

# At The Crossroads

Chinook Winds 5th Annual General Meeting

**Fifth Avenue Memorial Church**  
**Medicine Hat, Alberta**



## AGENDA AND REPORTS





# AT THE CROSSROADS

WHAT'S INSIDE

CHINOOK WINDS  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



06

MEET CAMERON  
TRIMBLE



07

GENERAL  
COUNCIL GUEST



08

REVOLVE MUSIC TEAM



09

WEEKEND  
LINEUP



11

ACKNOWLEDGING  
TERRITORY



12

MESSAGES



13

PRESIDING  
OFFICER



15

EXECUTIVE  
MINISTER



18

REGIONAL  
MINISTER



19

OFFICE OF  
VOCATION



21

CELEBRATIONS



22

ORDINAND: JJ  
SORIANO

AT THE CROSSROADS - MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA



# AT THE CROSSROADS

CHINOOK WINDS  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



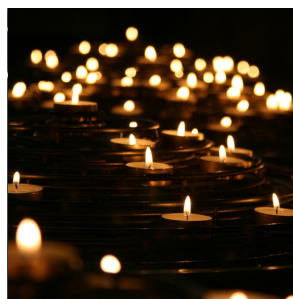
23

CHINOOK WINDS  
RETIREE



24

ANNIVERSARIES



25

IN MEMORIAM



31

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE  
MEMBERS



32

STAFF



33

BUSINESS



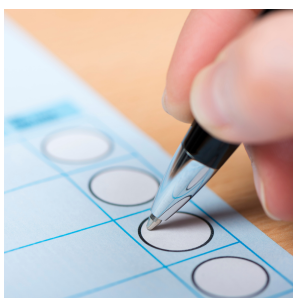
34

PROPOSAL  
OVERVIEW



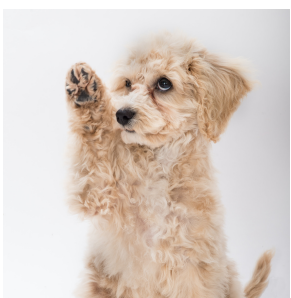
38

REMIT #1



42

EXECUTIVE  
NOMINATIONS



44

BUSINESS COMM.  
NOMINATIONS



46

BUSINESS  
GUIDELINES



48

FINANCES

AT THE CROSSROADS - MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA



# AT THE CROSSROADS

CHINOOK WINDS  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL

*Called to  
Be the Church*  
THE JOURNEY

52

STEWARDSHIP



53

GRANTS



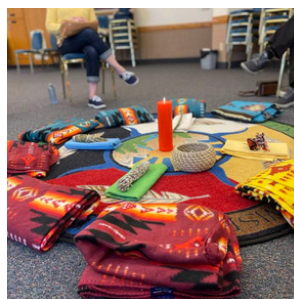
54

FROM THE ARCHIVES



55

AFFIRMING  
CONNECTIONS



61

BEING GOOD  
RELATIONS



64

BAR HARBOUR  
CAMP



65

CANYON CHURCH  
CAMP



66

KASOTA EAST CAMP



68

KASOTA WEST  
CAMP



69

YYC CAMPUS  
MINISTRY



73

FIRST 3RD  
MINISTRY



75

YOUTH COUNCIL

AT THE CROSSROADS - MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA



# AT THE CROSSROADS

CHINOOK WINDS  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



79

FAITH @ HOME  
MAGAZINE



80

HOSPITAL  
MINISTRY



81

INDIGENOUS MINISTRY



83

LEADERSHIFT



86

PROPERTY + NEW  
CHURCH DEV.



87

PROPERTY WORKING  
GROUP



89

UNITED CHURCH  
WOMEN



90

RETIREE MINISTRY



91

WESTERN  
INTERCULTURAL  
MINISTRY



93

EDUCATIONAL  
CENTRES



103

REGIONAL  
SNAPSHOTS



104

WOULD YOU RATHER:  
COOL UNITED CHURCH  
JOBS

AT THE CROSSROADS - MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA



# AT THE CROSSROADS

## WELCOME

### INTRODUCING CAMERON TRIMBLE



/6

Rev. Cameron Trimble is the Executive Director and CEO of Convergence (formerly the Center for Progressive Renewal), an organization that supports the reshaping of congregations and leaders engaged in an age of movement from “organized religion” to “organizing religion” driven by the values of an inclusive, progressive theological vision for a more just world for all. She began her ministry as a new church developer and, to pay for her “ministry habit”, also owns a real estate company and a software company.

Before starting the Convergence, she served as an advisor to the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team of Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ and as Associate Conference Minister of Church Development in the Southeast Conference of the UCC. She has worked with many denominational bodies as they set up systems for church development, and she coaches pastors in the UCC, Episcopal, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), ELCA, United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, and Presbyterian (USA) churches.

Rev. Trimble has served an adjunct professor teaching church planting/renewal and leadership with the Pacific School of Religion, Brite Divinity School, Auburn Seminary and Chicago Theological Seminary. She co-authored the book “Liberating Hope” and most recently published “**Piloting Church: Helping Your Congregation Take Flight**” in 2019 and **60 Days of Faith** in 2020.

One of the great honors of her life is serving as the board chair of an organization called Stop the Traffik, focused on putting an end to human trafficking around the world through the use of intelligence-led prevention. STT works in partnership with IBM, Homeland Security, MI5, Facebook, Twitter, Wells Fargo, the Financial Times and many others to develop the tools to identify human trafficking networks and disrupt them.

When she is not working, she will be found piloting airplanes with passengers who love to see this wonderful, wild world from the sky.

To read more about Cameron [visit her website](#)





# AT THE CROSSROADS

/7

## CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SERVICE - GUEST PREACHER

INTRODUCING REV. DR. JAPHET NDHLOVU



Born in Zambia and educated in Zambia, Ireland and South Africa, Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu now resides in Toronto, Canada and serves as Executive Minister for the Church in Mission Unit for The United Church of Canada.

Japhet previously served as an Ordained Minister for the Epworth Pastoral Charge in Newfoundland. He also served as General Secretary for the Council of Churches in Zambia, Executive staff at the All Africa Conference of Churches based in Nairobi, Senior lecturer and Head of Theology Department at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, National Moderator of the Reformed Church in Zambia among other senior managerial positions.

He holds a PhD in Practical theology from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.

Japhet's personal vision is to be a transformative agent and a facilitator by building bridges that liberate and unite voices of sacred defiance. While transforming history, he seeks to share his Christian faith by actively getting engaged in transforming history and working to end oppression by instigating, inspiring, and participating in acts of justice. He believes in life before death.

## "AT THE CROSSROADS" LOGO

FROM REV. MIYEON KIM

The logo for the 2023 Chinook Winds Annual Gathering represents the diverse crossroads which we face together at this moment. The orange line represents the road toward reconciliation between the Indigenous and settler church, and our commitment to becoming an Intercultural denomination. The yellow line represents the Intergenerational crossroad. The green line represents the environmental crossroad in the midst of the climate crisis. Finally, the rainbow line with chevron represents the crossroad of living into being a Two Spirit & LGBTQIA+ affirming Regional Council.

Our diversity brings vigor and health to the church, and we find our unity in Jesus Christ. In our time together, we will encourage one another in the bond of love that is the Holy Spirit.





# AT THE CROSSROADS

## WELCOME

MEET CHRISTOPHER, GORD AND JOSH

rEvolve" means to "re-evolve." Evolution in terms of life energy being re-created, evolving out of the old and becoming new. It means to build on and evolve the work of those who came before us, those who have inspired us, educated us and whose "shoulders we stand upon." rEvolve also suggests the word "revolution" which may be taken as the development of a centre of gravity around which to orbit. A focal point where we define, clarify and co-create our life paths.

Josh on bass and vocals  
Gord on drums and vocals  
Chris on guitar and vocals



# AT THE CROSSROADS

/9

THURSDAY MAY 4TH, 2023

TIME	THURSDAY MAY 4
1:00	Registration Opens <i>Look for the welcome table to check in!</i>
1:30	New Regional Representative Orientation (30 mins) <i>Time for New Regional reps to learn about how the Regional Council functions and organizes itself in preparation for the General Meeting</i>
2:30	Opening Singing & Gathering <i>Time to gather our voices and sing!</i>
3:00	Session Starts
3:30	Opening Worship
4:15	Introduction to business, agenda review Introduction of guests Orientation to Business, holy manners, constituting the meeting
5:00 5:15	In Memoriam Video Dinner (Provided - cluster groups)
6:30 7:30	Gathering Music and Theme with ReVolve and Cameron Trimble: <i>"The Problem with Planning."</i> ReVolve Coffee House (One hour)



## NOTES

RED DRESS DAY, ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE, IS OBSERVED ON MAY 5TH. RED DRESS DAY HONOURS THE MEMORIES OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS ACROSS CANADA. MÉTIS ARTIST JAIME BLACK HELPED INSPIRE THE RED DRESS MOVEMENT, WHERE RED DRESSES ARE HUNG FROM WINDOWS AND TREES TO REPRESENT THE PAIN AND LOSS FELT BY LOVED ONES AND SURVIVORS. IF YOU BROUGHT ANYTHING RED WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WEAR IT TOMORROW.



# AT THE CROSSROADS

/10

FRIDAY MAY 5TH, 2023

TIME	FRIDAY MAY 5TH
9:00 9:10 9:15	Opening Music and Announcements Land Acknowledgment Worship
9:45 10:00	General Council guest - Japhet Ndhlovu Review of Governance model Business - Listening Phase - Remit #1
10:45	Theme with Cameron Trimble: "The Art of Being Lost" Bookstore Announcements before 1 (Choir Practice)
1:30 2:00	Red Dress Day Observance Music Regional Staff Introductions
2:35 2:45 3:15	Presentation on Safe Churches Business Break - 15 mins
3:30 3:30 4:00	Gathering with Music Property Discussion Group Discussion
5:10 5:30	Announcements & Grace Dinner (Folks can gather and eat in network groups for those who wish to gather)
6:30 - 8:00 PM	Affirming Celebration

## NOTES

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SING IN A CHOIR? DO YOU ALREADY SING IN A CHOIR? COME ON DOWN TO CHOIR PRACTICE ON BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, FROM 12:45-1:30PM. THIS CHOIR WILL SING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY ALONGSIDE EVERYONE ELSE. IT IS GOING TO BE GREAT!



SATURDAY MAY 6TH, 2023

TIME	SATURDAY MAY 6TH
9:00 9:10 9:15	Opening Music and Announcements Land Acknowledgment Worship
9:45	The Work of the Region: <i>Executive update – Regional Priorities, Annual Vision for Ministry Other Ministry Updates, First Third, Archives, College updates</i>
11:00 11:40 12:00	Remebering the Children John Egger - co-worker in mission Report from General Council 44Commissioners
12:15 1:30	Lunch (Choir Practice) Gathering with Music, Theme: “Navigating Change” (1 hour, 15 minutes)
2:45 3:15	Office of Vocation Presentation and Introduction of Candidates with Rev. Brenda Fawkes Break
3:30 3:45	Stewardship Nominations, Business – Decision Phase – Remit #1, any received proposals Closing Motions & Acknowledgements
4:30 5:15 7:00	Closing worship Supper – Honouring of Retirees Rehearsal Celebration of Ministry (Presiders, candidates, retirees)

## NOTES



THE CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SERVICE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED FROM CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCILS  
YOUTUBE PAGE!!!

DID YOU KNOW WE HAD ONE? HEAD ON OVER TO:  
[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@CHINOOKWINDSREGIONTHEUNITE8192](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@CHINOOKWINDSREGIONTHEUNITE8192) OR CLICK [HERE](#)  
BOOKMARK THE PAGE AND SUBSCRIBE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH ON  
SUNDAY MORNING!



# AT THE CROSSROADS

/12

## TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



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.***







# MESSAGES

**PRESIDING OFFICER**

REV. JOANNE ANQUIST

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

TREENA DUNCAN

**REGIONAL MINISTER**

REV. DR. KAREN MEDLAND

**OFFICE OF VOCATION**

REV. BRENDA FAWKES



## PRESIDING OFFICER REV. JOANNE ANQUIST



Welcome all to the Chinook Winds Region Annual Gathering.

Some of you may remember that we asked the group gathered last year in Red Deer whether we should have meetings in person, or do them digitally. The overwhelming consensus was that the gifts of being together outweighed the expense, and that we should gather together in person.

There is no substitute for sitting at a table and sharing a meal, or engaging in deep conversations about the church, or sharing ideas that might just make a difference. On the other hand, the option for Zooming in has made it possible for many more to engage with us and we are grateful to the technology that allows this adaptation. Thanks to Fifth Avenue Memorial for hosting us here in Medicine Hat. I trust through this Conference you will deepen relations with the Staff and Leadership of the Region, as well as other Communities of Faith in Chinook Winds.

This is my first year as the Presiding Officer of Chinook Winds, having been elected on September 22, 2022. I have to say when I said “yes” I had no idea what I was in for. For example, it never occurred to me that I was the Chair of the planning and agenda group that put together this Conference! Apparently, I am also the one who adjourns this meeting – who knew?

Amazingly, a team of dedicated folks, clergy and lay, came together to think and plan and pray, and this Conference is a labour of love for all of us. It’s amazing what can happen when the gifts and passions of all are honored and appreciated. Thanks in particular to Taylor Croissant who is chairing our business sessions, and Trevor Potter who took on the leadership for our spiritual learning sessions.

We chose the theme “At the Crossroads” due to the intersection of so many factors in our world. Many communities, particularly rural communities, are struggling with viability as populations shift. Demographics have not been kind to many of our churches, as some in our congregations find it difficult to engage volunteer commitments. The United Church is struggling with how to deploy limited resources, and programs in the Region have been impacted by this and other financial considerations as well. Some churches have closed or are contemplating amalgamation, while others are building on lessons learned during the pandemic with online communities arising. If life is a series of choices that lead to different outcomes, we are definitely at a crossroads that could determine the future of our communities of faith, the Region and our Church.

JOANNE ANQUIST



## PRESIDING OFFICER CONTINUED

Looking back, *At the Crossroads* has been an underlying theme of the Chinook Winds Executive in our meetings over the last year. After the good work of creating the governance structure and the by-laws, we were positioned to think more deeply about the needs and concerns of the communities of faith that populate our region.

*At the Crossroads* is also a discussion for the UCC as a whole. In the past year, the United Church released a Strategic Plan which promises to shape to future for our church. The Call, as outlined by the national church, is to *Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice*. As regional executive, we have begun to shape our conversations around these calls.

First, we realized that after the last few years, everyone is really tired. The pandemic put extra stress on clergy and lay folks in our communities of faith, and many of us have spent the last year or so just doing inventory of what is left, what needs to go, and what can be birthed. This is exhausting work, so we had conversations at Executive about how to support this work, and the Spiritual lives of people in our Region. We hope this time in Medicine Hat will be soul inspiring even as we do the “work” of the Region. Later this Summer, Chinook Winds is sponsoring a Camino-style walk for those who would like to take a pause from hectic life and walk through beautiful Southern Alberta.

We are practicing *Bold Discipleship* with our Celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry in our Region. By insisting that everyone has a place at the Table, we are proclaiming to each other and the world that following Jesus insists that we make space for all. In addition, there are new resources created for part-time ministry, campus ministries are thriving and the First Third Ministry has formed a youth council and given voice to a new generation.

We have ongoing discussions about where we need to support ministry, how we can assist communities of faith in their future planning, where the Region can be of assistance and where CoFs can forge ahead with a blessing. We have committed time in our schedule at this gathering to share ideas about the future, and to think outside the box in regards to church property and resources.

Our commitment to *Daring Justice* has shaped our series, “Politics of Jesus,” as we enter an election season. This is a series of Op-Eds from regional members published in our online newsletter and on the website. We believe that a non-partisan conversation about how the church can advocate for justice for all is a good way of living into this Call. In addition, the Executive has begun anti-racism training to equip us for including and celebrating all people who find their home in our midst.

As we move past this gathering, The Regional Council Executive will seek to deepen our understanding of the struggles and celebrations from all areas of Chinook Winds. At our last meeting, we decided we should hold our in-person gatherings away from the office in Okotoks. Hopefully our Fall gathering will be in the Stettler area.

Sometimes we get discouraged because things have changed and we’re not sure which path to take. We’re not afraid of change, we’re afraid of loss. We are at a Crossroads. But as people of faith, we know that Jesus is walking this journey with us – God has Called us to abundant life. May this time at our annual conference equip and inspire us to *Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice*. Know that we as the Regional Council Executive are right there with you.





## EXECUTIVE MINISTER TREENA DUNCAN

It is my honour to provide this written report our annual meeting, reflecting on the past year. I am excited to gather together in Medicine Hat to share our experiences, celebrate our successes, and reflect on the words from Jeremiah 6:16a: "Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." In this unique moment, we are called to pause, reflect, and seek out the wisdom of those who have come before us. We must ask ourselves what it means to walk in a good way and how we can find rest for our souls in a world that can feel so overwhelming.

This past year has been a time of unprecedented challenge and change as we have lived into the post-pandemic world. As a church, at local, regional and national levels, we have been discerning what the church will look like in this new world and what our role will be in supporting all among us seeking to walk in "the good way" within the life of the church and in the larger community. People of faith, leaders in our churches, and neighbours in our communities all find ourselves at various crossroads, faced with difficult choices and decisions that impact our future.

The crossroads theme is particularly relevant during this time, as we stand at the intersection of the old and new, the familiar and the unknown. How will technology shape our life together? How will the political climate in which we minister alter our



path? How do we address shrinking resources, deficit budgets, and familiar struggles in new ways? We are called to follow the wisdom of the ancient paths and to seek guidance from our history and tradition as we navigate the uncharted waters of the future. Over these past few years, we have been faced with choices and decisions that have taken us down new and unexpected paths. At a recent family gathering, I was reminded of a quote attributed to Theodore Roosevelt, "Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are," and that is exactly what we have done.

Despite the obstacles we have faced, we have continued to move forward with purpose and determination. Through it all, we have persevered, leaning on our faith and the strength of our community to guide us forward. We have come together to support one another through times of uncertainty and loss and to celebrate our community's many gifts and talents. We have continued to build strong relationships with one another, even as we have had to find new ways to connect in a world where physical distance was a necessary precaution. And as restrictions lifted, we have ventured back together, perhaps cautiously, to figure out what community looks like in this post-pandemic world.

