

**Maritime Conference
of The United Church of Canada
91st Annual Meeting**



Service of Worship and Holy Communion
Celebration of Ministry
Tantramar Veterans Memorial
Civic Centre
Sackville, New Brunswick
May 29, 2016
10:00 a.m.

One Body, Many Parts

Ministry in The United Church of Canada

God continually calls us out to follow Jesus. A touch on the shoulder and we are off, held in grace and blessed with hearts that create commitment, minds that seek justice, souls that devote compassion – to love our neighbours as ourselves. We gather today, acknowledging the tremendous energies that have noticed, prepared, coached, sustained, and prayed for the movement of the Holy Spirit within and upon members of the church who are called to serve in a variety of ways.

We install a new President.

We are reminded of our own call to discipleship in its many and varied forms. We celebrate the new ministries among us. We acknowledge some confusion in the church, and we hope to clarify the streams of ministry in our United Church as we celebrate the unique blessings of each.

Designated Lay Ministers are members of the laity in whom the church *recognizes* the gift of experience in faith and leadership, and whom the church appoints to pastoral ministries. We recognize that they are eligible to serve, while under appointment, responding to the needs of a local community.

The Manual

Diaconal Ministers are members of the Order of Ministry. The church has *commissioned* people to diaconal ministry since antiquity. Diaconal Ministry honours mutual empowerment through education, service and pastoral care. This ministry of accompaniment is like water pouring from a pitcher, working with all God's people towards justice and compassion, and offering an open response to the needs of the world and the church.

Diakonia Statement of Belief 1992

Ordained Ministers are members of the Order of Ministry, traditionally seen as the teaching elders of the church, publicly and continually responsible for pointing to our dependence on God. They are set apart for a vocation of *word, sacrament and pastoral care*; called to assemble and build up the faith community, to strengthen its witness by proclaiming and teaching the Word, celebrating the sacraments and guiding the life of the church in its worship, mission and caring ministry.

Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (WCC)

Admissions from Other Denominations are individuals from another denomination whose commissioning or ordination is 'intended to be within and to the ministry of the holy Catholic Church' and is recognized by The United Church of Canada. The General Council of The United Church of Canada clarifies the educational standards, the names are circulated to all Presbyteries across the Church, and the Conference interviews and makes the final recommendation and admits those seeking admission.

The Manual Section 031

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit
for the sake of the world,
God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry.
To embody God's love in the world,
the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship
of all believers.

From A Song of Faith

**Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada
91st Annual Meeting
Celebration of Ministry
Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre
Sackville, New Brunswick
Sunday, May 29, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.**

Welcome! Bienvenue! Fàilte! Pjila'si!
Welkom! Willkommen! Bienvenido!
President: The Rev. Matthew Fillier
Executive Secretary: David Hewitt, DM

THANKS AND RECOGNITION

As we gather together, we recognize and honour the various streams of ecclesial traditions that influence our worship. From the inheritance of our ancestors to the modern influences of Iona and Taizé and others, we are formed and reformed. We invite you to join with us in this Service of Praise.

Together we are the Church.

As we gather...

Greet the people around you

– they are your brothers and sisters in Christ;

Pray for those who are offering leadership;

Pray for those being Ordained;

Prepare yourself to encounter God.

The Communion Table belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ

and all are welcome to receive Communion;

Let us enter into the Mystery of God

– the Holy One in our midst.

Gathering Music...

Let us make God's Praise glorious!

HYMN ~ ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING (VU #217)

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
Soft shining moon with silver gleam,
Sing praises! Sing praises!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Dieu, sois loué pour le soleil,
Pour ce grand frère sans pareil,
Alléluia! Alléluia!
Et pour la lune et sa lueur,
Pour chaque étoile notre soeur,
Rendons gloire, rendons gloire,
Alléluia! Alléluia! Alléluia!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day,
Brings forth rich blessings on our way,
Sing Praises! Hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
Let them God's glory also show:
Sing praises! Sing praises!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
Sing praises! Hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and yield up all your care:
Sing praises! Sing praises!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness!
Sing praises, hallelujah!

Praise God Eternal, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
Sing praises! Sing praises!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Come all you wondrous acts of God
Come now and flood this place!

**Come lift us from our frantic pace
To meet the God of Grace!**

Come angels and come visitor,
Come now and be our guest!

