

AGENDA & REPORTS

PMRC | 2022



PAGES 1-28,
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4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
Thursday June 9 - Sunday June 12, 2022
GM WHOVA PLATFORM | PRINCE GEORGE BC



EPHESIANS 3: 14-21



Welcoming Jeff Chu 朱天慧!



Jeff comes to us with an enthusiasm for a faith with longer tables, more connection with the land, decolonizing systems and difficult conversations.

THURSDAY JUNE 9

7:15 pm "Hopes, Dreams, Aspirations"

FRIDAY JUNE 10

9:35 am What Does the Church Need to Repent of?"

7:00 pm "Who do you want to be in the world?"

SATURDAY JUNE 11

9:35 am "Blessing"

Celebrations and Parties!



In-Person and Live Streaming:
youtu.be/kr1hxPZljil

Agenda

THURSDAY JUNE 9

3:30 pm New Regional Representatives
Orientation
4:00 pm First Third Program begins
5:00 pm Supper
6:10 pm Opening Music
6:45 pm General Meeting Opening, Worship
7:15 pm Theme Session #1 "Hopes, Dreams,
Aspirations"
8:15 pm Vespers
9:00 pm Campus Ministry Pub Night!

FRIDAY JUNE 10

8:45 am Gathering music & Announcements
9:00 am Morning Worship
9:35 am Theme Session #2 "What Does the
Church Need to Repent of?"
10:35 am Break time
11:00 am Business Session: Why Do We
Gather?
12:00 pm Lunch Break (CLUSTERS)
1:25 pm Theme Practice
1:45 pm Sharing the Work of the Executive:
President's Address
2:00 pm Proposals - introduction & listening
phase
2:30 pm General Council Guest
3:00 pm Break time
3:30 pm Sharing the Work of the Executive:
Executive Accountability
4:30 pm Music & Movement!
4:40 pm PMRC Staff Introductions
5:00 pm Stewardship: Vicki Nelson
5:25 pm Announcements and Grace
5:30 pm Dinner Break
6:45 pm Gathering music
7:00 pm Theme Session #3 "Who do you want
to be in the world?"
8:15 pm Announcements & Vespers

Reports

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Celebrations

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Business

- Mission
- Regional Executive Accountability Report
- Regional Executive Council Members & Ends Policy Summary
- Ends Policy
- Guidelines for Business Procedures
- Business Committee Motions
- Proposals Guidelines
- Proposal - Form
- Nominations Committee Report
- President Elect - Deborah Richards

Finance

- Finance Advisory Council
- Property Resource Team
- ProVision
- Stewardship Animator

Ministry and Mission

- The Archives & History Committee
- Affirming Regional Council
- Community of Faith Council
- Justice Network
- Office of Vocation
- Pastoral Relations Council
- Camp Spirit
- Campus Ministry
- First Third Ministry
- Indigenous Ministry
- LeaderSHIFT
- LeaderSHIFT Church Planting Project
- Regional Camping Ministry
- Western Intercultural Ministry Network

Centres of Education

- Centre for Christian Studies
- Naramata Centre
- Vancouver School of Theology

Final Pages

- 110 - We are the Church colour sheet (artwork by Emily Thiessen)
- 111 - Staff List, by surname
- Record of Edits to GM2022 A&R
- Draft Minutes of PMRC GM 2021
- Proposals Received

President's Message

Rev. Blair S. Odney

It is not the critic who counts, not the (one) who points out how the strong stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the (one) who is actually in the arena..., who at best knows achievement and who at the worst, if (they) fail, at least fails daring greatly so that (their) place shall never be with the cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt, Sorbonne 1950



Hello my beloveds,

I've been wracking my brain for the past two months wondering what God is calling me to write in my last written message to the region as President. Is there a word of peace that you might remember? Is there an empowering message of inspiration that will fly off the tips of my fingers, as I click away on the keyboard of my office laptop? One this is for sure; my heart is filled with real hope as I think about the United Church of Canada at this time in our history.

As I write this, I'm looking out my office window into the greenery of Tipperary Park in New Westminster as the sunshine pours in. (It's been raining for weeks, so this break of bright light feels especially appropriate in this moment.) From this little corner of the region, looking out over my surroundings, I realize that the context of our ministries is everything. Where we find ourselves absolutely defines how we will respond to the call of the gospel to be, and bring, good news. And from my perspective, it has never been more important to be the denomination of the Christian church whose most recent credal statement begins with "God is Wholly Mystery."

In my community on the six-block walk from my home to my office, I hear at least 5 different languages. I see the skin tones of people from the far East, southeast Asia, West Africa, the middle-east. The Caucasian population of the local high school makes up 25% of the student body. The LGBTQ2S+ community is migrating from the west end of downtown Vancouver into my city because housing is more accessible. Men's groups are operating. Seniors are gathering in coffee shops. Folks who sleep in the street sometimes find refuge under the canopy of the church I serve. All are longing for an encounter with the holy mystery. All wanting the hand of grace to touch their aching hearts.

I believe that God is already doing the things we could ever hope or imagine, and we are being called to catch up. I believe we are called to be rooted and grounded in the love that has changed us, to be conduits of that love in a world longing to be loved. I'm sure each of you could tell a similar story about the context of your ministries. What do we do with the context? Is God ahead of us doing the work of incarnational theology somewhere else? Are we players in the unfolding work of mending God's world?

President's Message

continued

A phrase from Roosevelt's quote above, has been turned into a book by Brene Brown – the researcher, social worker, academic who has spent most of the past 30 years researching, studying, and writing about shame, vulnerability and the power of risk taking. Daring Greatly. Whenever I encounter her teaching, I'm inspired again. Is now the time for our denomination to risk everything, for the sake of the gospel? From my context, I hear more and more people living on the outside of the status quo in which the church once had a major stake, crying out to be claimed again, loved again, held again, graced again, by that Holy Mystery that we say is. Is it finally time for new wineskins?

Never before has the Region been more poised to think and act strategically on behalf of the gospel, making decisions about where we want this love to be grounded so that the Holy Mystery we name, can be proclaimed. What does daring greatly mean today? How will we resource these courageous acts of risk taking? Never before have communities of faith in the region had such a role in fulfilling the whole church's ministry - Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice from Healthy Communities of faith and ministries, served by Effective Leadership, giving powerful testimony, and Faithful Public Witness, to the gospel of love.

That's why I'm so excited that we are meeting in person for the first time since 2019, in Prince George. I want to talk about these things. How I look forward to seeing your faces in person, giving a hug to those who wish, and experiencing a felt sense of "my church." I'm just as excited that we have figured out how to meet with people who are unable to make the journey, but who will be present on-line.

