

## **GC45 Commissioners – Order of Ministry**

### 1. Don Anderson (Grace/Admaston P.C., Renfrew)

"...part of the diversity which is the United Church of Canada."

I found faith as a little child and then grew in that faith within the United Church, with a respect for its different expressions.

Bring forty-three years in 'settled' ministry, including three pastoral charges, prison chaplaincy, street and court chaplaincy, executive director of an emergency shelter, and several positions with presbyteries including convenor of pastoral relations for four years, retired not from ministry but 'to be some place where the church isn't'.

Concern with the gospel and ministry of the church, finding that often we have displaced the gospel and person of Jesus Christ with other things; important but not what has changed and continues to change my life.

So bring faith and a desire to share faith with others' faith within this church of ours.

### 2. Cindy Casey (Kanata U.C., Kanata)

As ministry personnel, and as an active lay person prior to ordination in 2018, I have had the opportunity to serve the church in a variety of ways.

I feel called to serve as a Commissioner to GC45 as an extension of my involvement in the EOORC. Currently serving on Executive, along with an Expression of Interest to serve as Chair-Elect at this AGM, I feel this would be the optimum time for me to serve as a Commissioner.

I have worked extensively in program development; projects, programs and opportunities designed to meet the expressed needs of marginalized communities; served in communities experiencing conflict as well as working with those who are in need of facilitation.

In this time of transformation for the UCC and the hope and vision towards the future, I feel my skills and gifts dovetail with this opportunity. Many thanks for your consideration.

### 3. Kimberly Heath (Wall St. U.C., Brockville)

I live on the St. Lawrence River in a section of the 1000 Islands called "the Brockville Narrows." Many commercial ships pass through this area but it is an incredibly difficult section to navigate safely because many of the "islands" are underwater. As a result, foreign ships are required to have a pilot come aboard

for this section. I have been ordained for 25 years now and serving the UCC since I was young. All along I have felt a strong call to help navigate the church through this difficult and at times dangerous crossing from Christendom to a thriving post-Christendom Church. The UCC's vision of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice speak strongly to me of how we are meant to live our faith.

I am still in full time ministry. Over the years I have served in many different capacities at the Presbytery, Conference and Regional levels including: President of the Bay of Quinte Conference, member of the Transition Team which was tasked with creating the EOORC and on the S.O.S. team. I have strong communication and computer skills, I'm organized, I have wisdom, a deep prayer life and love of the Church God has and is creating.

#### 4. Lorrie Lowes (Bells Corners U.C., Ottawa)

The UCC has always been part of my life. I sang in the choir, joined UCW, served as Clerk of Session and Presbytery Rep ... When our small rural church was without a minister, I helped with volunteer-led worship and, finding this an enjoyable challenge, became an LLWL, after retirement from my career in education. I was hired, soon after, as CDM at BCUC for Christian Education and Pastoral Care, a perfect fit for someone with degrees in Education and Social Work. This work led me into discernment in my mid-sixties. I was commissioned in 2020. I felt some concern about coming to this so late, but also that my life experiences provided a clear path leading to this call. I bring a diaconal perspective from my involvement in service, outreach and social action - both local and global - within the church and in my personal life.

2025 allows me a sabbatical leave - time to engage fully with the materials and responsibilities of being a Commissioner, and the opportunity to serve this UCC that I love, beyond a congregational level, an exciting prospect, especially in this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year as we envision the future of the denomination.

#### 5. Alwin Maben (Osgoode-Kars P.C.)

Being a racialized person, an Asian and actively engaged in Intercultural Ministry, I strongly feel that my voice gives credence to the United Church's endeavour to becoming an Anti-racial, Intercultural and Inclusive church. Being involved as a Commissioner for the last three General Councils, it has strengthened my resolve to be a voice for justice and for the marginalized. As the UCC enters into its 100<sup>th</sup> year with its commitment to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring justice, I feel called to serve this church. It will be an honor and privilege to be a commissioner to the 45<sup>th</sup> General Council.

6. Erin McIntyre (Knox-St. Paul's U.C., Cornwall)

I am currently serving as ministry personnel at Knox-St. Paul's, Cornwall and, as a commissioner for GC44, as a member-at-large on EOR Executive, and the Pastoral Relations Commission. As part of the Moderator's (Re) Generate program, I am working with like-minded people to continue to build the church for the years to come. Having served the church through the prairies and as part of All Native Circle Conference, I feel I have a good grasp of some of the varied issues and cultures addressed across our country.

I feel called to serve as a continuation of my work in working to discern and build the changing church.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

7. Micheline Montreuil (Parham U.C., Parham)

I've been Pastoral Charge Supervisor in previous presbyteries/conferences. I've served on JNAC/search committees and am currently a member of the EOORC Pastoral Relations Commission.

My heart is/has been in/for rural churches and with Indigenous relations.

I hope to serve God faithfully wherever God calls me to be.

