

**Rev. Donalee Williams**

**Ordained Minister**

**Nominated by Yellowhead 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**

I believe nourishing and practicing Holy Delight is a priority for The United Church of Canada in this time of change that can be traumatic, and that can tempt us to hunker down and focus on survival. In Proverbs 8, Wisdom speaks of herself as God’s first creation who works and plays with the Creator and “is daily God’s delight.” As Moderator, I would call the entire church into a daily spiritual practice of exploring how we delight in God and how God delights in us. And, affirming Wisdom’s call at the crossroads, I would also call the church to a spiritual practice of daily repentance: to seek, in joyful humility, the myriad ways of justice that is God’s delight. I would encourage us to share and connect through these stories, which I believe can lead to healing, trauma recovery, reconciliation, and a recognition of abundance that our church needs.

I would also prioritize living into the Caretakers’ Calls to the Church, UNDRIP, and the TRC recommendations to the churches, as well as awkward conversations about privilege (white, male, settler, straight, able-bodied) in our church. I would encourage these steps and these conversations in every community of faith and circle of governance to engage individual and systemic privilege, which I see as “sin that clings so closely” (Hebrews 12:1).

I believe we must engage this challenging work with joyful and faithful persistence that is mindful to the delighting and delightful Spirit who shows up in the most unexpected ways.