

**Covenanting Service for  
Rev Capt. Dr John S Niles MSM  
Stouffville United Church  
And  
Shining Waters Regional Council  
June 12, 2022**

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**Gathering Music and Prelude**

**Acknowledgement of Territory**

**Words of Welcome**

Presider (Heather Andrews)

**Call to Worship**

Presider (Heather Andrews)

Sisters and brothers, as we gather in the welcome of God's love,  
as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ,  
as we gather in the power of the Spirit,  
let us listen for the voice of God.

**People: Let us worship God, who has spoken and still speaks to those who attend to the roar or the whisper of the Holy One.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison) (Heather will lead)**

**Loving God, we cry aloud this day for your guidance. You have called us into ministry as we follow the pathways that you set down for us. Grant us, we pray, strength to believe in your gospel and courage to trust in your Word. We pray that the ministry of this pastoral charge will be strengthened and nurtured by your life-giving Spirit. All glory and honour are yours, God most compassionate. Amen**

**Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness**

**God's Word Proclaimed**

**Scriptures passage (Rev. Fowler)**

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation: Rev Capt. Dr Dave Fowler**

**Hymn**

**The Act of Covenant**

**Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed (pg. 918 VU) (Anne Scott to lead)**

We are not alone

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating

who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hop.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Covenanting Action**

**Statement of Living Faith Story (Anne Scott)**

**Statement of This New Ministry**

*Anne Scott invites Rev. Jim Clubine as Regional Council Liaison and Rev. John Niles to come forward*

*Regional council liaison: (Rev. Clubine)*

*Member of Search Team (Anne Scott)*

*Regional council liaison: (Rev. Clubine)*

Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

**Prayer of Faith (Led by Rev. Clubine)**

**Uniting God,**

**you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship:**

**to celebrate your presence,**

**to live with respect in creation,**

**to be your servants in the service of others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,**

**to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**Send your Holy Spirit to bind us in full communion**

**so that we may be a uniting church**

**embodying your love for the world.**

**As one, we proclaim:**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**you are with us,**

**we are not alone,**

**all glory and power be unto you.**

**Amen.**

*A prayer for the church inspired by John 17:21 and based on The United Church of Canada's "A New Creed" and The United Church of Christ's "Statement of Faith (in the Form of a Doxology)." Written for the full communion service of these two denominations.*

**Hymn (Rev. Clubine to announce)**

**Promises of the New Minister**

*Regional council liaison:*

*Rev Niles* do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with *Stouffville United*?

*New minister:* I do.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you accept the guidance of *Shining Waters* regional council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of *Stouffville United Church*?

*New minister:* I will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

*New minister:* I will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

*New minister:* I will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

*New minister:* I will.

**Promises of the Community of Faith**

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you join with *Rev Niles* in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within *Stouffville United Church*, *Shining Waters* regional Council and within the wider church?

*Members of the community of faith:* We will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you support him as he serves among you in this ministry?

*Members of the community of faith:* We will.

### **Promises of Regional Council, Wider Church and Community**

*Members of the wider church and community come forward [this could include community partners, members of other faith traditions, United Church of Canada members, affiliated partners, as well as members of any other United Church body].*

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you, as members of Shining Waters regional council and members of the wider community, join with Rev Niles and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

*Wider community members:* We will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

*Wider community members:* We will.

### **Presentation of Symbols**

*Symbols of ministerial function will vary, depending on the people involved in the covenant, but they may include the following:*

#### **A BIBLE (Chris Fahrner)**

*A member of the community carries a Bible to the new minister.*

*Presenter:*

Take this Bible. Be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word.

*People:* **Amen.**

*The new minister places the Bible on the pulpit or lectern.*

#### **WATER and TOWEL (Marg Curtis)**

*A member of the community carries a pitcher of water to the new minister.*

*Presenter:*

Be with us as one who baptizes in the name of Christ.

*People:* **Amen.**

*The new minister takes the pitcher and pours the water into the font. .*

### **BREAD AND WINE (Barb Hendren)**

*Members of the community carry a loaf of bread and a cup of wine to the new minister.*

*Presenter:*

Be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst and who seeks justice.

*People:* **Amen.**

*The new minister places the bread and wine upon the table.*

*Regional council liaison:*

Rev. John Niles and Stouffville United community of faith, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community.

*People:* **Amen.**

### **New Minister's Prayer**

#### **Response to Covenant**

*Regional council liaison:*

Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

*(Applause)*

#### **Offering**

#### **Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Holy and Beloved God, We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

#### **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn: Be Thou My Vision**

**Commissioning and Benediction (Invitation to stay for cake and drinks)**

**Musical Postlude**