I experience life in Chinook Winds as rich and full, marked by a deep love and respect for each other and what we do together as a region. Yet, sometimes the struggles and challenges of our time obscure this beautiful reality. My wish is that we pause at this crossroads, notice the depth of community we share, and let this wonderful web of relationships in which we participate guide our path and shape our future.

Over this past year, our commitment to justice and equity has remained steadfast, as evidenced by our decision to become an affirming region and our ongoing commitment to live into our commitment to reconciliation. We have listened to one another's stories and experiences, recognizing that each of us has a unique perspective to offer. We have engaged in difficult conversations and taken concrete steps to address systemic inequalities and biases.

TREENA DUNCAN

## TREENA DUNCAN CONTINUED

We have been blessed with many gifts and talents within our community. We have continued to foster a spirit of creativity, innovation, and collaboration, such as developing partnerships with Pacific Mountain Region, expanding Campus Ministries, and developing First Third Ministries. In addition, we have sought out new opportunities for growth and learning, including the work of Leadershift, recognizing that even in the midst of change and uncertainty, there is always something to be gained.

As we stand at this crossroads, I am grateful for the opportunity I had to take a sabbatical. It allowed me to reflect on my own journey and return to this community with renewed energy and purpose. It reminded me that each of us has the power to make a positive impact on the world around us, no matter where we find ourselves.

I am confident that as we continue to find ourselves at crossroads, we will uncover new sources of grace, courage, and compassion. We may not always know where the next path will lead us, but we can take comfort in the knowledge that we are not alone. Together, we can do what we can, with what we've got, where we are.

Thank you for your dedication, your resilience, and your unwavering commitment to this community. I look forward to continuing our journey together and to all that we will achieve in the years ahead.





## REGIONAL MINISTER REV. KAREN MEDLAND



I came into this position midway through 2022, and quickly realized that the storm that Stephen Harper spoke about in his message to the region last year was not quite finished with us. The fifth wave of the pandemic hit us in January and February and we all wondered how the year would unfold. March saw the end of restrictions and congregations began to wonder how the last two years had really impacted their lives.

When I joined the regional team in June, I was excited and also apprehensive about how we support congregations as they moved out of the last 2 ½ years and even begin to think about new possibilities. The resiliency and determination of both paid accountable ministers and congregations during the storm is awe-inspiring.

We've seen congregations move to being not only present in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings but also in some cases having a vibrant online ministry that has extended their idea of community not only beyond the four walls but even beyond the region.

Many congregations and paid accountable ministers are asking the question now what, how do we go forward? Much has happened in the past 2 ½ years, that is beyond our control not only the pandemic but the finding of unmarked graves on residential school sites which we as a denomination had run. Such news items continue to affect how others see the church, which impacts our ability to make a positive impression in the world.

The storm itself may have passed but as anyone who has ever been in the storm site or in the sight of any natural disaster, they know that cleanup has to happen. We have to reconstruct our community, build it up again, help it reconnect, and move it from surviving to thriving. Such work requires us to dig deep into what feels like are already overstretched resources and resiliency. But as I sit in my office on the week after Easter Sunday, thinking about the power of love to overcome even death I am reminded that we are in Easter people. Resurrection in all of its forms is part of our DNA as Christians we believe in life after death, when we recite the creed, we say 'in life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone. Thanks be to God'.

As we wonder about what the new life might be now, we must trust in God. We are not alone in this work. God is ever-present and through the Holy Spirit sustains us for all new things. We are an Easter people and know that God's love will be with us in life, in death, in life beyond death.

KAREN MEDLAND

## OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTER REV. BRENDA FAWKES



Every Monday (morning for me) our national Office of Vocation team meets to do our collective work. Depending on the week there are various configurations of staff online from Prince Edward Island to North Vancouver. This is a great way for me to start the work week and gather focus for what is on the to-do list. In addition to the work agenda, we have worship and devotion time to ground ourselves in this work as ministry. This lent we read together from Alydia Smith's book: "Lesser Evils" to guide us through the wisdom our faith brings. One of the daily reflections written by Cheryl Lindsay challenged us to think about our faith life in relation to our work. In general, society tends to identify us by what we do for work. For those of us who work and serve in various capacities in the church we can sometimes lose

our faith life to our work life. Cheryl reminded us our "faith life can take on the cadence of work without resting in the Spirit" and aligning ourselves with what is possible. If we do this intentional spiritual nurture it helps move us from simply going from meeting to meeting, and more into understanding and living out of the Spirit given gifts we inherit to do this work. This is a crucial reminder for those of us who are in administrative structures and allows us to remember and share that we approach this work as faith-filled ministry.

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

### Candidacy Pathway Work

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

### Oversight and Discipline of Ministry Personnel

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

Isolation in ministry

Emotional Intelligence (lack of relational management skills)

Professional Boundaries

Conflict and power dynamics.

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

BRENDA FAWKES



## OFFICE OF VOCATION CONTINUED

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

### **Strategic Plan: Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice**

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

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

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

In 2022, the Admission Board conducted 36 interviews; and another 12 have already been conducted in 2023. Meanwhile, the Matching Commission is piloting a new program that we hope will make it easier for Admission Ministers to find the appointments they need to complete the admission process, with five ministers looking forward to joining us this year. Having come through such interviews and appointments, this spring we are collectively celebrating with 11 ministers who have completed the admission process and will be admitted to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada.



Office of / Bureau de la  
**vocation**



# CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRANDS

RETIREES

ANNIVERSARIES

MEMORIALS



## MEET JERIAL (JJ) SORIANO



Jeriel Joseph (JJ) Soriano is a 1.5-generation Filipino-Canadian whose journey has been defined by detours, surprises, and places of in-between.

JJ was born and raised in Los Baños — a university town in the Philippines situated at the foot of a dormant volcano and is known for its hot springs.

While in his teens, JJ and his family moved to Calgary, where he pursued his passion for music, completed a Diploma in Music Performance, and began to build a career in jazz.

After a couple of years, however, JJ's journey took a different turn when he joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). After being selected for pilot training, he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry at the Royal Military College of Canada. But unexpected circumstances led to a transfer from the Air Force to the Navy, and JJ served as a Naval Warfare Officer in the west coast.

It was during this time that JJ made the decision to follow a call to military chaplain — a call which his father-in-law had been encouraging him to consider for several years.

With the support of family, friends, and the CAF, JJ worked on his Master of Divinity Degree at Ambrose University, where his faith formation and theological growth prompted him to take another unexpected path — becoming an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada.

In the past two years, JJ has been serving as the Student Minister at Southwood United Church in Calgary while taking courses at the Vancouver School of Theology, where he will receive his Diploma of Denominational Studies this Spring.

This summer, JJ, his wife, Maria, and their two boys, will be moving to Cold Lake, where JJ will begin his vocation as a military chaplain.

As part of his practice of rest and renewal, JJ enjoys riding and tinkering with his mountain bike, playing guitar, listening to jazz, reading, and having a cup of black coffee.



JJ SORIANO

## REV. RUTH MCARTHUR



**God's Blessing from the time of Creation be within you – 'Ah, Creation is Good!'**

Creation, Music, and Symbology mark my journey of Ministry. As a child from the seventies, love beads and music and musicians continue to connect me with God's people. Traditional hymns mixed with the music of Jeremiah was a Bullfrog, Have You Ever Seen the Rain Coming Down on a Rainy Day, and What a Wonderful World – all shared worship space. In one community, creating quilting squares portrayed people in their uniqueness and became a symbol of participation in community.

Crossroads marks the start and end of my Ministry. First as a Second-Vocation Minister and now as a Newly Retired Minister. In 2003, I was at a crossroad, and I was ready but hesitated to move on from Professional Forestry. A friend and prayers told me to follow my heart. Thus began a transition that opened me up to Discernment and Office Administration in Williams Lake, B.C.

I have been blessed throughout the following 20 years to be the Minister in partnership with eight small congregations located in B.C., Saskatchewan, and Alberta (Smithers, Vanderhoof/Fraser Lake/Fort Fraser of B.C.; Theodore/Springside and Grace United Swift Current, in Saskatchewan and Irricana in Alberta). As a mature student, I was able to complete my theological education along side my time as a Minister (summer and internet classes, followed by a year of on-campus learning). I was fortunate to be a student of four outstanding theological colleges: St. Stephens, St. Andrew's, and United Theological College. I am proud to have graduated from The Atlantic School of Theology. I was Ordained – Called to Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care, in the B.C. Conference.



'When I was a child, I understood as a child' (1 Corinthians 13:11). I've been in conversation with God all my life. I've lived amongst the best stories – from the bible – sang songs and linked symbols of our faith to our times and our people. What is old becomes new again, with every road we cross. I am retired in Calgary where my daughter, son-in-law and two grandboys live. I am inspired by my boys understanding of our Stories and Songs – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah.

Constant re-creation invites me along each of life's crossroads as I gratefully hear God say, 'AAH, Creation is good.'

RUTH MCARTHUR





## MILESTONES IN SERVICE

/24

### **Five Years**

Eric Page (OM)  
Stephen Harper (OM)  
Hillary VanSpronsen (OM)  
Lisa Waites (OM)

### **Ten Years**

Nicholas Coates (OM)  
Corinne Nairn (DLM)  
Brenda McKellar (DLM)  
Lisa Penzo (DLM)  
Trevor Potter (OM)

### **Twenty Years**

Ray Goodship (OM)

### **Twenty Five Years**

Kelly Osgood (OM)

### **Thirty Years**

Susan Wilkinson Matticks (DLM)

### **Thirty Five Years**

Greg Wooley (OM)  
John Pentland (OM)  
David Holmes (OM)  
Leanne Hall (DLM)

### **Forty Five Years**

Mary Moore  
Blair Whyte

### **Fifty Years**

Doug Powell

### **Sixty Years**

Harold Black

Thank you!  


## WE REMEMBER



R E V .

G E O R G E G R A N T S C O T T

September 21, 1932 – November 6, 2022

Reverend George Grant Scott of Brooks, beloved husband of Joyce Scott, passed away in Brooks on Sunday, November 6th, 2022 at the age of 90 years. George was born in Irvine, Scotland as the youngest of the seven children of Jimmy and Annie Scott. George completed high school at Irvine Royal Academy and served three years with the Royal Air Force as a leading aircraftsmen. In returning to civilian life, George held positions in sales and as a quality control manager at Eastwoods. It was at Eastwoods George and Joyce met, with the two being married on May 10th, 1958 at the High Kirk of Stevenston

George and Joyce resided in Irvine, Stevenston and Saltcoats. In 1959 George was accepted as a candidate for ministry with the Church of Scotland and studied Divinity at Glasgow University, completing postgraduate studies at Edinburgh University. George was called to serve in the Scottish parishes of Gordon and then Camperdown, Dundee. In 1973, George and family immigrated to Canada, where George continued his ministerial work with the United Church, serving the parishes of Brooks–Rolling Hills, Port Moody (British Columbia) and finally Neepawa (Manitoba).

George retired from the ministry in 1998 and since has continued to serve intermittently, residing with Joyce in Calgary and Brooks. Over the years, George was active in a number of community organizations, serving time as chaplain and branch president at the Royal Canadian Legion in Brooks. While in Port Moody George volunteered with the cancer unit at the Vancouver General Hospital and in Neepawa was active with Rotary. During retirement in Calgary George volunteered at the Colonel Belcher Hospital and care home.

During earlier years, George enjoyed ballroom dancing and hill walking. As he grew older, he loved to read and be on his computer, spending time viewing newspapers and playing games. George is best remembered for telling bad jokes, walking with Joyce and for the caring and concern he had for others.

George is predeceased by his parents James and Annie Scott, brothers, Bill, John, and James; sisters Margaret and Mary and nephew Jim Robertson. George is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Joyce; daughter Gail (Dale) Bickford and sons, David and Campbell (Barb) Scott; grandchildren Scott (April) Bickford, Jennifer (Arthur) Weber; step-grandchildren Brittany, Tyson and Spencer; great-grandchildren Emily, Riley, Parker, Emma and Ashton; sister Ina and numerous nephews, nieces and their families. The funeral service was held on Monday, November 14th at 2:00 PM at the Brooks United Church, with Reverend George Edmonds officiating.



## WE REMEMBER

### REV. DR. DON LEWIS

March 19, 1927 – October 28, 2022

Don passed peacefully in his 95th year on October 28, 2022, in Red Deer, Alberta. Dad was born to Bill and Ina Lewis who farmed near Claresholm, Alberta. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 61 years Isobel Lewis (Campbell), brother Wayne, and special companion Mildred Hoppins. He is lovingly remembered by daughter Joanne; sons Jim (Hazel), and Glen (Beth); grandchildren Vic, Colin, Misha and Stephane; extended family; and friends.

From an early age, the land and creation were at the heart of his life view and theology. Dad's creative spirit was evident in his writing and art. He was ordained as a United Church Minister in 1963. He received his honorary Doctor of Divinity from St. Stephen's College (University of Alberta) in 1979. With Isobel, he ministered in Alberta (Sedgewick, Lougheed, Merna, and Salem United) and Yukon (Whitehorse United).

An active retirement, included ministry in Innisfail and Clive congregations. Serving people and engaging with the community were central to Dad's life. This included working with organizations like Rotary and serving as Canadian Legion chaplain in Red Deer and Whitehorse.

The Lewis family thank the Hamlets at Red Deer staff for their care and compassion. Dad, we thank you for the gifts of life and love.

A Celebration of Life service was held and live streamed from Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer, on November 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM. A service was also planned for November 24 at Whitehorse United.

Donations in memory of Don would be welcomed by a charity of your choice, Sunnybrook United Church, or The Nature Conservancy of Canada's project to conserve the Yarrow grasslands in southern Alberta.



## WE REMEMBER

### REV. AUSTIN FENNELL

January 14, 1933 – December 15, 2022

Following a brief illness, the Rev. Dr. Austin Fennell died on December 15, 2022, at the age of 89 years, one month before his 90th birthday. Austin was born in Hafford, Saskatchewan, in 1933, the first child of Sadie (Boyd) and Rev. Harold Fennell. Austin attended the University of Saskatchewan (B.A.) and St. Andrew's College (B.D.). He married Jean (Ford) in 1956, and they shared many happy adventures over 66 years of marriage. Austin and Jean travelled widely (more than 30 countries) and shared in community and church life in many places in Saskatchewan, Scotland, Manitoba, and Alberta.



He was ordained by Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church of Canada in 1957. From 1960-1963, Austin and Jean lived in Scotland, as Austin studied under William Barclay for a PhD in New Testament from the University of Glasgow. Over the years, Austin made a significant contribution to church and community leadership, through music, Scouting, curling, General Council, Rotary Club, and as a school board trustee. He was chair or president of numerous organizations, including Presbyteries and Conferences of the United Church, the University of Winnipeg Library Board, St. Andrew's College Board of Regents, University of Lethbridge Chaplaincy Committee, the Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs, the Lethbridge Symphony Association, and more. He served 10 pastoral charges of the United Church over a ministry of 41 years, and continued to preach and offer the sacraments for many years in retirement. Following 8 years of service with Southminster United Church in Lethbridge, he wrote a history of this church and the related history of Methodism in Alberta. He taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Winnipeg and was the first Dean of the Lay School of Ministry in Western Canada. Many younger ministers benefitted from his mentorship and encouragement over half a century, and his colleagues valued his support and counsel. An avid amateur musician, Austin played piano his whole life, enjoyed singing, and at various times played the organ. In 2017, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from his alma mater, St. Andrew's College.

Always ready for a laugh, a good story, or deep reflection on a theological or social problem, Austin enjoyed a cup of tea and cookie anytime. The classic Absent-Minded Professor, he sometimes caught up to conversations about 10 minutes after the subject had changed. He felt deeply connected to the land and was an eager and gifted gardener. He was profoundly grateful for and proud of his immediate and extended family. He baptised several of them and conducted many family weddings. Austin will be remembered for his deep care for others, his readiness to listen, his generosity, his modesty, his intellect, his broad and deep knowledge, his excellent teaching, his powerful preaching, his lifelong love of learning, his commitment to a better society, and his abiding, trusting faith in Jesus Christ, in whose company he now rejoices, among the saints who have gone before him.

Remembering him with love and gratitude are his wife Jean, daughter Moira (Doug), sons Ian (Melanie), Andrew (Kerri), and Rob (Sally), sister Kay, brother Brian, 14 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter, many cousins, nieces, and nephews, and dear friends and colleagues. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada, of which Austin was a lifelong supporter.

A Memorial Service took place at 11:00 am, on Friday, February 3, 2023, at SOUTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH, 1011 4 Ave S, Lethbridge, AB.

**“Well done, good and faithful servant.”**



## WE REMEMBER

### REV. JOYCE SASSE

May 21, 1940 – February 28, 2023



Joyce grew up in Milk River, Alberta and was active in the United Church of Canada from a young age. Summers were spent at Canyon Church Camp in Waterton where she started to develop her leadership skills. From a young age, Joyce knew she wanted to be a United Church Minister.

As a young adult, she first studied in Lethbridge at the Junior College. While there she realized her passion for writing. She began writing editorial columns for the Lethbridge Herald and went on to write many columns and articles, books, and plays.

Joyce continued her studies at St. Andrew's Theological College and ultimately achieved her Master of Divinity. She was the only woman to graduate in the class of 1965 and only the second woman to graduate from college at that time.

After graduation she went to South Korea for 4 years as a missionary, teaching English and working with the YWCA. This experience left her with strong impressions and many stories to tell.

On returning to Canada, Joyce became director of the YWCA in Saskatoon. She went on to be the "Saddlebag Rural Minister" for two Southern Saskatchewan ministries. She returned to Alberta to be closer to her aging mother and found herself in Rockyford with a large rural ministry. She served as Pincher Creek United Church Pastoral Charge minister from 1989 to 1996.

Joyce retired in 1996, continuing to pursue her, "get on with life", interests. She wrote spiritual columns for the Pincher Creek Echo, the Western Producer, and the Fort Macleod Gazette. She published four books on her rural ministry work. She wrote and produced three plays about the life and times of Kootenai Brown, Father LaCombe and Anora Brown. Her plays shone a spotlight on the legacy of these individuals who advanced the rural development of Southwestern Alberta. In recent years she worked to bring Anora Brown's artwork back to the attention of Canadians.

In 2021 Joyce was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from St. Andrew's Theological College. Joyce Sasse passed away peacefully in Pincher Creek. She is survived by her sister Gloria Dyrdrá, cousins Bev (Ken) McCoy and Noreen (Michael) Blackmer, and nephews Steven Sasse and Michael Sasse. A celebration of life was held at the Pincher Creek United Church on March 16, 2023.