I'm especially excited that Jeff Chu is our theme speaker, former journalist now faithful follower who asks good question. He will touch on the core themes from the Ephesians passage - identity, risk taking, letting go, imagining, responding to call. Our work and worship will include the active participation and discernment of children, youth, young adults. National General Secretary the Rev. Michael Blair will join our meeting, uniting our own intention around the church's mission. He will also preach at our Celebration of Ministry on Sunday morning.

In and through it all, we will be rooted and grounded in love daring to witness to what God is already doing in the world.

It will be so good to see you.

In Christ,

Rev. Blair Odney
President

Executive Minister's Message

After three years, I continue to enjoy finding my way around this role. But there are many days when I wish that there was a clear and simple path to guide my work, something easy like a GPS. Generally, when I'm getting around, especially now when I am finding my way around my second Region in Alberta, I rely on a GPS to get me to where I intend to go. It considers all the different ways to go, traffic, hazards and accidents and tells me how best to safely make the journey. I listen intently for the next direction prompt and trust that it will get me where I want to go, guided by a confident and re-assuring voice. But sometimes I have missed a turn and I get this abrupt, "RECALCULATING" in a voice that seems annoyed that I did not listen to the clear instructions that were provided. I carry on and it keeps recalculating and at a certain point, I think it is just going to say to me, "Look, if you don't need me, just do what you want. I am not going to help any more!"



I think that the GPS also reflects the life and journey we have been on during this pandemic. RECALCULATING has become our theme. This has been an unpredictable two years, and we had been travelling along through life when suddenly, we had to recalculate. The GPS hadn't been updated, there were no roads, no simple and safe path to the destination.

Throughout these past couple of years, the Communities of Faith in Pacific Mountain Region have stepped up to the challenges in front of them. The leaders in this region have 'recalculated' with incredible creativity and resilience. Scripture is filled with stories of spiritual ancestors who responded to God's call to 'recalculate' and found their lives going where no map would lead them. Moses woke up one morning thinking he was tending sheep for a living and ended up leading his people out of captivity in Egypt. Mary was minding her own business growing up in Nazareth when the angel Gabriel appeared and recalculated her life's journey. Recalculating is a theme for our time and for our life with God.

In early March 2020 a hopeful planning group met in Victoria to begin to prepare for a Regional Meeting in Victoria. Two years later, we are excited to be coming together (finally!) for our first post-pandemic in-person Regional Gathering; but our new reality means that some of us will not be in person but will join in online. Life and work will be different now, and we are excited to have our first try at a hybrid meeting. We have taken precautions to make this meeting as safe as possible for those around us and ourselves.

Despite the challenges of the context of COVID, the work of the Region has continued. The Executive has worked hard to develop our vision for ministry so that the staff have a framework from which to lead. Our three areas of focus for the Region are: Effective Leadership, Healthy Communities of Faith and Faithful Public Witness, and as we consider these overarching goals we have established areas of priority. The Region and its staff are focussed on supporting and resourcing the Region's Communities of Faith and Ministries within these frameworks.

You will see, by reading the reports of the various ministries across the Region that we have accomplished a lot this year. We have established an amazing First Third ministry, expanded Leadershift to include online and hybrid options, and we have delved deeply into the work of reconciliation and becoming an Affirming Region. Through it all, it is a privilege to work with the staff team, who are skilled and committed in their work. We are blessed to have many staff and are mindful of our privilege as a Region, and are sharing our resources. Our cross Regional partnerships are flourishing and offer mutual benefit to all parties; this reminds us that we are not alone in our ministry and partnerships between Regions, Communities of Faith, and beyond will continue to add value to our life and ministry here in Pacific Mountain Region.

Executive Minister's Report

continued

The combination of the pandemic and the loss of Presbyteries has made staying connected to one another a challenge. The staff and Executive see this as an important part of our work. We are committed to exploring ways to build partnerships among Communities of Faith and to find new ways to be the church in the context of diminishing resources, both human and financial. We know that being intentional about cultivating and maintaining relationships is particularly important to our future.

We have named Leadership development as another important area of priority and we live this out through a robust First Third Ministry which fosters and builds leadership for the future church. Leadershift creatively offers programs which respond to providing support, challenge and skill development for all types of leadership. I really encourage you to take a look at the upcoming "Total Clergy Well-being" offering, which is a rarely offered, life-changing and deeply enriching experience.

What keeps us in that alignment, what keeps our spiritual GPS connected to that satellite, is community - each other. It is where we come to remember that we are loved and called to walk in love, to be fed and fueled, and to go back out into the world and witness to that love. Joan Chittister, writing in Wisdom Distilled from the Daily, reflects on the significance of community:

*In community we work out our connectedness to God, to one another and to ourselves.
It is in community where we find out who we are ... Alone, I am what I am, but in community I
have the chance to become everything that I can be. And so, stability bonds me to this group of people
and to these relationships so that resting in the security of each other we can afford to stumble and
search, knowing that we will be caught if we fall, and we will be led where we cannot see by those
who have been there before us.*

Led where we cannot see, caught if we fall, encouraged to recalculate.

The way the GPS guides me on the roads is how I believe the Holy Spirit guides each and every one of us on our Adventures as followers of Jesus and as a Region. God is patient. God is persistent. No matter how clueless we are or far afield we go, her patient, persistent refrain is, "Recalculating."

Blessings,

Treena Duncan
Executive Minister Pacific Mountain Regional Council
May 2022



Celebrations

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL
GM 2022 | JUNE 9-12, 2022

Rev. Jonah Lin 林景熙 - Ordination

I completed my masters in the year 2006 in Taiwan at Tainan Theological College and Seminary as a Master of Divinity. I was then ordained in the Presbyterian Church after having worked in Labour Concern Center PCT. I then moved to Vancouver in 2016 and served in a Taiwanese congregation in PCC.

March 2020 I came and started serving for Amazing Grace United Church, which due to COVID -19 was on lockdown. I spearheaded efforts to bring AGUC online and start remote ministries and had a warm welcoming and lots of help / support from PMRC, especially from the clergy in Surrey. Overall, I am very interested in multicultural / intercultural community development ministries and strive towards building a more connected intercultural group.



Melanie Ihmels - Commissioning

I began this journey into Ministry in January of 2013 when I received my call during a windstorm at Saxe Point Park here in my home of Victoria, BC. God works quickly in my life and by May I was a full Candidate and in school in September with the full support of my home church, Esquimalt United behind me. I graduated from the Centre for Christian Studies in 2018 and spent the next three years working in several short term and sabbatical positions in the greater Victoria region with the United Church.

In August of 2021, I was offered an interim position at the Mustard Seed Street Church as its full-time Hospitality Pastor. I accepted the role and in January of this year, it was offered to me on a full-time basis. This role is categorized as a Recognized Ministry Position and allows me to practice ministry with our most vulnerable populations. I love the challenge and ecumenical work that comes from a role working in the Vancouver Islands' poorest postal code!



