

**PROFILE- RETIREES****Patricia Chabluk**

My mother encouraged me when I was a youth to seek a faith community where I could feel I belonged. With that support, I visited Protestant, Anglican, and Catholic churches—learning from each tradition and listening for where God might be calling.

At Oakbank United Church, I found a spiritual home: a place to ask questions, grow in faith, and feel accepted for who I was. Over the years, I was married here and baptised along with our son. This church community created a space where inclusion was lived out, and where I was encouraged to learn about other faiths and cultures. Here, I found a community that celebrated people for who God created them to be.

When Oakbank United Church hired a youth minister, I served on the selection committee and volunteered to help with the youth group. After the youth minister's departure, I collaborated with a volunteer team to keep the youth group going. This experience helped me recognize a call to youth ministry. In 2006, I began serving as Youth Minister, supporting youth locally, across Selkirk Presbytery and the Manitoba Northwestern Conference. Here, I worked with the YAAY committee on conference youth retreats and helped strengthen youth events throughout the presbytery.

In 2009, I became Church Administrator at Trinity United Church in Winnipeg, while continuing as Youth Minister at Oakbank United. In 2011, I resigned from Oakbank UC and took on the Youth Minister role at Trinity United, serving there until summer 2016. During these years, I also worked as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader for Selkirk Presbytery.

In 2016, I began serving in Northwestern Ontario for St Andrew's United Church in Keewatin and Lake of the Woods Chapel in Sioux Narrows. While here, I lived in the Keewatin manse while my partner, Tony, maintained our home near Oakbank, Manitoba, with frequent travel between the two communities. Along the way, these congregations supported my continuing education and celebrated in June 2023 at commissioning.

As my ministry developed, I studied through the Centre for Christian Studies in the Diaconal Ministry program. Field placements included pastoral care at Trinity United in Winnipeg, my social justice year, I connected with the UCC Halfway House for Men and completed my field placement for Christian education while serving as a student minister at St Andrew's in Keewatin.

After a significant health interruption in 2018, I returned to ministry and was commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in The United Church of Canada in June 2023. Family and friends gathered to celebrate, along

with friends from the Center of Christian Studies and members and ministers from the churches I had served, Oakbank United Church, Trinity United, St Andrew's United Church, and Lake of the Woods Chapel. I am blessed to have such a wonderful circle of friends who will always be part of who I am.

In 2024, my family and I agreed it was time for me to return to Manitoba. I completed my time in Keewatin and returned to Manitoba in July 2025 without a new congregational appointment. I soon saw another example of how the spirit puts us where we need to be. In late August, Tony had surgery, and I became his caregiver while he recovered. Another example that I should trust where God leads us.

My ministry has been enriched by many people, cultures, and communities. Along the way, there have been Sunday school gatherings and pageants, youth retreats, and study groups, fundraising and fellowship, worship and choir, and the sacred moments of baptisms, weddings, funerals, laughter, and tears. These experiences have shaped my life and service.

Recently, a member of my home congregation in Oakbank shared "The Bird's Lesson," by George MacDonald—a reminder that even when we feel small, we make a difference. The poem ends with these words: *"I hope my little girl will learn a lesson from that bird, and try to do what good she can, not to be seen or heard. This birdie is content to sit unnoticed by the way and sweetly sing his Master's praise, from dawn to close of day. So live, my child, to do some good, let life be short or long: Though others may forget your looks, they'll not forget your song."* As I journey forward, I welcome a time to learn a new song. A new way to continue to serve others, knowing we are never alone. May each of us continue to share our songs and share our blessings wherever God leads us.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Chabluk*

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**Susan Evans**

Date of retirement: May 31, 2026

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**Noel A. Suministrado**

Endings are beginnings, and beginnings are endings; they belong to each other.

In those 42 years of being a minister, I can say that presence and relationships defined the ministerial calling, discovering through the years that to be a pastor is to go beyond baptisms, weddings, funerals, and pastoral visits.

But comes a time for the curtain to fall, and it can be said that I am on the way out; each shift of time I have, there is a feeling of abruption, a tearing away of part of myself. There will be no one like us when we are gone, and when we are gone, they cannot be replaced. They leave a void no one can fill, for all of us are unique individuals, to find our own path, to live our own life, to die our own death.

I cannot pretend I am without fear moving on, but what fills my heart is one of gratitude. I have been given much, and I hope to have given something in return. Above all, I have been loved and been gifted with so much in this life and journey, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure.

And with this, I constantly remind myself that to be called by Jesus is to echo this: **to do what is just, to love continuously, and follow God in humility**. And to do whatever we can to help others, to hold them when they are hurting, to listen carefully to their stories and the ways they are attempting to make sense of a world that has gone mad. To speak kind words and not forget the dawning miracle and grace of the Wholly Other as it appears in front of us, and to be faithful to the end.

Perhaps this is the most radical gift that we can all give and receive.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Noel A. Suministrado*