



**Northern Spirit Regional Council
3rd Annual Meeting, May 4&6, 2021**

**Biographical Notes Submitted by the Nominees for
Commissioner to the 44th General Council (2022)**

Ministry Personnel

Mary Annan, Ordained Minister, Retired

Mary attends St. Paul's United Church in Edmonton, is a member of the Regional Council Executive, and has served on the Mission and Ministry Support Grants Committee. She has always lived and worked in Canada.

Mary self-identifies as being female; aged 50 and older; and living with vision disability, being registered blind with the CNIB. Mary has some vision, and computer programs are helpful in her being able to read documents and any reading materials that are deemed necessary for meetings, provided she can receive them ahead of time.

Mary writes, "As I am now retired, I find that I would have time to pursue interests in the church regarding accessibility, as this is a subject that has affected me throughout my life. And of course, it is much more than whether one's faith community has a ramp in or on it's premises. Accessibility needs to cover many aspects of life in society, as well as in the church.

"I remember one year, at a church meeting, considering having my name offered as a possible GC Commissioner. It was promptly suggested to me that this was probably not a good idea as there is FAR TOO MUCH READING! As I reflect on this response many years later, it is my hope that we, the church, have moved away from such quick, not-thought-through, responses, and instead, look to these kinds of questions as opportunities for learning and growth for the entire body of the church. I sincerely believe we have a better handle on how we all have a part to play, no matter our abilities and/or inabilities".

MPT (Mokwadi Paymann T'Dere) Basele, Ordained Minister

MPT serves as Ministry Personnel for Grace United Church, Wainwright, Alberta.

He self-identifies as being male, aged 50 and older, and Motswana (Botswana, African), and Cisgender. MPT reads and speaks Setswana and English., and has lived in Botswana and Canada; and wishes to share his gifts with the wider church and also learn more as we navigate a difficult terrain during the pandemic.

MPT was born, bred and socialized in the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa. He served as a Sunday School teacher, a Youth member and leader, Church Secretary, then joined the Ordained Ministry in 1998, and served rural and urban churches. MPT was employed as Synod Secretary for the Botswana Synod of the UCCSA. As the Synod Secretary, one is involved in the life of church through committees and ministries making decisions (collectively, consensus, consultations), recommendations and serving our communities and planting churches. He represented the church in government, private sector and other institutions.

MPT writes, “I believe I will represent the church, support its work and be part of this great movement in Canada and the world as gospel commissions us. I want to be part of those who are supporting communities of faith now and during the pandemic and finding better ways and how to be a relevant church post-COVID.

“My strength, inter alia, is listening, supporting others, working with others and availability.”

Peter Chynoweth, Ordained Minister, Retired

Peter serves on the Regional Council Executive, and although he resides in Cochrane, Alberta, his membership remains with the Northern Spirit Regional Council.

He self-identifies as being male, aged 50 and older, and Caucasian. He has lived in Canada, Nigeria and Cameroun and his languages are English, and passable French.

Peter has submitted further information that can be viewed here: [GCNominationPCC.pdf](#).

Deborah Hoekstra, Ordained Minister

Deborah serves in a Team Ministry with St. Albert United Church, St. Albert, Alberta. She self-identifies as being female, aged 50 and older, and Caucasian.

Deborah reads and speaks English and Dutch, and has lived in Canada, Surinam and the Netherlands. Her interests include advocacy for differently abled individuals, and she is committed to an inclusive and affirming church.

Deborah has submitted further information that can be viewed here: [Deborah Hoekstra 2021 .pdf](#).

Linda Marcotte, Ordained Minister, Retired

Linda is Ministry Personnel, working with the Yellowknife United Church, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

She self-identifies as female, aged 50 and older, as a member of an Affirming Congregation, and as the mother of LGBTQIA+ children.

Linda reads and speaks both English and French, and her special interests include pastoral and spiritual care.

Helen Reed, Diaconal Minister

Helen is Ministry Personnel for the Camrose United Church, in Camrose, Alberta.

She self-identifies as female, aged 50 and older, and has lived in Canada and the United Kingdom. Helen enjoys engagement in the wider church, administration and Pastoral Care.

Her experiences include election as a GC Commissioner in 2015; Presider of Chinook Winds Region. 2019-2020; Coronation Presbytery Secretary for about 9 years, rural ministry, and small city ministry. Helen is currently a member of the Northern Spirit Communities of Faith Support Committee.

Scott Reynolds, Ordained Minister

Scott is Ministry Personnel, currently serving the Irma-Viking/Kinsella Pastoral Charge, Irma, Alberta.