Philip Francis - Ordination

God came calling in my 60's, while I was managing client investment portfolios - I left my job and enrolled as a full-time student at VST - first in the Diploma Program, then in the MAPPL and finally in the M.Div program, graduating in May 2021. Field Education at First United Church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside convinced me that it was not too late to become the person God meant me to be. I hope this transformative experience will also inspire others, later in life, to respond to God's call into pastoral leadership.

The pandemic has accelerated many of the challenges faced by the church in preceding years. Our foremost need now is to become relevant and responsive to the needs of the many in our communities, of all ages, who experience loneliness, social isolation or marginalization, and who yearn for a place of belonging and spiritual growth. Our churches are uniquely placed to offer a spiritual home through inspiring worship, intercultural learning opportunities, and impactful local outreach programs. Above all, I believe, we have to model a different type of community, grounded in "loving one another, as I have loved you", both within our churches and in partnership with other faith traditions and community organizations. I look forward to being part of that vision.



Retirees

2021-2022

Those retiring from ministry in 2021 – 2022 were asked to provide a short description of themselves, their ministry, and their journey to retirement. They were also asked what they see as the biggest challenge for leadership in the coming time.

For all these gifts, we give you thanks!



Heather Anderson – Retired February 1, 2021

I am one of the fortunate ones who grew up in families and communities that were well rooted and grounded in Love. I've had the privilege and joy of living and working in B.C., Alberta, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan; in science and music and theatre and popular education and church; partnering with people of many faiths and of no organized faith; being urban and rural and family-farm based (yay Saskatchewan!); as able-bodied, and now disabled and isolated since five years ago.

Along the way I met an amazing farm, an amazing farmer (+RIP) and our two amazing daughters. Also an assortment of dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rats, birds, pigs, cattle, grasshoppers (think plague), and bees.

Between being ordained in 1985 and retiring in 2021 I think I really preached only one sermon – God is Love, who created each person beloved, and calls us together to create communities of love in action. I think it's the one sermon I grew up with, and it allowed me to stay within the institutional church for so long. (That and, as a minister, being paid to go to church!) It showed me the truth of Cornel West's claim that "Justice is what Love looks like in the public sphere."



Sharilynn Upsdell – Retired March 1, 2021

Born into a military household with seven moves in early childhood instilled "change is normal" and innovation as necessary. After one year of Sunday school, I was chagrined, at the "mature age of ten" to be denied opportunity to answer the baptism questions myself. My questioning began early. My curious spirit was open to exploring new places and ideas with intimate friends in a broad array of faith expressions.

A treasured photo depicts me in early ministry. I'm 15, encircled by my peers – our bright red jackets contrasting with the lush green surroundings. I stand leading a Guide's Own outdoor worship service. Community, thanksgiving, and respect for all creation valued. Connecting to the holy was vital. Another memory – I'm among 3000 Guides/Scouts at camp in Sweden, singing and praying in harmony, sharing different cultures and languages. A passion for broader connection was fanned.

Retirees

continued

Married, children, and a few “gap years” later, I dipped my toes back into faith community at Rutland United – offering creativity, and leading youth activities steeped in faith and action. God nudged me deeper. 1992 presented opportunities at Westbank United as Staff Associate and KO Presbytery Youth Minister, serving both eleven years. Concurrently life was in transformation, while I studied Diaconal Ministry with the Centre for Christian Studies. Upon graduation/commissioning and re-marrying in 2003, I was blessed to be settled among the Tsimshian people in Lax Kw'alaams, Prince Rupert Presbytery. Residential School issues were not yet part of mainstream awareness and the learning curve was steep. We were enriched by tender stories, embraced by faithful people, and immersed in strong cultural life and imprinted by the common heartbeat resounding in Tsimshian drums. I welcomed the voice of the drums in the church more than a century after they were banned by missionaries.

As ministry shifted to Aldergrove United, Fraser Presbytery YAYA Ministry, IOCO United (supply), and First United, Kelowna Family and Outreach (supply), my diaconal heart found a new passion. Serving almost a decade as the (DUCC) Diakonia of the United Church of Canada representative to DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean), international experiences expanded my consciousness of cultural richness and struggles in the world and across denominations.

A family decision to remain in the Okanagan meant exploring new ministry options. A care-home chaplain invited me as a volunteer, then short-term supply, morphing into almost 10 years Chaplaincy at Good Samaritan Heron Grove, Vernon, and Mountainview Village, Kelowna. A wonderful fit for my pastoral style and creative soul. Embracing and learning from the deep stories of those in care, I sat knee to knee, gathered in circles, singing heart songs, empowering faith and offering an accompanying presence of God to a last breath. Even amid exhausting COVID protocols, it has fed my soul to be part of unearthing the glimpses of new life with those in various stages of life's journey. The dedication of my health care colleagues has been inspiring.

After 30 years in ministry, I enter retirement with an ongoing sense of adventure. My spirit yearns for more time in nature, with my partner Ed and family, creativity engaging the holy in everyday living.

When I entered ministry in 1992, my 386 personal computer was not designed to access the internet. Youth ministry was gaining momentum in the Okanagan with volunteer leaders. Lay people interested in serving were often appointed as Staff Associates with no automatic church court privileges. By the mid-1990s I had at least nine youth ministry colleagues in Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. A generation of young “church geeks” were finding engagement in the wider church gatherings. By 2000, statistics indicated average households had an extra 20 hours of employment each week, drastically changing the volunteer base for churches and limiting the availability of parents to support ministry with teens. Now, as many baby boomers dance with retirement and/or supportive living, cell phones more info than the 1990s computers, and internet use is the new norm for some as meeting in-person has been limited by COVID and many seniors into their 90s are iPad savvy. Elders, perhaps absent from the church for 20 years due to health issues, their favourite hymns are likely from the early 2000s, rather than the “traditional” care home type services of

Retirees

continued

early and mid-1900s; a desire to continue learning and exploring their faith stories is alive and theology is likely one full of questions and understandings that encourage personal and shared confidence that life has always been full of challenging and rewarding transitions.

Healthcare has become a societal focus with COVID, and a challenge arises for increased faith community involvement in justice issues there. Alongside care staff shortages and ever diminishing dollars for chaplaincy, leadership is challenged to new practices in our multi-cultural, multi-faith settings as folks continue to yearn for connection to the transcendent in non-traditional language and practices.

Our challenge as a church is to continue to trust in God's spirit that opens us to new life in unexpected ways. An adage I've found helpful in recent years may be a mantra for many in these days of continuing change: "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

My prayer for each of us, is the deep well of God's spirit pouring from us as we sing, "Every day is a day of Thanksgiving... you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me..." believing individually and corporately, the challenges and the gifts will never be exhausted.



