

STEVEN J. CHAMBERS *DMin*

Interim Director – Theological Field Education
Program Director – Leaders for a New Day, a Lilly Foundation Project

Vancouver School of Theology

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CURRENT

Interim Director of Theological Field Education at Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC. 2019 to present. Currently lead, administer and teach students in the field education streams of the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts in Pastoral and Public Leadership (MAPPL) programs. As a member of faculty, I teach in the area of ministry and community leadership and serve on a variety of committees.

Project Director – Leaders for a New Day. A Pathways for Tomorrow Project funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. Currently leading this reviewing and redesign of the Theological Field Education program at Vancouver School of Theology.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Degree Programs

Doctor of Ministry (1993), Emmanuel College, Victoria University and University of Toronto (conjoint).
Thesis: *The Partnership Conversation: The Contribution of Cross-Cultural Experience to Contemporary Mission Understandings*. Thesis Director: Dr. Roger Hutchinson, Emmanuel College, Victoria University.
D. Min. Seminar Co-ordinators: Dr. Robert Bater, Queen's Theological College, Dr. Jean Stairs, Toronto School of Theology. Studies at Queen's Theological College, Kingston, Ontario; Toronto School of Theology and the United Theological College of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.

Master of Divinity (1983), Emmanuel College, Victoria University, Toronto.
Included Field Education at the Fred Victor Mission, Toronto; Internship at the Neepawa and Area Pastoral Charge, Neepawa, Manitoba; Basic Unit, Supervised Pastoral Education, Toronto Western Hospital.

Bachelor of Arts (1979), Honours History and English, Huron College, University of Western Ontario.

Research

Research Associate (2016 - 2019) Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC. Studying theology, forms, and structures of ministry leadership in The United Church of Canada.

PREVIOUS

Church Related

Congregational Development Minister (part-time), Tai Kong United Church, Vancouver, British Columbia, December 2017 – present.

Contract Investigator, (alleged pastoral misconduct), British Columbia Conference, 2017.

Contract Grant Writing, Vancouver area clients, 2016 – present.

Lead Minister, Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Vancouver, British Columbia, 2011 - 2016.

Lead Minister, Chalmers United Church, Kingston, Ontario, 2006 – 2011.

Executive Minister, Faith Formation and Education / Theology and Faith, The United Church of Canada, 2002 – 2006.

General Secretary, Ministry Personnel and Education, The United Church of Canada, 1998 – 2002.

Minister, Erindale United Church, Mississauga, Ontario, 1994-1998.

Minister, St. James United Church, Simcoe, Ontario, 1986-1994.

Exchange Ministry, Webster Memorial United Church, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Kingston, Jamaica, 1991.

Minister, Riverview United Church, Atikokan, Ontario, 1983-1986.

Researcher and writer, *The United Church Observer*, Summer 1981.

Mentoring and Teaching

“One Ministry: Different Expressions: Ministry in the United Church of Canada as Background to Remit #6” (on moving from multiple expressions of ministry to one order), five workshops throughout British Columbia Conference of The United Church of Canada, Fall 2017.

Sessional Instructor, “United Church of Canada: Polity, Doctrine and Theology,” Vancouver School of Theology, 2016-17.

Mentor, Theological Field Education, Vancouver School of Theology, 2013- 2016.

Sessional Instructor, “Thinking the Faith – Theology and Doctrine in the United Church of Canada,” Vancouver School of Theology, January 2013.

“Mission, Culture and Ecumenism” at Emmanuel College, Victoria University at the University of Toronto, Winter 2006.

Professional Activities

British Columbia Conference Oversight and Discipline Commission. Member, 2016 – present.

Bible Quest Steering Committee. Chair, 2002 – 2003. This North American inter-denominational committee published the Bible Quest curriculum.

Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy. Member, 2000 – 2006. As the United Church’s liaison to the Canadian Forces Chaplaincy, administered the oversight of credentials (including educational preparation) for Ministry Personnel applying to serve in this ministry. As a member of the Interfaith committee, advised the Chaplain General and Minister of National Defence on matters relating to the churches and military chaplaincy. Provided pastoral support to military chaplains through visits to the Chaplain School at CFB Borden and Canadian bases. Visited chaplains and personnel in Bosnia (January 2003).

