

President's Message

Sisters and Brothers in Christ

We will be gathering shortly for our time together in prayer, discernment, business and fellowship, more commonly known as the Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference. We come from a diversity of backgrounds, each with our own sense of mission, each with our own passions, and create the wonderful tapestry that is the body of Christ in the Maritimes and Bermuda. What an amazing mosaic we are!

The pages that follow are but a glimpse into what we are about and the places our ministry has taken us over the past year. There are marks of celebration and joy as well as those of uncertainty and sorrow. I commend them all to you. As you read carefully perhaps you will be able to see signs of the sacred in what can be mistaken for mundane business; perhaps you will be able to see where doors have been opened and new life begins in what might appear to be endings; and perhaps you will see between the lines the amazing gifts that are freely offered and know what a blessing we have been given.

As a faith family we are confronted, in this time, with the question "What does it mean to be church in such a time and place?" In many ways it is the same question that has faced generations before and will face generations yet to come. With every passing moment we are in change and flux and are called to respond to that. While this may be disconcerting, even fear-filled, it would be far worse to be stagnant and irrelevant. There should be a certain sense of excitement as we ponder how we can move and change and transform moving from uncertainty to possibility; from what was to what can be; from death to life.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for affording me the privilege of serving as the President of Maritime Conference. It has indeed been a joy. I give thanks for this faith family and for being invited to share in your joys, celebrations, times of grief and frustration. I also lift up and celebrate the wonderful ministries lived out by our Conference staff. Without their commitment, dedication, passion and expertise, my time as President would certainly have been more daunting.

I look forward to the continued journey that is ours together and pray that we might know the presence and power of God that, working in us, can do infinitely more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Yours in Christ,
Valerie