



SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL LAY REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENT



As an elected representative to the Shining Waters Regional Council you have been given a responsibility to consider and discern decisions about ministry, mission and priorities for service and stewardship.

COMMUNICATE



Help us share ongoing news. Keep contact information up to date. Report annually. Link local and regional communication tools, i.e. website, social media, newsletters.

PRAY



Contribute to growing a sense of belonging across the region by lifting up one other in prayer.

PAY IT FORWARD



Recruit, orient and support your successor in the role as regional lay representative.

SHARE



Let us know how we can be more effective in our regional purpose to encourage and support communities of faith.

Lay Regional Council Representative

You have been called to the ministry of participating in the decision making-council in which your community of faith resides. As a representative elected by your community of faith to the Shining Waters Regional Council you have been given a responsibility to consider and discern decisions about ministry, mission and priorities for service and stewardship. As conciliar church, we believe that the Spirit of God moves and is discerned within the community of believers called, gathered and committed to offer leadership to the wider church. You share in the responsibility for undertaking the work with which the Regional Council has been charged and in building relationship through access to information between your local community of faith and the Shining Waters Regional Council.

What you bring to the Regional Council Table?

You bring your experience of the life and ministry of your local community of faith. You are the grassroot person who can share about what life is like in the local congregation. You know the challenges and joys of being the church. You bring your commitment to share in the witness and ministry of the United Church. By accepting the role of lay representative to the Regional Council you have taken on the mantle of representing the work of the denomination to your local community of faith.

What are your responsibilities to your local community of faith?

1. COMMUNICATION...Communication.... And more communication! You are the primary communication hub between the Regional Council and your community of faith. Help us grow two-way communication where we can reach the appropriate people in your community and they can reach us.

a. Help get the word out. Share emails you receive about the work of Regional Council with the right people in your congregation.

b. Keep contact information up to date. Every community of faith has an administrative contact for the national record keeping system Church Hub. Find out who holds this role in your community and support them to keep your community of faith roles listing up to date, especially after your Annual Meeting. We use this information to build our contact lists.

c. Ongoing Reporting. Share written reports about Regional Council work with the governing body of your community of faith on a regular basis, even if you are not a member of the governing body. A short regular update, even a few lines with information about how people can find further information, goes a long way to keeping the relationship alive.

d. Annual Reporting. Contribute a lay representative's report to the Annual Report of your community of faith.

e. Make the connection. Include us in your own communication. For example, does your website include a link to the regional council website? If you use Facebook or Instagram do you like and follow our accounts? Do people in the congregation know about our community events newsletter and how to submit their own content? Is there an occasional bit of news in your printed bulletin? Or a regional council announcement in your worship service/newsletter?

2. LIFT UP THE REGION IN PRAYER. Please contribute to growing a sense of belonging across the region by lifting one other in prayer. Pray for other communities of faith, for regional leaders, for commissions, for staff, for the wider church.

3. RECRUIT, ORIENT AND SUPPORT YOUR SUCCESSOR. This might be the most challenging part of the role! Is there someone who is open/interested in the ministry of the wider church that might share your commitment to making this connection when your term is over? Build that relationship and perhaps lift out particular opportunities that might appeal to someone to get an introduction to the wider church. Are they interested in a particular component of the life of the regional council? Help them make a connection to a member of our governance structure, or to a staff member. Invite them to accompany you to an event. Talk about what you have done in the role. Invite them to a portion of a regional meeting that may be of interest. Share with them why you believe the work of the denomination beyond your local community matters.

4. GIVE US FEEDBACK. Let us know how we can be more effective in our regional purpose to encourage and support communities of faith. Send a message to swrc@united-church.ca and it will be directed to the person who can follow it up.

Thank You for Serving in this Role



SHINING WATERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada



General Inquires: swrc@united-church.ca
Website: shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca

Add a Community Event:

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/events/community/add>

Facebook and Instagram @shiningwatersregionalcouncil

(Revised October 2022)