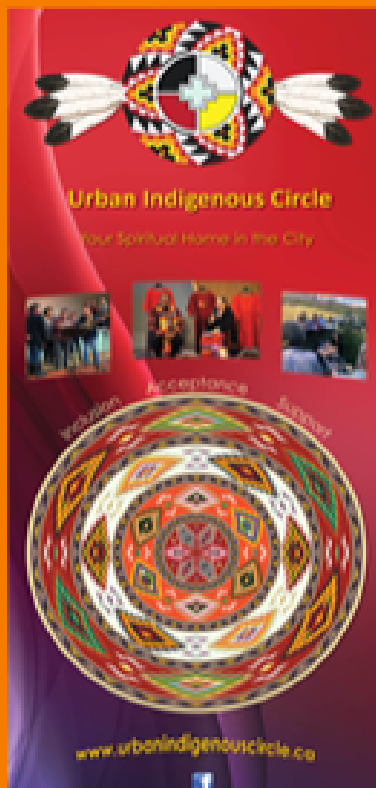
MyImpactPage - Alberta Health Services - Religious Community Visitors - South Zone (betterimpact.com)

Interested?

Please send me an email, a text, or a phone call if you are interested in becoming an RCV. It can be a much-appreciated volunteer activity. Both clergy and lay volunteers are encouraged as volunteers. We will let you know when we plan to offer the next program.

Phone/text: 403-708-3286, or toll-free at 1-833-762-0192
gsimmins@united-church.ca

Indigenous Ministries



Chinook Winds Indigenous Ministries focuses on outreach to Indigenous people, working with communities of faith as they respond to reconciliation, and working toward right relationship. In our third year of activity we have focused our liturgical calendar presentations to build greater awareness on issues of importance to the church (e.g. affirming/2-Spirit support, ecological impact, anti-racism and response to residential schools).



Key Priorities

UCC and
Regional Right
Relations

Regional Council

Reconciliation Programming

Indigenous
Pastoral
Relations

Community Outreach

Elders Circle

Youth Ministry

Intercultural and
Interfaith

Calgary Interfaith Council

CAOC

BIPOC Ministries

Ministry of
Reconciliation

UCC Committees

Regional Coordination

Chinook Winds Indigenous Ministry and Right Relations Projects 2021

Major Projects/Events				Stage
January	Jan 16 -	World indigenous Day	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Jan 25 -	Right Relations Circle	Story and Narrative	Complete
Feb	Feb 1-7	Interfaith Harmony Week	Interfaith Opening/Dialogue	Complete
	Feb 6 -	Living Interfaith Sanctuary	Indigenous Storytelling Month	Complete
	Feb 21 -	Intergenerational Healing	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Feb 23 -	Right Relations Circle	Spiritual Development	Complete
	Feb 24 -	Pink Shirt Day	Indigenous Anti-Bullying	Complete
March	Feb 17 - Mar 31	Lenten Study	Seven Sacred Teachings	Complete
	Mar 21 -	Anti-Racism Day	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Mar 23 -	Right Relations Circle	Vision Quest	Complete
April	April 4 -	Easter	Indigenous Service Video	Complete
	April 18 -	Earth Day Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	April 22-	Earth Day Workshop	Earth Day Seminars	Complete
	April 27 -	Right Relations Circle	Earth Day - Environmental Action	Complete
May	May 5 -	Red Dress Day	Community Memorial/Vigil	Complete
	May 16 -	Pentecost Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	May 23 -	Pentecost Service	Awaken Church	Complete
	May 25 -	Right Relations Workshop	Pentecost/Sundance Teachings	Complete
June	June	Indigenous History Month	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June	Clergy Awareness Session	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June	Virtual Blanket Exercise	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June	Women's Sharing Circle	Community Outreach	Complete
	June 21 -	Indigenous Day Service	Indigenous Sunday June 20 2021	Complete
	June 22-	Right Relations Circle	Calls to Action/Calls To The Church	Complete
July	July	Morley Ecumenical Conference	Interfaith and UCC Events	Cancelled
	VST	Summer School	July 5-16 2021	Complete
August	Aug 3-6	Banff Indian Days	Interfaith and UCC Dialogue	Complete
	Aug 8-	Waterton UC	World Indigenous Day Service	Complete
	Aug 9 -	World Indigenous Day	Global Partners	Complete
	Aug 22 -	Advent Lutheran Service	Reconciliation	Complete
	August	Banff Indian Days	Youth Cultural Camp	Complete
	August	Youth Summer Programs	Stay in School Instruction	Complete
September	Sept 8 -	60s Scoop Presentation	Becoming Nakuset	Complete
	Sept 19 -	Season of Creation	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Sept 19 -	Reconciliation Worship	Service and Sharing Circle	Complete
	Sept 22 -	Treaty Day	Treaty 7 Sharing Circle/Bethany Care	Complete
	Sept 28 -	Right Relations Workshop	Season of Creation	Complete
	Sept 30 -	Truth and Reconciliation Day	Ecumenical Clergy Panel/Regional Service	Complete
October	Oct 1 -	Land Acknowledgements	Calgary Christian Schools	Complete
	Oct 3 -	MMIWG2S+ Service	Memorial and Wellness Workshop	Complete
	Oct 4 -	Sisters in Spirit Day	Memorial/Vigil (Monday)	Complete
	Oct 4 -	UIC Service	Grief and Loss Workshop	Complete
	Oct 26 -	Right Relations Workshop	Memorial/Grief and Loss Workshop	Complete
November	Nov 21 -	Remembrance Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Nov 24 -	Right Relations Workshop	Remembrance	Complete
December	Nov 28 - Dec 19	Indigenous Advent Series	Medicine Wheel Teachings/Virtues	Complete
	Dec 24 -	Indigenous Christmas Eve	Xmas Eve Video	Complete
	Dec 26 -	Dakota 38 Service	Vigil	Complete

