

Betty Marlin



Year Commissioned

Lakeview United Church, Regina, SK , May 1961.

Program of Formation

Two year program at the United Church Training School [Centre for Christian Studies] from 1959 to 1966, as well as my continued learning in working and planning with others and continuing education opportunities. I often felt that my initial years of formation were simply the beginning of growth in understanding and practice of ministry.

What called you to Diaconal Ministry?

My experience in CGIT and my work in leadership with Explorer and CGIT groups.

Describe some of your experiences of ministry

Diaconal Ministry has been for me one of opportunity and challenge with a wide variety of experiences in local congregational, Presbytery, Conference and international personnel ministry. Work in the area of social action and service or justice work was a rich experience as I worked with people interested in a wide variety of social justice issues. My final eleven years of formal ministry in teaching/learning at Colleges in Canada and a College in Zambia have been most challenging and rewarding. My work in the area of pastoral care and work with people who had been abused continue to provide satisfaction and continued challenge.

None of this has been without trial and tribulation and recognition that not everything in which I was engaged, proved to be worth the time and effort involved. And there is also the amount of administration and/or "hum-drum" work that was always necessary to the ministries in which I was engaged. I would not say that this was a burden, simply another challenge presented.

How I explain Diaconal Ministry to others ...

Diaconal Ministry is primarily a facilitative, empowering style of leadership that works toward justice and equity for all people [women, men and children], with a particular focus on those who are disenfranchised in anyway, including oneself and the particular group with which one is working.

What gives you the most satisfaction, reward, sense of fulfilment from the ministry you do?

Seeing other people become confident in themselves and their ability, eager and willing to grow in their Biblical and theological understanding of justice/love and in their leadership abilities either as members of a group, leaders in the church or as leaders in ministry.

Photo taken 2002