



Visions United Church

Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts

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January 21, 2024

Dear Visions Friends,

My deepest gratitude to you for the opportunity to share in ministry with you these last eight years. You are a remarkable congregation, and it has been a blessing to be part of your journey as a community of faith.

Recently, I was offered the position of Justice and Faith Formation Minister with Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils. I have requested a change in pastoral relations from the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, who oversees the relationship between ministers and congregations, effective March 15th, 2024.

This decision has been the fruition of a long period of discernment for me. Ministers always must ask themselves when the best time is to move on and allow someone else to pick up the mantle of leadership. When I first came to Visions in 2016 it was for three years to help you discern the next steps on your journey as a Community of Faith, and that we would review this after three years. By then (Winter of 2019) we had a plan, and knew the next steps, but there was lots of work and imagining still to do! Along the way, our plans were delayed by a global pandemic. When we eventually found our home here at the Community Hub on Joyce and were able to gather consistently every Sunday (February 2022) we were in a tender and vulnerable position finding our way again and re-forming community together. I knew my leadership was still needed.

Now, almost two years later, we are settled and growing. Our new ministry funding ended. And now there are new directions to discern as Visions moves forward, and yet still so much opportunity to engage with our neighbourhood. The time seems right for my transition, and the opportunity for new leadership to journey with you on the next stage of your adventure in faith.

For me, personally, it is impossible to conceive putting down roots in a new community of faith. Visions is what I envision spiritual community to be! It is difficult to imagine as fulfilling a ministry as I've enjoyed with all of you.

This new position provides me with an opportunity to offer my experience, gifts, and leadership in a new way within the United Church of Canada. This is likely my last call before retirement, so I am looking forward to a new and different ministry challenge.

I will be forever grateful to Visions and each of you for the remarkable privilege to minister with you. My time with you will always be the highpoint of congregational ministry for me.

Blessings on your journey. I continue to have great faith in Visions!

Peace,

Shawn R. Redden