

Rev. Dr. Martha ter Kuile

Ordained Minister

Nominated by Toronto South East Presbytery (Toronto)

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

The Moderator carries the pain and the joy of the church, as the church carries the pain and joy of the world. The main task of the Moderator is to love the people of the United Church: to pray with them; to befriend and encourage, and cajole when necessary; and to nurture the bonds that make us a *united* church.

The next Moderator will have to navigate the waters of unprecedented change in the United Church. In this triennium, marshalling the church’s resources of faith and hope, as Moderator I would address these areas as priorities:

1. The changing church. We know we aren’t what we used to be—a different church is emerging in the Canadian landscape and with partners around the world. We need to clarify our faith, finding new ways to explore and talk about the faith we have. We must commit to continuous reformation—on race, on gender, on ability, on class, on right relations—so that we walk our talk on diversity. We must raise our voice—offering insight, solidarity, and leadership in the public forum.
2. New Structure. Serving as chair of the Denominational Council and Executive (and chief encourager of Regions and Office of Vocation!), the Moderator will play a key role in getting the wheels under our new structure.
3. Indigenous Church. Living into a different relationship with the Indigenous Church, this Moderator will establish the listening tone and respectful mutuality as we learn the new path together.