

Let us Introduce Our New Growth Animator beginning November 1, 2023

Inspired by our Call to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice, the leading priority in the United Church of Canada's National Strategic Plan is a Growth Initiative which seeks to support existing congregations towards thriving ministry in their communities, encourage the creation of 100 new communities of faith across the country, and to expand our ability as congregations and a denomination to invite people to participate in the life and ministry of the United Church of Canada.

Six Growth Animators have been hired across the church to work with Regions and local congregations in supporting this work. In UCC East working within our three Regions, the Growth Animator will be the Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne.

An educator, McGeachy Senior Scholar, Intentional Interim Minister, Jubilee Spiritual Director, educational supervisor, member of the national credentialing committee, the disabilities working group, and the GC 44 Equity Support Team, Sharon brings insight, passion and playfulness to her work that centres on helping communities and individuals identify and embrace their gifts as they dream and realistically imagine their future. Sharon believes that through celebration, the present moment can be seen as a place of opportunity and possibility. Sharon recognizes that every Community of Faith is facing a moment of unprecedented challenge and brings gifts of accompaniment, innovation and invitation to help churches face these challenges with courage and hope.

Sharon currently serves Fort Massey United Church in Halifax as their Intentional Interim Minister.

Sharon will begin her work on November 1, 2023. She will be present at upcoming Regional events and gatherings throughout the year. She looks forward to meeting with clusters as they are identified. She will also be present at our Annual meetings in the Spring.

Sharon can help congregations who are seeking to deepen your connection to your community, reach out and connect with your neighbours, deepen your sense of call and mission, and explore innovative possibilities for the future.