

Gaylene Jacobs-Saulteaux

Year Commissioned

Gaylene was commissioned in 1995

Program of Formation

She studied for five years at the Francis Sandy Theological Centre (FSTC).

What called you to Diaconal Ministry?

Before attending FSTC, she became involved in the Ontario/Quebec Regional Council and the Native Presbytery. She was on the MP&E Committee representing the All Native Circle Conference and on the National DMC also before attending Francis Sandy Centre. While on the Development Committee in 1987 she worked along with Glenys Huws to plan the program of study – the training module that Francis Sandy uses today. She also served at the National level to explain why this course of study was necessary. As a volunteer in the church doing the work of the church for many years, Gaylene decided to obtain more learning as she followed her call into ministry with formal studies.

Describe some of your experiences of ministry

Her ministry has involved the practical work of Christian Education and arranging annual retreats while she was at FSTC. She received Presbytery training and then offered workshops in native congregations on church structure and All Native Council Structure. She has been very active in Christian education workshops for both the children and their teachers. While she was studying for ministry, she had a placement, which offered training within the court system. Being with people is what gives her the most satisfaction. Her work in teaching and equipping them has empowered many people to become more active in the church. In her ministry the building up of the community is very important. She strives towards developing a feeling of family.

How I explain Diaconal Ministry to others ...

Gaylene believes that diaconal ministry is working with people to educate and it is also providing needs and services and pastoral care that is empowering to the people.

She lives on Walpole Island, her home reserve in Wallaceburg, Ontario.

Written: 12 December 2005