

Rev. Whitman Strong wstrong@united-church.ca 1-800-268-3781 x6148
Pastoral Relations Minister, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

REPORT TO THE NOVEMBER 5, 2022 MEETING OF EOORC

As the Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations, my responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Assisting the Regional Council to live out its oversight of Communities of Faith
- Resource to and support of the Regional Council's Pastoral Relations Commission
- Resource to and support of the Regional Council's Lay Licenced Worship Leader Committee
- Supporting Communities of Faith discern their ministry options as they live out their vision
- Supporting Communities of Faith in the search and selection process
- Supporting Communities of Faith who are without called or appointed Ministry Personnel
- Ensuring that Community of Faith support is done in an effective and consistent manner
- Tracking the training and accreditation of Licenced Lay Worship Leaders
- Supporting the work of Church Councils/Boards in all aspects of their life
- Supporting and training Ministry & Personnel Committees
- Offering a course of study for Sacraments Elders
- Assisting Communities of Faith who are in conflictual situations through mediation, dispute resolution, and formal Reviews
- Fostering collegiality and support for Ministry Personnel
- Liaise with and support the Office of Vocation Minister as needed
- Offer support and resource to the Committees of the Regional Council as requested

Please be in touch with me should you want to talk about issues on your pastoral charge.

COVID-19 safety precautions:

We are moving out of COVID-19 restrictions and things are slowly returning to "normal" (whatever that is now is still to be determined), but it is still important to recognize that we are not out of the pandemic woods yet. I encourage each Community of Faith to be cautious in the light of the increase of COVID variants. We all have done so well at keeping our congregations safe and healthy. Vaccinations, physical distancing, and masks are all good choices. Keep up the good work!

The Pastoral Relations Commission:

The work of the PR Commission includes, but is not limited to, approval of calls and appointments; reviewing and authorizing Community of Faith Profiles for inclusion on ChurchHub; keeping track of Sabbaticals, Restorative Care leave, and retirements; assigning Pastoral Relations Liaisons to Communities of Faith that are beginning the search process for new ministry personnel; providing Pastoral Charge Supervisors to Communities of Faith who are without ministry personnel; maintaining a

connection to the Licenced Lay Worship Leader Committee; and general oversight of the Sacramental Elders training program.

New Ministers in EOORC:

Over the past year few years we haven't had the chance to gather face-to-face as a Regional Council.

We have had new ministers within our Regional Council, but their names and faces may not be known to many of us.

- Rev. Rachael Robinson – St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Richmond, ON
- Rev. Laura Springate, City View Pastoral Charge, Nepean, ON
- Cathy Stewart, Candidate Supply, Bristol Pastoral Charge, Bristol, QC
- Paul Whynacht, Candidate Supply, Manotick Pastoral Charge, Manotick, ON
- Rev. Laurelle Callaghan, Queenswood Pastoral Charge, Orleans, ON
- Rev. Eric Page – St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Williamstown, ON
- Rev. Grant Stuckless, Emmanuel Pastoral Charge, Ottawa, ON
- Rev. Ronnie Magno, Grace-St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Arnprior, ON
- Rev. Zacharia Mandara, Wesley Pastoral Charge, Pembroke, ON
- Rev. Jennifer Power, Britannia Pastoral Charge, Ottawa, ON
- Rev. Don McLean, St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Perth, ON
- Patricia Power, Candidate Supply, Quyon Pastoral Charge, Quyon, QC
- Pastor Caleb Liu, Ottawa Chinese Pastoral Charge, Ottawa, ON
- David Henderson, Candidate Supply, Mt. Zion Pastoral Charge, Pembroke, ON
- Pastor Susan Hutton, Spencerville Pastoral Charge, Spencerville, ON

2023 Minimum Salary and Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel:

[Minimum Salaries for Ministry Personnel \(2023\) \(united-church.ca\)](https://www.united-church.ca/ministry-personnel/minimum-salaries-for-ministry-personnel-2023)

Covenanting Services for new Pastoral Relationships:

Just a reminder that Covenanting Services are now the responsibility of each individual Community of Faith to schedule, organize, and carry out. Templates for the service are available from Rev. Whit Strong

Communities of Faith without Ministry Personnel:

There are 137 Pastoral Charges (184 individual preaching points) in EOORC. Yet close to 1/3 of the pastoral Charges in EOORC are without called or appointed Ministry Personnel. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Communities of Faith seeking to fill part-time ministry positions to fill their vacancy, and this has put undue pressure on the surrounding ministry personnel who – in addition to their own calls/appointments – are being asked to offer emergent pastoral care, as well as being called upon by the Regional Council to serve as Pastoral Charge Supervisors. The best hope for attracting

applications to fill our many vacancies is to cooperate with a neighbouring pastoral charge and create a full-time position. Please contact Rev. Whit Strong if you want to venture forth in this direction. In the meantime, there are Licenced Lay Worship Leaders available to do occasional pulpit supply.

Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

It is a requirement of *The Manual* that Communities of Faith without called or appointed Ministry Personnel have a Pastoral Charge Supervisor. This person must attend all your Council/Board meetings, as well as being looked to for advice and direction should it be necessary. It is EOORC policy that the pastoral charge reimburse their Pastoral Charge Supervisor at a rate of \$30/hour (including travel time), plus \$.46/km for actual travel (\$.55/km in 2023).

Licenced Lay Worship Leaders:

If your Community of Faith is looking for Sunday Supply, please consider using one of our many Licenced Lay Worship Leaders. These women and men have been recognized by the Regional Council as trained and qualified to offer occasional worship leadership. Please contact Anita Jansman or Rev. Whit Strong for the current list. If you are interested in becoming a LLWL, you are asked to be in touch with the LLWL Committee before you undertake the two-year online study course.

Sacraments Elders:

Meeting the sacramental needs of your Community of Faith is hard if you don't have called or appointed Ministry Personnel. For Communities of Faith without a minister, there is the possibility of a lay person from within your congregation to be a Sacraments Elder. In the Fall of 2022, four people participated in the Sacraments Elder Course and were approved as Sacraments Elders in their pastoral charges. A course of study for potential Sacraments Elders will be offered yearly. If your pastoral charge is without called or appointed ministry personnel, then perhaps consider the possibility of have a Sacramental Elder. Have the Chair of your Council/Board be in touch with Rev. Whit Strong if you are interested in what this entails.

Ministry Personnel:

There has been some discussion of beginning gatherings of Ministry Personnel – either virtual or in-person. This would serve both a social as well as an educational function. If there topics related to ministry that you, as ministry personnel, would want to explore during these gatherings, lease contact Rev. Whit Strong with your ideas. Your input and participation will help ensure the success of such a venture.