

The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short

When Peter Short meets with University Hill Congregation in February, he comes as a pastor with a breadth of experience, a scholar, a church administrator, a former elected Moderator of The United Church of Canada, a spiritual guide and mentor, and as a friend.

Peter was born in Kingston, Ontario, July 22, 1948, growing up in the village of Braeside on the Ottawa River. He graduated from Toronto's Emmanuel College and was ordained by Maritime Conference in 1978. During his 25 years of ministry, he served congregations on the Gaspé Coast, the Northwest Territories, the suburbs of Montreal, and most recently in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Throughout his ministry Peter also served in a variety of volunteer positions at all levels of the church, including being a member of the Executive of the Department of Stewardship Services (1993-1998), the chair of the Moderator's Advisory Committee for the Very Reverend Bill Phipps (1997-2000) and as the chair of the Business Committee of the Executive of General Council (2000-2002). His experience includes working and learning from First Nations people, and serving as civilian chaplain in the Department of National Defence.

In August 2003 Peter was elected as Moderator, the highest office in the United Church, in which he served until his term ended in 2006. (By the way, that is why Peter is referred to as the "Very" Rev., a title reserved for former, ordained Moderators.)

Since his term as Moderator, Peter has been more well-known across the church as a spiritual guide and mentor, working primarily with small groups of church leaders and individuals on being well-grounded in the Christian call. He is also a popular instructor and theme speaker.

Describing himself as "a recovering introvert", Peter enjoys canoe tripping and likes to bake his own bread, build canoes and play the guitar. He is married to Susan (Crawford), a teacher, Christian Educator, homemaker and volunteer. Much of their life together has revolved around the raising of four children, Robert, Emily Christine and Greg.

Through his long association with the church in BC and, in particular, with VST, Ed Searcy and Doug Goodwin, Peter also comes to us as a welcome, trusted friend.