# MEMORIALS

## WE REMEMBER

### REV. WAYNE LEWRY

July 11, 1948 – March 10, 2023

Wayne Lewry beloved husband of Marilyn Lewry (nee Herbel) of Calgary, AB, passed away on Friday, March 10, 2023 at the age of 74 years.

Wayne will be remembered for his many years ministering in various communities and the last thirty years at Central United Church and Wild Rose United Church.

Besides Marilyn, his loving wife for 54 years, Wayne is survived by three sons; Gregory (Joy) Lewry, David Lewry and Nathan (Zilla) Lewry, five grandchildren; Joshua, Jameson, Celeste, MollyAnne, and Riordan, two brothers; Jim (Pat) MacKenzie and Duncan (Myra) MacKenzie, and a sister Lois (Audie) Lynds, as well as their children.

Funeral Services was held at Wild Rose United Church (1317 1st Street NW, Calgary, AB) on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 2:00 pm. Reception to follow at Wild Rose United Church. Graveside Service to follow on a later date at Eden Brook Memorial Gardens. Condolences, memories, and photos can also be shared and viewed [here](#).





## WE REMEMBER

### REV. BRIAN PILMORE JACKSON

January 26, 1930 – April 7, 2023

Diaconal Minister Brian Pilmore Jackson died on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at the age of 93. Brian began his church work in the 1950's as a printer, serving as a lay missionary to India from South Calgary United Church. On returning to Calgary, he served as a Christian Education Director. He also served as the Christian Development Officer for Hamilton Conference, Director of Five Oaks Centre, and Diaconal Minister in Vernon, BC. He is the father of Rev. Stuart Jackson, Edmonton.

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

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



Brian counted himself fortunate to have found two sweethearts, Edith for 33 years, then Lorrie for 35. He is survived by six children and their families: Stuart and Kathy Jackson, Michaela and Gord Springall, Paul and Kathy Jackson, Lori Stemmler, Gen and Jess Moore, Gabrielle and Richard Moore; 13 Grandchildren: Trish and Jeff, Tim and Julie, Chris, Mark and Katherine, Jon and Keighley, Bradley and Susie, Trevor, Becca, Keturah and Michael, Olivya, Camille, Evan, and Atalia; 6 Great Grandchildren: Brayden, Riley, Carter, Richard, Brian and Violet; and the whole McNair clan.

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

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

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

A private service will be held later. Those wishing to remember Brian in a tangible way are invited to donate to one of his favourite charities: The Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Vernon Hospice House, or The NONA Child Development Centre.

# REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEMBER'S

/31

Joanne Anquist, Presider  
Treena Duncan, Executive Minister  
Dr Kathy Yamashita, Lethbridge  
Kevin Dorma, Innisfail  
Marlene Lightening, Maskwacis  
Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Calgary  
Taylor Croissant, Lethbridge  
Vicki McPhee, Calgary  
OhWang Kwon, Consort  
Allan Buckingham, Banff  
Shauna Getz, Calgary  
Trevor Potter, Lethbridge  
Anne Yates-Laberge, Calgary



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PLANNING TEAM



**Agenda and Planning Committee:** Joanne Anquist, Presider; Taylor Croissant, Business Chair; Trevor Potter, Theme; David Pollard and Piehl Wiedemann, Local Arrangements; Susan Lukey (Celebration of Ministry, Kathy Yamashita.

**Theme and Worship:** Trevor Potter, Chair; MiYeon Kim, Kim Holmes-Younger, Sandra Child, Susan Lukey





# REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF

/32



**Treena Duncan**  
Executive Minister  
tduncan@united-church.ca



**Mauricio Araujo**  
Executive Assistant  
maraujo@united-church.ca



**Karen Medland**  
Pastoral Relations Minister  
kmedland@united-church.ca



**Jes Beckerley**  
Pastoral Relations Assistant  
jbeckerley@united-church.ca



**Chris Mah Poy**  
First Third Coordinator,  
Justice + Networks Support  
chrismahpoy@unitedchurch.ca



**Shelley Den Haan**  
Communications,  
Cluster Support  
sdenhaan@united-church.ca



**Joel Den Haan**  
Community of Faith Support,  
Strategy Consultant  
jdenhaan@united-church.ca



**Tony Snow**  
Indigenous Minister  
tsnow@united-church.ca



**Geoffrey Simmins**  
Hospital Ministry  
gsimmins@united-church.ca



**Pamela Evans**  
First Third Team Leader  
pevans@united-church.ca



**Michelle Slater**  
LeaderShift Director  
mslater@united-church.ca



**Brenda Fawkes**  
Office of Vocation Ministry



**Vicki Nelson**  
Stewardship Animator



**Leanne Templeton**  
Archivist  
ltempleton@united-church.ca



**Karen Norrie**  
Chinook Winds Bookkeeper  
kcheyanne@yahoo.com



**John Den Hoed**  
Chinook Winds  
Treasurer  
jdhpc@denhoed.com



**BUSINESS**



## DO YOU HAVE A PROPOSAL TO CHINOOK 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.

To submit a online proposal you can [click here](#).



## Chinook Winds Region - Proposal 2023

Submission Deadline: May 1, 2023

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)


## PROPOSAL FORM CONTINUED PAGE 2/3

### 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)









### Background \*


**B** *I* U        

Font Size... ▾ Font Family. ▾ Font Format ▾ 

Background information that gives rational to the proposal.

### Proposal \*

**B** *I* U        








Font Size... ▾ Font Family. ▾ Font Format ▾ 







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?



## PROPOSAL FORM CONTINUED PAGE 3/3

### Funding Implications \*

**B** *I* U       Font Size... Font Family. Font Format 

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)

### Community of Faith Comments (if applicable)

### Cluster or Networks Comments (if applicable)

### Confirmation \*

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

Submit

 Print Form

## REMIT 1: ESTABLISHING AND AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION PG. 1/4

### Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

#### What is this remit about?

1. At General Council 44, the National Indigenous Circle asked for the removal of any structural barriers that would prevent the development and sustaining of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. When any requested change in church structure will alter the Basis of Union of The Manual, then a category 3 remit is required. This document is the study guide for this remit.
2. In 2019, General Council 43 approved the creation of a National Indigenous Organization, as a body equivalent to, and having the same power and responsibilities as, a regional council. This is currently reflected in The Manual in Section C-NIO.
3. This remit proposes that the already-existing National Indigenous Organization would become autonomous, within The United Church of Canada.
4. The creation of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada would be consistent with the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle's Calls to the Church and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Approval of this remit will enable the Indigenous Church to define its own structure and processes within The United Church of Canada. It acknowledges Indigenous peoples' rights to their own spiritual identities and to self-determination. "This has the potential to create a new kind of relationship: in the words of the National Indigenous Council, moving "from 'missions to Indians' ... towards being 'partners in God's call to all the earth.'" Background

#### Background

##### *The Idea of a Self-Determining Indigenous Church*

5. The idea of a self-determining Indigenous Church has a very long history in The United Church of Canada, dating back to at least the 1960s. From that time until now, Indigenous peoples have been organizing to bring their vision of church to life, whether that was achieving the Apology in 1986 for the church's role in colonization; building Indigenous systems of governance and theological education; or asserting its long-standing call to the church to acknowledge and atone for its actions at residential institutions.
6. The United Church pledged to uphold (among others) the rights to spiritual identity and self-determination in 2016 when it adopted the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation as a response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The church stated at that time that it was "not sure [of] what lies ahead," but that it was committed to "a new identity, a new relationship, and a new way of being" with the Indigenous Church.

##### *Apologies to Indigenous Peoples*

7. With the establishment of residential institutions, health care facilities, and missions in the 19th and 20th centuries, and as named in the 1986 Apology, the United Church and its predecessors "confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ, [and] imposed [Western] civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel".
8. As named in the United Church's 1998 Apology, as the church continues its long and painful healing journey from its complicity in colonization, we are committed "to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority". This is an essential component of our intention to become not just a reconciling but also an actively anti-racist church.
9. The United Church's 1986 Apology, given only after Indigenous peoples called for it, was one way of atoning for the church's forced assimilation practices and the intentional destruction of Indigenous spiritualities, cultures, and languages. Another way forward came in 2015 with the statement acknowledging the value of Indigenous spiritualities, avowing that "holding both your spirituality and ours is possible through listening and learning with open hearts". The United Church has also committed to becoming an anti-racist denomination.

## REMIT CONTINUED PG. 2/4

### *The Restructuring of the United Church in 2019*

10. In 2019, the Comprehensive Review process was implemented throughout The United Church of Canada. This Comprehensive Review process resulted in substantive changes to the structure of the United Church, including the creation of a three-court model from a four-court model. As a result, the Aboriginal Ministries Council (AMC) began to explore how the Indigenous Church could structure itself within (or alongside) the three-court model of the church created by the Comprehensive Review.

11. The Aboriginal Ministries Council appointed and enabled the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Church to help define this direction, and they did so through a document entitled *Calls to the Church*. This document envisioned a self-determining Indigenous Church founded on Indigenous knowledge and teachings, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and “the desire to live into right relations with a repentant church and pursue the original Indigenous desire for friendship, peace and the strength that comes from respect”.

### *The Calls to the Church*

12. The *Calls to the Church* were accepted at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering of the United Church in 2019, and by General Council 43 in its annual meeting that same year. Since then, a new Indigenous governance structure (the National Indigenous Council); the National Indigenous Elders Council; and the Indigenous Office of Vocation have been created alongside the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit at the General Council Office to shape and guide the work of self-determination.

13. In July 2022, the National Indigenous Council brought forward General Council 44 Proposal NIC-01, naming its vision of the two parts of the church (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) working side-by-side, and recommending the identification and removal of “all the structural barriers to developing and sustaining an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada”. *Decolonizing our Approach to Structural Changes*

14. In our current process, and depending on the type of change that is needed to be made, the Indigenous Church would require a new remit for continued changes to its developing structure. This means that the Indigenous Church would be constantly seeking approval from the rest of the church to make those structural changes. This kind of dynamic—where the Indigenous Church would always be asking for consent from the non-Indigenous church—reflects continued colonial thinking and practices. As named in the United Church’s 1998 Apology, as the church continues its long and painful healing journey from its complicity in colonization, we are committed “to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority”. This is an essential component of our intention to become not just a reconciling but also an actively anti-racist church.

15. The General Secretary’s proposal to General Council 44, GS-10, is an attempt to begin a process of decolonizing our approach to structural change. It is asking for the church to give pre-emptive remit approval for whatever the Indigenous Church determines in the future as the place it will have in the United Church, guided by the *Calls to the Church*—and without the need for further remit approval.





## REMIT CONTINUED PG. 3/4

### Frequently Asked Questions

What particular sections of *The Manual* are proposed to change?

The sections that are proposed to change are all in the Polity section of the Basis of Union. The proposed changes are under the headings of “The Church” (Section 4.2) and “The Denominational Council” (Section 7.4.1).

Current	Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 4.2: The United Church of Canada is organized as a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council, as follows.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 4.2 of the Basis of Union will be amended and state: The United Church of Canada is organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization.</li> <li>Section 4.3 will be added to the Basis of Union and state: In its own time and through its own processes, the autonomous National Indigenous Organization will determine its structure and processes.</li> <li>Section 4.4 will be added to the Basis of Union and state: Once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union.</li> <li>Section 4.5 will be added to the Basis of Union and state: The final wording describing the structure and processes of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization will be recorded here.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 7.4.1: changing the Basis of Union—the Basis of Union may only be changed through the remit process, which requires the approval of a majority of the Regional Councils and also, if the Denominational Council considers it advisable because the change is substantive or denomination-shaping, pastoral charges; ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union will be amended and state: changing of the Basis of Union—with the exception of section 4.4 (under section II “The Church”), the Basis of Union may only be changed through the remit process, which requires the approval of a majority of the Regional Councils and also, if the Denominational Council considers it advisable because the change is substantive or denomination-shaping, pastoral charges; ...</li> </ul>

## PROPOSAL CONTINUED PG. 4/4

*What might an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada mean?*

The Indigenous Church is asking to develop and sustain an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.

The Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle's Calls to the Church notes that: "The Indigenous ministries of The United Church of Canada have been about the work of ministry since the beginning in 1925 with roots in the 19th Century work of Methodist and Presbyterian ministries. 2018 marks the 193rd Anniversary of the Grand River Methodist Mission.

"Indigenous people have met regularly over many decades and held deep and ongoing conversations about matters relating to our Indigenous work and our relationship with the United Church. We have been evolving, struggling, adapting and growing since that time and even losing ground too. We do not want to lose the gains we have achieved through the years in any future developments."

"The UN Declaration [on the Rights of Indigenous People] is about establishing and maintaining respectful relationship, Indigenous self-government, and Indigenous land rights in their traditional territories. This means the Indigenous faith community must exercise a truly Indigenous self-determination and possess a sustainable land-based support."

*Can we vote "yes" to some parts of the question in the remit and "no" to other parts?*

No. It is not possible to vote for parts (a), (b), and (c) of the remit question separately. The remit is one overall question, broken up in three parts.



## CHINOOK WINDS EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS PG. 1/2

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 4-7, 2023.

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 PG. 2/2

### 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.



2021/2022 Executive Council



## CHINOOK WINDS BUSINESS COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS PG. 1/2

Order paper 1: Constituting the Court and Organizing Business

1. That the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council be held on May 4-7, 2023.
2. The roll of the 5th 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 Wesley Hall of Fifth Avenue-Memorial United Church: Medicine Hat, and the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered delegates.
4. That Joanne Anquist, 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), OhWang Kwon, Barb Lough, Kathy Yamashita, and Treena Duncan (executive minister, ex officio)
5. That voting be conducted via Simply Voting, and the Business Committee be empowered to tabulate and report results of votes.
6. That attending candidates for ministry not in an appointment be granted full voting rights. Regional Council staff, General Council guests, 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, 2023: 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 5:00p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2023. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in an order as determined by the Business Committee. 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 4th Annual General Meeting of The Chinook Winds Regional Council held May 5-8, 2022, 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.

## CHINOOK WINDS BUSINESS COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS PG. 2/2

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 4th Annual General Meeting of The Chinook Winds Regional Council held May 5-8, 2022, 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.

### **Closing motions: Authority to the Executive**

*Moved by Barb Lough, seconded by OhWang Kwon:*

**That Chinook Winds Regional Council confers the powers of the court, both regular and emergent, to the Executive Committee until the next Annual General Meeting of the Regional Council.**





## GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCESS PG. 1/2

### 1. Motion:

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

### 2. Discussion:

- Start by identifying yourself (name, community of faith).
- All discussion should be directed to the 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.

## GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCESS CONTINUED PG. 2/2

### 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 Page 31 of this booklet.

### 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.



## Chinook Winds Regional Council Updated Treasurer's Report 2022 Financial Highlights

Amounts are expressed in **thousands** of dollars.

Data based on **DRAFT** information available April 21, 2023

Below budgeted amount	(###)
Above budgeted amount	###

The net excess of expenses over receipts for 2022 is	\$	(673)
--	----	-------

The net excess of expenses over receipts compared to budget is	\$	(485)
--	----	-------

Receipts for 2022 of \$555 were below budget by	\$	(420)
---	----	-------

### Variances:

Investment income (Includes \$398 <u>unrealized</u> capital loss)	\$	(494)
Receipt from UPCM		73
Other grants		(29)
Regional Eexecutive Minister & Administration and Cross Region		24
Proceeds from property sold		5
Donations		1
	\$	(420)

Expenses for 2022 of \$1,228 exceeded the budget by	\$	(65)
---	----	------

### Variances::

Grants		36
Meetings and conventions		29
Programs		(24)
Professiona fees		21
Committees		(20)
Travel		20
Salaries and contractors		(18)
Office		13
Consulting fees		7
Archives		1
	\$	65

See the draft Dummary Statement of Operations on the next page

Per John Den Hoed, Treasurer

25-Apr-22



## REPORT FROM ACCOUNTANT JOHN DEN HOED PG. 2/4

**Chinook Winds Regional Council**  
**2022 Financial Highlights**  
**Draft Summary Financial Statements**

*Amounts are expressed in **thousands** of dollars.*  
*Data based on **DRAFT** information available April 21, 2023*

**Statement of Operations**

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Denominational Assessment Share	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325
Denominational Mission & Service Share	240	240	240
Other Grants	102	131	
Receipt from UPCM	73	-	
Regional Executive Minister & Administration and Cross Region Support Grants	124	100	108
Region Assessment	28	28	1
Donations	10	9	24
Proceeds from property sold	5	-	95
Legal Fee Grant	-	-	107
Federal Grants	-	-	23
Investment income - realized	46	142	196
<i>Sub-total before unrealized investment income</i>	<b>953</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,119</b>
Investment income - unrealized	(398)		174
Investment income - net	(352)	142	370
	<b>555</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,293</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries and contractors	655	673	460
Grants	173	137	258
Programs	65	89	41
Professional fees	81	60	208
Consulting fees	64	57	68
Meetings and conventions	73	44	5
Office	51	38	46
Archives	31	30	29
Travel	24	4	10
Committees	10	30	4
Communications	1	1	2
	<b>1,228</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,131</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of receipts over expenses</b>	<b>\$ (673)</b>	<b>\$ (188)</b>	<b>\$ 162</b>
<i>Excess (deficiency) of receipts over expenses- excluding unrealized investment income</i>	<b>\$ (275)</b>	<b>\$ (188)</b>	<b>\$ (12)</b>

*See the draft Summary Statement of Financial Position on the next page*

**Chinook Winds Regional Council**  
**2022 Financial Highlights**  
**Draft Summary Financial Statements**

*Amounts are expressed in **thousands** of dollars.*  
*Data based on **DRAFT** information available April 21, 2023*

**Statement of Financial Position**

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 12	\$ 298
Marketable securities	2,767	3,360
Accounts receivable	1	13
Current portion due from related parties	49	-
Goods and services tax recoverable	6	2
	<b>2,835</b>	<b>3,673</b>
Restricted cash	10	10
Due from related parties	1,711	1,442
	<b>-</b>	<b>4,556</b>
	<b>4,556</b>	<b>5,125</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	139	35
Current portion due to related parties	30	30
	<b>169</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Fund balances</b>		
Externally Restricted	310	315
Internally Restricted	3,216	3,279
Unrestricted	861	1,466
	<b>4,387</b>	<b>5,060</b>
	<b>\$ 4,556</b>	<b>\$ 5,125</b>

*See the draft listing of fund balances on the next page*

## Chinook Winds Regional Council Updated Treasurer's Report 2022 Financial Highlights

*Amounts are expressed in thousands of dollars.*

*Data based on DRAFT information available April 21, 2023*

### Fund Balances - December 31, 2022

<b>Unrestricted</b>		
	Operating Fund	\$ 861
<b>Externally Restricted</b>		
	Alma Reynolds Bursary Fund	\$ 31
	Ann Mazur Fund	167
	Canyon Church Camp Society	34
	Clara Thomson Internship Fund	29
	David Ferguson Music Bursary Fund	12
	Emergency Relief Trust Fund	14
	Education & Student Bursary Fund	1
	Federal New Horizons for Seniors Program	-
	First Third Ministry	5
	Gifts with Vision Fund	2
	Heritage Cemeteries Trust Fund	5
	UCC Research Campus Ministry	5
	UCC Foundation Seeds of Hope	5
		\$ 310
<b>Internally Restricted</b>		
	Archives	\$ 159
	Conflict Resolution Trust Fund	9
	David Ferguson Music Bursary Fund	485
	Ecumenical Campus Ministry University of Lethbridge	3
	Education and Students	3
	First Third Ministry Fund	485
	Heritage Resource Committee	5
	Indigenous Ministry Fund	481
	Leadership Development Resources Fund	100
	Mission Support Grants (MSG) Funds	266
	Mission Transition Fund	1
	Ogden Ministry Support	2
	Personnel Emergency Fund	7
	Property & Church Development Fund	1,106
	Reclaiming the Mission Fund	24
	Right Relations	33
	Sexual Abuse Counselling Fund	5
	YYC Campus Ministry	42
		\$ 3,216
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		\$ 4,387



## REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OF FAITH STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT STAFF VICKI NELSON

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

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

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

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

Locally, Mission & Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Chinook Winds. Campus ministry in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, Queer Church and Affirming Connections through Fish Creek Shared Ministries, and the McLure Food Pantry are just some of the transformative programs supported with your Mission & Service donations. Thank you!

