

# Celebration of Ministry Shinning Waters Regional Council

3 pm on Sunday, May 30, 2021

**“Theme: Hope Spring Forth, We Are Not Alone”**

## **Words of Welcome & Gathering:** (Jody Maltby)

We offer a warm welcome to everyone joining us today, and those who will watch the recording later, for this special time of celebration of ministry in Shining Waters Regional Council. I want to offer thanks on behalf of the region to our liturgists, Maria Christina Conlon, Richard C. Choe, Eleanor Scarlett, Betty Lou McNabb and our guest preacher Michael Blair. I also want to let you know that only the responsive prayers will be shared on screen during the service so you can focus on hearing the spoken words and seeing the persons offering prayers. The worship planning team would like to invite you to experience this worship service. Information on music, videos, images, and prayers will be shared after the service via Shining Waters Regional Council website. If you would like a bulletin for this service or a full script of the text, you can download it now from our website: [shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca](http://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca). And now, let's prepare ourselves for worship.

**Video: “Yearning”** music by Mitchell Wright & photography by Fangliang Xu.

## **Opening Prayer:** (Eleanor Scarlett)

We are gathered today in this virtual community to celebrate the gifts of ministry. We gather from the East, West, North and South to celebrate the gifts of those who have offered themselves to serve in paid accountable ministry of this church of ours. Let us take some time to pause, to center ourselves and to breathe deeply. Let us do so knowing that despite not being together in one place, God's presence is sustaining us, and the love of Christ continues to enfold us. ...

Let us together acknowledge the land on which we are on.

**Video of the Land Acknowledgement:** Tim Hackborn, Indigenous Office of Vocation Minister

**Lighting of the Four Directions candle:** (Richard C. Choe)

**Video: Hymn: MV 2 “Uyai Mose (Come, All You People)”**

**The Call to Worship:** (Richard C. Choe)

One: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

One: We long to gather on the banks of the river

Where cool flowing waters calls us to experience life giving water.

**All: Come let us worship the One who was, is, and is to come!**

**Opening Prayer & Prayer of Confession:** (Richard C. Choe and the congregation)

**You are our God, and we seek your face. Our souls' thirst for your presence, we long to feel the warmth of your love. During this season of Pandemic, we find ourselves yearning for the life-giving water you offer. Death and dying is all around us but we we're not defined by it. hope springs forth; like Jeremiah we too are assured that we will rise again. God of Abraham and Sarah, there are times when we doubt what you tell us. Times when we do not even listen for your voice. Forgive us, God, when we go our own way and ignore you. Help us to be attuned to your voice and to follow where you lead! This we ask in Jesus' forgiving name.**

(Moment of Silence)

**Video: "Beatitude of Covid"**

**Assurance of Hope** (Richard)

Even though we may not always hear your call or feel your presence you stay with us. You do not shut us out or stop calling us, you comfort and reassure us. When times are difficult you raise us up and carry us the rest of journey. You offer us life over death, the first step in accepting God's forgiveness and grace. Thanks be to God. And the people of God say. Amen!

**CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THE CHURCH AND ARE RETIRED OR RETIRING:** (Jody Maltby)

We gather in this time of celebration of Ministries within Shining Waters Regional Council with those of you who have served the church in many ministries, we offer thanks together. You have come to this place in your ministry called retirement. Today we are privileged to celebrate with you and your families. We offer our praise and thanksgiving and wish you well on this next phase of your journey.

**CELEBRATING JUBILANDS:** (Dale Hildebrand)

We gather in this time of celebration of ministries within the Shining Waters Regional Council, to recognise the various ministries, and milestones you have achieved in your ministries. We are honoured to celebrate with you, our Jubilands the monumental milestones which you have achieved. We celebrate with you and your families as you now embark on the next chapter of our ministry. May those of you who continue to serve the church be blessed in your ministry. To you who continue your calling yet seek to do so on different paths, may you embrace your ministry with thanksgiving.

**Video: VU 510 "We Have This Ministry"**

**Video: Scripture Reading 1:** Jeremiah 1: 1-11 A Conversation between Jeremiah (Joel Aguirre speaking in Filipino) and God (Kristine Greenaway speaking in French).

