

Mary Lynne Whyte

Mary Lynne Whyte (nee Weeks) was born and raised in Listowel, ON until she moved to London where she attended the University of Western Ontario and completed a four-year Bachelor of Music degree. After graduation, she moved to Toronto to sing in the Elmer Iseler Singers (EIS), one of Canada's professional choirs. While on tour in Nova Scotia, Mary Lynne met Paul Whyte who became her husband a year later. After retiring from EIS, she worked at the head office of a bank until her first son, Robert, was born. Two years later, Richard was born. By this time, Mary Lynne was well-established as an at-home mom in Guelph, ON, as well as developing a side career in singing, teaching voice, and conducting, especially through Dublin Street United Church where her membership resided for twenty years. Grateful for friend and mentor, Rev. Emmy Beauchamp, she began to get more involved in the ministry side of her faith journey. She learned to play harp after discerning a call to 'minister musically' in the Guelph area. When Paul joined the Canadian navy they moved to Victoria, BC for Paul's officer training, and this is where Mary Lynne began to feel a call to Ordered Ministry. Once Paul was posted to Halifax, she began formal discernment through Stairs Memorial United Church in Dartmouth. Mary Lynne is deeply grateful to Rev. Sarah Reaburn who mentored her as she studied for three years at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), both informally before AST, and formally, through the Student Field Education program. Mary Lynne feels deep gratitude to God for her time at AST which was filled with excellent professors, courses, and learning. As well, Holy Spirit moments during this time inspired harp and voice compositions which have become part of her pastoral care ministry. After graduation in May 2016, Mary Lynne spent her eight-month Internship in Juniper, NB, at Lake View Pastoral Charge. She is grateful to Lake View for their support and encouragement and to Rev. Brian DeLong as her off-site Educational Supervisor and mentor. Mary Lynne is also grateful to her husband for his constant love, support, and encouragement throughout her journey to ordination and is looking forward to sharing the next phase with him as she ministers in and through the United Church of Canada.