Canadian Council of Churches. Chairperson, Personnel Committee and member of Executive Committee (*ex officio*), 1999 – 2002. Regularized supervision of ecumenical council staff. Led a major salary structure review. Chaired the council’s General Secretary Search and Selection Committee (2002).

Professional Church Leadership. A collegial group of North American denominational staff with responsibility for the oversight of program work and staff relating to theological education, ministry leadership, continuing education and recruitment to church vocations.

Churches Council for Theological Education (CCTE), Board Member, 1998–2006.

Working Group on the Changing Church, United Church of Canada. Member, 1995 - 1998.

Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM), Chairperson, 1997-1999. A multilateral round table that shares resources and programs in mission. Delegate to annual meetings: Georgetown, Grenada, 1999; Port of Spain, Trinidad, 1998; Kingston, Jamaica, 1997; Havana, Cuba, 1996; Louisville, Kentucky, 1994; St. George's, Grenada, 1993.

Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) 3rd Assembly, Concepcion, Chile, January 1995. Partner delegate.

Jamaican Study Tour, sponsored by Five Oaks Centre (Canada) and Madge Saunders Conference Centre (Jamaica), February 1993. Program leader.

Caribbean Conference of Churches, Fifth Assembly, August 1991, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Partner delegate.

Division of World Outreach, The United Church of Canada. Member-at-large 1990-1998; member of executive, 1992-1998; member of 'Strategic Work' Implementation Team, 1996-1997. Chairperson, Caribbean and Latin America Area Committee, 1993-1998; member 1990-1998.

The United Church of Canada. Commissioner, 37th General Council (2000-Toronto), 32nd General Council (1988-Victoria).

Theological Students Conference, World Council of Churches, Sixth Assembly. Vancouver, 1983. Media liaison.

The United Church of Canada. Media Liaison, 29th General Council (Montreal, 1980) and 30th General Council (Morden, MB., 1982).

PUBLICATIONS

"Doctrine of Ministry in The United Church: Design Or Default?" *Touchstone: Theology Shaping Witness* Vol. 37, No. 3. October 2019.

"A Fond Farewell," *The United Church Observer*, July/August 2018.

Book Review, *Lessons from Laodicea: Missional Leadership in a Culture of Affluence.* Ross A. Lockhart. (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2016) in *Touchstone: Theology Shaping Witness*, Vol. 36, Number 1, February 2018.

"Renewal of Baptismal Faith in the United Church: Confirmation as Gift, Call, Community" in L. Alfano, N. Boelles, R. Garland, eds., *Leap of Faith: A Confirmation Resource.* United Church Publishing House, 2004.

"Mission and Ministry," Books of Interest, *Toronto Journal of Theology*, Volume 13, Number 2, Fall 1997, 251-255.

"Finding Common Perspectives: Canadian and Jamaican Retreat Centres," *The United Church Observer*, November, 1991.

Co-author with Michael Beacom, "Twins In Faith," *Exchange* (The United Church of Canada), Winter, 1991.

Contributor, *Voices and Visions: 65 Years of The United Church of Canada.* United Church Publishing House, 1990. Winner, International Book Publishers' Award for religious publication, 1990.

"Twin Brother, Twin Sister," *Mandate* (The United Church of Canada), October 1988.

"All in the Family," *Mandate* (The United Church of Canada), January/February 1988.

This Is Your Church: A Guide to the Beliefs, Policies and Positions of The United Church of Canada. Third edition: United Church Publishing House, 1993. Second edition: Canec Publishing and Supply House, 1987. First edition: United Church Observer, 1982.

"The Canadian Methodist Magazine: A Victorian Forum For New Scientific and Theological Ideas," *The Bulletin*, The United Church Archives, No. 30, 1983-84.

Researcher, *The Least of These: A Christian Journalist's Perspective on the World Refugee Crisis*, by Hugh McCullum. *United Church Observer*, 1982.

24-Aug-22