Maureen Anderson – Retired April 1, 2021

"In The Garden" (C. Austin Miles)

You Tube: Anne Murray

"My Love Colours Outside the Lines"

(Gordon Light, Andrew Donaldson, Benjamin Bergey)

More Voices # 138, (2007) You Tube: Pacific Spirit UCC

"Some Days Are Better Than Others" (Charlie Major)

You Tube: Charlie Major

God gave me a vision in church one Easter Sunday. I had asked the cross what its meaning was. One of my images of Jesus appeared on the cross. "I am God. I feel everyone's pain. Do you want to feel it too?" I said yes. I felt such intense pain, that after a millisecond, I told it to stop. It was then that I knew the cross was about God in the world and God with each of us. That vision and others, including those calling me into ministry, has been at the core of my faith, ministry and biography. God is not some high in "heaven" or beyond our reach deity. God is with us and loving us and wanting us to love each other. This has, and will continue to be, my ministry.

*"Say what you mean, mean what you say,
and do what you say you are going to do." (Barbara Coloroso)*

The biggest challenges are the mixed messages in clergy support. When one is called into ministry, one faces a difficult and challenging path, supported and guided by peers and various bodies of the United Church. Ministry, and the leadership you name us to, requires more clear and concise relational dialogue in all phases of our lives in the church. I think of it as when the oxygen mask drops in an airplane emergency and we are told to put the mask on before we look for others to care for. The United Church's mask drops sometimes, doesn't drop other times, occasionally doesn't have enough oxygen, is sometimes difficult to find and on occasion... is taken away too soon.

Retirees

continued



Cindy Terry – Retired April 1, 2021

I grew up in Treherne, Manitoba. I am grateful that my mom took us to the United Church every Sunday; along with Sunday school, she encouraged my participation in Messengers, Explorers, CGIT, and choir. There was such a magnetism toward the church, for me. I learned to pray when I was very young. I knew God was with me and I often talked with God. The church and time in prayer were my safe places.

As an adult, I remained very involved in the church while pursuing a career as a dental assistant/instructor and raising a family. In 1990, at the annual meeting of Conference, Jim Hatherly approached me and said, “May I ask you a question that has been asked of me, but I’ve never asked anyone before? Have you ever thought of going into ministry?” I was a single parent of two small children and gave all sorts of reasons why that was impossible. I said, “Besides, I haven’t heard a great booming voice asking me to do this.” Jim laughed and said, “Cindy, you do know that God talks through other people?!”

One turning point in my faith journey took place at Northwood United Church. April 2, 2006, I was in the pulpit and had just started into the opening prayer when everything went black. I had shooting pains up my neck. Pam Dawson, an ICU cardiac nurse, was in church that day; she handled the medical crisis expertly. Brenda Wolff stepped up and managed all the details, until late in the evening, in such a calm, positive way. Both were Divine gifts given to me. After the CT showed a dissention in my ascending aorta, the cardiologist told me, “You need open heart surgery immediately. This is very serious and life-threatening.” Again, I heard a voice: “Cindy, you’re going to be okay. You’re going to be just fine.” Post-surgery, I learned that I had had only a 2% chance of living through the surgery.

After several years of recovery, I took the Pacific Jubilee Program for spiritual directors. I did it mostly for myself, to deepen my own movement to true self. It is an excellent program. I had four phenomenal mentors. Even though I’m officially retired, it’s still in my plans to offer spiritual direction and companionship.

I’ve been very blessed by God’s grace throughout my life—for example, the fire in the day care of Pine Falls United, Manitoba where I was settled; tragically, it killed a three-year-old Indigenous girl, destroyed the church building, and devastated the community. Secondly, my health broke down mid-way through my ministry, forcing me to go on disability. I loved being a minister. When I couldn’t go back to work, I was confronted with the question, “Who am I if I can’t be a minister?” I feel I’m a lot further down the road in detaching from active ministry. But I don’t think I’m at the point of total contentment with simply “being.” In the times of greatest challenge, I’ve felt blessed by God’s grace and guidance.

I love the United Church, and in my view the biggest challenge for our church is healthy relationships: we need to get over the need to always be “nice” and learn positive ways to manage conflict. We find it difficult to speak up to injustice within the church because we don’t want to cause a fuss. With lack of action, some become discouraged and leave the

Retirees

continued

church, while the issue remains. To have right relationships within a congregation, there needs to be more transparency, as lack of open communication leads to gossip and misinformation. Wouldn't it be awesome if we could just be respectfully honest with one another and set our intention to live out of the Spirit of Love/the Divine within? It's vital.



Julianne Kasmer – Retired July 2021

I have had the privilege of growing, living and learning on the occupied/stolen unceded lands of many Indigenous peoples and currently reside on the traditional territory of the Lek'wungen speaking and WASANEC peoples. The United Church was an important part of my early childhood. During a series of moves around B.C., it kept me grounded. As I entered my teens, our family lost touch with the United Church and I found community in youth programs at evangelical churches. I found fun and fellowship there,

but not an authentic theological home. Focus on personal sin and salvation and a literal interpretation of scripture fed neither my mind nor my soul. I found engagement with faithful people of many denominations over the years, but not a home. In my thirties, my growing children's deepening spiritual needs and my own helped me find my way back to the United Church. Thanks to Rev. Norm Thomas and the shared wisdom of the theologically engaged, progressive women of Knox United Church, Parksville, I was baptized at the age of 38.

As I began to understand the depth of the church's involvement with Residential Schools and the ongoing intergenerational effects on Indigenous peoples I became part of the leadership of the grass-roots, ecumenical, Vancouver Island-based reconciliation effort "Pilgrimage Towards Right Relationships" in the late 1990s. Soon after, Rev. Chuck Raymont surprised me by suggesting I explore a calling to ministry in the United Church. Rev. Dr. George Affleck (UCC) and his wife Fronia were instrumental in my United Church education and were incredible mentors and gracious and generous employers for many years throughout my time of discernment and study. Dr. Doreen Johnson and the congregation of Denman and Hornby Island United Church took a chance on me during discernment (for me, two tries at the one-year process), and I continued to serve them as a student (sponsored by Knox church in Parksville) and after studies at VST, as Licensed Lay Worship Leader for almost 12 years.

In 2010, I was invited to serve Cumberland United, and after a year's internship and significant discouragement from the church, thanks to the persistence of Rev. Foster Freed and a congregation who continued to affirm my call, I was ordained in 2011. In 2013, I began a ministry of presence as Chaplain at Our Place Society, a community ministry in downtown Victoria. I retired from that particular and very special ministry in 2021. All the varied parts of my journey have been blessed with incredible communities of engaged, hopeful, deeply and profoundly spiritual mentors. Love, justice, right relationships – these have been the

Retirees

continued

touchstones of my life and ministry. The world is crying out for an authentic spiritual life that speaks to the ecological, economic and deeply divisive realities of our time and calls us to action through the power of the Spirit. May we find the wisdom and courage to work together with all people of good faith to transform our world while there is still time. All my relations.

