

Regional Staffing Council Report

Synod 2018

This year the Regional Staffing Council has been comprised of the following members representing the Presbyteries and WMS of our Synod:

(Voting Members)

Ann Paterson (Convener) (2014)	Edmonton-Lakeland
Rev. Wayne Reid (2018)	Central Alberta
Sandra Cameron Evans (2013)	Calgary-Macleod
Rev. Charles McNeil (2017)	Edmonton Lakeland
Lorna Price (2014)	Peace River
Marlene Montagne (2015)	WMS Synodical

(Members without Vote)

Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw	Director of Regional Ministries
Rev. Joanne Lee	Moderator of Synod
Richard Anderson	Synod Treasurer, ex officio

The Regional Staff Council (RSC) met via two teleconference calls on April 25, 2018 and September 14, 2018. Contact was maintained with the Director of Regional Ministries (DRM) over the course of the year by phone, email and in person.

At these meetings the Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw presented the RSC with a comprehensive list of her ministry / mission work following Synod in October 2017 to October, 2018 under the four categories of her responsibilities outlined in the Standing Orders (2.10.3). The RSC reviewed her ministry, and provided input where she might direct her energy for the rest of the year.

We include a summary of her ministry from October 2017 - October 2018. This is based on the key responsibilities as outlined in the Standing Orders.

**Summary of Activities of Director of Regional Ministries, Synod of Alberta and the
Northwest
October 21, 2017 to September 30, 2018**

I. Mission Strategizing

- *Vital Churches Institute* - Our time with Dr. Stan Ott came to end in September 2017. A final evaluation was sent to Canadian Ministries for use of Conference Funds. Richard Anderson provided the financial report. Participating congregations have been encouraged to build upon their experiences with the Vital Churches Institute. Conversations on vitality in ministry have continued with some of the ministers involved in this project.
- *Cohorts* - In Fall 2017 I was exploring the development of geographical “cohorts” for clergy to create a community of support, especially for those serving in remote or rural locations. The idea was to connect online through video conferencing and periodically face to face. This project has not moved forward. If there is interest within the synod by individuals to intentionally look at this model again, I would be glad to work with those interested in participating and developing a pilot project.
- *Coaching* - Member of Growing Churches Advisory Committee of Canadian Ministries; in January I attended a conference with PCUSA. One morning I led a Bible Study on Mark 9:14-28 to the whole gathering.
- *Evangelism Training* - Canadian Ministries began hosting a Pilot Project on Evangelism in the fall of 2017. For the first year leadership was provided by Jerry Cannon, previously a member of the PCUSA Evangelism Coaching Network. Five ministers (including Joanne Lee from Innisfail) were invited to be part of this training. Ross Lockhart (from VST) and I were invited to join the group for support. We met once in person and then by video conference calls. I have had the opportunity to share resources with others beyond this group. My term on this pilot project has come to an end this summer.
- *reVision* - From the Centre for Progressive Renewal, reVision is a process to help a congregation discern God’s call for the future of the church. ReVision offers a model of congregational renewal and reinvigoration. Jen de Combe invited the coaches for new church development to participate in training in the reVision process through Skype and then to make ourselves available to coach congregations willing to engage in this model. This model is intense and calls for a deep commitment of participating congregations. To date, I have not been used as a coach with this model due to the low number of interested congregations.
- *New Beginnings* - This is a process developed by the United Church of Christ and one of several Pilot Project of Canadian Ministries. I was invited to experience the model with St. David’s in Halifax on March 22 to 24, 2018. The goal is for me to coach two congregations in the New Beginnings model. Jen de Combe is looking for congregations willing to embark in this time of discernment of renewing mission. St. Andrew’s, Lethbridge, has embarked on this process with one of the New Beginnings coaches.