LeaderSHIFT

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
PACIFIC MOUNTAIN
CHINOOK WINDS

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

For a glimpse of what LeaderShift is up to please use this QR code to zip right to the LeaderShift website.



One LeaderShift event 'by the numbers'!

A CUP OF HOPE: WARMTH FOR THE SOUL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

January 31 – Feb 6, 2022

Sponsored by LeaderShift

7

Planning committee of northern clergy

multitude

Offered for all Chinook Winds and PMRC people

192

Number of people registered

14

Resource people

3

Resource leaders based in Chinook Winds

31

Number of hours of content

15

Number of recorded sessions

unlimited

Post event viewing hours for registered participants

uncountable

Volunteer committee hours!

7

Number of time zones present (guess which is the 7th?)

690

Messages sent during the event 690 private messages

12.31

Metric Tons of CO2e Carbon Saved from the Atmosphere from Leaders staying home

104

Estimated Regional Staff hours

\$2294

Base cost of Whova online conference platform for 6-day event

101

Plastic name tag holders saved from the landfill: because some of you would have reused!

LEADERSHIFT

CONTINUED

Our Commitments

We learn and promote learning.

We take time to apply learning within LeaderShift and promote opportunities to equip and transform leaders in PMRC and CW councils. We make mistakes. We are committed to growing and changing along with all leaders in our Regions.

We believe in the wisdom of diverse voices in leadership.

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

We remove barriers to participation.

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

We are rooted in the diversity of Theological identities.

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

We support transformation in leadership habits.

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

We work with partners.

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

What We Hear

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

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

"Is there a bursary I can apply to?"

"You should get _____ to lead something!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Thank You LeaderShift for all you are offering."



Bold Witness, Relentless Grace

Sarah Bessey

in-person conference

Nov 4 - 6 Hosted by Symons Valley UC

Sponsored by LeaderShift

Save the date and see you there!

<https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/bold-witness>

COF STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Another year of life in pandemic has gone by. The Community of Faith Strategy Working Group has done its best to serve the needs of the congregations of the region, throughout these days. We live in hope that we are emerging from times of challenge that COVID brought with it.

Continuing to serve on the Community of Faith Strategy Working Group this year are: Tammy Allan, chair; Shari Hanson, secretary; Richard Betts; Barbara Davison; Gary Koehler; Trevor Potter; and Tim Nethercott. Stewart Thomas joined the group in the fall of 2021.

We are also grateful for the staff support of: Joel Den Haan, Community of Faith Strategy Consultant; Treena Duncan, Executive Minister for Chinook Winds Region; Mauricio Araujo, Executive Assistant; Chris Mah Poy, First-Third Ministry Coordinator, Justice & Networks Support; Shelley Den Haan, Communications and Cluster Support, and Jes Beckerley, Administration Support.