**Come Jesus from your dwelling place,
Come here and take your rest.**

Surround your church with faith and love
That through the nights and days,

**When human tongues from speaking cease
Our lives may echo praise!**

From east and from west, from north and from south

We gather in the Presence of God.

With the power of the Intermediates at Conference

We gather in the Presence of God.

With the strength and force of Youth Forum

We gather in the Presence of God.

With the memory of delegates to Conference,

We gather in the Presence of God.

With the inspiration and hope of the Ordinands,

We gather in the Presence of God.

With the wonder of our guests and visitors,

We gather in the Presence of God.

With those who are seen and unseen,

We gather in the Presence of God.

With all your church throughout time and in time,

We gather in the Presence of God.

INTROIT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,

Longing for truth, we turn to You.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled,

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your Word alone has pow'r to save us,

Make us your living voice!

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that year to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

LIGHTING THE CANDELABRA

I will light a light, in the name of the Conceiver,

who conceived the world

and who conceived life and gave it to me!

I will light a light, in the name of the Redeemer,

Who redeemed the world

and who stretches out a hand to redeem me!

I will light a light, in the name of the Inspirer,

Who inspires the mind to seek justice

and who inspires my soul with yearning!

In the Name of God, who is Light,
I will light a light of knowledge
where there is ignorance
I will light a light of inspiration
where there is confusion,
I will light a light of hope
where there is discouragement.
In the Name of God, who is Light,
I will light a light and let God's Light shine.

From the Banquet Halls of Heaven
To the food banks in our Churches,
From the visions of yesterday
To the dreams of tomorrow
From the work we have done
To the work that lies before us,

UNITED CHURCH – STATEMENT OF FAITH

We are not alone. We live in God's world.
We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
the Word made Flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church;
To celebrate God's Presence,
To live with respect in Creation,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Testament: Habakkuk 1:5

Second Testament: Revelation 21:5

HYMN – COME AND SEEK (MV #10)

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
She who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
For her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
Showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
Peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion,
Bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

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**SERMON – the Rev. Matthew Fillier
President of Maritime Conference
The United Church of Canada**

PRAYER

Gracious God, You have chosen us to be your people and to serve You in our day and time.

By our baptism You have called us to ministry.

Send your Spirit among us to equip us for Your Glory.

Increase our faith, strengthen our witness and inspire our work, with Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

Executive Secretary:

The 91st Annual Meeting of the Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada has affirmed the recommendations of the Education and Students Committee.

The Conference has examined these candidates and believes they are called and equipped to serve as ministry personnel within The United Church of Canada.

In what we are about to do, we pray that those who are called will continue to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as the Church authorizes and recognizes their particular and diverse ministries.

President, I present to you the following Candidates for Ordination into the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada.

NAMES OF THE ORDINANDS

Stephen A. Brown

Alicia Dawn Cox

Heather E. Ferrier

Lesley A. Hamilton

Keith Ross MacPherson

Karen A. Ross

Darin J. MacKinnon, Bay of Quinte Conference

President:

You have heard your names called. Do you believe you have been called and are ready to answer the call to the Order of Ministry within The United Church of Canada?

Response (individually): I am ready.

Executive Secretary:

The words and vows we hear now are offered according to the polity and tradition of The United Church of Canada as proscribed in the Basis of Union.

Opening to the Holy Mystery in which we live and move and have our being, the fully shared life at the heart of the universe, we share these historic words.

“Jesus Christ came into the world to be the servant of God and all people. As servant Lord, Jesus calls the Church to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. In baptism we were received as members of the universal Church and at confirmation we committed ourselves to its ministry within The United Church of Canada. 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 are called so to serve.”

The President will address the Candidates:

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

Each Candidate will respond separately: I do.

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

Each Candidate will respond separately: I do.

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?”

Each Candidate will respond separately: I am willing.

President:

Friends, let us surround these candidates with our prayers.