The realities of our present times – ecological, economic (deeply tied to our unjust relationship with the environment, wealth and Indigenous communities and peoples) and political, along with isolation and spiritual despair require new ways of being in solidarity and community – not merely with others in the United Church or even the Christian tradition, but with all people of good faith, including those who espouse no religious faith or tradition, but who are deeply engaged in the work of the world. We need to listen deeply and humbly to the wisdom and leadership of Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers. United Church leaders need to be educated, trained, supported and willing to work across age groups, cultures and religions and to connect with (and connect!) leaders who are affecting the changes our world needs. Start local. We follow the example of Jesus, who first walked the hills and valleys of his home in Galilee, learned and was challenged by the strictures of Empire, religious certainty and tradition and pointed us toward a dangerous, demanding and costly walk to right relationships, beginning with our relationship to the Divine and one another.

We must adapt our training institutions and structures within the United Church to educate and support leaders who discern and empower the gifts and skills of laity, who work collaboratively in the community, and who are able to nurture their own spirituality as well as that of those they lead. For that we need to ensure that we are building strong communities of mutual support for people in ministry and encourage a culture of safety, vulnerability, humility and interconnectedness. Teams of people who may also work outside the church for part of their income, gifted in different aspects of ministry and working from a central hub to serve several communities of faith could be a way of building collaborative shared ministries – preachers, musicians, pastoral care ministers, justice teams, children and youth ministers and elders, teachers, and administrators each using their best gifts to support the ministry of the whole.

During my 23 years in ministry, I drove a taxi, provided home care for seniors, and worked in administration and consulting alongside part-time paid work in the church. This practical type of ministry will become more common as we deal with the reality of diminishing funds. Shifting the culture of our whole United Church structure, and especially our theological training will be the biggest challenge to accomplish these goals. I believe we can do it. Friends, let us love one another as we have been loved. It sure helps.

Retirees

continued



Michael Collison – Retired January 1, 2022

I began my life journey in the year 1950 on the St. Lawrence River near Brockville, Ontario. My extended family had long standing connections to the Methodist Church which dovetailed into the United Church of Canada in 1925. At 18 years of age, I attended a confirmation class with a new minister, who led the class in prayer of repentance and dedication/faith in Christ as Lord. I felt my heart strangely warmed in the manner of John Wesley!

The minister came from an Anabaptist tradition. He preached against the Vietnam war, which inflamed the leaders of the congregation – and he was fired from his position. This experience taught me that Christian faith is meaningful and has power, is often the object of scorn, and even hatred. My academic studies began with history at Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier), continuing with theology at Queen's Theological College and an extra year at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago.

I pastored for five years in Manitou Conference in the Port Loring two-point charge near North Bay. This was a time of learning the reality of pastoral ministry – lots of weddings, funerals, and also hunting, fishing, and cross-county skiing. The people in this charge worked in trapping for furs, mining and lumbering, salt of the earth. Loved it! Then on to Niagara Presbytery to Pelham Community Church (United). This community heritage was of the Evangelical United Brethren, which can be translated as German Methodist. A plaque on the entrance to the church read: Deutsche Evangelische Gemeinschaft. It was a vibrant community with an effective youth ministry, including a youth band. The previous retired minister from EUB tradition and graduate of Colgate Rochester Divinity School sat next to me in the choir all the time in my ministry; he was a very supportive colleague.

During my time at Pelham, I married my first wife, Valerie, and a year later we together did a pastoral exchange to a Presbyterian church at Invercargill, New Zealand – next stop south, Antarctica! The pastor whom I exchanged with later became the moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. I highly recommend to all people in ministry international, trans-cultural experience. This opens one's eyes to the larger Christian world.

I returned to Pelham for a few years, then made the decision to complete my ThM studies at Regent College in Vancouver beginning in 1991 – my first vision in Chicago in the '70s. At Regent, Valerie and I both completed master's degrees. She passed away of cancer in 1995. In 1997, I returned to Invercargill for part-time ministry. In 1999, I married Christine, who also holds a Regent master's degree, and renewed active ministry in the United Church in Hope, B.C. as a presbytery placement. I received a call from Knox Presbyterian church in Dannevirke, NZ (North Island) as an interim moderator for the year 2001.

In 2002, we returned to Canada, and I accepted a call for ministry at Mt. Lehman United Church in Abbotsford. Since that time, I remained in a part-time position in customer sales at Regent Bookstore on the UBC campus, where I am still employed. This ministry has been the

Retirees

continued

most extensive of my pastoral career – both in years and in spiritual impact. It has provided me with unwavering support in its quest to serve its community, grow in spiritual maturity and reach out to the Mt. Lehman and Abbotsford areas. International awareness has also grown, especially through connections with A Rocha's environmental care and impacts in both South Surrey and southern France. The challenges of generational shift, United Church governance changes and COVID ministry have been significant in recent years. I trust that the foundations which I've strived to strengthen will serve well to transition this blessed Christian community to its next chapter.

What do I see as some of the greatest challenges facing church leadership as we are now in a new era coming out of COVID-19? These last nearly three years for myself as I began to look toward retirement, induced stress in not being able to see over the horizon. This was common for all clergy and staff. We need to be mindful of ultimate hope during times of discouragement and dim hope. There has been frustration and unrest in most churches. There is a sense people want to get back to the way it was. That's not going to happen. We have been discouraged; social relationships and public worship and other opportunities for fellowship have been disrupted significantly. Koinonia has taken a beating! Clergy naturally feed off the relationships with the people of their parish.

People have been divided about things like masks, vaccines, and public health measures. There is social unrest where different visions are attracting people in our congregations and wider community. Now are we dealing with racism, and the deep historical issues of Indigenous peoples that call for compassion, reconciliation and honesty.

We also need to be aware that technology is here to stay and will evolve. The concept of hybrid worship is even more important than hybrid cars! At the same time, we desperately need to gather incarnationally as the body of Christ. We are going to have to return to the first things of Christian discipleship if we are going to get through our discouragement. We need to see this as a new emerging time of hope.

A recent Barna Group study has said pastors are tired, worn down, and questioning their calling. We have been under a constant barrage of opinions for every angle. We need to listen to the voice that cuts across politics and refuses to be pulled into various ideologies and refuses to answer to governments and the world system. We need to hear the voice that became flesh – Jesus calling us to renew our role of embodying hope in a broken world. My ministerial friends, turn down the voices of the world and hear again the Word made flesh in Christ.

What is most essential in the coming time for effective Christian leadership? We are invited to be completely dependent on Messiah, Jesus. He invites us to draw near to Him through His Word, through worship, through prayer, and through other spiritual practices so we can continually rediscover what generous, humble, kind, and faithful leadership looks like. As we realign our expectation of leadership with God's, we discover a grace that will carry us through these coming times.

