

# Parkdale United Church

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building connections · living faith · acting for justice

May 15, 2022

Dear friends.

First off, I want to thank all of you for your many cards, emails, and kind words regarding my ordination. It was truly a special moment that I will remember for the rest of my life; the Spirit's joy overflowed within me. The service is posted on our website if you would like to watch it: <https://parkdaleunitedcalgary.net/news-events/>

I had a very enriching weekend at the Chinook Winds Regional Gathering. The conference topic was "The Theological Banquet," based on the book by Janet Gear. Janet breaks down our community of faith into five categories: Evangelical, Ecclesial, Missional, Ecumenical, and Spiritual. These are five distinct ways in which our beliefs shape the choices we make with our lives, in response to God's grace and call.

To put it another way, each of us connects to the church in different ways, and these ways nurture our spiritual lives. Once we understand our own way, then we can begin to see and understand how others connect to the church. We need all of the varied parts to build a strong community. We need people who are passionate about Jesus and eager to share the good news. We need people eager to serve their church in every way possible; people dedicated to working outside of the church; people committed to social justice; and people who are fulfilled through contemplation. Without all of these streams, we would not be able to grow physically or spiritually. I think it is important for us to realize that we all connect to the church differently, and we are all nurtured differently. As your minister, this information will help me guide you towards fulfillment. I hope to offer a book study on this topic in the coming months; please let me know if you are interested.

Blessings,

Kim Holmes-Younger  
Minister, Parkdale United Church