SILENT PRAYER

ORDINATION BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Candidates are called by name and proceed with the representative from their Presbytery and people of their choosing to the place of Ordination. Once there they shall kneel before the President, who along with the Executive Secretary, General Council Representative, Ecumenical Guest, Presbytery Representative and persons of their choosing, shall lay hands upon the candidate and the President shall say

NAME OF THE ORDINAND

Stephen A. Brown

Alicia Dawn Cox

Heather E. Ferrier

Lesley A. Hamilton

Keith Ross MacPherson

Karen A. Ross

Darin J. MacKinnon

...may the Holy Spirit bless you and empower you for the office and work of ordained ministry in the United Church of Canada.
Congregational Response: Amen.

The new Minister shall rise.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINATION BIBLE

President:

Receive this Bible. Proclaim the Good News with love, in word and in deed.

Minister responds: Amen.

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION:

President:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Head of the Church, and by the authority of the Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada, I declare that

NAME OF THE NEWLY ORDAINED

Stephen A. Brown

Alicia Dawn Cox

Heather E. Ferrier

Lesley A. Hamilton

Keith Ross MacPherson

Karen A. Ross

Darin J. MacKinnon

has been ordained a minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within the holy catholic church.

The Candidate shall then proceed to receive an ordination stole from persons of their choosing. The Candidates shall remain on the Dias while the Presbytery Representative and others shall return to the Congregation.

ADMISSION

Executive Secretary:

President, I present to you Carol A. Smith who is already Ordained in another denomination and who now wishes to exercise her ministry within The United Church of Canada.

President:

Carol A. Smith, you have heard your name called. We recognize your ordination in the Presbyterian Church in Canada and are pleased that you choose now to join us in our particular life within God's church.

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, doctrine and polity of The United Church of Canada?

Candidate for Admission I am.

President:

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we receive you into the Ordered Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within the United Church of Canada. May God continue to bless you. Welcome.

Brothers and sisters, together let us acclaim and welcome our newest Ministers!

Applause is appropriate.

OFFERTORY

Executive Secretary:

Sisters and brothers, as these ministers have offered themselves to God, let us make our offerings to God.

This morning's Offerings will go the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

HYMN – CHRIST HAS NO BODY NOW BUT YOURS (MV #171)

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
No hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
No touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
To find the lost, to gaze with compassion,
No eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
To walk the world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace
for the children of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:
as Christ has blessed, so now be a blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction be
to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Jesus was always the guest at the tables of his friends but here, at this Table, Christ is the host and we are the friends. There are no barriers. All are welcome.

When Jesus was a child,
Simeon blessed him and Anna praised God.
A child changed the entire world.

When Jesus was a youth,
he went to Jerusalem, and amazed the Elders in the Temple
with his wisdom.

When Jesus was an adult, he drew lines in the sand, lifted up the
fallen and restored people to communion with God.

Remembering the stories of salvation throughout time, the
unfolding drama of redemption recorded in time and the
mysterious love of God that surrounds us at all times, we join our
voices in the unending hymn of praise:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (sung – Kingsfold)

O Holy, Holy, Holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
Bear witness to your grace!
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
Creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
And bears your Name always!

On the night before he died, the disciples, the chosen family of
Jesus, gathered with him at Table. There, in the midst of
uncertainty and fear, Jesus took bread, and when He had given
God thanks and praise as we give God thanks and praise, Jesus
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said,

“This is my body that is broken for you.
Eat this in remembrance of me.”

**Lord Jesus, enter into the brokenness of your people
and become one with all who offer their brokenness to you.**

Taking a cup, again Jesus gave God thanks and praise,
then he shared the cup with all his disciples and said,

“This is the cup of a new covenant. It is offered for you
and for many as a sign of a new beginning.
Drink this in remembrance of me.”

**Lord Jesus, offer to each of us a new beginning, forgive what is
past and lead us into the future. Turn us toward you.**

Merciful God, Energy of the universe, Icon into spirituality, and
Coincidences that raise our minds to wonder, send your Spirit upon
these elements of communion. Set them aside for your glory.
May they be outward and visible signs of inward and invisible
grace.

**Let that same Spirit enter into us, converting us from the patterns
of this passing world and conforming us to the shape of Christ.**

Remember your Church scattered over the face of the earth,
**gather us in unity that we may have communion with them
and be equipped for mission.**

Remember all who cry out to You for justice.
**Free your children from behind bars of steel or public opinion
that we may have communion with them in your liberty.**

Remember your earth from whom we receive our elements of
communion.

