

CANDIDATES FOR CELEBRATION

ORDINATION

Donna Marie Kelly, CD1, B.A., M.Div.



Feeling called to ministry from an early age, and being unable to live out that calling in her previous faith tradition, Donna came to The United Church of Canada in the 1990's. Since that time, she has embraced The United Church of Canada and has participated fully within her home congregation of First South United Church. She was a long-time choir member, lay reader, and served on a number of committees including becoming an Elder with Session. She, and several other lay persons, led worship when ministry personnel were not available, and she eventually completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader training and received her certification as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader. She continued to serve her congregation and neighbouring congregations in that capacity until beginning her Master of Divinity studies at Atlantic School of Theology in June of 2021.

As part of her studies at AST, she was blessed with a student placement at the LaHave-New Dublin Pastoral Charge, West Side United Church in Pentz, Nova Scotia. She completed two years of student placement there, then went on to complete two years of Supervised Ministry Education there where she served the charge in a 20 hour per week appointment. Since then, she has remained at the charge in a Candidate Supply capacity working 20 hours per week in team ministry with Reverend Neil McEwen. Being placed at LaHave-New Dublin Pastoral Charge was a blessing for Donna. It was a wonderful experience right from the start and her current appointment has been extended several times – currently, until the end of June 2026. As the LaHave-New Dublin Pastoral Charge and the Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge have entered into a collaborative ministry beginning July 1st, Donna has accepted a provisional call to this new ministry. She looks forward to continuing to serve the LaHave-New Dublin Pastoral Charge and is excited to begin serving the Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge as well.

Donna currently resides in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. She has lived in Newfoundland and British Columbia, but returned to her home in Lunenburg; living a block away from where she grew up as a child. She served in the Canadian Forces Reserves (Cadet Instructor Cadre) for twenty-nine years where she worked with youth ages twelve to eighteen. Although now retired, she remains active in supporting the cadet program as a member of the Navy League of Canada. She was employed with the Government of Canada in a civilian capacity for thirty-three years in a number of positions. She received her first degree from Acadia University in 1995, a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Psychology.

Being a mother of a son and daughter has brought her immense joy over the years. They have both married, and live in different provinces but always remain close to her. She has also been blessed with a grandchild to increase her joy.

Donna genuinely loves having the opportunity to be a minister and serve in congregational ministry. She is looking forward to ordination and continuing to serve God and God's people.

Ronald John William Shaw, M.Div.



Ron Shaw is a husband, father, and grandfather (what he is proud of most).

He grew up in London, Ontario; left there at age 20, and since then lived in Alberta, several places in Ontario, and all 3 Maritime provinces. He spent 45 years in radio and television news and began feeling the call to ministry 20 years ago; first becoming a Licensed Lay Worship Leader.

There are many, many, reasons he pursued ministry, including that when bad things happened, he wanted to be one of the ones who was there to help; not report on it.

W. Wayne Jarvis, DLM



My mother and father were farmers in the small village of Lyn, Ontario. I was the oldest son of three boys. Unfortunately, I lost my mother when I was five years old and my dad was devastated. I was raised by my grandparents. My middle brother was raised by my aunt and uncle, while my youngest brother was raised by friends of my grandparents. My grandparents made sure that I went to Sunday school and church every Sunday. I remember my grandparents saying to me that I could not play hockey or any other sport on Sunday afternoon unless I attended Sunday school and church on Sunday morning.

I attended Christ United Church in Lyn, was confirmed in the church, and began to teach Sunday school in the church. Following being confirmed, I always felt that I was called into ministry. At that time, I knew that my grandparents could not afford to help pay me for collage, so I decided to work for a year and then go to college, but I got married and my wife and I started a family.

I taught Sunday school in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and in Lower Sackville and Lorneville, Nova Scotia until all the children were old enough and did not want to go to Sunday school any longer. The feeling of wanting to be a minister never left me and when we moved to Lorneville and I was speaking to our minister about the feeling I had, she suggested I look into the Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) course. I applied and went to A.S.T. I graduated from the LLWL course and enjoyed preaching and helping the older people in the congregation. I registered for the Designated Lay Minister (DLM) course. I attended Calling Lakes in the spring and fall for three years and received my certificate. Being a DLM was very satisfying. I had a church and enjoyed preaching, visiting those who could not get out to services, visiting those in hospital and nursing homes, leading bible study, doing weddings, and comforting those at the funerals I did. I still felt I could offer more; thus, the reason I am proceeding to be ordained.

ADMISSION

Rev. Jenny Eisener, B.R.E., M.Div.



From a young age, Jenny has felt called to ministry and used to line her stuffed animals up on the stairs to preach to them. She grew up in the Pentecostal church where her grandfather was the minister in Ontario.

Jenny attended an Evangelical Bible College, and Presbyterian and Lutheran Seminaries. She has served in ministry positions working primarily with children and youth in Mennonite, Baptist and now United Church congregations. She has served as a multifaith Chaplain in university and hospital settings. Through these multi-denominational experiences, Jenny has come to know and embrace God's ever expanding love for all people.

Jenny moved to Nova Scotia in 2014 to begin with First Baptist Church Halifax and was ordained with them through the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms in 2015. Since November of 2021, Jenny has served as the Children and Youth Program Leader at St. John's United Church in Fall River. The children, youth and families there have warmly embraced her and she's delighted to continue serving with them as Family Minister.

Jenny lives with her husband Charlie, step-son Jamie, daughter Joanna, dog Bella, and 50,000 of her closest bee friends in her backyard hive.

Rev. Webster Vhembo, Dip.Th., B.Th., M.Th.



Rev. Webster Vhembo was born and raised in a Christian family in Zimbabwe. His parents were devoted members of the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe. His faith and spirituality were formed and shaped within the Reformed tradition, where he was called to ministry and later ordained as a Minister of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care.

Rev. Vhembo brings over twenty years of faithful service in congregational ministry, theological education, and community engagement. He holds a Master of Theology in Practical Theology, as well as a postgraduate diploma from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. He also earned a Bachelor of Theology from Justo Mwale Theological University in Zambia, and a Diploma in Theology from Murray Theological College (Reformed Church University) in Zimbabwe.

More recently, he has completed the required courses for admission into The United Church of Canada at the Atlantic School of Theology. These include United Church Polity, United Church Theology, and United Church History, as well as training in Racial Justice, Professional Boundaries, and Orientation Circle.

Throughout his ministry, Rev. Vhembo has served both as a congregational minister and as a professor of Practical Theology, shaping theological students through teaching in preaching, Christian education, leadership, and community development. His ministry is marked by a relational and collaborative leadership style, encouraging others to share their gifts while guiding congregations in worship, pastoral care, and mission. He is deeply experienced in preaching, administering the sacraments, providing pastoral counseling, and supporting individuals and families through life's significant moments.

Currently serving at Aylesford United Church in Nova Scotia, Rev. Vhembo continues to offer spiritual leadership within the Aylesford Pastoral Charge and the wider community. His passion for intercultural ministry, social justice, and community outreach reflects his commitment to a living and active faith.

Rev. Vhembo is married to Tee, and they have three children; Alpha, Mufaro, and Omega, as well as their granddaughter, Aileen Tariro.

Rev. Vhembo is an outdoor person who loves community gatherings and engagement. He enjoys gardening, jogging, fellowship with friends and family, and watching soccer. He remains deeply grateful for the support and mentorship he has received within The United Church of Canada, which continues to enrich his ministry and discernment journey.