Retirees

continued



Rev. Philip Newman – Retired April 1, 2022

My journey began close to the rich fertile soil of Southwestern Ontario where I grew up on a farm, loving the space to roam and explore and be. This is where my faith took root and grew into a strong sense of call to ministry. It is a faith that was nurtured by the sure heart of an encouraging United Church faith community in the town of Essex. Internship experiences took me first to Long Reach, New Brunswick, where I learned to sail and canoe/kayak and

where I first fell in love with the people of a congregation, and secondly to Naramata Centre where I deepened my love for ministry in the great outdoors, and with children and youth – so much so that my first son was born during the internship just to prove this point.

After receiving Testamur from Emmanuel College in Toronto in 1982, I was launched into full-time ministry back again in New Brunswick as a trained lay minister followed by ordination in 1983 by London Conference. In this settlement charge I found myself among a supportive collection of households from three congregations and somewhere there came to the realization that I was not called to change the world, but to love it. It was a time of finding my legs. A new call in 1986 took me as an associate minister to a growing congregation in Paris, Ontario, with growing needs and I jumped into the ministry of outreach and mission, children and youth, and Christian Development. Here, I learned much from a wise and compassionate lead minister. It was a time of maturing. The Spirit next nudged me to London, Ontario in 1996, to a congregation full of possibility and imaging where I had great fun as lead minister, learning much about how the church can serve the community that surrounds it. It was a time of deep hope and discovery.

And then in 2015, I made a leap to West Vancouver where once again in amongst the waves and rocks and treed mountains of the North Shore I discovered another group of people hungry to discover their real identity in Jesus Christ and their place in the humbling universe. It was a time of falling in love with God's people all over again, and a time of bringing to a close "active" ministry and embracing a new rhythm, retirement. This is a time of continued openness to what Spirit has in mind. It is also a time of deepening fun and adventure with my three sons, their spouses, six grandchildren, and Kim, my awesome partner and closest friend.

As we move forward, wise faith communities will become students of what's happening and seek to find a new way to be Church that's biblically faithful and culturally effective. Adept leaders will figure out where culture is going, figure out how to meet people where they're at, and then lead them to where they need to be.

There is a lot that is unclear. What was is gone. What will be hasn't yet emerged. For example, Sunday services are important for a host of reasons, but for many churches, the Sunday service has become either all the church does or the main focal point by which everything else revolves. Focusing all your efforts on one hour on Sunday ignores the other 167 hours in a week. The pandemic was helpful for some faith communities who discovered ways to be Church other than gathering.

Retirees

continued

Some churches function like restaurants that decide that if you want to eat, it can only happen in a one-hour window and only in this particular building, and if you miss it, you miss it. Think about it. What future would there be for a restaurant whose mantra is: You can only eat our food in our building? We're only open one hour a week? We don't do much in between.

Naturally, Church is a lot more than one hour of performance or participation on Sunday morning (a little harsh, but that's what it's become in some cases). A lot of the innovation that has to happen in the Church needs to take place outside of Sunday and outside the building. People don't live in the church building. They live in the community, where they interact with all kinds of amazing people all day long, every day. Churches that equip people where they live and work and play will have a promising future. And these faith communities will live to give away their life for the sake of the community in which they find themselves.



Rev. Cheryl Black – Retiring June 30, 2022

I attended Emmanuel College and was ordained by Hamilton Conference in 1977. I served in Saskatchewan Conference for 15 years and then moved to BC Conference. Here I have served West Point Grey United Church (Vancouver), Highlands United (North Vancouver), and St. Aidan's/Broad View United (Victoria). I have had the privilege of doing ministry in the United Church of Canada for 45 years and I am grateful to all who have been part of this journey.

The biggest challenge is to nurture a spirit of flexibility, innovation, and courage to meet the opportunities of this new time within our congregations and our leadership. If ministry and "church" is not "fun" – that is, engaging, creative, outside the box and forward thinking, then find ways to make it so. We need bold action, innovative stewardship, strategic partnerships, and new ways of being so we can pass on to successive generations the vital, progressive understanding of God active in the world.



Rev. Albert Ramsey – Retiring June 30, 2022

When I became an intended candidate for ordered ministry in the mid-'70s in Victoria, I was by and large innocent of the nature of church life, having only sporadically attended services at Metropolitan United, whose youth group welcomed me in my teens.

Theological school offered little more insight into what was to come, the instructors being, as a colleague put it, an odd aggregate

The biggest challenge is to nurture a spirit of flexibility, innovation, and courage to meet the opportunities of this new time within our congregations and our leadership. If ministry and "church" is not "fun" – that is, engaging, of humans, all of them still trying to process their 18 unfortunate months in ministry. There was, though, one bright light, a professor who had just come to the school after decades of working in actual churches. And he told the truth about what was ahead. Not long before graduation he said to us, Churches will drive you crazy.

Retirees

continued

will pay you badly and often begrudgingly, criticize you zealously, consume your free and family time, compare you unfavorably to your predecessors, and astonish you with the pettiness of their internal politics. However, in each place you work there will be at least one saint. They will generally be great in years but not in numbers or influence. But they will be light and air and strength to you. Draw courage from them.

He proved to be entirely right. Working for churches was sufficient to send a person straight up the wall. Yet there really were saints. Some were cantankerous, some utterly hilarious, some as sweet as ginger-pecan pie. And they got me through. I am enormously grateful for every one of them.

Aside from the financial stress of work drying up in our denomination, I expect that the greatest challenge for clergy in days to come will involve not taking institutional decline personally. And heaven knows there will be board members and others wanting them to assume full responsibility for waning numbers.

The brightest of my classmates adopted as a personal mantra, "This is not my fault." I recommend doing the same.



Kevin Sprong – Retiring 2022

I had been a minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa for over 30 years before coming to the UCC. I served in large suburban congregations as well as small rural congregations in both South Africa and Canada.

Increasingly I believe Karl Rahner was right when he said "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all."

Christian as well as other Mysticism influence all I do from liturgical worship and preaching and social activism.

The biggest challenge will be to figure out how to minister to people on the Internet. One author said something like Our grandparents worshipped on the farm our parents worshipped in the suburbs but now we worship on the internet.

