

COVENANTING SERVICE WITH DAVID STEVENS
THE REV. SUE PATERSON, BOYD'S-FRANKTOWN P.C.
AND FOUR RIVERS PRESBYTERY

The weather had been wet all week but the rain didn't dampen the spirits of those who gathered at Boyd's U.C. on Sunday, June 5, 2016. An overflow crowd came to covenant with student intern David Stevens, his educational supervisor the Rev. Sue Paterson, the members and adherents of Boyd's U.C. and members of Four Rivers Presbytery.

David is a member of St. Paul's U.C., Perth and had spent a summer at Bathurst P.C. so there was a large contingent from both of those churches as well.

Reid Kilburn, Chair of the Official Board of Boyd's-Franktown extended a warm welcome to all who had come to share in today's celebration. Sue Hutton, Chair of Four Rivers Presbytery also brought greetings and welcomed everyone to this time of worship, covenant and celebration.

Christine Kilburn, Presbytery rep for Boyd's-Franktown led us in the prayer of approach after which we joined in singing "Amazing Grace". Accompaniment was provided by the very talented Burnside Sisters on violin with their mother on piano.

Cathy Ryan, Chair of Ministry vocations, presented David to the congregation, explaining his internship at Boyd's is part of the requirements for ordination in the United Church of Canada.

Scriptures were read by Elaine Wallace, Ian Edmison and Arnold Haydock, all members of David's Ministry Reflection group.

The Rev. Micheline Montreuil from Bathurst P.C. brought the message for the day – "Will You Come and Follow Me". Micheline based her meditation on two scriptures involving call – Isaiah's response to God's question "Whom shall I send?" and Simon's response to Jesus who calls him to leave his nets behind and follow Jesus.

We all gathered in Boyd's this day to hear covenant promises given and received. Lives are about to be changed. Ordinary folks have been called to this ministry which God has planned.

Micheline reminded us that this ministry belongs to all of us gathered here today. David has some very special gifts to bring to ministry but he simply can't do it all on his own. Each one of us has a part in the ministry we are celebrating here today. As God's diverse gifts are fully manifested and nurtured among the people, God's presence is revealed in amazing ways.

All we have to do is open our hearts to God's love, to listen to god's call and to respond with our faithful commitment.

Karen McLean, Secretary of Presbytery invited everyone to sing "We Are Pilgrims" and then to join in renewing our Baptismal Faith by reciting A New Creed.

The Act of Covenanting

Sue Hutton and Karen McLean welcomed David. Dorothy Stevens led us in prayer after which David and Sue Paterson were invited to share their learning goals for this time at Boyd's. Promises were made by David, Sue, the members and adherents of Boyd's-Franktown P.C., and the Ministry Reflection group.

Ted Brett, Alvin Dobbie, Wayne Harris, Sue Hutton, Bruce Jackson, Gerry Kerr, Christine Kilburn, Karen McLean, Shelley Roberts, Cathy Ryan, Mary Smiley and Lynne Stockless represented Four Rivers Presbytery. They promised to walk with David, Sue and Boyd's-Franktown P.C., support the Mission of God that is both theirs and ours.

Presenters of symbols of David's ministry included Caroly McNeely (Water), Darlene Willows (Bible), Darren Burnside (Bread & Wine); Grace Francis (Towel & Basin), Tammy Edmison (Pot of Clay).

Sue Hutton declared a covenant had been made.

Response to the Covenant

Ervin Sweeney, accompanied by the Burnside Sisters, gave a beautiful rendition of "The Old Country Church".

David led us in prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer and invited us to join in singing "I, The Lord of Sea and Sky".

The offering was collected and will go to the Bay of Quinte Conference Student Bursary Fund to assist students in the ministry programmes of the United Church of Canada.

Following "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring", the peace of Christ was shared. The Burnside Sisters led us in the closing hymn "Be Thou My Vision". David took a few moments to thank so many who had accompanied him on his journey to this point and extended special thanks to those who had participated in the service including guest musicians Ervin Sweeney, the Burnside Sisters and organist Ian Guenette. It was a great day.

After the commissioning and benediction, everyone was invited for fellowship and refreshments in the Gathering Place.

Signature on Original Document
Sue Hutton, Chair

Signature on Original Document
Karen McLean, Secretary