

Paul Hutchison

The Reverend Dr. Paul Hutchison is the current Chair of Toronto Southeast Presbytery, and the minister of St. Mark's United Church, Scarborough. Paul has been serving in continuous full-time ministry since his ordination in May, 1995, and has been a resident of the City of Toronto, living in Scarborough, at Victoria Park Ave & the 401, since September, 2001.

Paul received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, in 2015, working under the supervision of Dr. Leonard Sweet. His thesis "Constantly Becoming" charted the unofficial merging of the congregation of St. Mark's with a large group of expatriates from West Hill United as they came together in a series of workshops to discuss the complexities of Worship, Prayer, Sacraments, Sin, Confession & Forgiveness, and what it means to be a Progressive, Inclusive and Life-Affirming Christian community of faith. Paul serves an incredibly engaged congregation that pushes boundaries of thinking in worship – in music – in faith and being in community. In recent years they have been building on their call together to "Grow a New Relationship – With Each other – With Someone New – With the Community and With God." Paul has worked tirelessly to provide space for groups of adults with intellectual disabilities. Recently, St. Mark's received the Community Partner of the Year, by Community Living Toronto. Paul recently joined the steering committee of East Scarborough Storefront, a neighbourhood organization that facilitates collaboration between community partners and residents.

Prior to 2010, Paul served 8.5 years in what began as a team ministry and moved into solo ministry at St. John's U.C., Scarborough, a large, aging, suburban congregation. He added a multi-media system for worship, reduced formality, redistributed ownership and authority in their ministry and performed a lot of pastoral care providing stability and consistency to the life and work of the church. While at St. John's, Paul finished his Master of Arts '04 in Social Transformation Ministry at St. Stephen's College in Edmonton. His practicum work at Agincourt Community Services was to implement the Off the Street and Into Shelter Program with the City of Toronto.



Paul's path to ministry began at Northminster United Church in Peterborough where his father served as church treasurer for over 20 years and as chair of the board and his mother served as church administrator for 14 years and as UCW treasurer. Growing up, Paul participated in Sunday School, choirs, youth group and Boy Scouts. He attended Laurentian University where he earned a B.A.'92 in Ethics and attended Queen's University for his Master of Divinity degree '95. He completed two summer internships:

The first at St. Andrew's U.C. in Sioux Lookout, ON (an hour north of Dryden) and the second at First United Church in Downtown Ottawa. It was at Queen's that Paul met Sharon, his wife of 23 years.

After ordination, Paul was settled in Labrador to the Happy Valley Goose Bay Pastoral Charge where he lived and shoveled snow for three years. Paul and Sharon enjoyed their adventures in Labrador tremendously but decided to move back to Ontario to start their family. They enjoyed three and a half years of rural ministry at Mayfield U.C., North of Brampton with their young daughters.

Paul and Sharon have recently become "empty nesters." Sharon works as a TDSB science teacher and coaches cross-country and senior boys' basketball. Their daughter, Sarah, is in her second year of an Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry Conservation Management Program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, and Karen entered the first year of her Bachelor of Public Affairs & Policy Management, BPAPM, at Carleton University in September. The Hutchison's enjoy wine touring in Niagara and hiking for recreation. They participate in yoga, Pilates and body work's classes at the gym, cook their way cover to cover through cookbooks, and have participated in the Tough Mudder and Seaton Soaker. Although they don't consider themselves to be serious runners, Sharon completed her first full marathon last week and Paul completed his first half!