

PROFILES – ORDINAND, COMMISSIONAND and ADMITTAND

**Damber Khadka
(Ordinand)**

It's a great honor to share a few words with my beloved church today, and I want to thank God for allowing me to make these special remarks during this auspicious occasion.

I was born and grew up in a small Himalayan country, Bhutan. After living as a refugee for two decades in Eastern Nepal, my family and I came to Winnipeg in 2009 under a third-country resettlement process. Since then, Knox United in Winnipeg has become my home church. Even though I was an ordained minister within the Baptist denomination in 2003, it didn't take me long to emerge into the UCC community. Though there were apparent differences within each member, I could still feel connected and belonging. During my discerning years, I was actively involved in the church's life and shared lay ministry whenever required. The pathway to ministry seemed very complicated then, especially for the immigrants whose institutions might not have credentials with Canadian universities. In 2018, I attended the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, Nova Scotia, for my Master of Divinity degree. This was my first exposure to formal theological education in Canada. Rev. Bill Millar accompanied me throughout my admission process.

My passion for serving in the United Church of Canada was primarily driven by its broader vision of expanding ministry through its liberation theology which is also my fundamental perspective in my ministry. As the church is constantly evolving and reforming itself with both theory and praxis to be inclusive and affirming while pursuing justice and proclamation of word and sacraments, the church is also striving to listen to the voices of each one from the diversity of life those who are committed to God's work. I am convinced that ministry in a post-modern world has both joys and challenges; a few of many would deal with diverse cultures and secularism. Nonetheless, we will continue to pray for reconciliation and reformation.

My special indebtedness to those who stood with me is wider in scale. Firstly, I want to thank Knox United Church, Winnipeg, the congregation, and the governing body for their prayerful support in being my learning site and allowing me to walk with you and learn great wisdom from you. Knox United and its members made a tremendous impact on my faith journey. My sincere thanks go to my ministry partners and mentors: Rev. Bill Millar, Rev. Lesley Harrison, Rev. Caryn Douglas, Rev. Patrick Woodbeck, and Rev. Ken DeLisle; thank you for your continued spiritual support and guidance. The Lay Supervision Team has given their time and ideas generously. I am grateful to Joyce Allen for chairing the team for the whole session during my candidacy journey.

Special thanks go to the entire body of the Atlantic School of Theology, including professors, colleagues, and other staff, for seeing in me and encouraging me to be better. Your support means more to me than I can express. I am grateful for the community at Valley Pastoral Charge. This three-point charge community has seen in me their priest, shepherd, and fellow traveler in their journey of faith, as I have been fortunate to serve these communities since 2022. Thanks to all for being there for me when I needed you the most.



**Patricia Chabluk
(Commissionand)**

I was born in Winnipeg Manitoba on March 30, 1959. I am one of five siblings. We moved out to the area northeast of Oakbank MB when I was 12 years old, and I've lived within 2 miles of my parents' home ever since. We grew up in a family environment where my mother lived with MS and during my younger years, my dad's job had him travelling during the week. The result was the five of us learned how important family was to help you through both good and hard times.

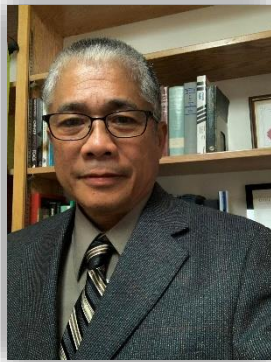
I have been married to my childhood sweetheart, Tony, for 44 years this July. We have been blessed with our son David and his partner Leslie, and in October we will welcome our first grandchild, Boston. They are my support system and I thank God every day for them.

My mother was very open to the idea of finding the religion that spoke to you. As a result of this over my early years I was able to experience different denominations such as Christian Science, Anglican, Ukrainian Greek Orthodox, and the United Church. I choose the United Church in my late teens and have been involved ever since. As a young adult living in the country, I began attending Oakbank United Church. I was married here and baptized. I became involved in the choir, Fellowship Committee, Christian Education Committee (chairperson), Unified Board, and Youth Minister Hiring Committee.

I began volunteering at the Presbytery level in 2005 working with the youth at various retreats as chaplain and on planning committees. I then became the Co-Adult Advisor for the YAA (Young Adults and Youth) Committee for Conference and worked with our Youth delegates at the Conference's Annual meetings. It was during this time working with the youth that I became the Staff Associate Youth Minister for Oakbank United in the spring of 2006, and one year as Youth Minister for the Selkirk Presbytery. I remained with Oakbank until 2011 when I moved to being the youth minister at Trinity United in Winnipeg where I was already working part-time as the Administrative Assistant. In 2011 I was blessed to travel to Toronto with a group of young adults from Selkirk Presbytery to attend Rendezvous, a Canada-wide gathering of UC youth. Then in 2014 I was part of the planning committee and participated in the 2nd Rendezvous which was held in Winnipeg.

In 2014 I began my studies at Centre of Christian Study in diaconal ministry. As a result of the workload, I gave up my position as Youth minister to concentrate on my studies. In the fall of 2016, I was approved to apply for a ministerial position and began working with the people of St Andrews UC in Keewatin, Ontario, and Lake of the Woods Chapel in Sioux Narrows, Ontario. I have remained with them throughout my years as a student and having now graduated plan to stay with them for at least a couple of more years. The people of these congregations and of Oakbank UC have supported me through my journey and I know they will continue to support me as it continues.

I have been blessed to have been supported by God, Jesus, the Spirit, numerous ministers, lay people, members of my church family, communities, friends, and my own family. In my current position, I have been able to become much more involved in social issues facing people, housing, food, health, climate, or one of the many other issues facing our world today. At the root of all these issues is the need to recognize that all people are God's children, no one is ever abandoned by God, and everyone is loved. Especially important is to remember that God loves us, that we need to love ourselves, and that we must share our love and the love of God with every person, every creature, and all of Creation.



**Noel Suministrado
(Admittand)**

Noel A. Suministrado was born in Tayabas, Quezon, Philippines. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and took his theological studies at Union Theological Seminary, Philippines, and the Master of Ecumenical Studies at Bossey Ecumenical Institute and the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Before he came to Canada, he taught Ecumenical Theology at Union Theological Seminary and was the first minister to be assigned to the Mutual Recognition of Ministry Personnel Agreement program of the UCC. He served Broadway Disciples United Church in Winnipeg for four years and Hamiota United Church, which is his present pastoral charge.

Among his involvements were: the UCC -Roman Catholic Dialogue, the International Dialogue of the Disciples of Christ -Roman Catholic Church, the Commission of Faith and Witness of the Canadian Council of Churches, and is currently a member of Theology Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TICIF) of the United Church of Canada.

He is married to his high school classmate Veronica, blessed with three children, and now a grandfather to six-year-old Liam.

An avid fly fisherman, he loves the call of the outdoors when time permits.