**That we may have communion with the universe
and live with respect in creation.**

We are your friends all of whom You welcome to this table.
There are no barriers. We are every gender, every sexuality,
every age, every colour, every language – we are yours,
made in your Image and fashioned for ministry.

As Jesus taught us, God is like a Mother who shelters us under the
shadow of her wings and God is like a Father so we are bold now to
pray,

OUR FATHER.... NOTRE PERE....
AR N-ATHAIR.... ONZE VADER ...
VATER UNSER... PADRE NEUSTRO...

These are the gifts of God for us the people of God.
Come taste and see that God is good.
Let no one be denied.

COMMUNION

Bread and Wine will be passed to you in your seat.
Please consume the elements as you receive them
and continue to pass them along to your neighbour.

HYMNS OF COMMUNION

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY (VU #467)

One bread, one body, on Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more!

One bread, one body, on Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all!

One bread, one body, on Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

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BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY (MV #202) (sung several times)

Bread for the journey, food for the way,
Cup of God's blessing, tomorrow, today.

Pain pour la route, pour nos Chemins.
De Dieu la coupe, aujourd'hui, demain.

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HYMN - YOU ARE HOLY (SOS1, p40)

You are holy, you are whole, you are always evermore
Than we ever understand, You are always at hand
Blessed are you coming here,
blessed are you coming near
To the church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, based from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are blessed,
let the cosmos praise you, Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia our Lord.

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CHOIR ANTHEM – Jabula Jesu

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Prions le Seigneur. Let us pray.

Dieu d'amour, le don de ta grâce nous transporte de joie, nous nous rapellons non seulement la vie et la mort de Jésus mais sa résurrection et nous attendons son retour dans l'espérance.

**God of Love beyond our comprehension,
we give You thanks that You have welcomed us to your Feast.
May our minds be filled with your thoughts,
our mouths with your words,
our eyes with your vision
and our hands with your gifts as we journey onward with You.
These things we pray, through Jesus our Companion and Mentor.
Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT

PROMISES OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT:

THE REV. CATHERINE STUART

Executive Secretary:

President, we present to you, Catherine Stuart, whom this Conference has elected to preside over its life and work until such time as her successor comes to office, that she may be installed in the office of President of Maritime Conference.

President:

Do you believe that you are called to the office of President of Conference and do you accept this trust?

President-Elect:

I do.

President:

Will you, with Christ's people, be faithful in prayer and in study, that you may know the mind of Christ and boldly proclaim the Good News in Word and Sacrament that the people you serve may be strengthened and the ways of love and justice may be advanced?

President-Elect:

I will.

President:

Will you perform the duties of your office within the polity of The United Church of Canada?

President-Elect:

I will.

PROMISES OF MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE:

President:

Will you, the members of Maritime Conference, support and encourage Catherine Stuart with your prayers and work?

Members:

We will.

President:

Eternal One, You are wholly Mystery and Holy Mystery, we give You thanks that a generous Spirit has blessed the Church with varieties of gifts that enrich our life together and strengthen our witness in the world. We give You thanks for the particular gifts that Catherine brings to the office of President of Maritime Conference. May she be enabled to exercise this ministry with wisdom and humour, courage and compassion, following the way of Christ. Now may the blessings of the Spirit stir within her and rest upon her, that she may serve faithfully in the office of President of Maritime Conference.

People:

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTALLATION

I, Matthew Fillier, President of Maritime Conference, do now install you, Catherine Stuart, as President of Maritime Conference and confer upon you all such obligations and authority as belongs to the Office.

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS OF OFFICE

President's Stole,
Conference Bible,
Gavel,
Cane,
Memory Stick.

Presentation of a personal Bible from the Canadian Bible Society

GREETING AND ACCLAMATION

Members of Conference and Guests to the 91st meeting of Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada, I ask you to greet the Rev. Catherine Stuart, President of Maritime Conference.

APPLAUSE

PRESENTATION OF PAST-PRESIDENT'S STOLE

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Catherine Stuart – President of Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada.

RECESSIONAL HYMN - MY LIGHTHOUSE

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness. I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh) Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea
(You are my light)

My lighthouse, my lighthouse Shining in the darkness.
I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh) Safe to shore

[4x] Fire before us. You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

My lighthouse, my lighthouse Shining in the darkness.
I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh) Safe to shore.