

**Rev. David Hart**  
**Ordained Minister**  
**Nominated by Halifax Presbytery (Maritime)**

**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**

As indicated earlier, present denominational restructuring is necessitated because of the significant decline in members and resources at the congregational level throughout The United Church of Canada. If elected as Moderator, my foremost priority will be to assist our denomination to reverse this membership and attendance bleed. Allow me to sketch the barest of outlines of a suggested program.

1. Calling for a year of prayer and study to re-ignite the spiritual flames within the United Church!
2. Immediate convening of a cross-Canada delegation of leaders within rural, suburban, and urban ministries to address the UC membership drain.
3. Organization of an *Awakening of Spirit* conference within each new ‘region’ of the UC, to consolidate the new ‘regions,’ reinforce local ‘associations’ of ministers and laity, and renew congregational vision.
4. Establishment of working groups to address the issue of congregational resources required in the next decade, including IT, marketing, and capital resources.
5. Implementation of a full-fledged campaign to recruit young people back into UC ministry.
6. Establishment of a working group to review UC requirements of theological schools regarding preparation for contemporary ministry. Present educational programs are severely deficient.

I have spent the past 25 years working with an amazing team of people focusing precisely on the issue of congregational vitality and renewal! At this critical juncture in UC history, we need leadership to support our congregations that possesses vision, concrete proposals, and results-oriented management ability. I refuse to believe that decline is inevitable! Together with Spirit, we can rebuild the UC!