

(The Rev.) **Robert John Shearer** (he/him)

www.robshearer.org • rob@robshearer.org

*Christ-centred, Justice-committed, Contemplative; a lover of Jesus Christ, the Church, creation and diverse peoples!
Ordained United Church Clergy + Liturgist / Preacher + Organizer + Musician + Dreamer + Tech Savvy*

I'm an affirming settler, committed to anti-oppression, who is living, working, praying and playing on lands stolen from the Nations now known as the T'Sou-ke Nation (my home) and the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, the Lək'wəŋən peoples'. Committed to land back.
I currently live and work in or near the Wright Road Creek and Nott Brook (Sooke, BC) and Rock Bay and Bowker Creek (Victoria, BC) Watersheds.

Selected Vocational Experience

Pacific Mountain Council – United Church of Canada, BC 2017-present – Regional Minister - Church Planting

- Responsible for '[new communities where Christian Faith is nourished and discipleship practiced](#)'; Currently over a dozen diverse new UCC communities of faith in PMRC including Weird Church, Becoming Church, Sanctuary on 6th, Wild Church, Feast and Fallow Social Enterprise Café, Zimbabwe Methodist United, and Creative Community.
- Sustainability and budget planning for new communities of faith
- Oversight of the granting committee for new communities of faith
- Supervision and/or mentoring of planters and Theological Field Ed. Student
- Production and co-host of [Vocare Podcast](#) to tell stories of call; especially for those on edges of church
- Developing models of church in shared and / or surplus buildings
- Development of models to hold and foster new Communities of Faith in The United Church of Canada
- Primary planner / organizer of Resurrect Learning Parties in 2018 and [2023](#)
- [?aps ciik cha chim hiy ap / Making it Right](#) (Pacific Mountain Region) Regional Council representative to listening group for survivors of UCC-run Alberni Indian Residential School – meeting monthly in Port Alberni
- Engaging in integration of migrant and diasporic communities in the Pacific Mountain Regional Council

The Emmaus Community & The AbbeyChurch, Victoria BC 2014-present - Co-Founder of and Clergy

- Co-founder and co-leader - The Emmaus Community (www.emmauscommunity.ca) and the AbbeyChurch (www.abbeychurch.ca); both are an ecumenical shared ministry of the UCC and ACC; member, Voluntary Associate Minister and musician
- Regular (monthly or more) preaching, liturgical support, musical leadership
- Responsible for communications, visioning, grant writing, visioning co-op housing and assisting in development of budgets for this new community of faith

The United Church of Canada - Committee Experience

- [Strengthening Invitation Committee](#) (GCO Strategic Plan) 2022-2023
- Strategize around future UCC ways of strengthening congregations and welcoming including 100 diverse new UCC communities of faith. 5.2 team
- Faith Formation Committee (GCO) 2017-2020 • Develop Faith Formation resources for the wider church
- New Ministries Steering Committee (EDGE/GCO) 2019-2022
- Advise EDGE / UCC Foundation on funding of New Ministries through various granting streams. Meet virtually a couple of times yearly

St. Philip Anglican Church, Oak Bay BC 2012-2016 - Community Life Minister

- Responsible for youth ministries (20+ youth), music coordination, web design, preaching, technology at a [suburban church](#) plus leadership of Taizé and founder of 'Bluegrass Mass'

The Jeremiah Community, Toronto ON 2008 to 2012 - Co-Founder and Community Life Minister

- Responsible for co-founding and leading the Jeremiah Community in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto as a licensed lay missionary

Parkdale Neighbourhood Church (now "[The Dale](#)"), Toronto ON 2001 to 2012 - Board Chair / Music Leader

- Team member running drop-ins and worship with folks and chairing the board of a 'street church'

Wine Before Breakfast, Toronto ON

2005 to 2009 - Music Director and Liturgist

- Responsible for music and liturgy for a weekly early-morning [inclusive communion service](#) (Anglican / CRC)

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, Toronto ON 2006 to 2008 - Youth Initiative Coordinator

- Responsible for the youth initiative for the Canadian Anglican agency for relief, development, refugees and justice (now Alongside Hope) including developing branding, resource development for youth and young adults, run youth council, help at justice camp, Mexico delegation to meet with global partners, Bishop Ruis

The Canadian Council of Churches, Toronto ON

2004 to 2007 - Nidus 2006 Festival Coordinator

- Founded, fundraised, and coordinated an ecumenical faith, arts and justice festival with HIV and AIDS theme with 1000 attendees, 30 exhibitors, 30 artists, 15 worship events and 12 speakers while networking with diverse Christian, arts / justice groups, and the 20 member churches of the CCC

The Toronto [Catholic Worker Community](#), Toronto, ON

2001 to 2006 - Zacchaeus House

- Live in a Catholic Worker house of hospitality with those in need of transitional housing
- Engage in non-violent grassroots peace and social justice action
- Published "Out of Hand" 'zine

Bellefair (now "[Beach](#)") United Church, Toronto, ON

2002 to 2004 - Christian Education Minister

- Led in a team-ministry context who led innovative Sunday School, youth group, pulpit supply, initiated an alternative fresh expression of worship (spiritfuXion) and led youth on pilgrimage to the UK exploring Methodist and Congregationalist roots of their faith, as well as attending Greenbelt Festival and Taizé with the youth