- *Cyclical* - While meeting in January with PCUSA coaches who are part of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, I was introduced to the ministry of Cyclical LA and Cyclical Inc and their process and values in creating “ecosystems” for starting new churches. They support presbyteries or denominational governance structures through a discernment process of starting new worshipping communities and provide a developer to support those in a time of discernment. The developer in turn supports the group commencing the church starting process by focusing on the vision of the mission, administration, and personal health of the starter. The developer helps the group prepare for its launch for public worship and how to sustain the church. I was able to visit the Presbytery of Winnipeg to experience how a beta-run program is hosted. This is a process to help a presbytery or group discern if it would like to journey on the path of Cyclical. At that time I met with Jen de Combe and Nick Warnes, Executive Director of Cyclical, May 15,16. Working with the Mission and Strategy Committee of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod we are exploring this model for use in southern Alberta.
- *United / Presbyterian Campus Ministry* - As a member of University of Calgary UPMC Team I supported staff during the sabbatical of The Reverend Tim Nethercott from February 3 to May 5, 2018. Due to governance changes in the United Church of Canada, the UPCM is planning to become incorporated as a Society. This spring I was involved in working on bylaws for the potential incorporation. My term ended on August 15.
- *Healing and Reconciliation Matters:*
 - In my role I have consulted with congregations on ways to grow in awareness of healing and reconciliation concerns as well as accepting the challenge to implement at least one of the TRC Calls to Actions.
 - Facilitated the KAIROS Blanket Exercise in St. Paul’s, Eckville, October 29, 2017 and Fort St. John Church, April 13, 2018
 - Appointed by the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod to meet with a grassroots community team of leadership envisioning and planning an Indigenous Gathering Place for all nations in Calgary
 - While serving throughout the Synod and when opportunities arise, I continue to develop relationships with leaders in Treaty 6, 7 and 8.
 - Justice Ministries requested that I provide a message for a bulletin to be used on May 20 for Healing and Reconciliation Sunday

II. Mission Education and Coordination

- Consulted with Central Alberta presbyters planning the educational day for Synod 2018.
- Provided resources or spoke about PWS&D, Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Presbyterians Sharing

III Leadership and Program Development

- Facilitated conversation on Physician Assisted Suicide for the Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland, December 2, 2017
- The Synod asked me to work with Clerks of Presbyteries to facilitate conversations on the realignment of Presbyteries within the Synod. Conversations have begun with Clerks and conversation has been facilitated with Presbytery of Peace River (April 7) and Central Alberta (September 20). I plan to have conversations with the other two presbyteries and bring a report to the Synod Administration Committee in 2019.
- Consulted with Minister and Clerk of Session of Calvin Hungarian Church, Calgary, on Alberta Religious Society Act and housing for clergy
- Coordinated travel and logistics for Canada Youth in Presbyteries of Calgary-Macleod, Central Alberta, and Peace River, January to June 2018. Organized a planning team for Calgary-Macleod, met with Adult Advisors, assisted with planning an Orientation Day for participants (June 10). A final report on planning, application processes for travel rebates and financial accounting will be given to presbyteries by November.
- The Presbytery of Peace River asked me to conduct a ministry review of Mr. Terry Hagen, lay missionary in St. James, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, FSJ. I developed a process with questionnaire and visited both congregations, met with Terry Hagen and provided a report to the Presbytery of Peace River, April 12 - 14, 2018.
- I served as Presbytery Representative for St. Andrew's, Calgary with The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, as the congregation searched for a Minister of Vision and Direction. The Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald was called and inducted on August 01.
- The Presbytery of Central Alberta appointed me Interim-Moderator for Memorial Church, Sylvan Lake, January 01, 2018. The Presbytery requested that Joanne Lee shadow me to learn the process of being an interim moderator.
- Facilitated a workshop with the Session and congregation of St. Giles, Calgary, February 10. Building upon St. Giles' experience at Stewards by Design and using Kennon Calahan's Twelve Keys to an Effective Church, the group developed some action plans to promote the values and ministry direction of the congregation.
- Facilitated a workshop with Memorial, Sylvan Lake, on values, identity and current context for outreach, April 8
- With Sandra Cameron Evans led a Presbytery Visitation to St. Paul's, Banff, April 29
- Facilitated a workshop with the Session of Forbes Church, Grande Prairie, May 4 and 5.
- Consulted with congregations on implementing Leading with Care Policy
- Organized informal lunches with presbyters in Calgary-Macleod, November 16, January 31, March 14, May 2, and October 11 to build community.
- Throughout the year worked with Committees of Calgary-Macleod: Mission and Strategy, Administration, Clergy and Congregational Care