He self-identifies as being male, aged 30-50 years, White, English-speaking, and has lived in Canada his whole life.

In the context of General Council 44, Scott is most interested in developing connections with other church members across the country and doing some visioning work as we reflect on the gifts and challenges that the pandemic has brought about.

Scott writes, "This does, indeed, seem like a good opportunity to connect with the National Church (which I haven't previously done) and help the church to discern how we want to move through and (hopefully) out of the pandemic in a way that beautifully reflects Christ's kingdom."

Leigh Sinclair, Ordained Minister

Leigh is Ministry Personnel for the St. David's United Church (Leduc-Beaumont Pastoral Charge) in Leduc, Alberta.

She self-identifies as female, aged 30-50, and White (3rd generation settler of European heritage). Leigh reads and speaks English and French, and has always lived in Canada.

Leigh loves learning, reading and sharing faith stories, and she believes this will be important as we set priorities for the coming decade in The United Church of Canada.

Gord Waldie, Ordained Minister

Gord is Ministry Personnel for St. Paul's United Church in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

As the Convenor of Northern Spirit Regional Council, Gord is already elected "ex-officio" (by virtue of his office), but has offered the following for information.

He self-identifies as being male, aged 50 and older, with European (British Isles) ancestry from people who first came to Canada several generations ago (slightly pre-Confederation he thinks).

Gord has a desire to be part of how we envision being the church as we grow out of COVID-Tide, is interested in visioning work, and has some skill in administrivia, governance procedures and policy.

Lay Members

Daniel Chon

Daniel is a Lay Representative from Korean United Church in Edmonton, Alberta.

He self-identifies as Male, a Teen, and Korean, and is fluent in reading/speaking/writing English and Korean.

Daniel has submitted further information that can be viewed here: [Daniel Chon.pdf](#)

Lloyd Henderson

Lloyd is a member of Yellowknife United Church, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

He self-identifies as male, aged 50 and older, and Caucasian. He does not identify as being from the LGBTQIA+ or Two Spirit community, but is a member of an Affirming Congregation.

Lloyd served as a Commissioner to the 40th General Council, and is very interested in the future of our church.

With his past experience serving in many capacities within congregations, Presbytery, Regional Council and at GC40, he believes that he has knowledge and faith to make informed decisions about The United Church of Canada.

Lloyd writes, "I bring my faith and my commitment to The United Church of Canada and its future."

Amy Kaler

Amy Kaler is a member of St. Paul's United Church, in Edmonton, Alberta.

She self-identifies as female, aged 50 and older, and White (northern European/settler background). Languages she reads/speaks are English and French, and she has lived in the United States, Canada and Zimbabwe.

Amy writes, "I'd like to deepen my involvement with the United Church. I grew up in the church (my grandparents were missionaries), left it as a young adult, and came back about eight years ago.

"I'm a professor of sociology, so I have skills in teaching, writing (both scholarly and popular), editing, researching and facilitating small groups. I've spent a lot of time working in Africa, and am based in Edmonton. Feminism is extremely important to me. I'm very interested in theology but have no formal training, so I'm constantly learning.

"As for what motivates me to apply at this particular moment (in addition to encouragement from the senior minister at St Paul's, Dr Catherine McLean): I would like to find ways to help the world heal during/after the COVID pandemic, and I believe that churches may be able to effect some of that healing."

Sarah Waldie

Sarah is a member of St. Paul's United Church, in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

She self-identifies as female, aged 18-30, and Caucasian. She reads and speaks English, and has always lived in Canada.

Sarah wants to learn more about the church and the youth and young adults involved in it. For Sara, serving as a General Council Commissioner has been a life long dream.

Bruce West

Bruce attends Sherwood Park United Church, in Sherwood Park, Alberta

He self-identifies as male, aged 50 and older, and Caucasian/Canadian. He reads and speaks English. He has only lived in Canada. He was born in Ontario, and he and his wife moved to Alberta in 1975.

Bruce is interested in participating in the life and work of The United Church of Canada on a national level, and bringing a Northern Spirit Regional Council perspective to national discussions.

His background is in seniors' issues; more specifically, policy development related to seniors housing, health care and long-term care. Bruce is interested in human rights related to accessibility and social inclusion.

In the United Church Bruce has served in various capacities such as board chair, stewardship chair, outreach committee member, Presbytery and Regional Council representative, and as a member of the national church architecture committee. He is interested in issues analysis and policy development.