

(The Rev.) **Rob Shearer** (he/him)

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*Passionate, energetic, Christ-centred, affirming, justice-seeking  
leader and minister in The United Church of Canada*

## Vocational Experience

**Pacific Mountain Regional Council – The United Church of Canada.** 2017-present - full time since 2020  
Regional Minister for Church Planting / New UCC Communities

- Responsible for ‘[new communities where Christian Faith is nourished and discipleship practiced](#)’; Currently over a dozen diverse emerging UCC communities of faith in PMRC including [Weird Church](#), [AbbeyChurch](#) and [the Emmaus Community](#), Glory United (Hong Konger Church), [Becoming Church](#), [Wild Church](#), [Feast and Fallow](#) (Social Enterprise Café), [Zimbabwe Methodist United](#), Pemberton UCC and [Courageous Community](#), [Filipino United Methodist Churches](#)
- In ongoing conversation with various migrant / diasporic and post-evangelical communities about joining the UCC; authored resources about joining the UCC
- Sustainability and budget planning for new communities of faith
- Oversight of the Church Plant Granting Team for new communities of faith
- Supervision and/or mentoring of all regional planters / starters and Theological Field Ed. student
- Production and co-host of the [Vocare Podcast](#) to tell stories of call; especially for those on the ‘edges of the inside of the church’
- Developing models in shared and / or surplus buildings for new and existing congregations
- Demographic analysis of contexts to determine need for new communities
- Development of models to hold and foster new Communities of Faith in The United Church of Canada as well as welcome migrant and affirming evangelical communities into the UCC
- Primary planner / organizer of Resurrect Learning Parties in 2018 and [2023](#) and (planned) 2026
- [?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

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

- Co-founder and co-leader - [The Emmaus Community](#) and [the AbbeyChurch](#); both of which are an ecumenical shared ministry of The United Church of Canada and The Anglican Church of Canada
- UCC Voluntary Associate Minister and musician - 2020-present - and part-time, paid accountable minister from 2015-2020
- Regular (monthly or more) preaching, liturgical support, musical leadership, stewardship development (PAR, etc)
- Responsible for communications, formation, visioning, grant writing, visioning co-op housing and assisting in development of budgets for this new community of faith in early years

**The United Church of Canada**

Committee Experience

- [Strengthening Invitation Committee](#) member (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  
Creation of 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.

- 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 'missioner'
- Parkdale Neighbourhood Church (now "[The Dale](#)"), Toronto ON** 2001 to 2012  
Board Chair / Drop-in Organizer / Music Leader
- Team member running drop-ins and worship and board chair 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](#)
- 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, running youth council, justice camp participation, Mexico delegation to meet with global partners, Bishop Ruis, visit indigenous communities
- 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 Canadian Council of Churches
  - Presenters / Artists included Shad, Susan Aglukark, Steve Bell, Danielson, Starflyer, Frederica Mathewes-Greene, Brian McLaren, Shane Claiborne, James Loney and many others.
- The Toronto [Catholic Worker Community](#), Toronto, ON** 2001 to 2006  
Catholic Worker at (ecumenical) Zacchaeus House
- Live in a Catholic Worker house of hospitality with those in need of transitional housing and meals and access to a food pantry
  - Engage in non-violent peace and social justice action
  - Social enterprise such as the "Food for the Masses" bakery
  - 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 / Credentials

### The United Church of Canada - Ordained Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care June 2024

- Admitted to Ordained Ministry in The United Church of Canada
- Completed Boundaries, Anti-Racism training, Admissions Ministers Certificate (United / Dio Montreal) and required coursework for admission into The UCC (VST)

### Anglican Ordination and Diocesan Work 2008 - licensed lay missionary / 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 “Renewed Hearts, Renewed Minds, Renewed Spirits” which laid out a plan for the renewal of parishes and the wider culture of the church in the Diocese of BC
- Bishop’s Advisor on Emerging Communities (2016-2020)
- Consultant for [Vital Congregations Initiative](#) in Diocese of Toronto and trained as resource person for [Natural Church Development](#), [Narrative Budget creation](#), demographic and contextual analysis (census, mapping, storytelling, data) (2008-2012)

### 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 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 and Buddhism
- Novels, poetry, short story, creative writing, post-colonial writing in English

### 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

## Skills, Publishing, Experience

### Additional Skills and Languages

- Grant writing, budgeting, social enterprise development and assessment tools for emerging / fresh expressions of Church / church planting, connection with 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, Adobe Suite, etc). Have worked within Church Hub and call / appointment forms in UCC applications. Developed my own website - [robshearer.org](#)
- Informal spiritual accompaniment / direction; trained in in-parish Ignatian accompaniment and completed Annotation 19 of the Ignatian Spiritual exercises (2022).
- Fluent in English. Very basic conversational French (High School)

## Selected Publishing and Interview History

- Publications, features or interviews in [Touchstone Journal](#) (2025), [Clowns of God 'Zine](#) (2025), [Un-tied Methodism Podcast](#) (2025), [FaithTides / BC Anglican](#) (2022), Times-Colonist, Vic BC ([2023](#), [2016](#), [2013](#)) [Church for Vancouver](#) (2022), [CitiGate Vancouver](#) (2021), [New Leaf Blog](#) (2018-2020), The Anglican Journal ([2018](#) and [2018](#)), The United Church Observer (2016, [2018](#)), 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). Chapter in [The Soul of the City: Mapping the Spiritual Geography of Eleven Canadian Cities](#)

## Additional Experience

- Pulpit supply at over 10+ United Church congregations in recent years
- Resource person, musician and speaker for numerous United Church and ecumenical events – including the upcoming [Whitehorse Worship Arts Festival](#) (July 2026)
- Recent sermons recorded for Good Faith Media's [A Sermon For Every Sunday](#) (December 2025, March 2026, April 2026) - as well as on and [Together We Worship](#) (October 2025)
- Speaker at Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI on renewal of the church (September 2018)
- 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 Flesherton Pastoral Charge (late 1990s) - experience in ethos of rural pastoral charges and first preaching experiences
- Active in non-violent and faith-based justice movements against colonialism, militarization, ecological destruction (1990s-present)

## Spirituality and Recreation

### Spiritual Practices

- Pray the Daily Office - morning prayer and compline - either in community or alone
- In monthly Spiritual Direction from 2001 until present
- Yearly silent prayer retreat in a monastic setting
- Regular participation in the life and sacraments of The United Church and ecumenically
- Practice the monastic-inspired, contemplative [Rule of Life](#) of the Emmaus Community; with intentional commitments to *prayer, presence and simplicity*

### Recreation

- baking, cooking, writing, hiking and urban wandering, pilgrimage, beer brewing, making and recording eclectic music, vinyl record collecting, family genealogy, reading and watching 'Nordic Noir' mysteries and watching standup comedy specials

Please see my personal website [www.robshearer.org](http://www.robshearer.org) for a more extended biography, as well as for recent sermons and writings