

# SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL MEETING May 30, 2021

The Shining Waters Regional Council met via video conference on May 30, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. for a Celebration of Ministries service. The theme was *For Such a Time!*

President, David Leyton-Brown presided assisted by Executive Minister Peter Hartmans. Liturgists Maria Christina Conlon, Richard C. Choe, Eleanor Scarlett, and Betty Lou McNabb provided leadership.

Tim Hackborn, Indigenous Office of Vocation Minister gave the Acknowledgement of the Land. The scripture reading was Jeremiah 1: 1-11 presented in Filipino, French and English. Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, delivered the message based on the theme.

The service also recognized and celebrated those ministry personnel that have retired since the last regional council meeting and those ministry personnel marking a significant anniversary of their entry into ministry within The United Church of Canada (Appendices A and B).

Kevin Moore was ordained to the order of ministry. Bri-anne Swan and Alana Martin were commissioned to the order of Ministry. Carmen Llanos and Julia YunJung Kim were admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada.

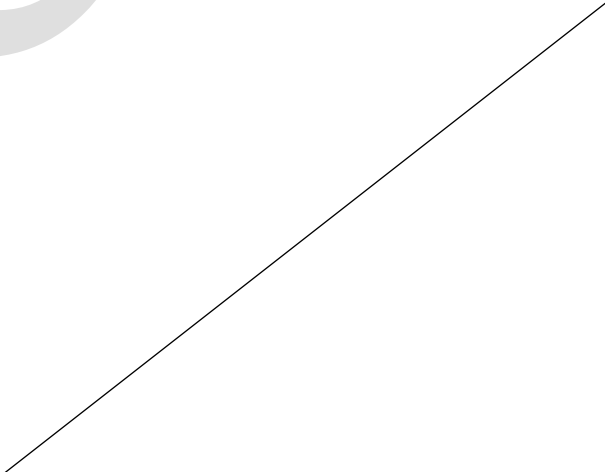
The Commissioning and Benediction was a video compilation of people offering the Peace of Christ in different languages.

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David Leyton-Brown, President

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Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister



**RETIREES****The Reverend Diane Bennett-Jones**

My involvement with the United Church began about 25 years ago and I quickly became very connected to church activities. I became a member of Grace United Church in Brampton in 1999 and entered into the discernment process a few years later.

After discernment I attended Emmanuel College completing my field education at North York General Hospital as a Chaplain, and my internship with the congregation of Wexford Heights United Church.

In May 2009, I received my Master of Divinity, was ordained by Toronto Conference, and settled with the Sandford/Zephyr Pastoral Charge.

In 2016, I returned to Wexford Heights United Church as their permanent Minister and remained with them until the congregation disbanded in June 2019.

In Sept 2019 I accepted a supply position with Lansing United Church, became their permanent Minister in April 2020, and walked with them through the first year of the pandemic, until I decided to retire in March 2021.

Over the years I have also served on various Presbytery, Conference, and Regional committees including as a member of the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Pastoral Relations and Ministry Support Committee, the Toronto Conference Interview Committee and Annual Stewardship and M&S Consultation, and, most recently, as a Shining Waters Regional Liaison, and a member of the Health, Joy and Excellence in Ministry consulting group.

Throughout my ministry, I have been blessed to have met and worked with many devoted and dedicated people. I am honoured to have served with faith-filled congregations who welcomed me, embraced my gifts for ministry, and were enthusiastic about my puppet friends who joined us for worship and helped share the Good News each week.

**The Reverend Timothy Dayfoot**

I am very happy, and deeply grateful, to be celebrating my retirement with you this year after a rich and rewarding career in two different types of ministry – 23 years in long-term pastoral ministry and 12 ½ years in short-term supply and intentional interim ministry. My long-term positions started in 1985 in London Conference's Lambton Presbytery, then Middlesex Presbytery, and ended when I left my third pastoral charge in Toronto Conference's York Presbytery in 2008. Moving to supply ministry in Aurora United Church was the beginning of my transition into intentional interim ministry with six different pastoral charges in Oshawa Presbytery, Living Waters Presbytery, and East Central Ontario Regional Council. And now I have too many amazing and wonderful stories to tell in a brief reflection such as this.

However, the story I would most like to tell at this time is also much too long. It is the story of my diagnosis in 1993 of bipolar disorder. Living and working in ministry with a mental health disorder has been, to put it mildly, a significant spiritual and practical challenge for me and for my ever-supportive spouse, Leta. The stories of ministers who live and work with mental health illnesses are not often heard. And since the stories are so rare, the ones we do hear can be misconstrued and misunderstood. During my ministry I chose to keep my own mental health story mostly under wraps. But now that I am retired I want to join the conversations about mental wellness that are becoming more common in the church and in society.

