

Pastoral Relations Commission Report
for the Fall Meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council,
October 3 & 4, 2025

When clicking on the webpages for ARW, and I get to the Pastoral Relations Commission webpage, the basic principles of your Pastoral Relations Commission are front and centre under the heading MANDATE:

The Pastoral Relations Commission carries responsibility for:

- The formation and nurturing of healthy pastoral relationships;
- The equipping and licensing of lay worship leaders.

The Pastoral Relations Commission may create different resource pools.

In light of the sensitive nature of its work, all members of the Pastoral Relations Commission and Pastoral Relations Commission Resource Pool(s) are required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

The Pastoral Relations Commission will meet with representatives from a community of faith before acting on requests from the community of faith.

See [The Manual, 2025](#) Section C.2 references for responsibilities delegated to the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC).

It is through this MANDATE that the commission does its work on your behalf through many dedicated volunteers and with the support of Micol Cottrell, Pastoral Relations Minister, and Michele Petick, Administrative Assistant, Social Media and Website Management.

Monthly, the commission engages in discussion regarding policy and how to interpret the manual and the various handbooks that are resource materials. Helpful tools are available on-line with resources that Micol and his colleagues have made available on the Antler River Watershed Regional Council webpages under the toolkits link, <https://arwrcucc.ca/toolkits/>

We encourage communities of faith to delve into the toolkit(s) that pertain to a search for a new minister. Also, listed under the pastoral relations toolkits is information for Ministry and Personnel Committees on how to support clergy and lay employees of your community of faith. Even if your community of faith is not in a search for a new minister, please be aware of the information that is provided.

The commission is grateful for Micol's guidance, support and tenacity as the commission works and supports many communities of faith in our region. We truly appreciate the calmness Michele provides as we venture through technology challenges from time to time.

On your behalf, the commission has experienced many moments of joy this past year as new covenants are made by communities of faith and their respective called clergy and the region. The commission's regional liaisons assist and often lead the covenanting service as they represent the region on your behalf. Don't forget to familiarize yourself with the ARW Facebook page so you can see when a covenanting service is occurring in your area and then plan to attend to support the new covenant. We are in this together.

Monthly the commission meets and through careful consideration of the various needs before us; we discuss and approve position descriptions, approve calls for ministers from the various

communities of faith, review pastoral relations information that comes to the commission, we assign liaisons to search committees, attend special meetings of communities of faith and work and license LLWLs in the region. There are many decisions to be made as a commission and we do it with prayer, great joy and God's peace.

One of the items we need you to consider is becoming a liaison for the region. Both order of ministry or lay persons are welcomed to become a liaison. If you are interested in becoming a liaison, please reach out to Micol Cottrell or myself for further information.

The Pastoral Relations Commission is greatly thankful for the work that the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Resource Team does in preparing lay persons who are called to serve as pulpit supply. The Team members are Norm Mc Pherson, Ian Phillips, Lillian Rowe, Mary Anne Silverthorn (Chair) Pam Wilcox, Tracy Wygiera. If you recall from the regional spring meeting we licensed three new LLWL's – Colin Barker, Karen Hodgins and Bill Butt. Congratulations again to those three for their study and call into the LLWL ministry of service. If you are interested or know of anyone that has an interest in becoming a licensed lay worship leader, have them contact us. Sunday pulpit supply is often filled with these trained LLWLs and that provides relief and help for those communities of faith with a vacancy or when a clergy person is away from their respective community of faith on a Sunday.

The Fresh Start Program has been up and running and we thank Micol for coordinating the efforts that support new ministers in their calls and the respective communities of faith. The program is well worth the collaboration and consideration of both clergy and the community of faith. Micol is the person to reach out to learn more about this program or look up the information at <https://arwrcucc.ca/toolkits/>

Antler River Watershed Pastoral Council's Pastoral Relations Commission meets every month on the 2nd Tuesday. Our minutes are published on the Antler River Watershed Regional Council website for your reading pleasure: <https://arwrcucc.ca/human-resources-commission-minutes/>

We give thanks to God for the blessings and support that the commission receives each day from you the regional members who keep us in your prayers.

Thanks to the commission members for their service in His name:
Ferguson (OM), Louise Hall (L), Melodee Lovering (DLM), Norm MacPherson (L), Martin Mwale (OM), Larry Schneider (OM), Mary Anne Silverthorn (L), Tracy Wygiera (L)

Peace be with you,
Rev. Kerry Stover (he, him)
Chair, Pastoral Relations Commission