



President-Elect Nomination - 2021

Deborah Richards

Lay or Minister Status Lay Person

Community of Faith Northwood United Church

Racial, Ethnic Identity ~ if you chose to share (optional) Black (from the Caribbean)



About me...

I have been an active lay member of the communities of faith to which I have belonged – The Moravian Church in Jamaica, and for the last 25 years as a member of the Northwood United Community of Faith in Surrey BC.

My participation in the work of the church community to which I belong comes from a deep belief that being a servant leader in my community is an open expression of my faith and that I have leadership gifts that I can share with the church. My lay leadership models are both of my parents who served their communities of faith in the Moravian Church in the Caribbean in roles such Sunday school teacher and treasurer for the congregation.

Also my mother served in an administrative role in various church organizations in Jamaica and my father as treasurer for the Provincial Elders Conference in the Jamaican Province of the Moravian Church. I come to

service in the church with these strong role models, who served with integrity in their paid and volunteer roles and with humility.

I have served the United Church in recent years in the following roles:

Northwood United Church

- 2010 – 2017 – Chair, Ministry Board
- 2018 – 2021 – Ministry Board, Presbytery and then Regional Representative to PMR
- 2018 to present – Trustee

Pacific Mountain Region

- 2020 to present - Coordinator – Intercultural Ministry

2020 to present – Member – Executive, Western Intercultural Ministry Network (Co-Chair for 2020-21)

At the national level – United Church of Canada
GC43 –

- Commissioner
- General Council Executive (2018 to 2022 term)
 - Chair, Business Planning Committee
 - Member General Secretary Supervisory Committee

As an active lay leader in my community of faith at Northwood for most of the 25 years that I have been a member and more specifically as Chair, and with my three years of recent service on the GCE I think I bring together the following gifts to the role of President, if chosen to serve:

- my love for the Church,
- my wish to contribute to the continuing journey that the wider church takes as we seek meaningful paths to live out our call to service in our communities in an ever-changing world.
- Prayerful discernment and guidance as a member of a Council Executive to support the communities of faith in the region, so that those communities can in turn be vibrant communities in their local area.
- An understanding of governance roles
- An inquiring mind
- Collaborative skills

Service for me in any role in the church has always been about how my gifts and skills meet the needs of the church at this time.

This opportunity to serve is about the opportunity to share the gifts that I have been given with the wider church for the glory of continuing God's work in the region.

I am eager to serve. Many of the words in 1 Peter 5:1-4 seem 'right' for my discernment to this call: *'To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness to Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.'*

Prayerfully submitted, Deborah Y Richards