The purpose of our work is:

1. To establish Regional policies and practices offering strategic support, collaboration, and mission planning resources for Communities of Faith;
2. Recommend high-level Mission Policies to the Regional Council Executive;
3. Establish Regional policy and practices as they relate to Communities of Faith relationships, property, and assets;
4. Receive and administer program funding proposals accessing Chinook Winds Region funds.

Under the umbrella of the Community of Faith Strategy Group is support of the United Church Camps in the Region – Kasota East Camp, and Camp Kasota West, both located on Sylvan Lake, Bar Harbour Camp on Buffalo Lake, and Canyon Camp in Waterton National Park. Canyon has not operated since the Kenow Fire severely damaged the site in 2017. They are working towards rebuilding, however being located in a national park comes with complexities.

The camps are all planning on operating with in person camps this year. After 2 years without that, there is great excitement – and caution- going forward.

This working group also lends support to the campus ministries in our region – in Calgary at the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, at the University of Lethbridge, and Lethbridge College, and Medicine Hat College.

In addition, the working group supports the administration of endowments in the areas of Youth and Young Adults ministry, Indigenous ministry, and the new David Ferguson Music Fund to support music ministry and education around the Region.

The working group supports other outreach ministries across the region, as well. There have been several clusters of congregations involved in discernment around clustering to share ministry personnel and other resources, and the Community of Faith Strategy Working Group has worked alongside the Pastoral Relationship Working Group to support those congregations.

We also continue to work in close connection with the Property Working Group. Together, we have initiated a coordinating team – the Communities of Faith Council, that will also facilitate service with communities of faith. After a second year of life in pandemic, we are grateful for the on-going resilience and strength of the communities of faith across Chinook Winds Region. Who could have imagined two years ago that we would still be living this reality in 2022? As our provincial government has moved to lift many of the restrictions that changed how we gather in community, we know that most of our communities of faith are proceeding cautiously to adapt to the 'newest normal.'

As Chair of the working group, I am grateful to the staff for their commitment and support, and to the communities of faith of the region, for your mission and ministry where you are.

In faith,

Tammy Allan

Chair, Communities of Faith Strategy Working Group

PROPERTY & NEW CHURCH DEV.COUNCIL

The Property and New Church Development Council (PNCDC) has been part of The United Church of Canada for 45 years. PNCD is a registered Society in the Province of Alberta.

Last year I reported to you about the history of PNCD beginning with Edmonton Presbytery through the new governance residing in Chinook Winds Regional Council. I outlined the Alberta Land Trust. This Land Trust is province-wide because it belongs to the province-wide Society. This year I refresh your memory of our purpose and outline our current activity and membership.

Purpose

PNCD energies, expertise, and intentions are available to make mission possible where resources or imagination are slim. The primary purpose of the PNCD is to enhance community. This ethic guides the work of PNCD, rather than property-rich or investment opportunities. Having said that, decisions made by PNCD are informed by solid real estate and financial wisdom. Christian principles of respect, compassion, possibility, hope, abundance, and joy are measures through which mission can be envisioned - and once reckoned, accomplished.

Current Activity

We have considered several projects since your last Annual Meeting. Churches have come to us for guidance, to consider redevelopment possibilities, wondering about selling, or to discern how to make their mission a viable reality. Sometimes those conversations become working relationships; in that regard, our mandate has been helpful for St. Andrew's in Cardston

with an affordable housing project, the redevelopment venture of 956 Radnor Avenue NE Calgary into rent-favourable housing with a revitalized community presence, and Living Spirit in Calgary which property is held by our Alberta Land Trust pending development of a plan for transfer.

We have fine-tuned our Procedural and Operational Practices and Guidelines, updating from our understandings in 2010. PNCD has evolved from simply a place to hold property and resources from the sale of property to a body that works with the Region to maximize resources to create effective ministries.

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance is now fully established. Our auditor is Peterson Walker LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

Members of PNCD met with Northern Spirit Regional Council Communities of Faith Committee and the United Church of Canada Foundation to focus their intentions and the investment of funds for mission that came from PNCD. You may recall that PNCD resources were divided between the Regions after the dissolution of Presbyteries and the establishment of Regional Councils. The Affirming Ministries based in Edmonton which was staffed with PNCD funds wrapped up in December.