The full story of my experience with mental illness would end with me saying that the world and the church are changing. We are more ready to explore what authenticity and healthy boundaries are for all of us. In 2019 I joined the General Council's Working Group on Mental Health and the report that came out of this group goes to the next meeting of General Council. The report seeks to help in the church's effort to provide more support for mental wellness in new and exciting ways. The National United Church's newly formed Mental Health Network is another way our church will keep this conversation going.

I cannot tell you what I always thought retirement would mean to me. But now that it has started I am discovering that it continues to be a time when God infuses us with the courage and the desire to ask the questions that can lead us to new and abundant life. Thanks be to God.

### **The Reverend Michael Kooiman**

It has been my great privilege to serve five pastoral charges in 31 years of ministry. And while I have long considered the role of teacher to be at the heart of ministry, I have spent more years as a student.

From Bathurst Pastoral Charge (Perth), I learned that determination and goodwill are at the heart of the rural church experience. From St. Matthew's (Toronto), I learned that congregations that reflect the diversity of the community will survive and thrive against the odds. From Cliffcrest (Scarborough), I learned that creativity and faithfulness begin and end with dedicated elders. From Birchcliff Bluffs (Scarborough), I learned that a successful amalgamation can bring renewal to a congregation and the neighbourhood that surrounds it. And from Central (Weston), I learned that the ability to see Christ in others will manifest itself in mission and ministry well beyond the walls of the church.

In all ways, I have gained more than I have given. I have been surrounded by love and mercy: from my family, from the people I have served, and from many trusted colleagues. Thank you.

### **The Reverend Randy Naylor**

Ordained by Alberta Conference on Pentecost Sunday 1971, Pentecost Sunday this year marks my 50<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. I am the luckiest minister in the United Church.

Settled in two Alberta pastoral charges in two presbyteries, Loreen and I started our family while living in the suburban setting and added our second while in the rural community. After five years, and as we each had prior work experience in Africa, we were appointed missionaries. We worked

under the leadership of the United Methodist Church of Sierra Leone for three years in new church development, primary school management and school infrastructure development.

Our return to Alberta led to Conference staff for Communication, Evangelism and Stewardship plus support to Peace River Presbytery executive, ministers, and congregations. Eventually I was called to the General Council Offices to become General Secretary: Communication. Upon the death of Howie Mills I served as the Acting General Secretary of the Church for a year.

My time in Toronto saw me appointed as Associate General Secretary (Communication) of the NCCUSA in New York. After five years, I was appointed General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) in London, UK. WACC's 15 staff support its members in 128 countries in communication development specializing in communication rights plus gender and communication. To reduce expenses the WACC Board sought a new home base. WACC has leased space from Hope United Church, Toronto since 2006. After serving WACC for nine years I resigned and looked for employment. My work has seen me travel to 72 countries!

How fortunate I was to be called to serve the Parkwoods community of faith in Toronto. It is an inner suburban community with the challenges that come with a rapidly changing urban dynamic. The congregation took in this church bureaucrat of 30+ years and welcomed me as their pastor. What a richly rewarding and renewing experience the last 10 years and 9 months at Parkwoods have been. I am right back where I started--in congregational ministry!

None of this wonderful journey would have been possible except for the support of my amazing late wife, Loreen, the people of congregations and organizations who entrusted me with so much, and the grace of God, without which ministry is never complete.

Yes, I am the luckiest minister in the United Church. There is a Cree word *oskâpêwis* which means servant or helper of the people. My prayer is that in some way, especially on my good days, that I have lived up to that high calling as I have followed our Servant Christ.

### **The Reverend Tony Rennett**

Upon my retirement, I thank the people I have served in the following congregations and chaplaincies from 2003-2021. They have been most kind to me. Thanks to the saints at Lefroy United Church, Avening United Church, New Lowell United Church, St. John's United Church in Creemore. And those at First United Methodist Church (in Chiefland, Florida) and Wesmount Congregation in Orillia. Thanks to the people I have formally served as Chaplain. These include the police and civilian members of the Barrie Police Service and the inmates at Beaver Creek Correctional Facility in Gravenhurst.

And finally, to my fellow veterans whom I came to know through my chaplaincy at Branch 34 Legion in Orillia. We always knew our lives were given to service, sacrifice, and duty. To all the people that the Holy Spirit brought into my life to reveal the grace and truth of the Lord Jesus I say thanks. You have given me much wisdom on faith and life together. Good bye which originally meant- "God be with you." Amen.

