

## Executive Accountability



It has been an eventful year to say the least with a global pandemic declared on March 11, 2020 challenging the status quo. We have also continued work around the Calls to the Church, Black Lives Matters, Intercultural and Diverse Communities, and working towards becoming an affirming Region.

With our shift from a Transition Commission to Regional Executive, our new Executive spent this past year working hard to support the work of the Region but also becoming familiar with each other and the work of the Executive within the Region while living into our new governance structure.

The Executive continues to work on decisions and policies which provide a basic structure to support the immediate and on-going work of the region and our communities of faith. The Executive continues to live into its new governance structure approved at our 2019 Regional meeting. We have been grateful for the work of our commissions, committees, resource teams, networks, clusters, communities of faith, outreach ministries, and staff.

### **Covid-19**

The Regional Council Executive and staff shifted quickly in the spring of 2020 with the declaration of a pandemic. The Regional Council staff and Executive have worked towards supporting our communities of faith, which make up our region, with frequent Town Hall meetings for both lay and ministry personnel with a focus on addressing the daily challenges of Covid-19, from staffing, to budgets, to rental agreements. In addition, the national Church has provided many webinars supporting our many ministries through this difficult period.

We hesitate to use the word unprecedented times; our nation and church lived through a pandemic in 1918. Nevertheless, we continue to live through this challenging period supporting each other, walking together, and experimenting with new forms of electronic worship and meeting.

Practically speaking, Easter was celebrated in new ways, worship in our buildings was cancelled for many months, we delayed our Regional meeting and many communities of faith shifted to online worship and doing ministry in new and creative ways.

### **Confronting Racism in the Church and Society:**

The Executive continues to consider and prioritize the important work of confronting racism in the Church and society. The Regional Council, the Executive, the Commissions and Committees, the Resource Teams, the Regional staff, along with many communities of faith, are actively being encouraged to discuss and work on ways to address racism in our Church and in society and work toward Right Relations.

### **Continuing as an Affirming Region:**

Our Regional Council meeting in May 2019 supported continuing the relationship with Affirm United. The CSRC Affirming Ministry Resource Team has worked through the year preparing for our Regional Meeting and affirmation as an Affirming Region.

### **Staffing:**

Staffing is a large component of the budget of any organization. The Executive, along with the Executive Minister, continues to develop a staffing model for our Regional Council.

2019/2020 has seen a significant shift in staffing with the Retirement of Lillian Roberts, who has served The United Church of Canada for many years. Will Kunder will also retire December 31, 2020. Both retirements mark a milestone for our Regional Council as they have served our region so faithfully. I have treasured working with both Lillian and Will and I wish them well in this new chapter in their life and ministry. I thank them for their many years of service.

In 2020, Rob Smith shifted from part-time to full-time, as he has taken on the role of Regional Pastoral Relations Minister in August of 2020. I look forward to working with Rob for many years.

Melody Duncanson-Hales, who worked part-time for the Region, has now shifted to full-time for the Canadian Shield Regional Council.

### **Work, Governance and Policies for the Regional Executive:**

The Executive acts as the region between meetings of the Regional Council. The Executive offers oversight for the regional work on your behalf. Our governance structure is designed to support the work of the region from ministry and mission, including justice work and networks/clusters, Right Relations, and Affirming work. Our Executive has two commissions (the Pastoral Relations and the Support to Communities of Faith Commissions) which support the work of the region, along with Resource Teams (RT) like the Youth and Young Adult (YaYa) RT, the Finance RT, and the Property RT. The RTs work hard at meetings, on policy, and so many other things. We are so thankful that these volunteers take time out of their days to assist the region.

### **Commissions/Committees:**

1. The Support to Communities of Faith Commission (SCoFC), supports the work of communities of faith - visioning, transitioning, and growth. This includes supporting communities of faith in areas such as clusters, networks, visioning, amalgamation, disbanding, and property matters.
2. The Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) support our communities of faith by supporting ministry personnel throughout their ministry including equipping, covenanting, pastoral relationships retirement, along with supporting the important work of Pastoral Charge Supervisors. The commission also supports our LLWL (Licenced Lay Worship Leaders) training and on-going work, an important partnership for our Regional Council.
3. The Nominations Committee always works tirelessly before a regional council meeting to fill positions we require to keep the region functioning. This is a vital role within the region that we are greatly appreciative of.

Our Executive has worked tirelessly throughout the year, especially in support of our Communities of Faith and Ministry during Covid-19. They have been nimble, attentive and pro-active. I have been grateful for the work of our Staff team, Regional Executive, Commissions and Committees, working groups and many other volunteers. For me it is an honour to serve our Region.

In Christ,  
Peter Hartmans  
Executive Minister, CSRC