

Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean

Ordained Minister

Nominated by Edmonton Presbytery (Alberta and Northwest Conference)

Question: “What priorities would you name for your time as Moderator and how do you envision offering leadership in these areas?”

Statement About Priorities and Leadership

We are a small church with a big backyard. The ceilidh in the yard has changed, and we need to bring out more lawn chairs and talk about why we’ve been turning down the music.

We are perplexed about our broad theological scope. We have changed who we are with regard to closer and honest relations with Indigenous peoples and communities. We have put the rubber-on-the-road into our restructuring. We are expanding our intercultural identity. We use our fewer buildings differently. These changes make constructive differences. What are our theological underpinnings?

It is my practice to open up these conversations as I travel across the church in congregations, small groups, and conferences. I have discovered brooding over betrayal, forgiveness, concepts of God, and surplus property. These uncertainties merit spiritual attention.

The first time someone suggested I offer to serve as Moderator was 30 years ago. I have been seriously contemplating that call with church leaders since, and see that my commitment to theological pastoral leadership would be valuable now.

I am prepared to offer the spiritual leadership that quickens the heart with an awareness of the Divine, that quickens the mind with an openness to curious and constructive thought, and that quickens the community with a desire to draw closer rather than to divide.

I am prepared to lead. I am prepared to listen, pray, and initiate robust fresh conversations about how faith characterizes us and energizes mission. I am prepared to host theological gatherings across our backyard and pull up more chairs to the picnic table.