

## Sylvia Hamilton



### **Year Commissioned**

I was commissioned at Toronto Conference Annual Meeting in 1979.

### **Program of Formation**

I was in the Core Program at the Centre for Christian Studies part time for five years while I continued to work in C.E. at Eglinton United Church in Toronto.

### **What called you to Diaconal Ministry?**

I did feel called by God to a more committed role in the church after 30 years teaching Sunday School. The call was a remarkable

experience!!!

### **Describe some of your experiences of ministry**

There are many experiences – beginning a 'singles group' with support from another Centre student, teacher training events, working in a team situation with wonderful colleagues, working outside the box – preaching and doing liturgy and doing a one year solo position. I worked hard on social justice issues - the war in Sudan, raising awareness around homosexuality, bringing in special speakers, writing letters, most in support of Aung San Suu Kyi and Amnesty International's "Prisoner of Conscience", selling Fair Trade coffee. During my last year at the Centre I had memorable experiences at the Vanier Womens' Prison in Brampton, Ontario

### **How I explain Diaconal Ministry to others ...**

How I explain Diaconal Ministry – simple – education, social justice and pastoral care – especially working in a team situation and there focusing on these issues. Sometimes Diaconal ministers work on their own in congregations or outreach ministries.

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

I have been retired (for the second time) for five years – in the last few working years I did a lot of work with seniors, visiting and planning programs. This was very satisfying as one learns more about being a senior. I learned about the formation and ongoing support of a pastoral care team and this was so important and even compelling as we assigned visitors to our seniors and then came back together for check in. Twice a year we brought as many seniors as possible to the church for worship and afternoon tea. It was wonderful!

I worked nearly 20 years at Eglinton United and then for shorter periods at Windermere Avenue, Runnymede and Royal York Road in the west end of Toronto. Now I am an Honorary Associate Minister at Windermere Avenue.

**25 January 2009**