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

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

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

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for Chinook Winds Region

VNelson@united-church.ca \* 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045

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



## REPORT FROM JOEL DEN HAAN - COMMUNITY OF FAITH STRATEGY CONSULTANT

Chinook Winds Region Program Funding Grants 2022-2023

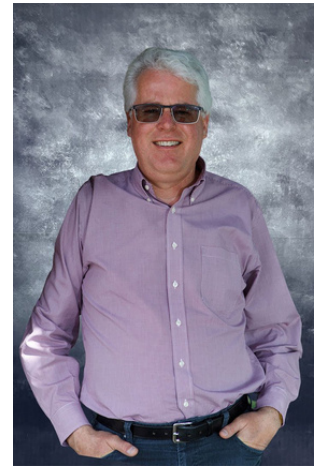
Thanks to the generosity of donors to your United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund, Chinook Winds Region has been able to offer significant support to various ministries and outreach initiatives across Central and Southern Alberta. Once again, the Region was provided with \$240,000 in new funding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

### Highlights of our work in this past year include:

- Chinook Winds Region has appointed Rev. Tony Snow as Indigenous Minister for Chinook Winds Region. To support this ministry, we have prioritized funding in support of Indigenous work to allow Tony to continue Reconciliation initiatives alongside active work directly connected with Indigenous communities across the Region.
- 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, which is a partnership with Fish Creek Shared Ministries, provides vital engagement with young people aged 12-18. All of us have been heartened to see enthusiastic Naked Faith youth worship returning to in-person gatherings during the year. Through the First Third Ministries initiative shared with Pacific Mountain Region, we are now seeking to strengthen and expand our connection to people under 30 across Chinook Winds Region, with exploratory discussions on young adult work now underway with Red Deer area communities of faith.
- Program Funding through Mission and Service has also helped Chinook Winds Region advance Affirming ministries, and we will recognize the significance of this work at this year's Regional Gathering to celebrate becoming a fully Affirming Region.
- Chinook Winds Region program funding has also been directed to local outreach in various places. Food security programs based out of local congregations in the Calgary area have been supported once again, we have provided funding for new partnerships for community outreach in Fort Macleod alongside continued support to growing communities of faith on the Calgary perimeter. We are supporting camp ministries within the Region, and we are pleased to continue to support a unique summer ministry at Waterton United Church.

**Looking ahead,** Chinook Winds Region will continue to support meaningful initiatives that positively impact our communities throughout Central and Southern Alberta. We will build on the strategic priorities set by the Region, working to deploy grant funding to advance what you as co-creators in this ministry have discerned. 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Den Haan,  
Community of Faith Strategy  
Consultant





## REPORT FROM LEANNE TEMPLETON - ARCHIVIST



One area of focus this past year has been identifying the records of Indigenous Peoples and Communities, opening these up through descriptive work and processing to make them findable and easy to use by researchers. In response to the TRC Calls to Action, and with a sense of urgency to see tangible change occur, United Church archivists across Canada have been collaborating to identify and make available to Indigenous Communities records packages (hard drives). This work is being advanced by Bringing the Children Home, and occurs in consultation with Indigenous Ministries and Justice (IMJ).

Prior to the pandemic, our volunteer contingent was in the process of increasing from two to four. However, after three years of being locked out of the building, on February 8th, 2023, the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) allowed two United Church volunteers to re-enter: Gayle Simonson and Phyllis Verhaar. It is a sign of trust, and confidence in the professionalism of our program, that Gayle and Phyllis are only the

3rd and 4th out of more than fifty pre-pandemic volunteers to be allowed to resume activities.

Our partnership with the PAA continues to be strong. The PAA provides equipment and workspace for the archivist, secure and monitored records storage, reference services, conservation services and numerous supplies at no charge. This is in sharp contrast to the expenses for rent, supplies and storage incurred by other regions. We are blessed to have such a positive and well-working relationship in Alberta.

Beginning April 1st, 2023, the archivist will be lending support to Living Skies Regional Archives, seven hours a week, as they are suddenly without an archivist and have been asked to find a new repository. This work will be conducted remotely, from Edmonton.

For growth and professional development, the archivist served on the Archives Society of Alberta Education Committee, contributed to a Project Risk Assessment as a member of the Advisory Group for Digitizing United Church Archives of Chinese and Japanese Canadian Communities in B.C., met with Pacific Mountain and Prairie to Pine archivists at the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference "UnSettled: Redefining Archival Power", and obtained a Digital Archives Specialist Certificate from the Society of American Archivists.

If you have questions about how to transfer records to the archives, would like to receive a retention schedule or What Do The Archives Want Guide, please email the archivist at

**LTempleton@united-church.ca**





# AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS

REPORT FROM PAM ROCKER - DIRECTOR

SUMMER 2022-SPRING 2023

PG. 1/6



## Affirming Connections Highlights

We are delighted to be able to work with faith leaders and faith communities across Southern Alberta! Below are some highlights of our work from the past year. You can find out more about what we're up to on our website, social media channels, and by [subscribing to our weekly newsletter](#). If you're curious about how being Affirming can be part of your journey or are looking for support or resources, we're here for you!

## Affirming Connections receives Stonewall Award

On May 10, 2022, at the Stonewall Across Canada event in Calgary, Affirming Connections received The Stonewall Award in recognition of 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy, education, representation, and celebration. It was an incredible honour to receive this directly from Martin Boyce, one of the original Stonewall Uprising Activists.



## Affirming Leaders Day: Spring Edition May 2022

Our fourth annual day of learning occurred online via Zoom for the third time. The day featured:

- A keynote from Kai Cheng Thom, MSW, MSc, QMed, best-selling author, performer, somatic coach, and mediator.
- A workshop and performance with J Mase III, a Black/Trans/queer poet & educator.
- A workshop with Heather McCain, founder and Executive Director of Creating Accessible Neighbourhoods (CAN)

## Next Steps: Continued Action Against Conversion "Therapy" August 2022

Conversion "Therapy" (also known as SOGIECE, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Change Efforts) is now illegal in Canada, but continues to exist and cause great harm.

We discussed actions we can take to eradicate these dangerous practices and provide support to those most affected.

## Citywide Pride Service: Many Voices, One Heart August 2022



Affirming Connections and Calgary's Network of Affirming Faith Communities presented our 4th Annual Citywide Pride Service, live streamed online and hosted in person for the first time since 2019! With 34 inclusive faith communities in and around Calgary contributing to this interfaith service, it was truly a sacred experience.



# AFFIRMING CONNECTIONS

/56

CONTINUED PG. 2/6



## Special guests included:

- Dakshina Dilipani Haputhanthri, social worker, advocate, speaker, and founder of Dilipani.
- Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, newly-elected and first openly gay Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

We had over 200 live viewers across our YouTube broadcast, 500+ total views and counting, in addition to several churches that broadcast our service to their congregations in lieu of their own Pride services the next Sunday.

## Calgary Pride Booth

September 2022

We hosted a booth at Calgary's Pride Festival Marketplace and it was AMAZING! We talked with a steady stream of people for five hours straight, received over 60 newsletter sign-ups, distributed a stack of Calgary Affirming Ministries brochures, and over a thousand buttons. It was well worth our time and effort and we have personally connected with several people and organizations we chatted with.



## Fall Affirming Leaders Day: Small Town, Big Impact Edition

October 2022

Under the same name as our recently released video series, Small Town, Big Impact featured speakers who are creating change in smaller or more non-affirming communities.



## A Year In Perspective

On New Year's Eve, we partnered with Rev. Tony Snow for an intention-setting conversation with:

- Rev. Elizabeth Edman, Author of "Queer Virtue"
- Pastor Shane Goldie, Two-Spirit Student Minister
- Seth Kay/Ella Mennow Queen, Math Teacher, Drag Queen



CONTINUED PG. 3/6



## Walking in Two Worlds

January, 2023

We got to host a very special event on what we can learn from Indigenous ways of learning and gathering, featuring Rev. Michele Rowe.

Michele (she/her) is a Metis woman whose family (both Metis/Cree and European) are rooted in the Athabasca Region of Alberta. She is a Registered Social Worker, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, and Certified Community and Workplace Traumatologist and ministers at Maple Creek United Church in Saskatchewan.

## United Against Hate: faithfully responding to anti-2SLGBTQ+ actions

February 2023

We partnered with United In Learning and Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble to host an event for folks to learn about the malicious misinformation campaign and threats that have been launched against the drag and 2SLGBTQ+ communities across Canada - and what you can do.

### Our panelists were:

- Toddy, Drag artist, standup comedian and musician
- Rev. Nobuko Iwai, Grosvenor Park United Church, SK
- Hazel Woodrow, Education Facilitator at the Canadian Anti-Hate Network



## Angelic Troublemakers

We hosted a conversation with expert guests to talk about the role that organizing and agitating for justice has historically played in Black spiritualities and faith communities, and how this work is evolving to keep pace with the technologies and challenges of the world we live in. Featuring Jonisha Lewsinson from the UCCan's Young Black Scholars Program and Dr. Bianca Beauchemin, Postdoctoral Fellow in Black Feminist Thought at Queen's University.



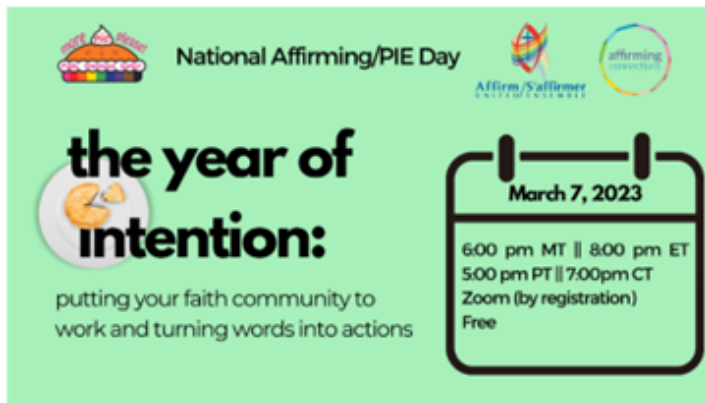
## PIE Day event:

### The Year of Intention

March 2023

PIE Day (also known as National Affirming Day) is an annual opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values of P.I.E. — Public, Intentional, and Explicit — in our Affirming, Welcoming, or Inclusive congregations and communities.





This year, we invited folks to think about the I in PIE. How intentional are you in the welcome you extend to 2SLGBTQ+ and other marginalized folks? And more importantly, are your intentions pointing you in the direction of action?

For our annual PIE Professional Development event, we convened panel of experts for a rich discussion on Intentions!

#### Our panelists:

- Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada
- Emily Leedham, Prairie Reporter for PressProgress
- Seth Kay/Ella Mennow Queen, math teacher and drag artist

#### National Affirming/PIE Day

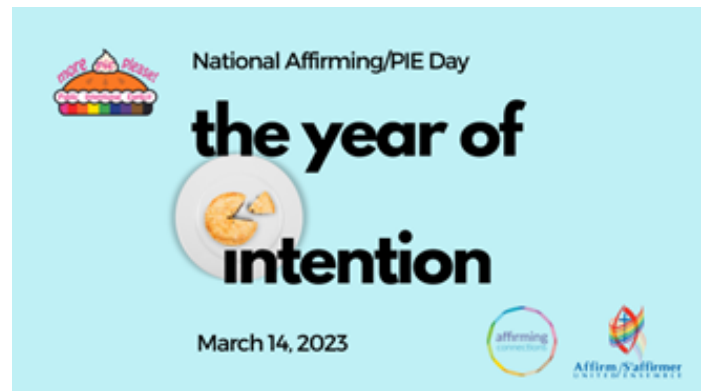
March 2023

This year marked the 5th Annual PIE Day!

We saw folks celebrating with PIE-themed services, pie fundraisers, art, pizza and games nights, Reader's Theatre, open mics, book clubs, and more.

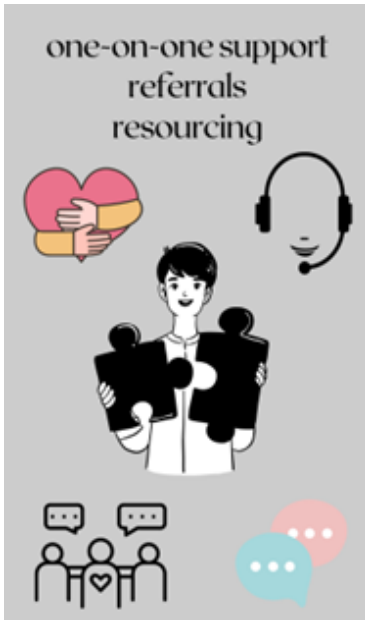
We also rolled out:

- A new video message from **Right Rev. Dr Carmen Lansdowne**
- Brand new service templates and resources for PIE Day events, from Rev. Tori Mullin, Hampton United Church, Rev. Murray Pruden, M.Div, BFA, Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries & Justice, The United Church of Canada, and Susie Henderson, certified Morning Altar facilitator.
- Updated PIE Day website changes and maintenance, updating of resources, videos, promo materials, and graphics, and a highly engaged Social media campaign on Instagram and facebook.



As we continue our advocacy, Pam was chosen to be on the National Advisory Committee for the Community Based Research Centre (CBRC) and the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD), in their project activities related to conversion “therapy” practices (CTP) and sexual orientation and gender identity and expression change efforts (SOGIECE). They are seeking to address knowledge and support gaps among a variety of audiences associated with conversion “therapy” practices and the federal ban.





## Resourcing and One-on-One Support

As much as possible, we provide personal connection points through one-on-one conversations. This includes faith leaders as well as referrals and resource connection for families, loved ones, or individuals struggling with the intersections of faith and 2SLGBTQ+ identities.

We're never quite sure what a day will bring! This past year we've had conversations with teachers, guidance counselors, high school and university students, closeted ministers, filmmakers, survivors of conversion therapy practices, youth contemplating transition, parents and grandparents looking for affirming faith resources, politicians, a chamber of commerce, a bishop, and more...

## IN THE MEDIA

- [Calgary library drag event interrupted, sparks continued concerns](#) (Citynews)
- [Another Disturbance at Drag event in Calgary has left some concerned about how demonstrations could escalate in the future](#) (Citynews)

- [Albertan activists on Premier Danielle Smith's 'horrendous' record on LGBTQ2S+ issues](#) (Xtra)
- [Police investigate vandalism of Pride flag at Calgary church](#) (CTV News)
- [Our conversation with host Ben Wilson](#)

We had the chance to interview Board Chair Ben Wilson and Rev. Robin King from Bashaw United for our Small Town, Big Impact video series.

- [A Faith Perspective: Canada's ban on conversion therapy](#)

Pam Rocker was asked to contribute an article to Law Now: relating law to life in Canada, published by The Centre for Public Legal Education in Alberta.

## WHAT'S ON OUR MINDS:

One of our main focuses this year is to explore approaches to faithfully address the rise of queerphobic and transphobic hate speech and harassment, perpetuated in person and amplified by social media.

In the last year, we've noticed an incredibly sharp increase of hate speech and myths about queer people spreading like wildfire in online spaces across Canada, as well as an uptick in anti-queer protests that include dog whistle terms such as "religious freedom", "transgender people are mentally ill" and "grooming."

We've experienced this firsthand, with an incredible increase in the amount of hate speech and derogatory comments we've been receiving on our social media channels. For example, in a matter of one weekend last summer, one of our posts received 275 comments which resulted in dozens of people being blocked and a need for us to add over 100 words to our censored list. This is unlike anything we've seen before. And our peers in other organizations locally and nationally are sharing similar experiences. The ways in which people are engaging with extremist content are resulting in real-life dangers. *"The use of algorithms to serve content has created certain vicious cycles that have exacerbated hate speech and led to a rise in extremism and even mass shootings..."* (Forbes, Oct 2022)

## CONTINUED PG. 6/6

In the words of one of our collaborators, Julie Graham, who is the Justice and Communications Minister for three UCC Regions, *"I am worried about the scope, numbers, and tactics of protests and harassment related to anything related to drag, especially at libraries, and anything about trans/gender diversity in schools and beyond."* This trend is obviously deeply troubling to Affirming Connections, as well as to many of our partner organizations. We urgently need to consider how we, and the faith communities around us, can come together to combat anti-queer hate speech and protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Anti-queer and anti-trans protests and attempts to take away legal rights are almost always based on appeals to religious belief. When religion enters the public square to harm people, it isn't just a religious debate; it's religious persecution. We need to thoughtfully and strongly engage in a religious response to these religious attacks.