8. Michelle Robichaud (Kanata U.C., Kanata)

I would love to be chosen as a GC Commissioner for this upcoming term because I am a new ordinand who cares deeply for the future of this United Church of ours. Not only do I feel that the United Church values are crucial for the thriving of society, but also that our values can help steer the church to a robust future. We have a precious gift to offer in the Gospel, which the world needs.

My gifts include compassion, empathy, good organizational and technical skills, curiosity, openness, a love of both learning and connecting people with God. I also have a certificate in Bilingual Ministry, which is another passion of mine.

I am currently the Equity Monitor for EOORC, as well as being on the Affirming Team and the Vision and Transformation Team. Getting involved at the GC level of the church is a natural extension of my work at the Regional level.

I am also the Children, Youth and Families Minister at Kanata United Church. This demographic is crucial to the health of the church, but it is also often overlooked and underrepresented in the wider church. I would advocate for these voices, in consultation with families.

9. Junior Smith (Trinity U.C., Ottawa)

I am interested in understanding individual and group values as a measure to encourage both unique thought while addressing the need to bring groups together. Diversity and belonging to a community with common values.

The ideas and discussions at GC require cooperative leadership and I believe we are committed to working together. Further, my participation as a Commissioner during GC44 was fulfilling and I would like to continue this work and service to the church.

Professional Experiences: 30+ years as manager in Federal government; MBA; working and managing teams; analysis of complex databases to understand issues and formulate policies.

10) Kim Vidal Bells Corners U.C., Ottawa

I bring my gifts of faith, discernment, enthusiasm, passion, openness, compassion, and strong sense of justice to the following areas:

1- United Church's long and rich history of ecumenical global partnerships mandated in values that include equality, trust and mutual respect, and shared commitment to resist all forms of injustices and oppression;

2- Racial Justice issues and Intercultural Ministries, both of which are dear and close to my heart.

3-Diverse worship and liturgical experience including music, drama and reflection;

4- Women's spirituality and feminist advocacy including affirming circles.

To be a commissioner is an exciting opportunity to connect with fellow clergy & lay commissioners and to elect the next UCC Moderator.

As always, I thank the EOORC for this opportunity to serve the wider church whenever and wherever I could.

## **GC45 Commissioners – Lay**

### 1. Gayle Barks (St. Andrew's U.C., Chalk River)

I joined the United Church around 1995 and since then have been very active in my Community of Faith. I have served as Chair of our Council for many years and President of our UCW. I am now in a position to extend my services as they are asked for or needed as a Commissioner to GC45. I am also on the Executive of the EOORC. The learning curve is extensive and I find it all exciting.

### 2. Wayne Harris (St. Paul's U.C., Perth)

During my time as a member of the United Church of Canada I have continued to educate myself in The Manual of The United Church of Canada. I feel that at this time the next step in my growth is to become active as a General Council Commissioner.

Having attended a United Church for a number of years, the Sunday that I became a member of the church, in my mid twenties, I was elected as an elder of the church and have been active since.

In the churches that I have attended I held a variety of positions: Sunday School teacher, elder, presbytery representative, council chair, congregational chair.

At the Presbytery I chaired the Pastoral Relations Committee and checked the CoFs records and minutes.

At the Conference I chaired the Archives Committee and represented the conference on the Board of Trustees for the Hay Bay Church.

With the National Church I chaired the National Archives Committee and served as a steward at the CG in Oshawa. For two appointments I represented The United Church of Canada in Ontario on the Faith-based Advisory Committee of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

At present I am the Chair of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission.

### 3. Jamie Hill (Rothwell U.C., Ottawa)

I have been an active member of the UCC for 35 years and have participated in most facets of church life across several congregations from singing in the choir to serving as church council Treasurer and Presbytery/RC rep. I have also provided pastoral care and pulpit supply. I am a Candidate for ministry. I have completed my theological education and am currently serving as a student minister in Ottawa.

I bring gifts of financial acumen (I am also a CPA), emotional intelligence, church leadership (presbytery/RC, congregational treasurer, ministry) and poetry. I have decades of experience working in the non-profit and public sectors, am familiar with Roberts Rules of Order and strategic plans, and I know my way around bylaws, financial statements, policy initiatives and media relations.

I feel called to participate as a commissioner because I want to learn more and to help shape the church of the future through bold discipleship and daring justice. My relationship with the triune God is rooted in my teens and flourishes daily. I have a deep spirituality that shapes my very being that I cannot stop from singing.

#### 4. David Patterson (Orleans U.C., Orleans)

Lifetime member of the United Church of Canada. Founding member of Orleans United Church -1978. Presbytery representative – 1979. LLWL – 1990.

Member of the communication committee for UC. Member of communication for Ottawa Presbytery and EOOB, region 12. Member of planning committee of EOOB for regional meetings dealing with logistics. Member of “Then Let Us Sing” planning committee.

Retired civilian member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police specializing in telecommunications, special events for major security operations. Presently deal with video live streaming for Orleans United Church. I am now an Audio-Visual Consultant assisting churches in the EOOB area for audio and video. Keenly interested in assisting the national church in communications area. Willing to participate in the planning of the one hundred anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

#### 5. Cara Prest (South Gloucester U.C., Greely)

Sometimes it is hard to describe why you feel called to do something – a niggling thought, a reoccurring theme in conversations, a quiet voice in the night when all is silent. In this instance, it is all three.

