

## PROFILE – ADMISSION

**Christopher St. George Davis**



***A Journey to Ministry in the United Church of Canada  
Christopher St. George Davis  
Deloraine Melita Tilston Pastoral Charge***

I was born in Kingston the capital city of Jamaica on November 20, 1968. I never knew my biological family and I was told much later that my biological mother fled the hospital after giving birth to me. Some would say that it was quite an inauspicious start to one's life. I was taken from a childcare facility in Kingston to live with an elderly couple in rural Jamaica. My new mom was an elementary teacher nearing retirement and her husband was a small farmer and bus driver. Importantly for me this couple had the means and the love to nurture me into life. It was their ardent faith that led me primarily along the Christian path as a young boy into adulthood. One could say I grew up in the Church. My father was the organist, and my mother was a chorister, and they were both Board members of the Church for many years. It was this dedication and love for God that fueled my interest in becoming a committed Christian and deepening my desire to serve God in a more personal and meaningful way. One final piece of the puzzle so to speak was the influence of my uncle who was at the time a Methodist minister on the north coast of Jamaica. I admired him deeply and decided from about the age of ten that I wanted to be a minister just like my uncle.

As a young man I became a teacher and found great joy in this profession. It did not escape the notice of many how pastoral I seemed to be as a teacher and after seeing both my parents die my life turned dramatically to pastoral ministry. I entered seminary in 1997 and graduated in 2001. I was then ordained on April 10, 2002 into the fulltime ministry of the Moravian Church in Jamaica, the Church in which I was nurtured from childhood. I soon learned that this was not to be the end of my journey. In April 2015 after much soul searching and prayer, I applied to enter ministry in the United Church of Canada. There were two core things that led up to this momentous decision for me. First, I had now become a family man, which meant that securing my family's well-being was of great importance to me. Secondly my own theological reflection was leading me to see many things differently from the Moravian Church. I saw in the United Church of Canada a Church committed to diversity, a Church that recognized the need to champion the cause of the marginalized and is making real effort to deal with the challenging issues of race relations, sexual orientation, and climate change. These are all important issues to me. This is a Church that not only acknowledges its past and even present failures in these areas but has shown that it is theologically right and important to actively seek to do something about it.

I have formed many wonderful relationships since coming into the United Church of Canada as I found many persons greatly supportive of my family and me. My wife has been truly my strength and source of motivation. I cannot thank God enough for giving us the blessing of sharing life together for all of sixteen years. I thank her for continuing to inspire and challenge me to be the best for the Lord.

My children too have been my joy and everything I do is about making them realize their own potential in life. I thank them for the love they continue to give me. I cannot end without noting the invaluable support in the early stage of my application process of Rev. David Timpson the then Conference Minister of the Bay of Quinte Conference and his wife Rev. Brenda Timpson.

Lastly, but by no means least the friendship and support of Rev. Heather Sandilands the Pastoral Charge Supervisor and Rev. Rolanda Taylor of the St. Paul's United Boissevain my mentor to my family and I have been incalculable in this process. I thank them and thank God for allowing me to have the honor of having such good support. There have been other persons who have been invaluable to my adjustment to life in Canada and the United Church who would prefer to remain anonymous but whose contributions have been vital to my journey. I close by thanking the Deloraine Melita Tilston Pastoral Charge whose love and support has been unwavering. I look forward to this journey together with them in the service of our God.