Stay in touch with us as we continue to program events and create materials to faithfully respond to what is happening with love and solidarity!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- United Against Hate Coalition work, creating resource materials and media for faith communities, hosting events
- Citywide Pride 2023, an interfaith service co-produced with Calgary's Affirming Network of Faith Communities
- Affirming Leaders Day Fall 2023 - in person in Calgary!



# BEING GOOD RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

/61

SUBMITTED BY REV. CECILE FAUSAK PG. 1/3

The Being Good Relations Network of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils connects those who are committed to living out the United Church apologies, and implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Calls to the Church of the Indigenous Church, and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It involves building relationships with Indigenous communities of faith, and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit organizations in our communities and provinces/territory.

The BGRN Leadership Group strives to support 'witnesses' and communities of faith in unlearning and learning, conversation, advocacy, taking action and spiritual practice on the journey of truth and reconciliation. We continue to discuss how the BGRN is developed and structured, the role and membership of the Leadership Group, and accountability.

Jody Wilson-Raybould says "True Reconciliation involves three core practices: Learn, Understand, Act." We pay particular attention to TRC Call to Action #59, which states: 'We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary'. We took inspiration from a meditation by Richard Rohr on the prophetic path. Prophets call us to revere the land, live with respect in creation, to honor covenants, agreements, and peace treaties. Being a witness can feel like being a prophetic voice in the wilderness. Prophets are a challenge to business as usual. The prophetic path like our work in reconciliation is often 2 steps forward and one step backward. "That falling, that failing, that suffering – use whatever word – becomes the energy for the next two steps forward." This journey of reconciliation is a messy and complicated process.

Leadership Group Zoom meetings

While the church recovers from the pandemic, the Leadership Group continued its activities via Zoom. At the August and October meeting, we reflected on our way forward, noting that we had benefitted much from using Zoom, yet yearn for some face-to-face gathering. We have yet to meet or plan events for the Network to be held in person, largely due to lack of people energy to plan. While there are 25 people on the invitation list, an average of 11 people have attended 5 zoom meetings held since last March 31 - Aug. 30, Oct.24, Dec.5, in 2022 and in 2023, Jan.16, March 26.

Rev. Cecile Fausak has continued to facilitate the Group's meetings, and Sharon Woodhouse has been a faithful notetaker. We are grateful for the attendance of Indigenous staff Rev. Tony Snow, and Charlene Burns whenever they are able, and to Julie Graham for Zoom hosting. The 'check-in' is always extensive and conversations have touched on the Pope's apology, unmarked burials, James Smith Cree Nation massacre, Bashaw Town Council lawsuit claiming discrimination, National Ribbon Skirt Day, Walking in Two Worlds with Rev. Michele Rowe, protocols, Land Acknowledgements, and the Indigenous Church.

## Clusters

Rev. Tony Snow has hosted a monthly Tuesday Indigenous Ministries Circle online hour as an opportunity for those in Chinook Winds region to learn about resources and upcoming events, and connect with each other.

Efforts to gather in 'clusters' are tentative – those in the Edmonton and Lethbridge areas have the most momentum. On Nov.21, a group of mostly Northern witnesses gathered, and gave rise to the desire to host a book study, and a time to share ideas for lifting up Indigenous History Month and Day of Prayer June 21. However, Julie Graham was on sabbatical from Feb.1-April 30 and no volunteer was stepping forward.

Student Placement

## CONTINUED PG. 2/3

One of the Leadership group members with Indigenous heritage based in Grande Prairie, Grace Hussey BSW, was seeking a student ministry placement to meet requirements of studies at the Atlantic School of Theology. A proposal was developed and approved for Grace's placement for 10 hours/week from Jan – May 2023 to be funded partially through the NS Cluster budget, the LIRR Fund, and a Federal Vocational Rehabilitation fund supplement. During the placement, Grace would prepare for and facilitate a Lenten book study and a webinar, and compile the results of a congregational survey.

### **Survey of Communities of Faith & Witnesses**

During February, in several weekly Regional e-newsletters to all ministry personnel and regional reps, and a BGRN e-newsletter to all witnesses, there was an invitation to complete a survey to tell us how your community of faith was participating in the journey of reconciliation, and how the BGRN might support you. We were disappointed in the return of only a dozen surveys. Nevertheless, some important connections have been made, concerns identified, and actions to be celebrated.

### **"Indigenous Writes" Lenten Book Study**

The Leadership group chose Chelsea Vowel's book "Indigenous Writes" for a 5-part online study during March 2023. 44 people registered, and 25 participated in one or more sessions. There were many important insights gained and myths busted as the focus was on learning the history that has led to the realities of today, on and off reserve.

Vowel says "This country is woefully ignorant on a grand scale, and we will never succeed in rebuilding relationships until we address that ignorance. I can't stress enough: without education, there can be no justice, and until there is justice, there will be no peace." (p.230)

We hope to offer another book study, perhaps more focused on reconciliation and treaties.

Webinar April 22 Preparing for June Indigenous History Month and Day of Prayer

Plans were made for participants in the webinar to support each other in enhancing their community's response to the TRC Calls to Action and learning and celebrating during Indigenous History Month. They heard what some communities have done, what has worked, what obstacles have been experienced, and what resources have been helpful.

### **Journey Towards Indigenous Allyship Tool Kit**

The toolkit was created by Chinook Winds Region Members working with Indigenous Minister Rev. Tony Snow, and released in Sept. 2022 before National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The hope is that through using the resources, individuals and communities of faith will choose to move through acknowledgement, awareness, and internalization to advocacy in the ministry of reconcile-action.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE)

There was some return to conducting Blanket Exercises in person. Rev. Tony Snow led at least 7 Blanket Exercises using his unique script in the Chinook Winds region over Lent. There were 3 done in Drayton Valley led by Wilson Bearhead and his daughter Seneca, with funding assistance from the national UC Justice and Reconciliation Fund. However, after 25 years of offering this very popular teaching tool, the KBE program has stopped bookings, is reviewing its administrative and delivery framework, and a new Indigenous-led organization is being established. [See update here:](#)

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

### **KAIROS Prairies North and the Decolonization Committee**

An event focusing on decolonization was held in August at Muskeg Lake Cree FN, and the annual Prairies North Regional gathering was held in Calgary in November.

# BEING GOOD RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

/63

CONTINUED PG. 3/3

## Acts of Reparation

The Central Alberta Spiritual Circle led by Russel Burns and others have begun to gather at the former Beverly United Church in Edmonton which was transferred to Interconnect Housing Foundation based in Red Deer. This is instead of rebuilding Samson UC at Maskwacis.

We are awaiting the report of the Beaver Hills Biosphere Treaty Land Sharing Network Pilot Program. <https://www.beaverhills.ca/stories/post/treaty-land-sharing-network-pilot-program> In this program (modelled after TLSN efforts in Saskatchewan) private landholders provide access for Indigenous peoples to practice their culture and connect with the land in a safe environment.

## Bunk #7 play

This play, decades in the making, toured northeastern BC in the fall, and BGRN friends in the Peace River and Fort Nelson areas helped spread the word. It focuses on resistance and resilience at the United Church-run Edmonton Indian Residential School. Here's an APTN story on the play and tour. And here's the website. We wonder if there would be any interest in staging another tour in Alberta.

Resources, E-newsletters, Webpage, Facebook groups

We continue to make posts to the private and public Facebook pages of upcoming events, pertinent news and campaigns, and resources. You can contact [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca) to receive the BGRN periodic e-newsletters. There is a [BGRN webpage](#) You can also subscribe to the monthly [Living into Right Relations newsletter](#) from the desk of General Council Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice. Soon a calendar of important days in Indigenous culture will be posted.

There really has been a lot happening, and there is so much more to learn and tackle. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, or want to get more involved, please contact us:  
On behalf of those on the journey of reconciliation,

Rev. Cecile Fausak (Lacombe) - [cecilefausak@telus.net](mailto:cecilefausak@telus.net)  
Grace Hussey (Grande Prairie) - [b.grace.hussey@gmail.com](mailto:b.grace.hussey@gmail.com)  
Rev. Tony Snow (Calgary) - [tsnow@united-church.ca](mailto:tsnow@united-church.ca)  
Sharon Woodhouse (Calgary) - [swoodhouse@telus.net](mailto:swoodhouse@telus.net)





# BAR HARBOUR CAMP

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2022 brought our Summer Youth Camp back to Bar Harbour Camp!

We were thrilled to have 175 campers, ages 6-17, join us over 4 weeks of summer camp. In addition, we had 23 campers join us for our Fall Finale and Last Chance weekend camp in September.

We were very grateful for those who came to join us as staff members. We had a different configuration this year as some staff came for all sessions and some were only able to come for one week. Those who came did an awesome job of creating camp memories for our campers.



After two seasons away, we discovered that, along with the rest of the world, we need to do some re-visioning about how we live out camp. We were not expecting some of the continuing COVID challenges and changes that we need to continue to adapt to.

We are committed to do the work that will include those pieces more seamlessly into our programming and camp life.

Our summer camp dates were set in November and registration was opened up for 2023 in the beginning of January. After many years of static registration prices to keep us inexpensive, we made the hard decision to raise prices this year.



Various camperships are available by request. We are very grateful for the sponsorship of Kidsport for a few of our campers in 2022. First United Church in Hanna, continued to offer a partial bursary to members of their community who registered for camp.

Anyone can donate to the camp to be part of the campership program.

We were fortunate to have renters throughout the season taking advantage of renting for both large and small groups. We have rental sites of RV's & trailers now with both power and water. Much more convenient.



A couple of our Board members left us this year to follow other passions. So we are asking our community to consider if they have wisdom and energy to come and work with us as either a Board member or a resource/committee member.

We are hoping to expand our rental exposure. This will also need some coordination of services etc. Our rental season runs from May 15-September 15.

As always, our facility needs attention. This will always be an ongoing task. We have been applying for grants to help in upgrading our cabins and some of our programming resources.



We are looking forward to 2023 and all that it holds.

Our Annual Meeting is typically held in February. It will be online. Information packages and your link to attend can be received by emailing : [info@barharbourcamp.com](mailto:info@barharbourcamp.com).

A \$5 membership fee is required to vote: you can e-transfer your membership fee or any donation to [Paulette@barharbourcamp.com](mailto:Paulette@barharbourcamp.com)



# CANYON CHURCH CAMP

/65

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINA WHITTMIRE, CHAIR

2022 went out with a bang, as we signed a 21-year License of Occupation with Parks Canada to take effect April 2023. Our patience and perseverance paid off! We hired a project manager to help us with the pre-build stage of our rebuild and he has been fantastic. He will assist us in getting all the needed permits in place so that we can begin the rebuild in the spring as well as work with the environmental engineer to implement the new wastewater system.

We did not have access to the camp this year, so Parks Canada looked after the buildings for us, making sure that they were secure and ready for winter. The Waterton townsite manager has been very helpful and easy to work with.

Unfortunately, we lost four board members at the end of the year, so we are actively recruiting! We need members that are familiar with construction, finances, and fundraising. We are also in need of committee members for our fundraising, rebuild, and community engagement groups. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to me at [whittmirefamily@gmail.com](mailto:whittmirefamily@gmail.com) or 403-328-9944. Watch for updates on Facebook and on our website [www.canyonchurchcamp.com](http://www.canyonchurchcamp.com).





# KASOTA EAST CAMP

/66

SUBMITTED BY SHARI HANSON, CHAIR AND REP TO CHINOOK WINDS REGION



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!



ALBERTA CAMPING  
ASSOCIATION



**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.

## KEC Board: (as of AGM, January 20, 2023):

Shari Hanson	Chair
VACANT	Vice-Chair
Krista Fry	Secretary
Amity Sponholz	Treasurer
Mandy Alcide	Personnel Liaison
Kathy Broks	Membership Liaison
VACANT	Property Liaison
Nancy Nourse	Director at Large
VACANT	Director at Large

## KEC Management Team:

Megan Anderson	Director of Summer Programs
Angela Wymann-Richter	Director of Camp Operations

**KEC CHAMPIONS:** Local representatives support KEC's continued connection with founding Communities of Faith. We ask each Church to appoint someone to this role to liaise fundraising, communication & community building around KEC.

**A Few Highlights from our ANNUAL REPORT:** The summer of navigating back to camp programs after 2 years of no campers nor staff at camp. Thank you to all of the Board and our Management Team as we navigated difficult decisions and policies in the early months of 2022. How good to have summer camp staff and campers return!

Our Management Team offers the following season summary: *"This summer posed many challenges, including less experienced staff and kitchen teams, an ACA accreditation visit, many anxious and demanding parents, and far more homesick campers than usual. An increased number of youth with complex behavioural issues and trauma put substantial pressure on the Summer Directing Team to lead their counsellors in supporting campers. In addition, a number of site maintenance issues arose because many parts of our site had been out of use for two years. Nonetheless, it was thrilling to see the smiling faces of campers back on site. Our staff team ended the summer on a high note, feeling good about the ways in which they grew, and about their contributions to camp"* (Megan Anderson and Angela Wymann-Richter).

**Legacy Weekend May 2022:** The Board and Management Team worked together to support this weekend which included the grand opening and dedication of our newly built Pavilion and inaugural awarding of our new **Spirit of Dedication Award**. We were thrilled to award this to Madeline Hendrickson from Lacombe (St. Andrews) and Shirley Gehman from Red Deer (Gaetz Memorial).





# CAMP KASOTA EAST

/67

## CAMP KASOTA EAST CONTINUED

Gehman from Red Deer (Gaetz Memorial).



**Property:** A significant accomplishment in 2022 (among others) = Removal of the condemned mobile home!

**Registrations:** We should be pleased with our numbers. In conversation with other camps in Alberta, it seems most camps were falling short of their targets by a greater margin. We saw growth in July's camps, but decline in August.

**Rentals:** 2022 was a year of welcoming back groups to our site after being closed for 2 years due to COVID. The majority of groups were brand new to KEC. Groups came from all of Alberta and included weddings, youth and adult retreats, Scouts, Junior Forest Wardens, religious retreats, and Teacher Professional Development. We also continue to provide a weekly place for a Sylvan Lake Scout group to meet.

**Accreditation and Staff Manual:** Several years ago we lost the digitized copy of our staff manual when our computer was sent in for servicing. In time for our accreditation visit by Alberta Camping Association, Megan completed the rewrite of this Manual. The new thorough and well organized manual was coveted by the volunteers with Alberta Camping Association, seeing it as "a thesis" and also coveting the wisdom and leadership of Megan and Angela! Our accreditation through the Alberta Camping Association is so very important to our risk management, upholding industry standards and assurance to campers, staff and their families that KEC runs as a high quality, safe, inclusive and fun camp.

Thank you from us all at KEC for the ongoing support and prayers for our Camp Ministry.

*Submitted by Shari Hanson, Chair and REP to Chinook Winds Region*

[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](mailto:info@kasotaeastcamp.org)



[www.kasotaeastcamp.org](http://www.kasotaeastcamp.org)



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



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

# CAMP KASOTA WEST

/68

## SUBMITTED BY BOARD OF KASOTA WEST CAMP

Camp Kasota West is located on the South shore of Sylvan Lake.

2022 was a challenging summer. Registration numbers were much lower than 2019. This was the first year of rebuilding the registration numbers after COVID restrictions of the past two summers.

### STAFF & STAFF TRAINING

The staff consisted of full and part-time positions including Camp Director/cook, 2 Program Coordinators, Camp Medic, and Counselors including Lifeguards, Canoe Instructors and Archery Instructors.

Staff Training consisted of a number of sessions, which exceed the standards of the Alberta Camping Association and The United Church of Canada. Training sessions included the following; child care, age group characteristics, bullying, discovery hour, policies & procedures, emergency procedures, liability, first aid, child abuse, behavior management, team building and program planning. Before the summer program commenced some staff members attained their Archery Instructors Certification through NASP and some were certified as Canoe Instructors. The other certifications were obtained in previous years by returning staff.

### PROGRAM

Camp Kasota West summer program includes but is not limited to the following:

Kayaking, Performing Arts, Soccer, 9 Square in the Air, Field Games, Canoeing, Arts & Crafts, Kickball, -Camp wide activities, Swimming, Evening Vespers, Gaga Ball, Environment Ed., Camp Fire, Nature walks, Archery, Earth Stewardship

### SAILING CAMP

There was 1 week of sailing where 9 youth participated in the program instructed by Duncan White. The Sailing Program allows these youth to continue coming to camp into their high school years, and also learn valuable sailing skills.

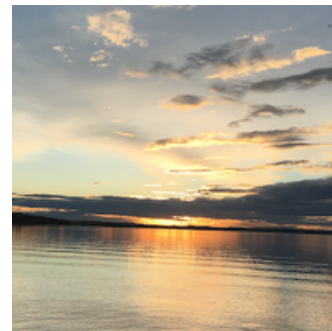
### COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM

This summer 40 campers registered in one of the 3 weeks the CIT program was offered. Throughout the week CITs shadow a staff member gaining hands-on experience managing a cabin group. There is also group discussion, along with planning and leading various sessions, supervised by the CIT Leadership team.

### RENTALS

During the non-summer months, the Camp is rented most weekends to various groups. These groups utilize the facilities for their programming and activities.

Respectively Submitted  
Camp Kasota West Board







### Hi there! We're YYC Campus Ministry!

With offices on the U of C, MRU and SAIT campuses, we represent the United Church of Canada in post-secondary communities comprising over 70,000 students, staff and faculty.

Our values are: Community, Affirming Ministry, Social Justice and Spirituality. With a team of seven young adult Community Connectors and year-round operations, our relentless focus is outreach on Campus.

### Message from Chaplain Tim Nethercott: A New Model for Campus Ministry

It is fair to say that YYC Campus Ministry is changing the game for Campus Ministry in the United Church of Canada. Once one of the best-kept secrets of Calgary Presbytery, with the advent of the First Third Ministries of Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions, the model we have developed has gained recognition and is being replicated in Campus Ministries throughout the two regions. And national interest is growing. That model has many components: strategic partnerships on- and off-campus, body-oriented spirituality, public art, grounding in and a focus on the lived experience of young adults and a kind of public theology that is possible perhaps only in the unique religious world of the United Church of Canada. At its core, however, is the training, supervision and deployment of a team of young adult Community Connectors. To have one or two "Chaplain's helpers" is not a big deal.

