

Rev. Wanda Stride

Ordained Minister

Nominated by Kawartha Highlands Presbytery (Bay of Quinte 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

While I hesitate to name priorities before General Council has come together, I believe there is an opportunity for us to frame all this work, energy, and commitment to the nuts and bolts of restructuring (if the remits pass), with a powerful pastoral presence. By that, I mean having an opportunity to support each other as we engage the internal work, all the while responding to the outward call of Christ.

I see a growing need for pastoral care on a national level. Over and over I’ve heard people say they want to belong to something that is larger than their own little church. They want to know that their own little church is relevant. They want to feel the comfort of tradition even as we face the challenges of today.

I would love to invite people into conversation: give people a platform both online, and through town hall, face-to-face encounters, where we can wrestle with our faith in a time of great change. Maybe we could do this through national Bible studies, or weekly devotional readings, that create space for artistic responses to sacred texts, to listen to the call of justice in these texts and see a way forward as Christ’s body in our communities. I know my own passion is expressed through music, but what about you? Let’s find a way forward together as a strong, faithful church, a re-imagined United-Church-of-Canada-body-of-Christ.