

Monthly message to Members of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council

On June 11, 2023 I was installed as President of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council of the United Church of Canada. On your behalf, as your President, it has been my honour to be present at the following events within our Region in this, my first month.

On your behalf, at 2:00pm Sunday, June 18, 2023 at Trinity United Church in Onslow-Belmont Pastoral Charge, I attended the funeral of Hannah Louise MacLean, the beautiful 24 year old Daughter/Granddaughter of Rev. Glenn MacLean of Onslow-Belmont Pastoral Charge and niece of Rev. Shannon MacLean, St. Andrew's Church, Truro. The majority of those in attendance at Hannah's funeral were young people and the church was filled to capacity thirty minutes before the Service began. Rev. Cathie Crooks, cousin of Rev. Glenn MacLean, presiding. Watching everyone sing to the glory of God at such a horrific time was a glowing testament to God's abiding love for us all. It filled my saddened heart with joy knowing how loved Hannah was, by so many. I watched her grow into a lovely young lady as Glenn was my Minister at St. James, Dartmouth when Hannah was born. Glenn and Margie were both parents and grandparents to Hannah as well as her siblings, Meghan and J.D. Please hold the family and friends in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to grieve. Be with each of them Lord, keeping them in your loving arms as they journey forward together, knowing of your abiding hope of tomorrow; through the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord and Saviour and be with each of us, your children. Be with all who struggle each day and give us all the courage to continue along life's journey. Grant us the peace of understanding as we learn to live without our precious Hannah as she now resides with you, in heaven. Our condolences go out to everyone who loved Hannah from the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive, Staff and all Communities of Faith.

On your behalf, at 6:30pm Sunday, June 18, 2023, I was able to bring greetings to Immanuel United Church as I attended the Disbandment of Immanuel United Church after 104 years together as a congregation. I was invited by Mr. Paul Woods, Chair, Board of Trustees for Immanuel Church in Amherst NS. The congregation had been worshipping in the basement room of the Masonic Temple in Amherst for several years as their church was no longer viable. This vibrant church community of less than 30 parishioners was a joy to behold. I was invited to attend as their honoured guest but it was my honour to be amongst these amazing men and women. This worship service was presided by Mr. Wayne Jarvis, Ministry Personnel for the Northumberland Pastoral Charge and this evening was uplifting even though the congregation had only a handful of parishioners remaining. 26 came out to say farewell to this congregation and ministry as well as to their Minister, Mr. Wayne Jarvis, as he was retiring. Singing their final hymns felt like I was listening to hundreds of voices in this basement room, all praising God for the last 104 years of this fabulous congregation. It was exhilarating!! It was also a very sad evening when a community comes together to say goodbye to any Community of Faith. This was clearly a testament to how deeply these parishioners felt about keeping their congregation alive even after the loss of their church building. I do hope those remaining men and women find a new church home to share their love of God and their wonderful talents I witnessed that evening. Thank you Immanuel United Church for the invitation to celebrate with you as you said goodbye. I was so exhilarated

to be a part of your service, even with its sadness of an ending of a Community of Faith. I very much enjoyed the coffee, cake and conversations afterwards. Thank you all and God bless you on your faith journeys ahead.

On your behalf, at 10:00am Sunday, June 25, 2023, I was able to bring greetings to the Lorneville United Church, Lorneville NS. This is now part of a 2 point charge of the Northumberland Pastoral Charge. Immanuel United Church was their 3rd point which was disbanded last Sunday. I was invited to attend the Retirement of Mr. Wayne Jarvis, Ministry Personnel for this Pastoral Charge. Wayne is 80 years young. He wants 6 months off to go celebrating in other churches around the province and beyond. I enjoyed being a part of this service as Wayne was the Minister I met the previous Sunday evening in Amherst. When he invited me to his final service along with a BBQ afterwards, I could not say no. Even with the rain, we still managed to have hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and desserts along with a farewell and a happy retirement cake. Many of those fabulous congregants I met the previous week were in attendance. It is a wonderful testament to a man's dedication to the Lord when so many travel upwards of an hour to say farewell to their Minister and to wish him well. Good luck Wayne in your future endeavours and we hope you will soon be with another church family. A congregation that will be blessed with your many talents. Talents that each of us witnessed.

On your behalf, at 10:00am Sunday, July 9, 2023, I was able to bring greetings to The United Protestant Church of Sydney River, Cape Breton, as I attended their Sunday Service presided by Mr. Donnie Morrison. Donnie is the Chair - Division of Services and Support for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. Donnie also just completed the LLWL Course. Congratulations Donnie. Donnie has been presiding for the past three weeks and I very much enjoyed Donnie's service. The congregation were extremely friendly before, during and after the service. Several of us were locked inside, (by mistake) afterwards. I knew that would be rectified very quickly but it allowed us a time for laughter. When I spoke to them on your behalf during the service, I explained if anyone had questions or concerns, issues or suggestions to please let us know at the Regional Council. If anyone wants one of us to come and speak to their congregation, please just ask. Thank you United Protestant Church and Donnie Morrison. I had a marvellous time on Sunday.

My goal is to send out a monthly email on my endeavours around the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. If anyone wishes my presence at any event in your Community of Faith, please let me know and if I'm available on that date, I will be there. I'm enjoying my time as your President and please know I do so with the utmost respect for this office.

In Peace and Hope,

Shauna MacDonald
President
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council
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