**Jeremiah:**

“I remember my first conversation with God. I am Jeremiah, son of Hilkiyah. My father was a priest just like his father and his forefathers. I was born in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. I heard the voice of God for the first time when King Jehoiakim ruled Judah. God continued to speak to me until we became captives of the Babylonian Empire.”

**God:**

Avant même de te former au ventre maternel, je t’ai connu ; avant même que tu sois sorti du sein, je t’ai consacré ; comme prophète des nations, je t’ai établi.

**Jeremiah:**

“Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

**God:**

Ne dis pas : « Je suis un enfant » car vers tous ceux à qui je t’enverrai, tu iras, et tout ce que je t’ordonnerai, tu le diras. N’aie aucune crainte en leur présence car, je suis avec toi pour te délivrer ...

**Jeremiah:**

“Then I remember God touching my mouth and saying ...”

**God:**

Voici que j’ai placé mes paroles en ta bouche. Vois! Aujourd’hui même je t’établis sur les nations et sur les royaumes, pour arracher et renverser, pour exterminer et démolir, pour bâtir et planter.

**Jeremiah:**

“This is what I remember.”

**Video: MV 18 “Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary”**

**Video: Scripture Reading 2:** Jeremiah 1: 1-11 A Conversation between Jeremiah and God (Eric Youm and Christine Youm speaking in English).

**Jeremiah:**

“I remember my first conversation with God. I am Jeremiah, son of Hilkiyah. My father was a priest just like his father and his forefathers. I was born in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. I heard the voice of God for the first time when King Jehoiakim ruled Judah. God continued to speak to me until we became captives of the Babylonian Empire.”

**God:**

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

**Jeremiah:**

“Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

**God:**

“Do not say, “I am only a boy”;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you.”

**Jeremiah:**

“Then I remember God touching my mouth and saying ...”

**God:**

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

**Jeremiah:**

“This is what I remember.”

**Video: MV 165 “There Is a Time”**

Sermon: “For Such A Time As This”

The Reverend Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada.

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S CALL**

### **COMMISSIONING, ORDINATION AND ADMISSION CELEBRATION**

**Peter:**

The Church seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts and equipping for the exercise of these gifts, within both lay and ordered ministries.

In what we are about to do, the church, recognizing God’s call to these ministries, prays that those who are called will continue to receive the gifts of the Spirit, as the church accepts and authorizes their ministries.

**David:**

“Jesus Christ came into the world to be the servant of God and all people. As servant Lord, Jesus calls his Church to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. In baptism we were received as members of his Church and at confirmation we committed ourselves to its ministry. In order that this ministry of the whole Church may be fulfilled, God has given the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care, and the diaconal ministry of Education, Service, and Pastoral Care. It is the responsibility of the Church to seek, train, and set apart those whom God calls so to serve.

## **CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONING – Alana Martin**

**Kellie:**

I present to you Alana Martin, a candidate for commissioning:

**David:**

You have heard your name called. We ask you the questions that have been asked through the history of The United Church of Canada:

Do you believe in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and do you commit yourself anew to God?

**Alana:** I do.

**David:**

Do you believe that God is calling you to the diaconal ministry of education, service and pastoral care, and do you accept this call?

**Alana:** I do.

**David:**

Are you willing to exercise your ministry in accordance with the scriptures, in continuity with the faith of the Church, and subject to the oversight and discipline of The United Church of Canada?

**Alana:** I am willing

**Peter:** I invite you to kneel and for those laying on hands to come forward.

**David:**

By the power of your Spirit, O God, fulfill the call of Alana Martin to Diaconal Ministry in your church and strengthen in her the gifts for that ministry. Amen.

**Peter:**

Receive this Bible; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

**David:**

In the name of Jesus the Christ, who calls the church into being and is present among us, and by the authority of Shining Waters Regional Council, I declare that Alana has been commissioned to the ministry of education, service and pastoral care within The United Church of Canada.

## **CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONING – Bri-anne Swan**

**Kellie:**

I present to you Bri-anne Swan, a candidate for commissioning.

**David:**

You have heard your name called. We ask you the questions that have been asked through the history of The United Church of Canada:

Do you believe in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and do you commit yourself anew to God?

**Bri-anne:** I do.

**David:** Do you believe that God is calling you to the diaconal ministry of education, service and pastoral care, and do you accept this call?

**Bri-anne:** I do.

**David:**

Are you willing to exercise your ministry in accordance with the scriptures, in continuity with the faith of the Church, and subject to the oversight and discipline of The United Church of Canada?