Professionally, I am a big picture thinker with a career that spans nearly 25 years. I have managed and delivered messaging on behalf of government departments during crisis, I have organized dozens of outreach events, I have spearheaded the review of laws and fostered partnerships when there was no initial foundation of trust. I have learned that enthusiasm can be overwhelming, people have preferences on how they want information and need to be engaged.

I grew up with CGIT and youth groups; my involvement evolved into being the youth worker at several churches, leading worship and spearheading a youth Habitat for Humanity trip. Now, I am the past council chair at South Gloucester

United Church, outside of Ottawa, as I served two years as chair. During this time, I've sourced funds for our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, written grants for technology investment and sought to engage us further into the community and the life and work of the broader church.

6. Cathy Ryan (Newboro U.C., Newboro)

My faith journey through the United Church has been instrumental my whole life in forming who I am and how I see the world today. My passion for people, community both rural and urban and the need for holistic care, I feel I have a strong voice to represent the various groups that the church is being called to serve. I believe the church is still alive and the 450 youth and leaders from across Canada in St Catharines in July with two denominations coming together, I do believe God is up to something very big and I would love to be part of it. I believe the Spirit is calling me once again. Church and Faith needs to come together and what better place to promote that than GC 45.

Gifts: good listening skills, empathy, advocacy, discernment, training in Parish Nursing, Pastoral Care Training, the ability to work with and connect with young and older individuals, (56 yrs of leading in Christian Ed, and 48 years of Nursing Experience, coupled with the free time to make the commitment.

Previous to 2019 and joining EOORC my involvement was among five local churches, but I eventually became the Pastoral Rep for Newboro United in 4 Rivers, leading to Ministry and Vocation Chair, and have travelled with 4 Rivers Youth as the Camp Nurse to Conferences and Fall Retreats within the Bay of Quinte. Since 2019 I have sat on EOORC Executive, been part of the Leadership Team with YAYA, LLWL, and the Affirm Team. I provide Christian Ed bi-weekly, and monthly youth events with 4 Rivers Cluster. Presently serving as the Parish Pastoral Care Nurse locally, a member of Rural Ministries and a member of Caring and Sharing Committee in Elgin. Professionally - RN, and a member of RNAO - Faith Community Interest Group.

7. Sue Smarkala (Woodroffe U.C., Ottawa)

Woodroffe United – many committees and Council; Multifaith Housing Initiative – Board Secretary and President.

Leadership activities have long been my interest and focus – business – church – charitable endeavours. Learning from others on EOORC Executive will be very interesting and valuable to me.

While I have never been closely involved with Presbytery earlier – I truly enjoy the UCC gatherings – they fill me up!

Being closer will be new for me – I hope to contribute all I can.

8. Rousseau Whiteley (Youth) (Christ U.C., Lyn)

*Why I feel called* I feel called to this role for my experience, love and sense of potential for the United Church. My hope is for the church to have a bright future in terms of the community it represents, the values of that community and objective societal contribution it can make. I am among the Youth and Young Adults of EOORC (YAYA), will be 16 years old at the time of General council, and have been attending YAYA events since I was 11.

*My gifts and experiences* My gifts come from my experiences so far, including encounters with environmental and indigenous issues in Ontario and nearby. I am aware of the history of the United Church and the challenges it faces in future, and am open to new ideas to face these challenges. I am also thinking about how to address past legacies, seek justice for historical wrongs and right present-day injustices.

*My current and recent involvement* As a United Church youth I attended both Audacious Hope (aka Rendez Vous) and Gibimishkaadimin in 2024. I have attended EOORC youth and adult meetings since 2022 and I expect to attend the Moderator's Flourish event and multiple YAYA gatherings in 2024-25.

9. Norma Wrightly (Trinity U.C., Smiths Falls)

Call: Felt called, several people approached me, I have the time, willingness and health.

I am a Team player (multiple applications) and have held leadership positions in the workplace (Chief steward for 1000 employees), in the community (former president of the Lanark District Labour Council and side member, representing Labour, on the Regional Employment Insurance Tribunal) and various position in my home church. I've sat at all levels of the UCW, member of the executive of the former Bay of Quinte Conference, delegate to Presbytery (2003-till realignment), delegate/representative EOORC until 2024.

At present, I am a member of the local and Area/Presbyterial (Past President) of the 4-Rs UCW. Secretary for the Women's Inter-Church Group of Smiths Falls -- WDP. I'm a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (2009). Co-chair Publicity-Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality.

2024: I have stepped back, for a year, from most "church" responsibilities as I felt the need to recoup-regroup following the death of my husband in 2023 after a lengthy decline.

2023: Secretary: Council, secretary: Spiritual Leadership Team, member: Outreach & Social Justice Team, member: Healing Pathway. Past president of the Four Rivers Area/Presbyterial UCW—sat on the EOOR-UCW executive, and voting delegate to the EOORC.

10. Youth Application ( One more to come. )