

Regional Consultative Committee Report

September 2023

We respectfully direct your attention to the Annual Reports submitted by the two Synod Staff; The Rev. Dr. John-Peter Smit, Regional Minister for Congregational Health and Dr. Tori Smit, Regional Minister for Faith Formation. You'll note in these reports how they have each been working with clergy, elders, congregations, and in Tori's case the WMS, to assist them in these challenging and changing times. On behalf of the RCC, we extend our gratitude to them for the ways in which they have shared their expertise, offered guidance and pastoral support to so many within the Synod.

As you are aware, John-Peter and Tori informed us of their desire to retire at the end of 2023. At this time, we are seeking input from constituents from the Synod in order that we can update and revise the staffing model. We wish to thank everyone who has completed a survey or sent in their comments and suggestions. These are all being taken into consideration. A proposal will be presented to the Synod Executive at a special meeting in November so the search for new staff can begin. We anticipate having staff hired as early in the new year as possible.

At the September meeting of the RCC, the committee approved a motion that we apply for the full staffing grant of \$61,000 because even if the staffing model changes this amount will be needed. The committee also noted that there will be additional expenses this year with setting up new office(s) for staff. Please see the motion below.

The Rev. Bethany McCaffrey's term concludes this fall and so we are seeking a clergy member from the Synod to replace Bethany. Any interested persons are asked to reach out to me. We offer our thanks to Bethany for her time on the committee, and we thank her for being the secretary for several years. My term also concludes this fall, and the RCC passed a motion to extend my term by one year in order that I can continue to be involved in the staffing discussions and recruitment. I have agreed to do this.

These are interesting, and sometimes difficult times for local congregations and all who are involved in them. As we seek to hire new staff, we value your prayers. We wish John-Peter and Tori good health and happiness in their retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gale Macdonald

Motion: that a grant in the amount of \$61,000 from the Life and Mission Agency be requested for 2023 in order to support the funding of Synod Regional Staff.