

Biography for The Rev. Derek Macleod

Derek James Millar Macleod was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1973, the oldest of three boys. He was baptised and raised in Calvin Presbyterian Church. However, Derek spent his first years of school at the Convent of the Sacred Heart School, his March breaks at a Baptist day camp and often Sunday school at St. Timothy's Anglican down the street from his house. These experiences left him with a deep appreciation for the diversity of the body of Christ.

Derek began working on his BA in 1991 at the University of King's College. He played for the college rugby team, enjoyed his first year, but decided to take some time off. He moved to Alberta, lived on a cattle farm and served two small Presbyterian churches; they needed a minister and Derek needed to figure out if he could ever be one. It was a very good year and this time in Alberta helped establish a strong sense of call for Derek and instilled a great love for congregational life.

He finished his BA at Dalhousie University, Halifax N.S. in 1996, majoring in Canadian History. During his studies he worked at the university gym and became a physical trainer. He also served several churches in the Presbytery of Halifax- Lunenburg and spent summers serving a four-point charge in Cape Breton. In Cape Breton he helped establish the first ecumenical VBS between Presbyterian, United and Roman Catholic churches.

He graduated from Knox College, University of Toronto in 2000 (completed studies Dec '99), winning several awards including the seminary preaching award. One important course during this time took him to Peru to study liberation theology with Gustavo Gutierrez. He also pursued studies in pastoral care / counselling and spent a summer term (CPE unit) as a chaplain in a veteran's hospital in Halifax. Theological influences during his studies and still today include: Donald Baillie, Frederick Buechner, Robert McAfee Brown and Douglas John Hall. Of particular interest are the ways in which many of these theologians have integrated mission, worship life and theology.

Ordained in Halifax (March, 2000) Derek began serving his first charge Briarwood Presbyterian, in Beaconsfield, Quebec. During this ministry Derek developed a strong interest in worship, preaching and Christian Education.

Before graduating from Knox, he married Catherine Chappell. Catherine was born and raised in Toronto and worked at Riverdale hospital as an occupational therapist. In Montreal Catherine worked in a high school with autistic youth and became actively involved in Dix Mille Villages and the Fair-Trade movement. Catherine and Derek's first daughter, Madeline Alexandra was born in 2002, their second, Claire Inez, in 2004.

In September of 2007 the Macleod family moved to Toronto where Derek served as senior pastor to Glenview Presbyterian Church. During this time, the congregation was rebuilt after a difficult pastorate that saw the removal of the minister due to charges of sexual abuse. It was yet a fruitful ministry in a difficult time and the congregation was able to rebuild as a body and a building. Their third daughter Norah Glynis was born in Nov 2008.

Derek pastors a small summer congregation in Metis sur Mer, Quebec, every August since 2008.

In 2014, Derek and family received a call to be an associate minister at Myers Park Pres with the focus on Outreach and Mission. In the course of this time, two new global partnerships have been established (Budapest working with refugees and Uganda working with HIV/AIDS orphans). Derek serves on several boards in the city and has begun to explore resuming doctoral studies.

Derek is an avid reader, sometimes writer and constantly listening to music or a podcast.