



PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

1622-B St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg MB, R2M 3W7
Office: 1 (204) 233-8911 Fax: 1 (204) 233-3289
Toll Free: 1 (866) 860-9662
prairietopine@united-church.ca

September 1, 2020

Greetings to you on behalf of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive.

As we contemplate holding a second regional meeting, we know it will be very different from last year.

- For those of you who will be participating for the first time, it will be a new experience but perhaps without the expectations of those who have attended before.
- Some will grieve the fact that we won't be meeting face to face, as such gatherings are a chance to meet people of faith we might not otherwise get to know.
- Some will be able to participate on Zoom more easily than they would be able to travel or be part of a lengthier meeting.
- Some of you will find this way of meeting is difficult to access, without available or adequate technology. It is far from a perfect solution.

However, we hope that each one of us will bring our intention to participate in meaningful interaction and decision-making, despite having some doubts and fears about whether anything good will result from such a short time together.

Consider this. In Jeremiah 29:11, according to the Message, God says, "I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." We may not see the pathway clearly but there is a path that is made by walking forward in faith with God as a companion on the journey.

We are excited to welcome you to this meeting. Much thought has gone into the planning, rooted in the discussions we have had in the Council Executive.

- We have tried to listen to the Calls to the Church to find respectful ways of being together as indigenous and settler churches.
- The Calls to Change have asked us to become more attentive to intercultural ways of being and let go of white culture exclusivity.
- The priorities the Listening Team brought before us from the last Regional Meeting have been in our hearts.

As a governance body, we've had decisions to make and time is precious. Sometimes we reverted to familiar ways of doing things that did not take these things into account. Yet we have sought

Page 2
September 1, 2020

to try doing things differently, even going so far as to ask, “What would it look like to have a Regional Meeting without an agenda?”

Well, we haven’t quite achieved an agenda-less meeting, but we have pared the agenda down to see what might be essential. We will seek to do those things in a faithful and respectful way. As we learn, question, discern, decide, and worship together, may we live into a hopeful future.

Grace and Peace,

Lori Stewart and Kwang Beom Cho