To have seven young adults of vastly different religious/spiritual backgrounds equipped to represent a church in three self-managing teams developing their own programs and succeeding in growing a community of significant size and depth in the space of 10 months in the shadow of a pandemic that has caused student engagement everywhere to crater, is a big deal. We've figured out how to do this. The hero in our story is the former Calgary Presbytery who continued to support their Campus Ministry when others did not. Every congregation contributed but of course most notably St. Andrew's, now Fish Creek. And while we have hundreds of donors and stalwart volunteers to thank, we are especially grateful to indefatigable former committee members David Blackadar (St. Thomas), Kathy Koehler (St. David's) and Richard Betts (St. Andrews/Fish Creek).



**Meet the Community Connectors:** Interview with Madi Cullen, Administrator, Univ. of Calgary  
*Madi joined the YYCCM as a student and became a CC. In 2022, she became the Coordinator of the Faith & Spirituality Centre U of C, home base for YYCCM.*



**Madi, what do you think YYC Campus Ministry contributes to the Faith & Spirituality Centre at U of C?**

YYCCM's programs are the most vibrant and well-attended programming in the FSC. The FSC is a student drop-in centre and a lot of the "regulars" that hang out at the FSC have come to us through YYCCM. Peer Helpers are the student volunteers that help out at the FSC. Many of our Peer Helpers in particular were introduced to the FSC via the Drum Circle.



## CONTINUED PG. 2/4

The Drum, Dine Discuss program feeds a lot of people. That program and the Holy Bakery create community and a place where students can make friends and build connections on-campus.

### **And how would you characterize YYCCM's contribution to the University Community?**

YYCCM is the face of Progressive Christianity on Campus. Queer folks specifically have often had negative experiences with Christian church. I am speaking for myself here. It is important for the University community to see that not all Christians are like that. And I believe it is inspiring to see that there is a positive, social justice oriented tradition in Christianity.

### **How has the YYC Campus Ministry influenced your own spiritual journey?**

I first encountered YYCCM as a student about two years ago. The Campus Ministry was really affirming of my personal relationship with God and supported me in my faith journey. I felt completely and fully embraced from the moment I walked in to the Drum Circle. Even though most of what they do isn't explicitly religious, the presence of Tim and Margaret as Chaplains really spoke to me.

### **What role has YYCCM played in your professional development?**

Of course my position with YYCCM led directly to my first full time job out of University as the coordinator of a multi-faith centre. The training YYCCM provided, like Mental Health First Aid, was directly applicable to my current work. The certificates we earned and the wide variety of experiences, like the farm work and participation at St. David's United Church were helpful in my life journey and on my CV.

### **Why do you think the United Church should continue to support YYCCM?**

YYCCM offers unconditional acceptance. Everybody needs that.

### **Community Connector Program**

YYCCM works with First Third Ministries to train and supervise Community Connectors. In 2022 the CC's of five Campus Ministries met in Lethbridge for training in leadership, program development and spiritual growth. Online workshops in food safety, Mental Health First Aid and Commit to Kids, theology and evangelism were also provided. CC's were employed full time July-August through Canada Summer Jobs and eight hours per week through the Campus Ministry budget from Sept-April. C's also related to supporting congregations Scarboro and St. David's Council and friends.



### **Team Reports**

University of Calgary, Faith & Spirituality Centre  
The U of C team has made the Faith & Spirituality Centre feel like a home-away from home for the many students who live there during the week. Aromas from the Holy Bakery fill the air. On Wednesdays drummers gather, head out to the Drum Circle and return to a home-made meal and sharing circle. Our team hangs out at the FSC through the week, connects with other departments and staffs promo tables. Our contribution to food security on campus is gaining recognition.

## CONTINUED PG. 3/4

### Mount Royal University

The MRU team partners with the Student Union's Cultural Inclusion Centre through our own student club. Thursdays is our Drum, Dine, Discuss, program. It's an intimate group with a devoted following that includes belly dancing to middle-eastern rhythms. We also partner with several professors leading workshops using the drums, the labyrinth and conducting worship in the style of Taizé.

### Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

We keep office hours at SAIT on Tuesday, meeting with students and staffing the SAIT Interfaith Centre. Much of our work at SAIT involves conducting Interfaith events, labyrinth workshops, guest lectures and staffing booths, a great way to meet students from around the world. Herman attends "Interfaith Interface", a weekly discussion of interfaith topics.

### Affirming, Worship, Retreats, BBQ's, Social Events

Our programs operate year-round with BBQ's through the summer and social events--there was one memorable evening with Scarboro that involved axe-throwing! First Third Ministries brought our folks to Holy Listening, a young adult retreat at Naramata and we joined the Lutheran Campus Ministry at their winter retreat. Our teams marched with their respective institutions for Pride. And we had a remarkably well-attended Advent Service at U of C.

### Meet the Community Connectors

**CC's were asked the question: What do you value most about the Campus Ministry?**

Definitely how welcoming it is, meeting new people can be scary for many, myself included, but feeling included in this group comes naturally. Everyone is so open, accepting and understanding. I've learnt a lot about vulnerability through finding a safe space in the Campus Ministry.

**-Rebekah Jayalath**

My favourite thing at the campus ministry has to be being able to serve the community in various ways. Seeing people leaving the events with smiles and "energy recharged" probably gives me the best satisfaction.

**-Andrew Lee**

Campus Ministry is a place where students can find an inclusive community that embraces the Queer community, and where one can develop and foster connections and friendships with like-minded individuals.

**-Luis Armondo Sanchez Diaz**

Working for YYCCM, I felt safe to develop personally, professionally, and spiritually while engaging in meaningful work – building connections with my fellow students.

**-Madi Cullen**

Simply the people; meeting and connecting with a diverse range of fellow students and young people who all carry a diverse range of identities and perspectives. This is the most valuable thing as well as the richest most beautiful part of the whole ministry.

**-Darren Rea**



Community Connectors at McKillop United Church, July 2023  
Back: Rebekah Jayalath, Luis Armondo Sanchez Diaz, Herman Ng, Darren Rea,  
Middle: Natalie Hoa, Andrew Lee,  
Front: Chaplains Tim & Margaret, Madi Cullen

The rhythmical drumming circles, delicious simple suppers, and all the heartfelt stories during the conversation circles are all getting us connected week by week. Truly appreciate the generous and selfless support from our community members.

**-Herman Ng**



CONTINUED PG. 4/4

## Black Bean Soup Recipe

Black Bean Soup Recipe

Prepared by folks at St. David's and Northminster, this simple vegan soup is a perennial favourite.

Serves 40!

Black Beans: 19 x 398 ml. cans

Mild salsa: 3 litres

Mushroom or vegetable broth 4.5 litres

Cumin 4 tablespoons

Blend, heat and serve with limes, tortilla chips, cilantro, sour cream, guacamole, green onion, tortilla chips.



## Support Your Campus Ministry!

You can help bring the United Church to Young Adults by becoming a donor. Please make cheques payable to Chinook Winds. and add the note: YYC Campus Ministry  
Chinook Winds  
P.O. Box 98,  
Okotoks AB T1S 1A4  
You can donate online [HERE](#)

The Campus Ministry is grateful for the support of St. Andrew's/Fish Creek, Lakeview, Scarboro, St. David's and Northminster United Churches and individual donors in 2022-2023 academic year. The most valuable thing as well as the richest most beautiful part of the whole ministry.





SUBMITTED BY CHRIS MAH POY - FIRST-THIRD MINISTRY COORDINATOR, JUSTICE & NETWORKS



## 2022 – A Year of Firsts (In First Third Ministry)

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.

2022 was busy and wonderful year of firsts for our ministry. Higher levels of vaccination enabled us to return to in-person children, youth and young adult programming, while continuing to vision ministry opportunities for children, youth, young adults, camps and campus ministry with United Church communities of faith across our regions.

In 2022 we had our first ever YouthTrek events, with inter-regional leadership hosted by Kamloops United Church and Waterton United Church. First Third Ministry Animators, youth and leaders from both regions explored the Road to Emmaus; discovering the different ways we can recognize Jesus in a stranger and experience Jesus in the wider world.

Holy Listening was our first joint young adult retreat, hosted at Naramata Centre. Young adult guests and leaders from across Canada gathered for worship, workshops and fellowship. Our leaders navigated young adults through some of the different ways of knowing the Divine; sharing the experiences of the mystic-practitioner, the justice-seeker, the heart-grower and the wisdom-learner. We were so grateful to offer parallel children and youth programs at our regional gatherings in 2022, and we are eager to work with partners to deliver meaningful and joyous programs in 2023.

Our inter-regional staff team has been busy developing and leading programs, visioning with Community of Faith partners and participating in the wider work of The United Church of Canada, including supporting the national strategic plan for First Third Ministry. In addition to the events mentioned above some of our additional 2022 and early 2023 ministry highlights include:



PG. 2/3

## YYC Campus Ministry Connector Training 2022

- Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Youth Council Leadership retreat hosted at Okotoks United Church in February 2023
- Visioning new First Third Ministry and Campus Ministry opportunities in Red Deer
- Growing the First Third Ministry Leadership Network, providing ongoing opportunities for learning, resource sharing and peer support for ministry leaders across Canada
- Monthly Chinook Winds Camping Ministry Network Gatherings
- Camping Sunday Worship Resources and Camping Ministry Videos
- Faith@Home
- The first graduates of the certificate in Children, Youth & Family Ministries at the Vancouver School of Theology completed the program in May 2022
- 'The Art of Children & Youth Ministry' course held at Vancouver School of Theology, January 2023

Some of our upcoming events in 2023 include:

- YYC Campus Ministry Connector Training 2023, Summer 2023
- The Feast Leaders Gathering – a quarterly gathering for First Third leaders in congregational ministry to share food, resources, wisdom, and community, hosted at Okotoks UC for Chinook Winds leaders
- YouthTrek 2023 at Knox United in Drumheller and Duncan, September 2023
- Young Adult Retreat 2023 at Loon Lake Retreat Centre, November 2023
- First Third Leaders Blanket Exercise(s) in collaboration with PMRC and CWRC Indigenous Ministries
- Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Youth Council Leadership and Learning Opportunities

It is with a profound sense of gratitude and enthusiasm that we look toward our upcoming ministry events, continued relationship development and ministry resourcing. We're excited for 2023 to be a year of growth, and more Firsts for First Third Ministry!

With delight and blessing, The First Third Ministry Team



## FIRST THIRD MINISTRY EVENTS

APRIL 26	<b>THE FEAST</b> Leaders Gathering in 3 locations! Registration Required	SEPT - OCT 29-1	<b>YOUTH TREK - DRUMHELLER</b> for Youth (ages 12-17) and their Leaders
MAY 4-7	<b>CHINOOK WINDS AGM</b> IN MEDICINE HAT Children and Youth Program	OCTOBER 20-22	<b>YOUTH TREK - VANCOUVER</b> for Youth (ages 12-17) and their Leaders
JUNE 1-4	<b>PACIFIC MTN REGION AGM</b> IN ABBOTSFORD Children and Youth Program	NOVEMBER 2-4	<b>LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE</b> First Third Leaders gather for two days of professional development at VST.
JUNE - JULY 30-2	<b>FAMILY RETREAT</b> At Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island	NOVEMBER 10-13	<b>YOUNG ADULT RETREAT</b> for Young Adults (ages 18-35) and their leaders at Loon Lake, Maple Ridge

Registration Required - check out [firstthirdministry.ca](http://firstthirdministry.ca) for updates!  
As soon as we put out an event list, there is something new to add or changes that need to be made! Subscribe to the F3 Calendar at [webcal://tockify.com/api/feeds/ics/cwpmfirstthirdministry](https://webcal.tockify.com/api/feeds/ics/cwpmfirstthirdministry)



# YOUTH COUNCIL

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS MAH POY PG. 1/4

/75

youth  
council

of the Pacific Mountain  
and Chinook Winds  
Regional Council

## WHO IS YOUTH COUNCIL

- People ages 14-17
- Up to 12 members, half new and half returning each "term"
- Six youth representing Pacific Mountain Region and six youth representing Chinook Winds Region
- Youth from across the region who reflect a diversity of communities and experience
- No prior church leadership experience required. Come as you are!





CONTINUED PG. 2/4

## HOW IS YOUTH COUNCIL SUPPORTED

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council (PM) and Chinook Winds Regional Council (CW) Executives ensures that:

- Youth have input at general meetings
- Costs are budgeted through the Regional Councils
- The PM/CW Nominations committee participates in the selection process for applications to the Youth Council



CONTINUED PG. 3/4

## WHY YOUTH COUNCIL

- Support wider engagement of youth in the participation of the life of the United Church of Canada beyond their “home” community of faith,
- Lift the gifts of youth, to celebrate their wisdom and spirit they bring to the church and the world,
- Provide an opportunity for the voice and knowledge of youth to shape the experience of the United Church of Canada for all,
- Deepen youth’s leadership skills and faith, and
- Empower youth to work and serve the world as God’s people and disciples of Christ.



CONTINUED PG. 4/4

## youth council

SHARE  
VISION

LEAD

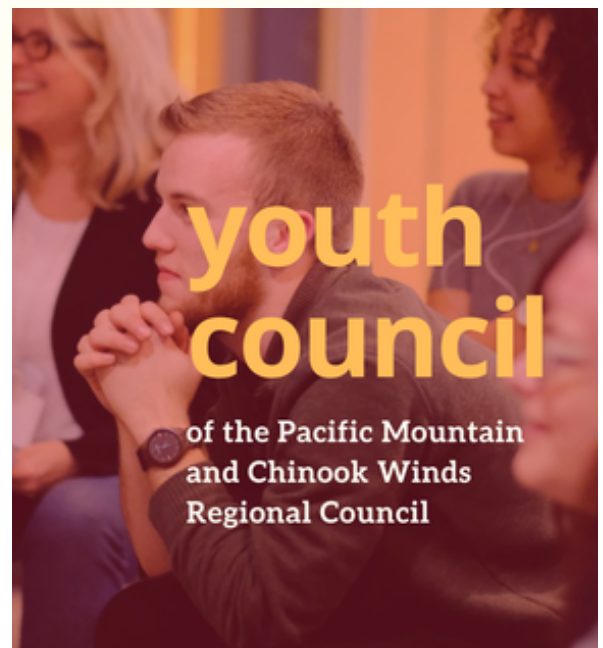
INSPIRE  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY

IMAGINE

LIVE  
FAITHFULLY

INNOVATE

“Encouraging youth to lead  
and create meaningful,  
innovative, youth-directed  
ways to participate life  
of the church.”





# FAITH AT HOME RESOURCES

SUBMITTED BY JES BECKERLEY - LAYOUT DESIGNER



Published four times a year, Faith@Home is aimed to support ministers and leaders in their ministry with the children, youth, and families in the community of faith they serve -- and it's proven to be a wonderful way to support grandparents and godparents in faithfully connecting with the young people in their lives.

The magazines are created with spiritual practices, prayers, crafts, games, and activities that explore the themes of the different liturgical seasons and focus on specific biblical stories taken from lectionary readings. We are proudly United Church of Canada in identity and theology.

## FAITH @ HOME

MAGAZINE



Each Subscription Includes:

One physical copy of each of our four liturgical season magazines, beginning with the first issue published after your subscription is purchased. Shipping of each magazine is included in your subscription.

Lent, Holy Week, Easter  
Pentecost and Season After Pentecost  
Fall and the Great Growing Season  
Advent, Christmas and Epiphany  
How Many to Order?

Subscriptions are available in in single or bulk packages of 10 magazines and 20 magazines. Order the quantity of subscriptions for each household in your congregation or ministry area.

When Will They Arrive?

The magazines will ship approximately one month before the start of the liturgical season that it is focused on.

To order click here for the [UCRD website](https://www.firstthirdministry.ca)





## SUBMITTED BY GEOFFREY SIMMINS

In July 2022, Alberta Health Services started to welcome back religious community visitors (RCVs) into our acute-care hospitals. RCVs serve as part of the multidisciplinary support team for patients and their families in AHS hospitals. As Justine Baek, a palliative care fellow at the University of Toronto, remarked, “Essential caregiver presence is associated with significant benefits to patient care, including improved safety, enhanced communication, and improved outcomes. They’re also crucial players in the delivery of patient-centred care by assisting with...emotional support.” (Justine Baek, “Re-evaluating Visitor Restrictions,” July 2, 2022.) To help potential visitors get ready for their role, in September we offered a Chinook Winds Hospital Ministry Course. Fourteen people signed up. We met for two full and informative days.



Around the table were: Michael Adamowicz, Central United, Calgary; Janet Ball, St Paul's, Trochu; Kathleen Honeychurch, Nanton; Norma Calder, Okotoks; Linda Miller, St. Thomas, Calgary; Francis Liu, Chinese United, Calgary; Junior Smith, St. Andrew's, Bow Island; Geoffrey Simmins, Hospital Ministry Coordinator; Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds; Linda Kerkhoven, Forest Lawn, Calgary; Christi Porter, Central, Calgary; Jun-Hyok Chon, Edmonton Korean; Chinook Winds Pastoral Relations Minister Karen Medland; Susan Tyndall, Alix & Delburne; Kathy Spence-Cameron, Symons Valley, Calgary.

We met in person at the friendly and beautiful Okotoks United Church (which also hosts the regional CWR offices), on September 15 and 16, 2022, and learned about some of the tools and techniques you need to become an effective visitor in the acute-care hospitals in the Alberta Health Services (AHS) hospitals in the CWR region.

On our agenda: We did role-play visiting scenarios to learn while doing. We will explain how RCVs function within the AHS system and interact with Spiritual Health Practitioners. We discussed spiritual practices and tools for self-awareness. We learned about the latest protocols of personal protective equipment and safety standards so that visitors could stay safe and healthy, and patients and staff do too. There was no cost for this program.

We are still not back to a full complement of visitors. While continuing to evaluate the best way to offer the orientation program, we encourage anyone who is interested in Hospital Visiting, or pastoral care volunteering more generally, to phone/text Geoffrey Simmins at: 403-708-3286, toll-free at 1-833-762-0192, or email at [gsimmins@united-church.ca](mailto:gsimmins@united-church.ca)





SUBMITTED BY REV. TONY SNOW



## Indigenous Ministry Report

This year was a year of great transition in Indigenous Ministry. As we worked on outreach and instruction to communities of faith, providing tools and observations throughout the year that reflected our concerns for right relationship and reconciliation.

