

Keith MacPherson

I grew up in rural PEI on a small farm. My first experience of church was a week long VBS held in the local hall and put on by group of young adults from Indiana. I was struck as much by the VW van they were travelling in as by the singing, games and scripture memorizing. This early encounter with classic autos and the Gospels continues to fuel my adult passions. I didn't seriously become interested in the church until I was a young father who wanted my children to have a foundation in Christian values. I was drawn to the United Church for its social justice focus and theological inclusiveness.

In my home congregation of St. Paul's in McAdam, NB and St. Croix Presbytery I had the opportunity to assume many roles. I was supported and encouraged to pursue ministry by many folks there especially our minister, Rev. Ellen Beairsto. My spouse Valerie and I operated the community pharmacy in McAdam, NB where we raised our three children; Kathleen, Fraser and Karyn. In McAdam I learned many lessons on the value of community and the impact a small congregation can make by living more compassionately in the world.

My journey to ordained ministry has been an amazing experience. I feel richly blessed to be at this point in my life. The congregation of Spirit of Peace in Spirit River, AB and Northern Lights Presbytery graciously welcomed us for eight months during my internship with many opportunities for growth and learning. To study at the Atlantic School of Theology and be steeped in that multi-denominational environment was pivotal in shaping my understanding of the Christian tradition. I give thanks for the passion of colleagues and the wisdom of mentors and professors in my formation for ordained ministry.

Last but not least I wanted to give thanks for my children, and my spouse and partner Valerie, whose love, support and encouragement are a constant source of blessing to me.