**Bri-anne:** I am willing

**Peter:**

I invite you to kneel and for those laying on hands to come forward.

**David:**

By the power of your Spirit, O God, fulfill the call of Bri-anne Swan to Diaconal Ministry in your church and strengthen in her the gifts for that ministry. Amen.

**Peter:**

Receive this Bible; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

**David:**

In the name of Jesus the Christ, who calls the church into being and is present among us, and by the authority of Shining Waters Regional Council, I declare that Bri-anne has been commissioned to the ministry of education, service and pastoral care within The United Church of Canada.

**David:** And so we sing to celebrate the commissioning of Alana and Bri-anne.

**Video:** *MV 161 "I have Called You by Your Name" v 1&2*

## **CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION – Kevin Moore**

**Kellie:**

I present to you Kevin Moore, a candidate for Ordination:

**David:**

You have heard your name called. We ask you the questions that have been asked through the history of The United Church of Canada:

Do you believe in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and do you commit yourself anew to God?

**Kevin:** I do.

**David:**

Do you believe that God is calling you to the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care, and do you accept this call?

**Kevin:** I do.

**David:** Are you willing to exercise your ministry in accordance with the scriptures, in continuity with the faith of the Church, and subject to the oversight and discipline of The United Church of Canada?

**Kevin:** I am willing

**Peter:** I invite you to kneel and for those laying on hands to come forward.

**David:**

By the power of your Spirit, O God, fulfill the call of Kevin Moore to Ordained Ministry in your church and strengthen in him the gifts for that ministry. Amen.

**Peter:**

Receive this Bible; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

**David:**

In the name of Jesus the Christ, who calls the church into being and is present among us, and by the authority of Shining Waters Regional Council, I declare that Kevin has been ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

David: And so we sing to celebrate Kevin's ordination.

**Video: MV 161 "I have Called You by Your Name" vs. 3&4**

**Peter:**

Today we also celebrate the ministry of two who were ordained by another denomination who are being admitted to the Ordained Ministry in The United Church of Canada.

**CANDIDATE FOR ADMISSION – Carmen Llanos**

**Kellie:**

I present to you, Carmen Llanos, who is already ordained in another denomination and who now wishes to exercise ministry within The United Church of Canada.

**David:**

You have heard your name called. Do you believe that God is calling you to the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada, and do you accept this call?

**Carmen:** I do.

**David:**

Carmen, we recognize your ordination and we are pleased that you choose to join us in our particular life within God's church. We welcome you into the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

Let us pray. By your Spirit, O God, sustain Carmen and strengthen her in the gifts of ministry which you so generously bestow. Amen.

**Peter:**

Receive this Bible; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

**David:**

I declare that Carmen has been received into The United Church of Canada and recognized as ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

### **CANDIDATE FOR ADMISSION – Julia YunJung Kim**

**Kellie:**

I present to you, Julia YunJung Kim, who is already ordained in another denomination and who now wishes to exercise ministry within The United Church of Canada.

**David:**

You have heard your name called. Do you believe that God is calling you to the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada, and do you accept this call?

**Julia:** I do.

**David:**

Julia, we recognize your ordination and we are pleased that you choose to join us in our particular life within God's church. We welcome you into the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

Let us pray. By your Spirit, O God, sustain Julia and strengthen her in the gifts of ministry which you so generously bestow. Amen.

**Peter:**

Receive this Bible; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.



**David:**

I declare that Julia has been received into The United Church of Canada and recognized as ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

**David:** and so we sing to celebrate the admission of Carmen and Julia.

**Video: VU 563 “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”**

**Offering – Mission & Service (Kim Uyede-Kai)**

If you have already given gifts to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada, thank you. You have sustained, changed, and saved lives of people and communities.

Your gifts help those who are in need in Canada and around the world. And the need is increasing as the pandemic continues to affect every community.

- Your gifts help people in need by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, and refugee programs.
- Your support means that people who are sick or at the end of life are cared for by providing addiction, mental health, counselling, spiritual and hospice care.
- Your gifts support those in the most dire circumstances, providing access to life-saving clean water, food, and medical care.
- Your generosity makes vital economic development, skills training, peace-making, chaplaincies, advocacy, and disaster relief possible.

