

COVENANTING SERVICE WITH JUDITH EVENDEN
ZION-MEMORIAL U.C., CARLETON PLACE
AND FOUR RIVERS PRESBYTERY

The People Gather

On Sunday, February 7, 2016, the Rev. Judith Evenden, members and adherents of Zion-Memorial U.C., Carleton Place and members of Four Rivers Presbytery gathered for our fifth Covenanting service of this Conference year.

Karen Valley, Chair of ZMUC Official Board was the worship leader for the day. She extended a warm welcome to all who had come to share in today's celebration.

Heather and Victoria Darragh lit the Christ Candle and Karen invited us to joint in the responsive Call to Worship, the hymn "God, Whose Love is Ever With Us" and the Prayer of Approach and Confession.

The choir, accompanied by Brad Mills, organist from St. Paul's U.C., Perth, offered a lovely rendition of "Rain Down".

Dave Charles, Past-Chair of Four Rivers Presbytery, presided over the Covenanting portions of the service. Allison Adamovits, Chair of the Interim Ministry transition team, presented the Rev. Judith Evenden, who has been appointed to Zion-Memorial U.C., Carleton Place, to serve there in Interim Ministry. Presbytery was invited to affirm her appointment to a ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in this place.

Service of the Word

The Rev. Dr. William Smith, Executive Secretary for the Bay of Quinte Conference offered the scripture readings for the day – selected verses from 1 John 4 (God is love) and Luke 15:11-31 (the parable of the Prodigal Son)

The congregational hymn was "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling".

The Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro brought the message for the day – "Crazy Love". She noted this parable is only found in the gospel of Luke. Luke often talks of those who are lost and then found, least and then the most – a reversal of sorts.

We have all heard the parable of the prodigal son so many times that we know it by heart – and we believe it. We forget that it was a teaching tool of Jesus – a tool to teach us a lesson.

Both sons have their own ways of misunderstanding. We are not perfect but that doesn't give us a free pass to hurt one another. We are all part of the community of God.

Today we are at a Covenanting service. We are called to review and renew our promises. We are all the two sons at the same time. Sometimes we are all pious like the older son and other times we are sinners like the younger son. We are not perfect but God *is* perfect!

We pray that this church lives on and through the message that God lives on and through every one of us. May it be so.

The song was "All the Children of the World" as adapted by A.M. Pattison and then we joined in renewing our Baptismal Faith by reciting A New Creed.

The Act of Covenanting

Dave Charles welcomed Judith and offered a statement of this new ministry. Promises were made by Judith and the members and adherents of Zion-Memorial U.C., Carleton Place. The members of the Transition Team promised to embrace their task of leadership in changing times with commitment and energy, always seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They are Allison Adamovits (Chair), Janet Ferguson, Jesse Gibson, Marion Reilly, Ron Rivait, Rev. Gerry Kerr (Presbytery) and Sandra Walker (Presbytery).

Ted Brett, Dave Charles, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Alvin Dobbie, Wayne Harris, Bruce Jackson, Gerry Kerr, Karen McLean, Shelley Roberts, Cathy Ryan, Arlyce Schiebout, Mary Smiley, Bill Smith, Karen Valley, Sandra Walker and Norma Wrightly represented Four Rivers Presbytery and the Bay of Quinte Conference. They promised to walk with

Rev. Judith and Zion-Memorial U.C., to exercise oversight of their work and witness and to support and encourage them in this ministry of change.

Presenters of symbols of Judith's ministry included Gerry Hooghiem (Bible), Judy Wallace and Cherry Linton (bread, chalice and water), Jim Foster (towel and basin), Pauline Patterson (children's plaque), Shirley Sanderson (Voices United Hymn Book), Jan Ferguson (shells and pearl necklace) and Karen Valley (Christ candle).

Dave Charles declared a covenant had been made as the congregation responded with "Halle, Halle, Halle."

Response to the Covenant

In response to the Covenant, Rev. Judith led us in prayers of the people "Hear Lord" as written and sung by her.

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.

The closing hymn was "We Are Pilgrims". After the commissioning and benediction, everyone was invited for fellowship and refreshments in the Upper Hall.

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Dave Charles, Past Chair

Signature on Original Document
Karen McLean, Secretary