

Past President's last "Monthly Message" as your President - April 12, 2024 to May 12, 2024

This was my 11th and final month as your President as now as I am writing this, I am your Past President.

On your behalf via Zoom, I chaired my last Executive Meeting on April 19, 2024 as business required completion before our Annual Meeting.

On your behalf, on April 24, 2024, I attended via Zoom the Annual Meeting Planning Committee Meeting before our AGM, May 10-12, 2024.

On your behalf, via Zoom, I Chaired my first Webinar regarding General Council Commissionaires, Proposals & Orientations on April 30, 2024.

On your behalf, on May 1, 2024, I attended via Zoom a run through for all participants involved with the Annual Meeting.

On your behalf, on the morning of May 2, 2024, I attended via Zoom with our Executive Minister, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, along with the Presidents from Fundy St. Lawrence (NB & PEI) and FFEE (NF and Labrador) to discuss our roles as President during the Annual Meeting.

On your behalf, the evening of May 2, 2024 via Zoom, I Chaired my 2nd Webinar for Division Reports, Budgets & Audited Statements.

On your behalf, on Saturday morning May 4, 2024, I attended the Convocation of Atlantic School of Theology at Saint Benedict Parish in Halifax. As part of the processional, it was my honour to represent everyone within Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. Congratulations graduates!

On your behalf, I arrived at Dalhousie Agricultural College, Truro, NS on the afternoon of May 9, 2024 to prepare for our 6th Annual Meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. Registration opened at 6:00pm.

On your behalf, on May 10, 2024, as your President at that time, I began Chairing our 6th Annual Meeting and all the business that came before it. Our theme speaker, the Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, began his presentation Friday and will conclude Saturday morning. Ross will host a workshop session Saturday afternoon. Concluded the evening with the President's reception and that cake and icing were delicious. So happy to take extra back to my room.

On your behalf, May 11, 2024, we continued with our Annual Meeting with our Theme speaker, the Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett. Our afternoon was a series of workshops with various Committee Chairs, working groups, Staff and Ministry Personnel. We hosted the Retirees and Jubilarians Banquet Saturday at supper time. We had 51 Youth along with 12 leaders who led us in Worship Saturday evening. This has always been the highlight of my weekend as they are so enthusiastic, charismatic, honest, and fun loving individuals you will ever meet, who have such a love of their

Lord and Saviour. They were ever present throughout the weekend which makes us “older folks” feel young at heart. The evening closed with a kitchen party.

On your behalf, on Sunday morning, May 12, 2024 was my last official morning as your President, I presided at the Celebration of Ministry Service where I had the honour and privilege to Ordain 5 DLM's and Commissioned 1 DLM. I also presided over communion. Then I had the honour to install our new President, the Rev. Donna Tourneur. This was such a wonderful morning with so many emotions flowing through me as I was excited to be even a small part of their celebration.

I had asked the Lord to assist me in getting through the Annual Meeting, and as always, He did. As you know I spent 5.5 months in bed with a virus and I prayed that I'd be given the strength to finish my time as your President at our AGM. Isn't faith a wonderful gift? I couldn't survive without knowing the Lord is always in my corner.

I could not have survived without the support and prayers from our Communities of Faith. I loved meeting so many of you throughout my time as your President and I feel this United Church of ours is the most loving, thoughtful and caring group of people.

I need to thank so many people who helped, carried and were there as friends throughout my 11 months. I couldn't have made it without each one of them. Faith March-MacCuish who worked tirelessly with so many, yet any time I sent a message, she responded. I have certainly learned a lot from her about the wider church. Jane McDonald, our Past, Past President and Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, thank you for stepping up when a Past President or President is unavailable; you do so without even thinking. I have learned so much from you over my first 2 years on the Executive and I expect just as much in this my last year. David Hewitt and Andrew Richardson were always there to answer my questions and I am sure I asked too many! Catherine Stuart and Roger Janes, your friendship and support was always appreciated. Jenn Whittemore and Jennifer Taylor, you are the unsung heroes who work so hard for more than one Region and sometimes we forget to say 'thank you.' I believe I owe both of you and Shari Kaster at least a million. The Executive Council who were always lifting me up throughout my time as their President, I greatly appreciated everything you've done for me. Sandra Tomsons, who was our Past President, thank you for stepping in for me when I was unwell and couldn't chair the executive meeting. You are truly a wonderful person who puts other's first. Rev. Donna Tourneur, congratulations on being our new President. My wish for you is a year of getting to know more of your Communities of Faith, enjoying your time with the Executive Council as well as having fun along the way. These are fabulous people, as you already know, who are very grateful when their President comes to see them. Good luck and may God walk beside you on your journey.

I could not have managed without the love and support of my family, especially my father, who encouraged me, prayed with me, helped me when I got stuck to work through an issue and who worried about me throughout my illness. I love you so much Dad. To my best friends from my CoF who kept me alive during the worst time, showing up weekly, looking after me and my home, buying groceries and anything I required. This is what having friends that love you unconditionally is all about. Thank you will never be enough to all of you. I wish you a lifetime

of love, peace and hope.

Thank you all for making my time as your President one of the best experiences of my life.

In Peace and Hope,

Shauna MacDonald
Past President
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council