Thank you!

With gratitude, offerings from this regional meeting will be received for the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada so that these vital ministries can continue:

<https://www.united-church.ca/donate>

**Video: “For Everyone Born”**

**COMMUNION, CELEBRATION AT THE TABLE:** (Maria Christina Conlon & Betty Lou McNabb)

BETTY LOU: My name is Rev. Betty Lou McNabb. I serve the congregation of Georgina Island Native United Church and I am the President-elect of Shining Waters Regional Council.

TINA: Welcome to the table, my name is Tina Conlon. Emmanuel College granted my Master of Divinity in 1983. While a student there, I sat with Rigoberta Menchu who gave me this shawl as a parting gift when she returned to Guatemala. This is what I wear today as my communion garment this service.

BETTY LOU: Today we celebrate this feast, gathered from different places, with those among us who are newly ordained, commissioned and are admitted into service for the United Church of Canada.

TINA: The ritual of communion that we celebrate is a memory of the ritual Passover feast that Jesus, as an observant Jew, observed with his friends.

BETTY LOU: Yes – even with one who betrayed him for silver.

TINA: Yes – even with another who when asked, denied ever knowing him.

BETTY LOU: Yes – and even also with those who were fast asleep and could not stay awake to see his agony and loneliness, even as he begged for their company.

TINA: We come to this table, not as spectators, but as witnesses to what we must bear witness: to unleash a hope and a commitment that we love one another, that our world be the beloved community for all our children to inhabit. We witness a world that saw the killing of George Floyd and again of Daunte Wright. We witness a world where the powerful nations keep their knee on other nations while they demonize those who disagree. We witness the other as not one of us and one who must be erased, not seen, invisible.

**[SILENCE]**

BETTY LOU: May we have eyes to see and ears to listen.

TINA: We come not as spectators to be entertained, but to witness; and that we must bear witness: where love of self has gone wrong because we failed to love our neighbour as ourselves. When in this pandemic the essential continue to serve those who remain sheltered in their dwellings, while the vaccines remain elusive to those who need them the most.

BETTY LOU: May we be witnesses.

TINA: We come not as spectators, but to witness, as participants at this table where we now open ourselves, our souls and our bodies with these elements of grain and fruit that were given to us.

BETTY LOU: We come bringing ceremonial bread and wine in the many forms they take from wherever we came from. These we all partake together at this common table.

TINA: We come, not as spectators, but as witnesses to the One who loved and who has given gifts, elements of grain and fruit: from seeds nourished in the earth, kissed by the sun, embraced by water and kindled in the passion of air and fire.

BETTY LOU: God of mercy accept these elements we offer you this day.

TINA: Increase, we pray, our sight to see you in those we have failed to see, all those who have lost their loved ones especially in this pandemic and still those who continue to experience the loss of house and are in encampments.

BETTY LOU: keep us awake to accompany you as you cry for justice, to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, to respond to indigenous rights to dignity and self-determination here in Canada as in Palestine and everywhere else in the world.

TINA: Help us to love our neighbours, as we love ourselves, still grieving over the killing of George Floyd, Vincent Chin, Dean “Laser” Lisowick and many others, because of race, status, culture or sexual orientation.

BETTY LOU: Deepen our hope that brings us into your eternal love, in your creation, that we do not take more than what we need and will ensure the bounty of your gifts to share with others now and in the future, in this beloved community. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

TINA: AMEN.

BETTY LOU: We remember Jesus as we partake of this feast in that supper where Jesus took the elements of grain and fruit, gave thanks and gave it to those at the table, "Eat and drink."

TINA: We gather at this table today not because we are worthy, but because we have all been invited to this feast; not because we must but because we may.

BETTY LOU: As we partake of this meal, we share in the body of Christ, the new covenant of love.

TINA: This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

BETTY LOU: This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you.

TINA: Take, eat and drink for we do this in the memory of Christ who lived, died and rose again from the dead.

#### **AFTER COMMUNION**

BETTY LOU: We thank you for this meal. Strengthen us in our ministry of service that we may preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, set at liberty those who are oppressed, and proclaim the year of Jubilee.

***Video: MV 145 "Draw the Circle Wide"***

***Video: Commissioning and Benediction***

***Video: "The Water Song"***

***Video: Sound of the Waterfall by Bob McGauley***

**END.**