Membership

All members of PNCD are Directors. We must have no more than nine nor fewer than three members, who must be members of The United Church of Canada or other persons admitted from time to time with approval of the governing body.

Members this year have been: **Richard Betts (Vice Chair), Katrina Foster (Secretary), Randy Round (Treasurer), Clare Irwin, Tony Robbins, John Rook, and I served as Chair. Jessica Karpat and Dean Salter** joined our membership in the autumn.

Members at the rise of our Annual Meeting on March 23 2022 are **Dean Salter (Chair), Richard Betts (Vice Chair), Katrina Foster (Secretary), Jessica Karpat, and Tony Robbins.** You will note we are seeking a Treasurer and that process is well underway.

Three people attend our meetings ex-officio and bring expertise to our daily work: **Joel Den Haan**, our Coordinating Consultant, **Sally-Anne Woolnough**, our bookkeeper, and **Treena Duncan**, CWRC Executive Minister. PNCD members are grateful for the skills and acumen these three bring by office and vocation. I wish to remind you from my last report that imagination and diligence have crafted PNCD as a useful, generative Society. Sustaining imagination and diligence requires vision. Joel has joined PNCD members in that vision through ten years of transformative development and we are grateful for both his wacky humour and his assiduous eye for detail.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Faith MacLean (Rev. Dr.)
Immediate Past Chair, PNCD



PROPERTY WORKING GROUP

The Chinook Winds Region Property Working Group have been very busy again this past year, working with Communities of Faith in our Region to navigate changes in Trustees, property sub divisions, requests to sell manses and church property, and guidance to help churches engage in planning for transition and redevelopment to enhance their mission and ministry.

Members of the Property Working Group are **Susan Brodrick (Chair), Mary Axworthy (Secretary), Mel Spence, Joyce Cook and Barrie Clayton (Clerk for Land Titles)**. We are also grateful for the leadership we receive from **Joel Den Haan** our Community of Faith Strategy Consultant, our Executive Minister **Treena Duncan**, and **Mauricio Araujo** the Executive Assistant. We meet every month on the 2nd Thursday, but also find that occasionally we need to call special meetings if the request is of a more urgent nature.

This past year (April 2021 – March 2022) we have helped the following Communities of Faith update their Trustees on their title; McDougall United Church Calgary, Gordon Memorial United Church Redcliff, Queenstown United Church Vulcan County, Stettler United Church, Olds United Church, Wildrose United Church Calgary, Airdrie United Church, Diamond Valley United Church Turner Valley, Southwood United Church Calgary, Gladys Ridge United Church Foothills County, and Fish Creek United Church Calgary (The newly amalgamation of DeerPark United Church and St. Andrew's United Church). In March we started the work on the update of trustees at St. Andrew's United Church in Bowden which is complicated and will take some time to complete.

We have worked with Scarboro United Church, Blackie United Church and Trinity United Church in Coronation to sell their manse. We also worked with Gordon Memorial United Church in Redcliff to do a subdivision on a parcel of the churches property to allow the new owner of the manse to pour a concrete driveway on the manse property. This was approved but ultimately it was not feasible for utilities alignment so the subdivision was cancelled.

The PWG also approved that Ralph Connor Memorial United Church in Canmore install solar panels on their church to save energy and carbon emissions.

Two Communities of Faith came to the PWG with requests to approve long term leases for their church, McDougall United Church Calgary and Olds United Church. These leases were approved, and through the discussion held by the group it was apparent that it would be beneficial for the Region to create a template for long term leases as well as a short guideline as to what the Community of Faith should ask themselves before going into the lease, such as does this tenant support the United Church of Canada approach on Intercultural, Anti-Racist, LCBTQ2+ ministries- in other words are all really welcome.

The majority of our other work has been helping Communities of Faith who are engaging in redevelopment projects to sustain their ministry in their current locations. Some of these projects are in the beginning stages and others further along. The redevelopment of Ogden United Church in Calgary is moving ahead in partnership with The Mustard Seed. Meanwhile Airdrie United Church is getting closer to having a redevelopment project,

Meanwhile Airdrie United Church is getting closer to having a redevelopment project, and St. Andrew's United Church in Cardston is also in the beginning stages of a redevelopment project.