## **The Reverend John Suk**

I was raised in the Christian Reformed Church, and went to its parochial schools, Calvin University, and Calvin Seminary. Along the way I met my partner, Irene Oudyk. We've been happily married for more than 40 years.

As a Christian Reformed Minister, I served churches in Sarnia and Cobourg, Ontario; and Ann Arbor, Michigan. For ten years I served as editor-in-chief of that denomination's weekly magazine, *The Banner*. During that time, I received a PhD in Communication Theory from Wayne State University in Detroit. I subsequently was a professor at Asian Theological Seminary in Manila. Finally, I was president of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS), a graduate school of philosophy affiliated with the Toronto School of Theology. During this time I wrote *Not Sure: A Pastor's Journey from Faith to Doubt* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011).

While at the ICS, I met Peter Wyatt, then principal at Immanuel College. After listening to me discuss my book project, and my doubts about Evangelical orthodoxy, he invited me to consider joining the United Church. I did so! For the past nine years I've been the minister at Lawrence Park Community Church, a gracious community that allowed me, I think, to finish well. I shall always remember the United Church as the place that embraced both me and my doubts, while nevertheless allowing me to continue sharing the good news that Jesus can be our inspiration and model for living today.

We will retire to Bath, Ontario, to be close to children and grandchildren—as well as our sail boat!

## **The Reverend Martha ter Kuile**

I came to ministry in mid-life, after many years working in international development, often living overseas. The change was profound for my family and for me, like moving to a strange country, with different weather and a new language. Field education and internship sites became adventures in rural, inner city and suburban landscapes.

My settlement charge at Zion United Church in Apple Hill Ontario gave me a glimpse of life in a close-knit community of faith and family, in which the Christmas pageant was custom written every year for the particular age and stage of each of the participants. Six kids joined me for supper on Sunday nights and we made it a youth choir. After a yearlong study break, I began at Bells Corners United Church, in the Ottawa Presbytery. This suburban congregation, well organized and unpretentious and with a very great capacity for having fun, inspired and nurtured me through the years of my husband's final illness. After he died, I accepted a call to team ministry at Bloor Street United Church. A little intimidated at first by an array of illustrious predecessors, and amazed by the changes I found in Toronto after 30 years away, Bloor Street has proved to be a spiritual homecoming.

Over almost three decades, I have had the privilege of being invited into various conversations and roles at the regional and national church, and also the time to pursue graduate theological study.

What gratitude I feel for the work and learning of ministry, and for the pleasures of it! All the way

along I have found that it is not so much about the destination, or about the journey, but about the company - and for such good company through the years, I give God thanks.

## Appendix B

### JUBILANDS

The following ministers are celebrating significant anniversaries of their entry into ministry within The United Church of Canada:

70 years	Gordon Freer William Sherwin
60 years	Lawrence Beech Jack Carbert David MacDonald Eleanor Carr Moreithi
55 years	Darcy Dingle Lynda Newmarch Arthur Storey Lawrence Lewis Glenn Tenpenny John McTavish Frank Gabourel Clifford Campbell Robert McElhinney
50 years	Lawrence Pushee Randy Naylor
45 years	Johanne Hills Warren McDougall
40 years	Barbara Laing-Hiseler Edith-Ann Shantz Douglas Whidden Zenovia Skibinski
35 years	Phyllis Spencer Donald Telford Greer Anne Ng Cynthia Stretton Neil Young Joan Wyatt

30 years  
Robert Hunt  
Mary McHarg  
Douglas Norris  
Monica Moore  
Kent Ward  
Nigel Weaver  
Edmund Hanssmann  
Michael Kooiman

25 years  
Cheri DiNovo  
Margaret-Ann Keates  
Eleanor Scarlett  
Debra Schneider  
Philip Dallimore  
Marlene Amonsens  
Diane Morrow  
Lorna Joblin  
John Lee  
James Keenan  
Nina Darrell  
Warren Schell

20 years  
Peter Hartmans  
Robert Hockley  
Su Won Hong  
Susan Howard  
James Clubine  
Wing Mak

15 years  
Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson  
Susan Wood

10 years  
Alexandra Gilmour  
Basil Coward  
Kristin Philipson  
Margaret MacDonald  
Karen Williams

5 years  
Amy Crawford  
Anne Dionisio  
Doreen Mason  
Lawrence Nyarko  
Japhet Ndhlovu