



## Hamilton Conference

P. O. Box 100, CARLISLE, ON L0R 1H0

Main Phone 905 659-3343

Voice Mail 905 659-0162, ext 221

Fax 905 659-7766

E-Mail [phartmas@hamconf.org](mailto:phartmas@hamconf.org)

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**To:** Hamilton Conference  
**Date:** October 2, 2018  
**From:** Peter Hartmans, Conference Executive Secretary

The new Creed, introduced to the United Church of Canada in 1967, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017. For many in our Church, the New Creed is still new but the words are meaningful and quoted often. As the new creed's first sentence states, "We are not alone, we live in God's world." I remind myself of these words often when, with hope and stress, we face the greatest structural change since 1925 for Hamilton Conference and its presbyteries. I am enthusiastic about the changes and I look forward to 2019! However, as I reflect on Hamilton Conference over many, many years, I am grateful for the commitment of many volunteers who have served the Conference for generations. The Conference has partnered with presbyteries and the General Council Office, we have evolved in leadership and had both success, challenges, and failures. With Hamilton Conference ending, December 31, 2018, we will see the end of an era, but for the most part, Hamilton Conference has served us well!

In our Conference Office, I have appreciated and enjoyed working with Kim Uyede-Kai, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Diane Blanchard, Barbara Hampson, Sue Duliban, and Ruthanna Mack, who provide our Conference with their gifts and skills. I wish our staff well and many blessings as we all start new chapters in our lives, ending our service to Hamilton Conference.

I want to thank our Conference President, Heather Leffler and President-Elect, Deborah Laforet for their constant support and prayers. I also want to thank our many past presidents and our Staff Committee Chair, Rosemary Addison and the staff Committee. All have provided wonderful support to our staff during this time of change.

Our Church has always been called to pray, reflect, listen, and offer leadership to our Church. My prayer for our new Regions is that we as leaders will be able to provide a calm presence and strong leadership during this time of change. As many of you know, I have been reassigned to Regions 10 and 6 (Toronto and Northern Ontario). I look forward to the challenge, but I will deeply miss the many relationships I have cultivated over the years. It has been an honour and a blessing to serve Hamilton Conference for over eleven years. Many Blessings to Regions 7, 8, and 9 in your new relationship together!