The Airdrie and Cardston projects are taking place through the Alberta Land Trust, which was established in 2017 as a way for United Church communities of faith to expand options for ministry and use of property.

We are still working with Northminster United Church in Calgary, and Olds United Church on engaging in a redevelopment project in order to enhance their ministry. Other Communities of Faith that the Property Working Group have put time and energy on are Central United Church Calgary on a property sale, and Southwood United Church Calgary, who required approval for financing in order to do some major repairs and renovations. It was brought to our attention that Clive United Church in Clive had disbanded as a congregation prior to the new structure but had never sold their building, so we have approved the listing of the Clive United Church property for sale.

The PWG is also informed about current activity within the Property and New Church Development Council (PNCDC), which manages the Alberta Land Trust mentioned above. Two pieces of church property are held in Trust by PNCD, Renfrew United Church and Living Spirit United Church. We also approved some of the requests for the 2021 grants which were either capital in nature or from Communities of Faith with whom we are actively working on property matters.

PROPERTY WORKING GROUP *continued*

The Property Working Group are also looking at creating a couple of documents that may help Communities of Faith in investing their assets and a guide for churches facing building/property issues associated with shrinking membership, high maintenance costs and the potential for other ministry models.

As one can see we are a very busy Working Group, and I would like to thank the group for their dedication and commitment to this work.

We are looking for new members to join this team, if this type of work is something you are interested in please reach out myself, Sue Brodrick.

Yours in faith
Susan Brodrick,
Chair of the Property Working Group, Chinook Winds Regional Council

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)



Throughout the pandemic, our network of United Church Women: Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit have continually, within their UCW Units and Women's Groups, met the challenges and have 'carried on' fulfilling our Purpose – "To unite women of the Community of Faith for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

The UCW Units/Women's Groups throughout our Network have preserved through all the uncertainty and disruptions brought on by the pandemic over the last two years. Using the technology available to them, members became creative and innovative, arranging and organizing some of their normal activities and events virtually.

The virtual 'get-togethers' are an excellent way to keep members engaged and in touch with one another. During the last two years, all of our Executive meetings have also been held via Zoom. We are continuing to that this year as well - our AGM will be held this April 21/22nd .

We do miss 'in person fellowship' but basically 'make the best of it' by scheduling virtual 'chat/visiting time during some of our meetings. A number of our members will be attending the 60th Anniversary of UCW in Sydney, NS this July. It promises to be a week of interesting programs, workshops, music, fun and fellowship with women from all provinces.

Respectfully Submitted, Eleanore Tribe,
President Women of the United Church:
Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY



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 include: 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 relationships, 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. This 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 focussed 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

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 and 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**

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY

continued

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.

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 the 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

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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. students

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 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 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.

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

continued

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>



CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Dear Friends: On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring. It is my hope and prayer that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. As Interim Principal, I write to share news of various aspects of life at Emmanuel College.

The search process for Emmanuel's new Principal is in its final stages. My term will close at the end of June and the College's new Principal will begin July 1, 2022.

2021-22 has been our second full academic year offered through pandemic-related remote delivery. After a brief taste of in-person gatherings and community life at the beautiful Victoria University campus in fall 2021, we had high hopes of returning to in-person learning this past January. Regrettably, due to the rise of the Omicron variant we were forced to remain online for the winter term and will have our summer course offerings online as well. Emmanuel staff and faculty have adapted well and continued to offer excellent pedagogical, community & spiritual life & student service experiences throughout the pandemic in this online format. We are exploring ways to incorporate the best of the online experience as we move forward into predominately in-person experiences in fall 2022.

Emmanuel College's accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools has been renewed for another 10 years. Emmanuel received a very positive report from the ATS, commending us on the hard work of interreligious theological education in a triply-embedded school. Emmanuel College is blessed and challenged by the three significant relationships we share with Victoria University, Toronto School of Theology, and University of Toronto. These relationships made the re-accreditation process particularly arduous, but under the fine leadership of Nevin Reda, it was successful and we were well prepared for the ATS Team visit in September.

They were very impressed with our self-study and complimented those responsible for it. In doing this work at Emmanuel College, we have become aware of areas where we need to make changes. We think these changes will strengthen the College and enhance its work as an educational institution preparing individuals for various forms of ministry and service.

