

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,  
there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*  
(Galatians 3:28)

The purpose of the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC), as stated in the terms of reference, is as follows:

*The Pastoral Relations Commission will set policy and give direction within their mandate.  
The Pastoral Relations Commission will provide support for ministry personnel throughout  
their ministry, including equipping, covenanting, pastoral relationships and retirement.*

In reality, this involves things such as: setting policy and giving direction; co-operating with communities of faith in recruiting, choosing, calling, appointing, and covenanting with ministry personnel and communities of faith; ending calls, appointments, and covenants with ministry personnel; appointing a regional council liaison officer to assist a community of faith in pastoral relations matters at designated times. We are also responsible for encouraging and supporting ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice; and assisting with informal conflict resolution processes. This responsibility is shared with the Community of Faith Commission.

Currently, the PRC meets monthly on Zoom. Once again, we anticipate sharing our June meeting with the Communities of Faith Commission. At each of our meetings we approve a list of calls, appointments, and at times license those needing to administer the sacraments; we confirm Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) and respond to requests for Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) status. We also set and review policies which guide pastoral relations work in the region and receive the staff report on liaisons and pastoral charge supervisors. Some of the other highlights from our meetings have been:

- a) liaisons completed racial justice training
- b) the LLWL policy was reviewed and amended
- c) the Short-Term Appointment Policy was revised and approved
- d) the Pulpit Supply policy was approved
- e) the VAM policy was amended
- f) Todd McDonald's sabbatical report was received and as a result of his work the Team Ministry Orientation and Development program was affirmed and some elements were added

The Commission received the Equity Goal Research Project (EGRP) final report in June where Marcie Gibson was present to walk us through the report. The report was then shared at the same June meeting with members of the Communities of Faith Commission (CFC), the Executive, General Council Office staff, and others.

Currently the PRC is working on sorting through the 50 recommendations that came out of the Equity Goal Research Project, received at our meeting in June, 2021. A task group has been

appointed to work with the results, and they will be bringing forward a complete work plan in June this year.

Thank you to everyone who has served as a liaison and pastoral charge supervisor in this year. Your support, service and care in assisting the ministry of Shining Waters has been most appreciated.

I want to thank the members of the PRC for all of their work throughout this year, and for their support as I took the chair in December from our faithful and dedicated past-chair, Andrew Comar. The members of the commission are: Andrew Comar (ordered); William Haughton (ordered); Barbara Hendren (lay); Sung-Ran Kim (ordered); Liz Mackenzie (ordered); Beth Moore (lay); Lawrence Nyarko (ordered); Robin Pilkey (lay); Paul Stott (lay); Donna Bowman-Woodall (ordered). Your willingness to give so freely of your time, expertise and diverse perspectives is greatly appreciated.

The ministry of the Pastoral Relations Commission and the work of the chair is supported by a faithful and dedicated staff team. I offer heartfelt thanks to Donna Rutz, our staff administrative support who keeps us on track, ensuring paperwork is organized and details are attended to. Sincere thanks also to Rev. Todd McDonald, and Dale Hildebrand, our Pastoral Relations Ministers, whose wisdom, advice, and care has supported the commission beyond measure.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Bowman-Woodall (Rev.), Chair