Anniversaries

Ordained, diaconal, designated lay Ministers 2022

5 Years

Eric Hamlyn (OM) (12 years in Ministry)
Donald Schmidt (OM-ADM)
Ming (Ibi) Chuan (OM)
Christine Boyle (OM)
Ian McLean (DM)
Trevor Malkinson (OM)
Diane Halkett (OM)
Warren McKinnon (OM-ADM)
Alan Lai (OM-ADM)
Jinsoo Kang (OM-ADM)
Wayne Hughes (DLM)

10 Years

Alice Hanson (DM)
George Meier (OM-ADM)
Leenane Shiels
Cheryl Perry (DLM)
Gilbert Jackson (DLM)

15 Years

Victoria Andrews (OM)
Tim Bowman (OM)
Jeff Seaton (OM)
Elizabeth Bowyer (DM)
Karen Millard (OM)
Carmen Lansdowne (OM)
Maxine Pirie (OM)

20 Years

John Bullas (OM)
Bethan Theunissen (OM)
Blair Odney (OM) (in Ministry)
Dorothy Jeffery (OM)
Dan Chambers (OM-ADM)

25 Years

Daniel Kirkegaard (OM)
Helen Waddell (OM)
Angela James (OM)
Keltie van Binsbergen (OM)
Hilde Seal (OM)
Rod MacKinnon (OM)
Kim Horwood (DM)
Kelly Grittner (DLM)

30 Years

Will Sparks (OM)
Tim Stevenson (OM)
Alexander McGilvery (OM)
David Drake (OM)
Sally McShane (OM)
Catherine Angus (OM)
Colin Kang (OM-ADM)

35 Years

Robert Norris (OM-ADM)
Laura Turnbull (OM)
Mark Green (DM)
Edith Newman (OM)
Wendy Read (OM)
Lily Watson (OM)
Jay Olson (OM)
Audrey Lans (OM)
Lillian Soga (OM)
Eleanor Stamm (OM)
Juanita Austin (OM)
Wade Allen (OM)
Edward Hughes (OM)

40 Years

Richard Fairchild (OM)
Daniel Bogert-O'Brien (OM)
Alison Woods (DM)
William Laurie (OM)
Stuart Lyster (OM)
Connie Thompson (OM)
James Short (OM)
James Hatherly (OM)

45 Years

Janet Cawley (OM)
Allan Saunders (OM)
Reed Cudmore (OM)
Wilfred Carson (OM)
Michael Collinson (OM)
Randy Antle (OM)
Mary Steele (OM)
Robert McRae (OM)
Eric Stephanson (OM)
Christopher Levan (OM)
David Martyn (OM)
Daniel Newell (OM)
Gary Paterson (OM)
William Cantelon (OM)
Cheryl Black (OM)
Jack Smith -St. Cyr (OM-ADM)

50 Years

Kenneth Dean (OM)
Wilber James (OM)
Barbara Langton (OM)
Deryl McCrindle (OM)
Charlotte Caron (DM)
Linda Ervin (DM)

55 Years

Colin Johnstone (OM)
Dorne Cornish (OM)
David Smith (OM)

60 Years

Robert Stobie (OM)
David Fearon (OM)
Robert Scales (OM)
John Cashore (OM)

65 Years

James Manly (OM)
George Millard (OM)
Barry Cooke (OM)
Clifford Henning (OM)

Memorials

2021-2022



Rev. Muriel Edith Baird

June 4, 1940 - September 8, 2021

Edith was a beloved wife, mom, nana, sister, cousin, leader, companion, and woman of faith and integrity. She will be sadly missed by her dear family, and by so many others: at Crossroads, Northwood and Knox United Churches, in the circles of the wider United Church across B.C. and Canada, in interfaith circles in the Lower Mainland, and among her many devoted friends.

Edith was predeceased by her beloved husband, the Rev. Bob Baird (2004), and her son Cameron Baird (2009) and is survived by her loving daughter Leanne (Kirk) and grandchildren Carson and Paige, as well as her brother Morley (Sharon), her dear cousins, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

Edith was a candidate for ministry from Royal Heights United Church (Delta, B.C.), and was ordained in 1987. She served with great compassion, integrity and joy in ministry with Fleetwood United in Surrey, which, with her leadership, amalgamated with North Surrey United to form Northwood United Church. She then served at Knox United in Vancouver. Edith maintained lovingly connected relationships with her past congregations after retirement in 2005, when she settled in at St. John's Strawberry Hill United Church. Traveling with that congregation on its journey to amalgamation with Royal Heights in 2009, Edith brought her gracious, wise and compassionate presence as a retired minister into the life of the Crossroads congregation, also offering a steady source of support to the settled ministry personnel at each moment.

Edith had recently completed writing her memoirs before her death, which is a great comfort and gift to her family. In recent years, she had endured some medical setbacks, but always bounced back with her characteristic joy and humour. Edith continued to evolve a strong and sturdy faith that embraced difference, accepted others with compassion, and looked to mend the brokenness that besets our world. She was a courageous and beloved woman of great integrity, and her death is a loss that will take some time to heal.

A service of praise and thanksgiving to celebrate her life took place at Crossroads United Church (Delta) on Saturday, September 25, 2021 with the Rev. Cari Copeman-Haynes presiding and Dr. Bruce Harding leading music ministry.

Memorials

continued



Rev. Richard Grant Bracewell

May 20, 1928 – October 31, 2021

Grant Bracewell died at the age of 93 at home, Crescent Gardens Retirement Community, in Surrey, B.C. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Murray, as well as two of his children, Bruce and Louise. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Eleanor, his daughters Donna (David) and Maureen (Jean-Luc), his 10 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and a large and loving extended family and circle of friends.

Grant lived a life of adventure and service. After completing his undergraduate degree, he spent a year and a half working as a purser on the Union Steamships which served remote coastal communities. After a year of medical school, Grant was called to the ministry, earned his Master of Theology, and was ordained as a United Church Minister in 1955. For the next 11 years, he served in the communities of Bella Coola, Merritt, and North Delta, BC. In 1967, he earned his Master of Library Science degree and the following year became the first Theological Librarian at Emmanuel College (University of Toronto) and Coordinator of all the libraries of the Toronto Schools of Theology until his retirement in 1993.

He retired with his wife, Eleanor, to settle in South Surrey where they became very involved with the community at Crescent United Church and he volunteered for many years at the United Church Archives. The ministry and academia were his two passions, and he served the United Church in various capacities throughout his life.

A memorial service took place on November 10, 2021 at Peninsula United Church, with Rev. Janice Young presiding.



Rev. Arthur James Griffin

February 9, 1921 – November 23, 2021

Art Griffin died at the age of 100 at his home in Kitsilano, Vancouver. He was predeceased by his wife, Pearl, as well as two of his children, Nancy and Bruce. He is survived by his loving sons, Dale and Scott; his daughters-in-law Carol, Lynda and Jennifer; his seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Art was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After a childhood filled with winter sports and choir singing, he travelled to Vancouver in 1939 with a boys' cricket team for the National Junior Cricket Tournament at Brockton Point. He fell in love with the beaches, the year-round cricketing weather, and in time, his bride Pearl. After working as a piano tuner at Kelly's Music in Vancouver and serving in the RCAF in World War II, Art completed an undergraduate degree at UBC and a Divinity degree at Union College (winning the gold medal in Theology) before joining the clergy of the United Church of Canada.

Memorials

continued

Through his long career, Art passionately preached the gospel of social justice and spread his compassionate and inclusive view of the church community at Port Kells United Church, Failsworth Methodist (Manchester, England), Cedar Cottage (Vancouver), Trinity (Port Coquitlam), St. Stephens (Edmonton), Brechin (Nanaimo), First United Church (Vancouver) and St. Andrew's (Mission). In retirement, Art enjoyed the warm community he found at West Point Grey United Church.

