Hello Rideau Park United Church Council and Congregation!

I was asked by your Chair of Ministry and Personnel to introduce myself, so here goes…

My name is Rev. Jim Baldwin. At church people call me “Jim” or “Reverend Jim.” At home, I am known as “Dad” and “Grandpa.” I grew up in Ottawa and was baptized, confirmed, married and ordained through City View United Church. That is where I met my wife, Valerie and we have just celebrated 42 years of marriage. I was educated at Carleton, St. Paul’s and Queen’s Universities, before being transferred to Saskatchewan Conference, and settled on a rural five-point charge just outside of Lloydminster. I have a Bachelor of Psychology and Religion, and a Master of Divinity.

I returned to Ottawa Presbytery where I served the Ashton Pastoral Charge for twelve years, and Britannia U.C. for twenty-two. I served Ottawa Presbytery as the Chair of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Committee (LLWL), I Supervised of the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, I was a member of the Staff Committee, and I was the Chair of Ottawa Presbytery from 2000-2001. I was on the Implementation Team for Voices United, the Affirming Discernment Committee, and led workshops for the Licensed LLWLs on prayer, spirituality and preaching. While I was at Britannia U.C. I supervised a Student Minister from Queen’s Theological College, and a Clinical Pastoral Care Student from St. Paul’s University.

Outside of my Presbytery commitments, I taught at the Ottawa Lay School of Theology, I sang in a Gospel quartet that supported the fundraising efforts of churches in Ontario and Québec, and I was involved with the Canadian Relief Fund for Chernobyl Victims in Belarus (CRFCVB.) Our family hosted children for six summers. As a member of the Executive, I visited the schools and orphanages in Belarus, set up a project which brought children to Canada for respite, and sent much needed medical supplies back to their schools throughout the year.

When I retired in 2022, my plan was to offer my services to the local funeral homes, and I became known as “the go-to guy” for non-denominational and non-religious services. This work was very fulfilling…but pastoral ministry was not done with me yet. In April of 2023 I accepted an appointment at Barrhaven U.C. for four months, followed by a one-year appointment at City View U.C. My work at Barrhaven involved conflict resolution, and Social Justice Ministries. My work at City View has been focussed on congregational renewal, and laying the groundwork for the Affirming Process.

I am known for being inclusive, affirming, spiritual and care-giving. I am adaptable, and enthusiastic about new challenges and possibilities for ministry. I have a passion for planning worship that is relevant, educational and spiritual; using Biblical interpretation, creation imagery, visual displays, music and storytelling to reach all ages.

I am an extrovert, who has learned how to listen. This means that I enjoy the social aspects of ministry, while being supportive when it comes to pastoral care. I am passionate about ministry…which is why I continue to offer my services even though I have retired…but I also believe in balance. So, I exercise, eat right (most of the time) and meditate.

As my time at City View comes to an end, I have been opening myself up to a new beginning. One of my favourite passages of scripture is I Corinthians 12:4-11, which affirms that the Spirit has given each of us a gift to be used for the good of the community. And this has defined my vision of ministry.

I want to be part of a congregation where ministry is shared, where all gifts are valued, where diversity is celebrated, where everyone is truly welcome, and where people are just as enthusiastic as I am about the future of the United Church. I want to hear God’s voice in the call…I want to feel the presence of Christ in our midst…and I want to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit…wherever she may lead us.

I believe that Rideau Park United Church is a place where all this can happen. My hope is that you feel the same way too.

Sincerely Yours,
Rev. Jim