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students. Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. programme and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada's candidacy pathway process. All incoming domestic full-time students are eligible for our Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first year courses. The application deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programmes, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison (emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca)

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online. These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and its Contexts. This past academic year featured The "Things They Didn't Teach Me in Seminary" Seminar Series, which was developed to bridge the gap between academy and church. M.Div. students could take this series for credit, while engaging with continuing education participants who were ministers in the field. The Centre will host its second Annual symposium entitled "Re-thinking Preaching,"

in April. It will also host the third annual "Christian Left Conference" with a focus on Creation, Land and Indigeneity in August.

A list of upcoming offerings are found on the Emmanuel College web site at <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/> For further information about these events and about applying, please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

Please follow us on social media: Facebook: @EmmanuelCollegeofVic
Twitter: @EmmanuelColleg2
Instagram: @emmanuelcollegetoronto
Youtube: @EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Yours sincerely,
Rev. Dr. John H. Young, Interim Principal



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE

Submitted by Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

The *Leadership in the World* (LW) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for professionals, community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and social justice activists/advocates working for a better world. The LW Certificate program supports lifelong learners to explore their sense of vocation or "calling" and deepen their leadership skills, while assessing and documenting their development through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.

- The Spiritual Exploration (SE) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for all who identify as "spiritual but not religious" or spiritually curious/adventurous. The SE Certificate program supports lifelong learners to delve into a wide range of worldview conversations and spiritual practices, while assessing and documenting their exploration and growth through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.

There is indeed much to celebrate at St. Andrew's! The College is relying heavily on our Strategic Plan. Though the timelines have been accelerated by the pressures of the past year, we are intentionally pursuing a course upon which Spirit has invited us. To that end, we are happy to provide the Regional Council (and its Communities of Faith) opportunities to support the vital work which we do. Here are several concrete development programs we would like you to consider and share widely: The 2021 #NoGalaGala

Last year's event featured our previous Registrar, Greg Torwalt. Greg is a successful recording artist and founding member of the band Too Soon Monsoon.

This concert is still available online for exclusive viewing by ticketholders, and contains music, conversation, and guest appearances that include student reflections and an introductory meditation with our Pastor in Residence, Janet Clarke.

Stay tuned for news about the 2022 #NoGalaGala, which will feature the art and music of one of the College's most recent Honorary Doctorate recipients, Brenda Baker. Recording for the September 9th premiere will begin this summer

Companions of the College

This initiative builds upon the College's ongoing commitment to develop deeper relationships with supporters and friends. College Companions are those who have committed to support the college, on an annual basis, at one of two initial tiers:

1. Cypress: \$500/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 10% annually; and,
2. Tamarack: \$1 000/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 5% annually.

This initiative invites new donors to give at these levels; existing supporters, at either of these two-tier levels, are invited to commit to the annual increase. Each tier will have access to ongoing new digital content, which the College has and will continue to create:

- Cypress: This donor level will have access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library. This resource allows individuals and faith communities to download and/or stream full worship services developed by members of St. Andrew's. Currently there are 6 worship services, which range from thematic to stand-alone.

The college will be adding at least 2-3-year new worship experiences per year; and,

- Tamarack: At this donor tier, supporters will receive access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library and exclusive access to all previous and future #NoGalaGala events. Currently the college has hosted two online premieres and intends to have 1-2-year.

If you or your faith community want to know more about this exciting initiative and the digital resources which accompany the tiers, please contact Melanie Schwanbeck, College Secretary, melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

College Sunday Digital Library
St. Andrew's College has a long tradition of visiting communities of faith, large and small, to bring greetings, share the Gospel, and strengthen our bonds with the wider church. The covid era has invited us to consider innovative ways to continue that tradition, and so we are pleased to offer our new College Sunday digital resources. These include a growing digital library of full worship services, including sermons, hymns, liturgical notes, and conversation-starter questions. Current themes include leadership, stewardship, compassion, vocation, humility, and much more. For more information, contact Melanie Schwanbeck at the College office: melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

Classroom Enhancement Initiative
As the college prepares for renewal over the coming years, we are also continuing to update our classrooms to offer hybrid learning. This will allow students to learn together whether onsite or remotely. Please consider giving to the College's Second Century Fund.

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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. Presbyterians 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.



VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

continued

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.

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 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.

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

continued

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 Gale, 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 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 the 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 YouTube 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 on 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>

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

continued

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