We began the year in support of ongoing interfaith and dialogue for social justice issues at World Interfaith Harmony Week and World Religions Day. We observed the Valentine's Day MMIW2S walk and Pink Shirt Day, before the 7 week Wisdom of the Elders Lenten Study took place with great nationwide attendance. Following Easter we launched our Ally Toolkit with a pilot training program, which we delivered again in the fall. Working with our ecumenical partners in For The Love Of Creation, we observed Earth Day as part of the national campaign, and coordinated a Missing and Murdered Women, Girls and Two Spirit memorial service in Banff on Red Dress Day. During Indigenous History Month, we provided virtual blanket exercises, a regionwide Indigenous service and women's sharing circle, as well as planning for the Indigenous Church ordination service at Hillhurst United Church. Over the summer, at the Banff Indian Days, we brought together interfaith partners for a listening circle ahead of World Indigenous Day on August 9. In September we reaffirmed our commitments to the treaty relationship on Treaty 7 signing day (September 22) and Truth and Reconciliation Day (September 30). We shared a regionwide service and supported blanket exercises and special gatherings on that day, while visiting local seminaries and colleges to share at chapel services. We held our second annual women's wellness workshop ahead of Sisters in Spirit Day (October 4), and took time to remember our fallen veterans on Indigenous Veteran's Day (Nov 8). We concluded the year with an Advent series on the Medicine Wheel Teachings and a Christmas Feast in Morley supported by United Churches and our ecumenical partners in the Banff Corridor and Calgary.

It has been a busy and fulfilling year for our ministry. As we look ahead to 2023, we are thankful for the opportunity to engage in in-person activities on our collective road to reconciliation as we live out the Calls to Action.





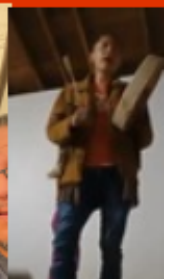
# INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

SUBMITTED BY REV. TONY SNOW

/82



Chinook Winds Indigenous Ministry and Right Relations Projects 2022				
Major Projects/Events				Stage
January	Jan 16 -	Urban Indigenous Circle	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Jan 25 -	Right Relations Circle	Wintercount	Complete
Feb	Feb 1-7	Interfaith Harmony Week	Interfaith Opening/Dialogue	Complete
	Feb 20 -	Urban Indigenous Circle	Day of Social Justice	Complete
	Feb 22 -	Right Relations Circle	Lateral Violence	Complete
	Feb 23 -	Pink Shirt Day	Indigenous Anti-Bullying	Complete
March	March 8 - Apr 12	Lenten Study	Elder's Wisdom	Complete
	Mar 21 -	Anti-Racism Day	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Mar 22 -	Right Relations	Lenten Study Session	Complete
April	April 4 -	Easter	Indigenous Service Video	Complete
	April 18 -	Urban Indigenous Circle	Earth Day Service	Complete
	April	Ally Toolkit Training Pilot	6 week awareness and actions	Complete
	April 22-	Earth Day	Earth Day Seminars	Complete
	April 27 -	Right Relations Circle	Earth Day - Environmental Action	Complete
May	May 5 -	Red Dress Day	Community Memorial/Vigil	Complete
	May 6-7	CWR AGM	Panel Discussions	Complete
	May 17 -	Pentecost Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	May 26 -	Right Relations Workshop	Pentecost/Sundance Teachings	Complete
June	June	Indigenous History Month	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June	Indigenous Ally Toolkit	4 week Toolkit Roll-out.	Complete
	June	Virtual Blanket Exercise	Indigenous Awareness	Complete
	June 3 -	Women's Sharing Circle	Community Outreach	Complete
	June 19 -	Indigenous Service	Indigenous Sunday	Complete
July	July	Right Relations Circle	Calls to Action/Calls To The Church	Complete
	VST	Morley Ecumenical Conference	Interfaith and UCC Events	Complete
August	Aug 3-6	Summer School	Jul 9 - Jul 21	Complete
	Aug 3-6	Banff Indian Days	Interfaith and UCC Dialogue	Complete
	Aug 9 -	World Indigenous Day	Global Partners	Complete
	August	GC44 Events	Reconciliation	Complete
	August	Banff Indian Days	Youth Cultural Camp	Complete
September	August	Youth Summer Programs	Stay in School Instruction	Complete
	Sept 18 -	Season of Creation	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Sept 13, 20, 27 -	Ally Toolkit Sessions	Orientation and Practice	Complete
	Sept 22 -	Treaty Day	Treaty 7 Sharing Circle/Bethany Care	Complete
	Sept 27 -	Right Relations Workshop	Season of Reconciliation	Complete
October	Sept 30 -	Truth and Reconciliation Day	Residential School Memorials/TRC	Complete
	Oct 1 -	MMIWG Service	Memorial and Wellness Workshop	Complete
	Oct 4 -	Sisters in Spirit Day	Memorial/Vigil (Monday)	Complete
	Oct 26 -	Right Relations Workshop	Mourning and Remembrance	Complete
	Oct 29 -	Kairos North	Conference Gathering	Complete
November	Oct 29 -	Youth Trek	Indigenous Workshop	Complete
	Nov 8 -	Indigenous Remembrance Day	Commemorative Service	Complete
	Nov 21 -	Remembrance Service	UIC Monthly Service	Complete
	Nov 24 -	Right Relations Workshop	Remembrance	Complete
December	Nov 30 -	Advent Series	Traditional Teachings	Complete
	Nov 27 - Dec 18	Indigenous Advent Series	Medicine Wheel Teachings/Virtues	Complete
	Dec 24 -	Indigenous Christmas Eve	Xmas Eve Video	Complete
	Dec 26 -	Dakota 38 Service	Vigil	Complete



SUBMITTED BY REV. MICHELLE SLATER - LEADERSHIFT DIRECTOR



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

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

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

We offer these resources through...

## RETREAT & RENEWAL

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

## DEEP LEARNING

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

## SUSTAINING PRESENCE

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



SUBMITTED BY REV. MICHELLE SLATER

## INTENTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Sponsoring, supporting and amplifying the offerings of partners
- Offering seed funding for new initiatives
- Like “the Festival of Biblical Storytelling”, with the Network of Biblical Storytellers of Canada
- Like “Resurrect: A Learning Party for Restoration and Inspiration”, with the Church Planting Network

Like “Elements of Truth: BEFORE RECONCILIATION” workshops, by kinSHIFT, an Indigenous-led initiative supporting settlers to gain the knowledge and skills to cultivate respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and places (we offer bursaries of 50% reg fee (online) with code KINSHIFT)

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

And, we welcomed an interim Director, with (Rev) Michelle Slater. Michelle has served in congregational ministry for 24 years, in small and medium congregations, both part-time and full-time. She is committed to continual learning about and improving her practice of ministry and leadership, and is looking forward to sharing the learning journey with you.

We would love to hear from you! How do you see LeaderSHIFT connecting with your work? Email us ([leaderSHIFT@united-church.ca](mailto:leaderSHIFT@united-church.ca)) to connect with ways we can support your learning and growth in leadership, for this time and in your place.

**LEADING THROUGH CONFLICT**

**OCTOBER 27TH AND 28TH 2023**

A workshop for lay and ministry personnel leaders, to gain practices & traits to navigate conflict faithfully and successfully

**SAVE THE DATE**

WITH **SUSAN NIENABER**

**IN PERSON AND ONLINE**

**LOCATION: WOODCLIFF UNITED CHURCH, CALGARY**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL & LEADERSHIFT





### **Our Commitments:**

#### **We learn and promote learning.**

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

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

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

#### **We remove barriers to participation.**

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

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

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

#### **We support transformation in leadership habits.**

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

#### **We work with partners.**

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

### **the LeaderShift team:**

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

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

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

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



# PROPERTY & NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL /86

## SUBMITTED BY DEAN SALTER

The Property and New Church Development Council (PNCDC) is a charitable society established by the United Church and incorporated in the province of Alberta. Our main purpose is to hold United Church property and the resources from the sale of property and work with the Regions to help support creative new ministries.

The PNCDC, with church restructuring, comes under the guidance of Chinook Winds Region and the Executive Secretary of the Region sits as an ex-officio member of the Council

Through the exceptional efforts of our Co-ordinating Consultant Joel Den Haan, we have worked with St. Andrew's United Church in Cardston toward realising their dream of using their available property to build reasonably priced rental units to meet a critical need in the community. The process is well underway.

We are holding and maintaining 629 49th Ave. SW in Calgary (formerly Living Spirit U.C.) on behalf of the Region and working with others to determine its future place in ministry and community development.

In Airdrie, we are working with the church and the wider community around the re-development of the current church and adjoining property to bring maximum benefit to both the church and the city of Airdrie.

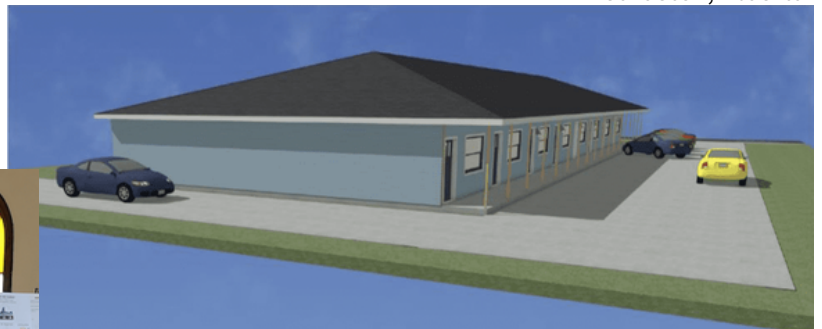
The former Renfrew United Church building in Calgary could no longer be used when the ministry ended there and due to structural and safety issues it was torn down. The PNCDC continues to hold the property and there are ongoing discussions and planning about developing fairly priced rental units on the site which will be designed to fit in well with the neighborhood.

PNCDC is the sole shareholder in Land Trust Missional Holdings Inc., a newly-established company that can work with developers, builders, lawyers, accountants, municipalities and other interested parties in carrying forward shovel-in-the-ground development projects.

The PNCDC is looking forward to working more closely with churches in Chinook Winds Region with regard to providing strategic planning, advice, and consultation on how they want to use their property in the future for creative and dynamic new ministries

Dean Salter  
Chair, PNCDC

Cardston, Alberta



Airdrie, Alberta



Renfrew, Calgary, Alberta



## SUBMITTED BY SUE BRODRICK PG. 1/2

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 sales, long term lease approvals and guidance to help churches engage in transition and development to enhance their mission and ministry.

Members of the Property Working Group are Susan Brodrick (Chair), Mary Axworthy (Secretary), Mel Spence, and Barrie Clayton (Clerk for Land Titles). During 2022 we were saddened by the loss of Joyce Cook, a founding member of our Working Group who had long served the former Foothills Presbytery, and whose knowledge of local relationships was important to us. We remember and honour Joyce together.

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 as Assistant to the Executive Minister. 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.

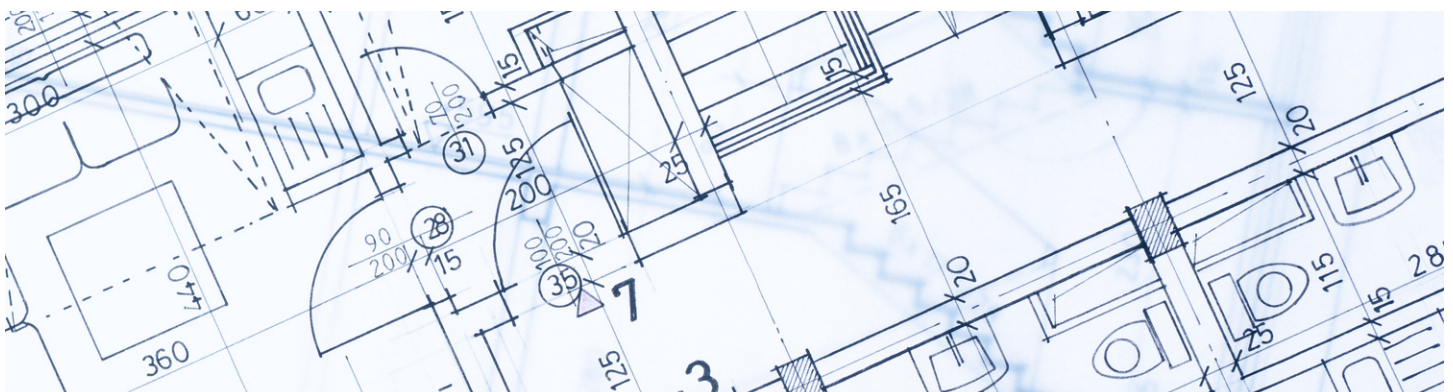
This past year (April 2022 – March 2023) we have helped the following Communities of Faith update their Trustees on their title: Red Deer Lake United Church Calgary, Olds United Church, Nanton United Church, St. Andrew's United Church Bowden, Rundle Memorial United Church Banff, Knox United Church Drumheller, Hanna First United Church, Woodcliff United Church Calgary, Ogden United Church Calgary, Southwood United Church Calgary, Claresholm United Church, Foothills United Church Calgary and St. Andrew's United Church DeWinton. Our Clerk for Land Titles, Barrie Clayton along with Joel Den Haan were very busy getting the appropriate documents prepared for this complicated government process.

We approved the rezoning of some of St. Andrew's United Church Cardston property for the development of an accessible affordable housing project. Part of this process also included approving an access easement to allow vehicle access through St. Andrew's church property in order to allow for parking in the new development. We then approved that St. Andrew's transfer their title to Property and New Church Development Council (Known as PNCDC) in order for this redevelopment to work.

The PWG also approved the request of Ralph Connor United Church Canmore to do some capital upgrades to make their church more accessible. We worked with PNCDC to help finance the demolition of Renfrew United Church in Calgary in order to eliminate ongoing vandalism while the church was empty.

For Rundle Memorial United Church in Banff we approved a renewal of the Land Lease with Parks Canada for the next 42 years. Once this was approved we then approved the plan for the leaseholder improvements for the Banff Rundle Playschool, which is part of Rundle's community outreach and was originally founded by Rundle Memorial congregation leaders.

The PWG also approved long term leases for Chinese United Church Calgary with Trico Living Well, Inc.; for Parkdale United Church Calgary with a daycare; and Woodcliff United Church Calgary with a daycare. As you are all aware, long term leases, or those involving significant usages of church floorspace, need to be approved by the Region before they are finalized.





## PROPERTY WORKING GROUP CONTINUED PG. 2/2

### **We worked with some of our Communities of Faith to sell their property:**

- Gladys Ridge United Church sold their church property but remains as part of a two point pastoral charge with Blackie;
- St. Andrew's United Church in Bowden sold their church property and disbanded as a congregation on February 1, 2023;
- Northminster United Church in Calgary sold their church property and are continuing as a Community of Faith, currently worshipping with St. David's United Church in Calgary as they discern future directions;
- Queenstown United Church in Vulcan County (who had disbanded a few years ago but the property ownership needed clarification before sale);
- Clive United Church, also disbanded but the property sale process took a number of years;
- and Acadia Valley United Church property, where the Community of Faith is still functioning in another local facility as part of Pioneer Pastoral Charge.

We continued working with Communities of Faith on appropriate purposes for the use of their funds from property sales whether they are the church or the manse. This year some of our Communities of Faith have had struggles meeting their operating costs and we have had discussions with them to try and help them move forward. The PWG is not normally involved with the operating budgets of our churches but we do understand that this is a real issue for many of our communities.

Over the past few months we completed two major projects that we had been talking about for a year or two and finally completed. The first project was to create a Policy for the Sale of Property, incorporating manse or church property, and whether the Community of Faith is continuing or is disbanding. This policy is now under review and revision before final approval. The other item we were able to make happen was our Trustees Workshop held on March 18, 2023. We had over 90 people registered for this workshop which was more than we had expected! I want to thank McDougall United Church in Calgary for hosting this event and making it possible for those who didn't want to travel to see it via livestream.

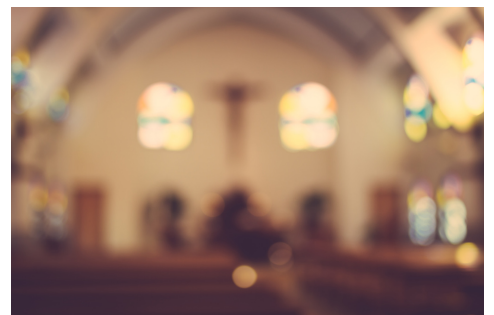
We are currently having conversations within our group on how can we get our Communities of Faith to share their excess liquid assets with other Communities of Faith in our Region who have some great mission and ministry projects happening. These discussions are ongoing and we are hoping we will have something to share soon.

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 engaged with the City of Airdrie on regulatory approval for property plans, and St. Andrew's United Church in Cardston is also in the beginning stages of a redevelopment project. The Renfrew, Airdrie, and Cardston projects are taking place through the Property and New Church Development Council and 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.

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 to myself, Sue Brodrick.

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



SUBMITTED BY ELEANORE TRIBE



The past few years have been challenging for all our UCWs and Women's groups. Despite the challenges, we adjusted to the circumstances surrounding us and carried out our work of Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service. We continue to move forward into 2023 with Hope.

One of the highlights of 2022 was the UCW 60th Anniversary event in Sydney, NS in July. Eleven members from Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit attended. It was a wonderful week of worship, learning, fellowship and fun. The Theme was "Continuing in Hope". Our Plenary speaker was Sally Armstrong, Human Rights Activist, Journalist, and Author. Her message gave us a lot to ponder. As she said - Quote - "the evil in the world thrives on apathy"; and "we as Women of the United Church, can all do something about the injustice and violence against women and girls; we have to be aware, and talk about it" Quote - "If you can't talk about it, you can't solve a problem". Our Enrichment Speakers were also very enlightening, covering a variety of subjects: "How to C.O.M.F.O.R.T a Dying Friend Rev J.D. Kennedy; "Self Care Hope in Action - Rev Alice Finnamore; and "Spiritual Renewal Through Movement and Song" - Rev Catherine Stuart.

The National UCW AGM was held in September at the Queen of the Apostles, Mississauga, ON. The Theme was "Standing with God in Hope." We were honoured to have our Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmenn Landsdowne Kwisa'lakw and Rev. Michael Blair speak to us, both indicating their continued support of the Women of the United Church. We were also pleased that our "own" Barbara Davison, was elected as NUCW President-Elect, she will be installed as President at the 2023 Fall NUCW AGM. Our last special project - Women for Change - Zambia, has concluded and our new five-year special project is The Healing Fund. As we move into 2023, we will be learning more about this project and how we can 'make a difference' through our Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service. Also, at the AGM, a motion was put forth, and passed, that Individual Memberships will be available for those women who do not have access to a local UCW Unit. Discussions were held regarding the declining memberships and a number UCW units throughout the province, having to close because of declining membership and the ageing of current members. As a result of these discussions, an "Intergenerational Panel" will be formed to "Visualize the Future of UCW", discuss the problem of declining memberships, and to explore ways as to how UCW might attract and welcome younger women into our organization.

