

Rev. Cathy Larmond
Ordained Minister
Nominated by Kent Presbytery (London)

Biographical Statement

Cathy Larmond is currently the minister at the Tupperville Pastoral Charge, consisting of Zion United Church in Tupperville and Lindsay Road United Church in Turnerville just outside Dresden, Ont. in Kent Presbytery. She has been there since 2009. Previously, she served at Forest United Church in Lambton Presbytery from 2000 until 2009, and at the Sparta-Union Pastoral Charge in Elgin Presbytery from 1991 until 2000. Following her ordination in Hamilton Conference in 1988, she served for three years in the Grimshaw-Berwyn Pastoral Charge, located about 25 km west of Peace River in Alberta and North West Conference.

Cathy is a graduate of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. with a combined honours BA in English and Sociology and she received her Master of Divinity at Queens Theological College in Kingston, Ont. She also spent some time as an officer in the Naval Reserve in various capacities; she completed her time in the navy as a Reserve Chaplain.

Cathy has been involved in all aspects of Ministry and Personnel during her time in London Conference, including Education and Students and Pastoral Relations. She has served as Chair of Elgin Presbytery, and as Chair of Kent Presbytery, twice. She was elected as Chair of Lambton Presbytery, but her husband, George, was diagnosed with cancer two months after she was installed; she was unable to complete her term. He passed away in 2008.

Cathy is currently a Past President of London Conference (2015 to 2016). While she was president, she travelled to Mozambique as a representative of the Conference and visited two outreach ministries of the London Conference. As part of her responsibilities as president, she visited all of the presbyteries in London Conference. Cathy is the Chair of the Division of Ministry and Personnel and remains a member of the London Conference Executive. She has been active in the Effective Leadership and Healthy Pastoral Relationships test in London Conference. She served on the Settlement Committee, which is responsible for all appointments and calls, and on the Sub-Executive, which is responsible for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel.

Cathy was elected a General Council Commissioner for the 41st General Council (2012), the 42nd General Council 42 (2015) and the 43rd General Council (2018.)

She has three sons. George is an undergraduate at Huron College in London, Ont. After he completes his Master of Divinity, he hopes to be ordained in the Anglican Church. Joe lives and works in Ottawa. Davey is completing his degree at the University of Ottawa.

Cathy is a life member of United Church Women (UCW) and is active in both her current UCWs. She attended the past two national UCW events in Ancaster, Ont. and in Vancouver with her mother. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, reading, music and camping.

Statement About the Church

Sometimes when people ask me what the future holds, or what the main concerns are for the next few years, I am tempted to tell them that my crystal ball got cracked in my move to my settlement charge and hasn't worked since. I believe that most of the challenges facing the church in the future will involve creating and maintaining relationships, which are built on trust and respect. If I don't know the other person or group, then I can't trust them and can't risk developing my relationship with them. We need to get to know our neighbours and our neighbourhoods!

In the two-point charge where I am currently a minister and in the small villages and towns around me, I see churches of all denominations struggling with smaller numbers, trying to keep up their buildings and their donations for outreach, sometimes moving to part-time ministry. We need to build relationships with other churches in our areas and to share projects, and resources. We need to encourage ecumenical and interfaith relationships and to recognize each other's ministries, to work with, and not to be in competition with, the other churches and faiths around us.

Because of the structural changes that we are working towards, I believe we need to build these relationships with the United churches around us in new ways. There are projects that we can do together to create a more visible United Church presence in our communities than we can achieve as individual churches. Cooperating by sponsoring refugee families, or by promoting Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects is important to keep us looking outward into God's world. We need to build ties within and across regions to keep us connected to each other and we have to be intentional about developing meaningful relationships and strong ties.

We are creating new structures, such as the Office of Vocation. The relationship between the volunteers and the staff in that office, and those ministering in the communities of faith is going to be new and exciting. We are also going to need a large number of volunteers to help to achieve the regions' responsibilities. We need to be intentional about the retention, recruitment, training and support of these volunteers. We have an opportunity within these new structures to build trust and mutual respect between the regions and the communities of faith, as well as within clusters and networks. We must build these relationships with the knowledge and skills that we are going to need to help to create and maintain these new structures.

Relationships must be formed and maintained between the church and our First Nations and our LGBTQ2 brothers and sisters. Some of those relationships have been badly damaged in the past; reconciliation and renewal must be a priority. Some of this work can be done at the national level, but in the end, all relationships are between people of goodwill. To have supportive, nurturing co-operative relationships, we must start by listening to each other.

In a recent workshop, a group of eight people was asked to stand in a circle facing inward linking arms. Then three other people came towards the circle. The people in the circle felt defensive and didn't look at the new people who felt rejected and unwanted. Then the people in the circle were asked to stand facing outward linking arms. The newcomers came towards the circle again. This time, there was an interaction and relationships were formed.

Jesus said that He is the Vine, and we are the branches. Now we, like branches, need to find ways to connect and intertwine with each other. The structures which have held us in relationships are changing and new connections will need to be made. These new relationships are within our church and with our communities, including our friends in other faiths, and others of goodwill who will help us to work together to make God's world a better place for all of God's children.