He will be remembered by all for his musicality, sincere kindness and unfailing good humour.



Rev. Kenneth 'Paul' Taylor
May 4, 1941 – November 13, 2021

Surrounded by the love of his family, Paul Taylor died gently and peacefully on November 13th, 2021 at the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville, Nova Scotia. Paul was born in Woodstock, New Brunswick to parents Ken and Helen (nee Turbill) Taylor. He moved to Saint John with his parents and grandparents, Sid and Luena Turbill, when Paul was 2 or 3. In his younger years, he gave

leadership to various youth groups through his church, Park Avenue United, and became involved as a camper and leader at Camp Wegesegum in New Brunswick – a place he always held dearly in his heart. In the early 1960s, Paul married Madeline Flewwelling and they moved to the Toronto area, where Paul attended Covenant College to become a diaconal minister. Then on to Winnipeg, Nestor Falls, Ont., and Millstream, New Brunswick. While at Millstream, Paul completed his theological training at the Atlantic School of Theology, and was ordained by Maritime Conference in 1980.

As an ordained minister, Paul served various churches in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and on the Gaspé coast. In 2006, he moved with his wife, Rev. Valerie Taylor, to Vancouver until recently, when they returned to Nova Scotia in August 2021. Among many things, Paul will be remembered for being an athlete in his earlier years (inducted into the Saint John Sports Hall of Fame for basketball), his bad jokes, his playful and teasing nature, his love of cards, and his love of the outdoors.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, Paul was predeceased by his two sisters, Grace Oliver (Gordie), Marilyn Millican (Jim) and daughter-in-law Crystal (Shawn). He will be greatly missed by his wife of 31 years, Valerie; his five children: Mike (Tanis), Danny (Linda), Shawn (Lisa), Janelle (Kirby), and Joel (Lana); his two brothers Arnold (Nancy), Wayne (Jeannie), and sister Shirley Thompson, as well as grandchildren Zachary, Matthew, Cameron, Kristen, Jacob, Lily, Katie, Kalan and Luke; step-grandchildren Matthew (Amy), Jessica (Jordan), Ashley (Andrew), Emma (Travis), and step-great-grandchildren Isabella and Daxen, along with many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Paul's life took place on November 21, 2021 at Aylesford United Church, Nova Scotia with the Rev. Dr. John Moses presiding.

Memorials

continued



Rev. (Kathleen) Eleanor O'Neill
1931 – February 12, 2022

Eleanor O'Neill died peacefully on February 12, 2022, leaving many grieving family and friends. She was predeceased by husband John William O'Neill (2015) and grandson George William Zwiers (2019). Eleanor and John were married for 60 years, and they were blessed with three sons: Mark (Lisa), Kent (Teresa) and Graham (Helena); grandchildren Teralee, (Brandon), Charla (Kevin), Alicia (Johnny), Megan (Stefan), Kaylin (Chris), Shannon (Chad), Sean,

Aaron (Sarah), Brendan (Jaclyn), and Eve; great grandchildren Sofia, Wyatt, Riley, Carson, Mason, Everett, Gustav, Oliver, and Elsie.

Eleanor was born in Toronto in 1931 where she met John in childhood. They married in 1955 and moved to Manning, Alberta where John was starting out as a United Church minister. Their growing family lived in Lethbridge (Alberta), Connecticut, and Richmond (B.C.) In 1986, Eleanor was ordained by BC Conference and shared a pastoral charge with John at Lynn Valley United Church in North Vancouver.

Retirement came in 1994, but Eleanor continued to participate in many church and community activities in North Vancouver. She moved to Berwick retirement home in Campbell River in 2016, where Mark and Kent and other family now live. She enjoyed her time at Berwick until December of last year due to declining health related to a series of small strokes.

Her life was a journey of giving and loving everyone with completeness and unconditional acceptance. A memorial service for Eleanor was held on March 12, 2022 at Campbell River United Church. Subsequent interment of her ashes at Highlands United Church Memorial Garden took place on April 9th.



Rev. Greig Jonelle McLellan
January 8, 1954 – February 5, 2022

Jonelle was born January 8, 1954, to Bruce and Cay Jorundson in Flin Flon, Manitoba. She spent her childhood and high school years in Flin Flon before moving to Saskatoon to attend university. It was there that she met the love of her life, John. They were married in August 1975. Jonelle and John spent much of their life together in Manitoba, first in Winnipeg, where their son Andrew was born, and then on their treasured land in Ninette. This was a happy time

full of work, gardening, community service, and enjoying rural life. Jonelle was a lifelong member of the United Church. For decades she sang in choirs and participated in ministry

Memorials

continued

through music. In 2004 she was called to leave her career in accounting and deepen her religious life by becoming a United Church minister. She held postings in Alberta, B.C., and Scotland until retiring in 2018.

Many things brought Jonelle joy. She loved being a mother to Andrew and stepmother and grandmother to John's children and their kids. She reveled in a good game of cribbage, a puzzle and drives in the country. She felt a real connection to all things Scottish. She and John traveled to the country many times. They enjoyed Scottish country dancing and her posting as a minister in Ardgour was a highlight.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, John; her mother Cay; brother Devon (Donna); sister Michelle; son Andrew (Suki); stepchildren Colin (Heather); Andrea (Andrey); Lochlin; Jordan (Paige); grandchildren; Ashley, Devon, Taylor, Lucy, Elizabeth and Kimberly; as well as extended family. Jonelle was predeceased by her father Bruce.

A celebration of Jonelle's life will be held in Calgary in August 2022.



Rev. Evelyn Jean Rigby
January 10, 1947 – March 3, 2022

Evelyn Rigby died peacefully at her home in Salmon Arm, B.C., with two of her children by her side.

Evelyn was born in Trenton, Ontario to Jack and Gertrude Rigby. She found her life calling serving several United Churches throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Her work began in Haida Gwaii in 1995 and

culminated in Coronation, Alberta in 2015. The impact of her life and years will be felt for generations to come within her family and in the many churches and congregants she poured herself into.

She will be greatly missed by all of her children, and grand treasures as well as her surviving siblings, Susie (Bruce) Simpson, Ron (Dana) Rigby; her beloved sisters-in-law, Marilyn, Lenny, and Verna; her children David (Teresa) Kirkwood, Rachel (Mark) Chequis, Naomi (Scott) Gagliardi, and Rebecca (Gordy) Chadwick; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Evelyn was predeceased by her parents; her husbands David Rybka, Dennis Kirkwood and Norman Lermineaux; and siblings Jack, Gord, George, Lorraine, and Wayne.

A celebration of life was held on May 7, 2022 at Five Corners Pentecostal in Salmon Arm.

Pacific Mountain REGIONAL COUNCIL



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