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

# CHINOOK WINDS RETIREES

/90

SUBMITTED BY WILMA CLARK AND BOB MUTLOW

The Retired Ministers continue to gather, connect and remember. We are close to 140 in the region ...however many continue to fill in where needed and appreciated.

It takes a village to try to keep track of our people. We have gained some Retirees from elsewhere, primarily because of families living here.

We met in June 2022 at Okotoks (Regional Office) for a face-to-face luncheon. We were honoured to have most staff join us, including our new Pastoral Relations Minister Rev. Karen Medland. Some of our staff are shared with Pacific Mountain Region, so we are lucky to get to know them.

We try to connect through ZOOM about 3 times a year. We had Rev. Tony Snow present the Indigenous version of Advent, which was very spiritual and meaningful. In February we held an education session on MAID presented by Dying in Dignity. We plan another ZOOM gathering for the Easter Season.

A Christmas newsletter was sent via Email and Mail.

We stay in touch Pastorally via Post and Phone. This term we said good bye to Austin Fennell, Don Lewis Joyce Sasse, and Wayne Lewry.

Submitted by CWR Retired Ministers Committee  
Bob Mutlow and Wilma Clark





# WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY

/91

SUBMITTED BY KATHY YAMASHITA AND DEBORAH RICHARDS



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

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

Our vision of becoming an intercultural United Church encompasses:

Racialized people and communities, which include ethnic churches within the United Church, racialized lay leaders, 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.

## 2022-2023 Activities

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

June 23, 2022 – Topic: "Residential Schools: Introduction to Trauma Awareness and Strategies to support communities" – This session led by Rev. John Snow, Jr. and Rev. Tony Snow offered an introduction to trauma awareness and how to support communities as they seek to understand, and process news that continues to emerge about unmarked graves being located at sites of former Indian Residential institutions.

November 29, 2022 – Topic: "Jesus and the Marginalized" – This session led by Rev Dr. OhWang Kwon, MDiv., PhD., focussed discussions on the book *Jesus and the Marginalized: Jesus Christ for Koreans in The United Church of Canada*, co-authored by Rev. Dr. Ohwang Kwon, and Dr. Don Schweitzer, which explores the meaning of Jesus for Koreans in the United Church of Canada, and in the Canadian context.

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

## CONTINUED

### Annual Meeting

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

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

#### **The Executive for 2022-23 comprises:**

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

Secretary: Rev. Chelsea Masterman (Northern Spirit)

Pacific Mountain: Alwin Maben (past chair)

Chinook Winds: Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

Northern Spirit: Vacancy for one more representative

Living Skies: Mathias Ross, Salesi Takau

Prairie to Pine: Damber Khadka, Bill Millar

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



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

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

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

### Looking forward

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

### Upcoming Events

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

### Contact Us

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Kathy Yamashita and Deborah Richards

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Executive of the Western Intercultural Ministries Network

March 22, 2023





EDUCATIONAL CENTRES



## SUBMITTED BY DR. TIM O'NEILL

Greetings and grace to you as you convene for your Regional Council meeting. May that time nourish and sustain you, as you build up the church and enjoy the goodness of being the church. I am pleased to report that AST has experienced several interesting events and changes in the last year. Here are a few of them.

In the summer of 2022, and for the first time since 2019, we were able to have our summer MDiv students take their courses in person and occupy rooms at the campus residence. I had several opportunities to meet with students both as a group and individually. They were pleased to meet faculty and fellow students in person and to share worship, meals, and recreation with their colleagues.

As the Fall 2022 term began, our courses were offered remotely or in hybrid (both virtually and in-person) form. As none of our own students applied for residence, all our rooms were rented to international students from other institutions in the Halifax area. However, we maintain a policy of preferential availability for AST students. In the meantime, we are remaining true to the fundamental values and mission of AST by reaching out to those who would have to pay much more for accommodations or would be unable to study in Halifax because of a lack of rental spaces.

In other good news, the Province of Nova Scotia has provided AST with a grant of \$3M to renovate and upgrade our residence facilities, work that is long overdue. The funds will allow us to repair brickwork, install new plumbing, make wi-fi system updates, and upgrade shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.

At the May 2023 Convocation, the first cohort of students in the Diploma in Missional Leadership (DML), all of whom are affiliated with the United Church, will graduate from this new program. The next cohort of the DML will begin in early 2024. This learning opportunity will be available to persons from all denominational backgrounds as we build a new complement of ecumenical partners in mission. AST is currently in the last stages of the formal application processes to launch a Bachelor of Theology degree program. The key purpose of the Bachelor of Theology degree is to increase accessibility to higher education in theological subjects. Those who desire postsecondary education specifically in the theological disciplines AST Report April 2023 BPA 2 but lack an undergraduate degree will benefit from this new degree. A direct-entry undergraduate degree option will assist them in their vocational and educational goals. A key element of the Strategic Plan adopted by the AST Board in February 2022 is collaboration with Saint Mary's University (Halifax) as part of the now twenty-year old Memorandum of Understanding between our two independent institutions. In the past year, we have integrated our student information infrastructure into the Banner system at SMU. That project, funded by the Nova Scotia government through the NS Council of University Presidents, is almost complete. The initiative has provided significant benefits to our students, faculty, and staff. It has allowed AST to move from paper-based to IT-based processes for handling many things, from course registration to student records and course changes.

We will see some significant leadership changes at AST over the next several months. The Presidential Search Committee (even as this is being written) is nearing the end of its work to find a candidate to propose to the Board as AST's new President. As well, a second search committee is in the process of seeking a new Academic Dean to succeed Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell who has served in that role since 2017. His outstanding contributions to the university have earned him a well-deserved sabbatical which will begin this summer. Finally, Rev. Dr. Linda Yates succeeds Dr. Peter Secord as Chair of AST's Board of Governors.



## AST CONTINUED

We would like to express deep gratitude to our partners in The United Church of Canada—the General Council, the Regional Councils, the Board of Governors of Pine Hill Divinity Hall, and the local churches, leaders, and ministers—who support AST's work in a variety of ways. Financial support from the General Council and Pine Hill Divinity Hall are critical to our capacity to function as a university focused on theological education for ordered ministry candidates and lay leaders. The local churches support AST through discernment processes for potential ministry candidates, by encouraging lay people to continue their lifelong faith learning, by calling and supervising our graduates who serve your congregations, and by your vital and deeply valued financial support. If your Community of Faith has not yet made a gift to AST this year, I ask you to consider doing so in the next month or two.

AST continues to seek to be responsive to the emerging needs of the church and society as we serve together in God's world. In this, we are grateful to be your partners.

In Christ,  
Dr. Tim O'Neill  
Interim President, Atlantic School of Theology



## SUBMITTED BY ALAN LAI

Students in Chinook Winds region

- Letitia Berger

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

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

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

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

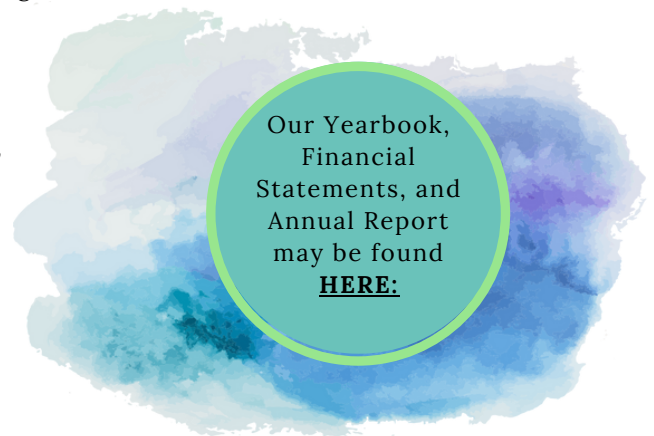
Financially, CCS continues to rely on the commitment of the denomination and generous donors who believe in the mission of the school. Lori Stewart, our Development Coordinator, has done a fantastic job connecting with donors and applying for grants and funding. While denomination funding is decreasing,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

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

We are blessed with collaborative, generous partners, including:

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

Respectfully submit,  
Rev. Dr. Alan Lai  
Principal





## SUBMITTED BY REV. SHAWN SANFORD BECK AND DEA. DR. RICHARD MANLEY-TANNIS

As we journey into 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and encouragement of our Regional Councils. The past few years have been challenging, and we are mindful of the pain and loss that we and the world have experienced. We are also excited by the new opportunities that lie ahead, and we are humbled by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst at St. Andrew's College.

One of the most significant reminders we rediscovered, during the pandemic, is the importance of community. We are now sharing our building with the other two schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union, (Lutheran Theological Seminary and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad) and we have entered into a Covenant of Commitment, which marks a profound level of cooperation between us. This renewed relationship enables us to support one another, so that each partner's unique denominational gifts contribute to our collective ability to do more than we could on our own. We hope that our ecumenical boldness will inspire faith communities in every denomination to explore creative and courageous ecumenical partnerships as well.

We are thrilled to announce that we are finalizing the development of our renewed Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degree programmes. Both programmes will be available in an intensive format, and St. Andrew's students can complete the entire learning journey from their own contexts without having to relocate. Our programmes are deeply ecumenical, shared across all three schools, and involve the collaboration of faculty from different denominational traditions and theological disciplines. We look forward to welcoming our first cohort of students for these innovative programmes, beginning in the fall of this year.

We are also pleased to report that we have recommitted to offering our Doctor of Ministry program, and we have already received applications for the fall cohort. Additionally, we continue to enjoy hosting the Designated Lay Ministry programme at the College, while we await further word from General Council about its future.

There's so much happening at our College right now, but we wouldn't want to miss talking about the Lifelong Learning Pathway we've been developing. It has been researched and developed over the past two years, and we're currently testing it with a pilot project of eager learners. This new programme opens the great privilege of theological and spiritual reflection to a wider community of learners beyond our traditional degree programmes. Whether you're exploring Christian discipleship through leadership in your faith community or in the wider society, or seeking paths of wisdom in other spiritual traditions, our certificate programmes (Leadership in the Faith Community, Leadership in the World, and Spiritual Exploration) create new possibilities of study.

Our new Lifelong Learning Pathway prioritises your own learning goals and pairs you with your own educational guide. We'll help you identify educational resources and opportunities, develop a personalised learning plan, and build a portfolio of reflective work. You will progress at your own pace toward the competencies described in your chosen certificate. This unique new programme is perfect for seasoned pastors seeking continuing education, lay leaders who want to engage in theological work to enhance their ministries and vocations, and the spiritually curious wisdom-seekers who will benefit from a flexible and supportive framework of reflection. Regardless of your previous formal education, St. Andrew's Lifelong Learning Pathway opens up a treasure-trove of theological and spiritual exploration to anyone who desires it!

As you can see, we're at a very exciting place in our history. The challenges of the past few years have unleashed our imaginations and propelled us into God's future. We believe that there are opportunities waiting for us that are greater than we could ask or imagine, and we invite you to continue to support us, pray for us, and indeed join us as we take theological education that embodies compassion, hope, and justice into a new century of faithful discipleship.

## CONTINUED

Please reach out to us if you have any questions at all, at [principal.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:principal.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca). If you would like to know more about our academic or lifelong learning pathways, feel free to contact Shawn, the College Recruitment Officer, at [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca). And we would be more than happy to receive your financial support! Contact our College Secretary at [collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca) for a list of development opportunities and ways to give.

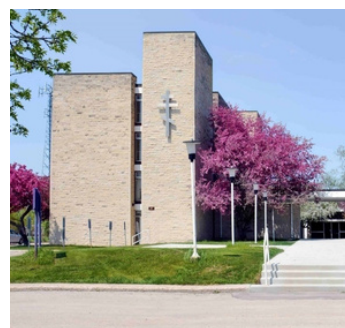
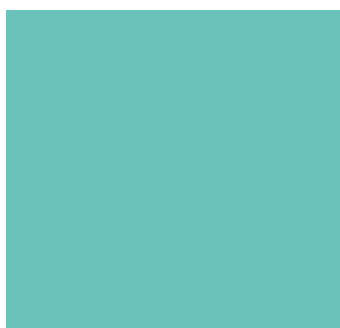
As we walk together in ministry, may the Spirit continue to bless and guide you!

On behalf of the St. Andrew's Community,  
Yours in Christ,

Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck  
Recruitment Officer

&

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis  
Principal



## SUBMITTED BY RICHARD TOPPING

### THOUGHTFUL, ENGAGED AND GENEROUS CHRISTIAN LEADERS

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

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

### FACULTY/UNITED CHURCH FACULTY

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

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

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

### VST BOARD/EMPLOYEES

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

### PARTNERSHIPS

VST extends its reach and magnifies its impact through strategic partnerships. In addition to our core relationships with our Affiliate (Anglican and United) and Associate (Presbyterian) denominations, we work with UBC, the Sauder School of Business, the schools in the theological neighbourhood on the campus of UBC, Huron College at Western University, Durham University in the UK, St Mark's College at UBC,



## CONTINUED

The Canadian Chinese School of Theology in Vancouver, and the University of Pretoria to deliver educational programs from BA to Ph.D. Our relationships with Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia, and St Andrew's, Quezon City, Philippines, continue with visiting faculty teaching in our summer school and making guest appearances in classes. These agreements help us deliver a theological education that is contextually appropriate and global in its awareness. We are planning for students and faculty to engage with our partners in Asia in a more rigorous fashion now that travel is more easily possible.

## GRANTS/FINANCES/FOUNDATION

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

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

Several significant gifts were received by VST in the recent past through the robust efforts of our Advancement team. The Lilly Endowment awarded the school a \$1 million (US) phase two grant to retool and revitalize Field Education. We were successful also in phase one of this program in which we received \$60,000 (CAD) to do research on field education. We envision spending around \$500,000.00 this coming year for program development and as stipends for students doing field education. Our Sauder School of Business program is completely endowed so that students can learn finance, adaptive leadership, leading in times of transition, coaching and mentoring, as well as leading through transition in addition to their theological education. They receive the Sauder Certificate in Leadership Excellence through the completion of this program. VST has established a Project for Congregation Flourishing through Community Engagement with a grant of \$250,000 (US) from Murdock Trust. This grant is in its final year and resources are being collected, curated and shared with churches in a variety of modalities. Mr. Chris Pullenayegem is directing this project. Significant gifts from the Anglican Foundation of Canada (\$15,000.00) and a British Foundation (\$15,000.00) to fund an Indigenous Summer School program with particular attention to youth and children were received. In the fall of 2022, a consultation on Truth and Reconciliation was hosted at VST, funded by Anglican, United and Presbyterian Churches, that involved representatives from Canada, South Africa and Norway (the Sámi people). In 2022-2023, VST received over \$300,000.00 to endow the O'Driscoll Forum in Preaching and the Arts. This program, named in honour of The Rev. Herbert and Paula O'Driscoll, will take place each summer at VST in conjunction with the Summer School program. It is modelled after the College of Preachers which took place at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC., where Herb was leader. It gives preachers and liturgical leaders a chance to "workshop" with each other under the direction of a master preacher and liturgical artist. This year, summer 2023, the initial Forum will be facilitated by Bishop Todd Townsend and Ms. Louise Peters. The Anglican Foundation made a significant donation for start up costs for this program (\$15,000.00).

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

## VST CONTINUED

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

## ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT

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

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

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

## SPECIAL LECTURES/SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

Vancouver School of Theology welcomed a series of outstanding lecturers in 2022 and 2023. The Somerville lecturer in September of 2022 was The Rev. Julian Davis Reid, a popular Chicago Jazz Musician, who led us in a retreat entitled: "Notes of Rest." Art Historian and Theologian Dr. Chloë Reddaway was our G. Peter Kaye Lecturer. She addressed the topic of "The Problem of Painting Christ: Strange Responses to the Greatest Artistic Challenge" in February of 2023. Our Visiting Distinguished Scholar for July of 2023 will be Prof. Jehu J. Hanciles who will teach a course entitled, "Beyond Empire: Rethinking the History of Global Christianity" and give a public lecture in our summer school on the theme of "Global Migration and Christian Witness." All these lectures are fully funded through generous funding restricted for these events and held in the VST Foundation. All these lectures are recorded and available through our You Tube channel. Summer School 2023 will be held July 3-14 in hybrid format with VST welcoming outstanding scholars, church leaders and students from around the world. <https://vst.edu/vst-summer-school/> VST is bringing Andrew Root to campus for the Cork Lecture/Workshop: Friday, August 11 - "Why Were All So Exhausted: The Church in a Time Crisis" and Saturday, August 12 - "Ministry Inside the Immanent Frame: The Task of Speaking of God in a Secular Age."

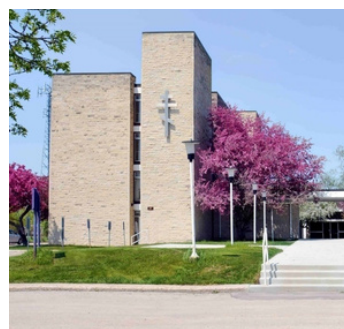


## CONTINUED

### CONVOCATION 2022

On May 11 we conferred degrees and certificates on 40 students. Our convocation was held at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Vancouver. Eight students received the Sauder School of Business Certificate in Leadership Excellence. We presented the TEG (thoughtful, engaged and generous) Christian Leader Award to the Rev. Alecia Greenfield, a VST alumni. This award of \$4,000.00 is to encourage excellent leadership by clergy in the earlier years of ministry. VST awarded an honorary doctorate to The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada, this year. Dr. Blair was also our convocation speaker. Vancouver School of Theology is grateful for our relationship with the United Church of Canada. We pray that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit will be with and among you at your Annual Regional meeting.

Richard Topping, President









# WOULD YOU RATHER:

READ THROUGH EACH OPTION THEN  
DECIDE WHICH JOB YOU'D CHOOSE!

## COOL UNITED CHURCH JOBS EDITION



Would you rather be  
a  
Youth Minister?

OR

Lead the choir?



Would you rather be a minister  
in a church?

OR

Be in charge of ringing  
the church bell?



Would you rather be the take care of church  
buildings with love and care?

OR

Would you rather be the take care of  
church buildings with love and care?



Would you rather  
be the Moderator of  
The United Church?

OR

Be a rockstar in a  
United Church  
band?



Hmm...



Would you rather be a church mouse

OR

Or a church cat that can  
run in the sanctuary?