IV. Pastoral Care

- Provided pastoral care to clergy as requested by presbyteries
- Served as a review assistant in the Clergy Self-Review process of Calgary-Macleod Presbytery

- Met with individual clergy to encourage and build community as well as responded to inquiries about resources
- Through September to November 2017 was a spiritual mentor to Dewald Delport as he was on a 10 week “inter-mission” walking The Camino de Santiago and I regularly communicated by email

V. Preaching

- St. Andrew’s, Innisfail, November 5
- Strang, Dixonville, November 19, January 28 (Communion), April 15 (Communion), September 9 (Communion)
- St. Paul’s, Banff - December 17
- Centennial, Calgary - December 24
- Memorial, Sylvan Lake - January 7, 14, February 4 (Communion), 25, March 11, April 1 (Easter Sunrise and 10:30 am service), 8 (Communion), May 13, June 3, July 01, 08, 29, September 23, and 30
- Forbes, Grande Prairie - May 6

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Ollerenshaw

The report above reveals the variety and complexity of the ministry that Dianne has undertaken in the past year. The churches and people of the Synod benefit greatly from her continued commitment to the work that she does.

Our Recommendations:

The following Recommendation is a result of the changes that the Life and Mission Agency have made in funding Regional Staff across Canada. The grants for Regional Staffing are now part of *Regional Resources Grants*.

Rec. 1. That the Convenor of the Regional Staffing Council on behalf of the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest transmit a request for a Regional Resource Grant of \$61,493 to the Life and Mission Agency for consideration to fund our Director of Regional Ministry and that all supporting documents (an application form, narrative description, and budget for 2018) be included.

RSC also presents two budget recommendations for your approval and inclusion in the 2018 Budget of Synod.

Synod Staff Expense **DRAFT** budget

	2017 budget	Total	2018 budget	2018 YTD	2019 budget
Book allowance	\$600.00	270	600	441	600
Employee Benefits	\$12,225.37	\$12,278.00	\$12,310.00	\$10,270.00	\$13,004.00
CPP	\$2,544.30	2564	2600	2594	2800
EI	\$1,170.67	1112	1200	1201	1204
Pension	\$8,510.40	8602	8510	6475	9000
Housing Allowance	\$22,000.00	21996	22000	16500	22000
Medical/Dental Plan	\$4,620.00	4318	4620	3245	4620
Stipend	\$51,150.00	51149.95	51917	38946	52852 COLA Adjustment
Study Leave	\$1,200.00	829	1200	0	1200
Travel	\$9,000.00	8000	9000	8817	9000
Utilities	\$4,500.00	2837	4500	3231	4000
Other	\$2,000.00	3339	2000	2406	2500
	\$107,295.37	\$105,016.95	\$108,147.00	\$83,856.00	\$109,776.00
Life and Mission to contribute		2018	\$61,493.00	2019	\$61,493.00
Synod to contribute			\$46,654.00		\$48,283.00

Rec. 2 That the budget for Director of Regionals Ministries for 2019 be \$109,776.00.

Rec. 3 That the budget for the Regional Staffing Council for 2019 be set at \$1,000.00 and that this figure be forwarded to the Synod Treasurer.

I would like to thank the members of the Regional Staffing Council for their support of the very important ministry. As a Synod we are blessed indeed for the commitment that Dianne gives to the work that she does. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Paterson, Convener