

President's Executive Report

I began my time as President back at the conclusion of the Spring Meeting. Since then, I have been extremely busy in my role. I had the opportunity to attend the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada Celebration in St John's, NL. Being a part of this momentous occasion was indeed a privilege. General Council 45 (GC45) took place online in April and June; in person in August in Calgary, Alberta; and again, online in September. Fourteen adults represented ARW while Elijah, Alex, Sheina, Heather, Scott, Tejiri and Tobi attended GC45 as Youth Delegates. During GC45, we examined 71 different proposals put forth by individuals or groups that in most cases were vetted by the local Regional Councils. Please refer to the separate report that provides some insight from many of our attendees. And now as we prepare for our Fall Gathering, we continue in information gathering and decision-making modes.

The Executive has scheduled monthly meetings or on an as-needed basis. The work of the three Commissions: Human Resources, Congregational Support and Discipleship & Justice, gets done through the efforts of many volunteers, and dedicated staff. One way that decision making has been streamlined is by giving authority to those commissions without them having to be ratified at the Executive level. Having some staff split amongst the three regions allows them to focus on a specific aspect of their work, and to do that with each region. Otherwise, one staff member might be responsible for various aspects of the work of various commissions within ARW and may be stretched thin.

Financially, over the course of the last year, funds that have been distributed by the Executive of ARW include the following:

- one Bridge Loan of \$30,000
- \$2,100 from the Collaborative Ministry Fund, supporting an educational event being held between multiple Pastoral Charges
- \$550 from the Rural Ministry and Leadership Fund supporting the work of LLWL's
- From our Executive Events Budget, among other things, we have supported the Native People's Retreat and the development of the "Here from the Beginning" Art Installation which will be in our RC in early 2026.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who do the work of the church. Without you, we wouldn't be a church. As always, hopefully, you too have found a calling within your own church and perhaps ARW to serve. We also benefit from the expertise of the many staff members who serve our region and help guide us on our way. Thank YOU.

Richard Auckland

President, Antler River Watershed Region
of the United Church of Canada