Education and Certifications

The United Church of Canada - Ordained Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care

- Admission into The United Church of Canada June 2024. Completed Boundaries, Anti-Racism training, Admissions Ministers Certificate (United / Dio Montreal) and required coursework for admission into The UCC (VST). Letter received from Office of Vocation November 1, 2023 and admitted June 2, 2024

Anglican Ordination and Diocesan Work 2008 (licensed lay) / 2016 (deacon) / 2018 (priest)

- Ordained as a transitional Deacon in the Anglican Church of Canada, at Victoria, BC in July 2016 and as Priest in July 2018 – licensed as clergy to a shared United Church / Anglican Church ministry since 2016 by Anglican Bishop of Diocese of BC. Anglican lay missionary since 2008 (Toronto / BC)
- Co-chaired the Diocesan Vision Team (DVT) and co-wrote 2014-2018 Vision Plan
- Bishop's Advisor on Emerging Communities (2016-2020)

The Vancouver School of Theology - Master of Arts in Public and Pastoral Leadership (2019)

- Courses previously taken at TST and AST transferred to VST
- Recipient of Promise for Public and Pastoral Ministry Scholarship.
- Recipient of Proficiency in Ministry Award
- Recipient of Chancellor's Scholarship
- Recipient of Frederick Buechner Prize for Excellence in Preaching
- Additional Coursework in United Church History and Ethos (2023) for Admission into UCC

University of Toronto (1993-1998) - B.A., Honours w distinction, Double Major English & Religious Studies

- Development of strong writing and editing skills
- Ecological and feminist religious expressions, Christian social ethics, history of Christianity in Canada and globally, World religions, especially Islam, Buddhism
- Novels, poetry, short story, creative writing. post-colonial writing

Other Certifications

- Naloxone Training (Cool Aid Society) 2021
- Mental Health and Addictions Certificate (ShelterNet BC) 2017
- Assessment as team church planter with high ratings (Anglican Diocese of Toronto) 2008

Additional Skills

- Grant writing, budgeting, social enterprise development and assessment tools for emerging / fresh expressions of Church / church planting, connection with ecumenical networks around planting
- Training in non-violent practices and communications, anti-oppression, anti-racism
- Proficient with computer and office technologies including MS Suite, Internet Browsers, Basic HTML, cPanel, website interfaces, major social networking tools, audio mixing and recording (Cubase, Ableton, etc), livestreaming (OBS, Wirecast, Vimeo, etc) , zoom, podcasting (Apple, Spotify, etc), video editing (Wondershare, etc). Have worked within Church Hub and call / appointment forms in UCC applications
- Informal spiritual accompaniment / direction; trained in in-parish Ignatian accompaniment and completed Annotation 19 of the Ignatian Spiritual exercises (2022). In active spiritual direction (2001-present)
- Fluent in English. Very basic conversational French (High School)

Selected Publishing and Interview History

- Publications or interviews in Touchstone Journal (2025), Clowns of God 'Zine (2025), Un-tied Methodism Podcast (2025), FaithTides / BC Anglican (2022), Church for Vancouver (2022), New Leaf Blog (2018-2020), The United Church Observer / United Church (2016), Glad Tidings / Presbyterian (2017) Geez Magazine (2005 and 2012), The Anglican (2007, 2009, 2010), Baptist Peacemaker (2004), Christian Week (2006), Catholic Register (2006), K-W Record (2006), OMNI TV (2005), Democracy Now (2005), Salt and Light Television (2004), Affirm United (2001), Fellowship Magazine (2001), CBC radio (2002), NOW Magazine (2002), Seed and Sowers (Winter 2001) UofT Varsity newspaper (1998). Chapters in several books.
- Currently working on writing on Methodism, revivalism, Connexionalism, sacramentalism, responses to housing crisis, 'collapse', poly-crises, spiritual trauma and deconstruction.

Additional Experience

- Pulpit supply at over 10+ United Church congregations in recent years - and also ecumenically
- Resource person, musician and speaker for numerous United Church and ecumenical events
- Delegate on global solidarity trips to Togo, West Africa (World Student Christian Federation, 2001) and Mexico (PWRDF - Anglican justice relief and development, 2007)
- Paid student chaplain in UCC-funded campus ministries / SCM / Solidarity Summers (1993-2001)
- Youth minister in rural UCC Flesherton Pastoral Charge (late 1990s) - experience in ethos of rural pastoral charges (first preaching experiences)
- Active in non-violent justice movements against colonialism, militarization, ecological destruction (1990s-present)

Spiritual Practices

- Pray the Daily Office (morning and evening prayer or compline) either in community or alone, daily
- In ongoing Spiritual Direction since 2001 until present
- Regular practices of praise and worship through song and in God's creation
- Regular participation in Holy Communion / Eucharist
- Follow Rule of Life of the Emmaus Community; commitments to prayer, presence and simplicity

Fun

Baking, writing, hiking and urban wandering, beer brewing, making and recording eclectic music, Vinyl record collecting, genealogy, cooking, reading and watching Nordic Noir mysteries