

The Reverend Dr. James V. Scott, B.A., M.Div., D.D

Biography

Pastor, Organizer, Restorative Justice Practitioner, Indigenous Justice Advocate

Raised in Toronto, James (Jamie) Scott was ordained by The United Church of Canada in 1976 and served in pastoral ministry in Saskatchewan until 1980. Subsequently, the focus of his ministry became social justice, peacemaking and conflict resolution.

In 1982, Jamie organized 1200 Montrealers to attend the international march for peace at the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament in New York City in June, and organized a rally of over 20,000 in Ottawa in October to “Refuse the Cruise” missile testing in Canada. In 1983-4, he organized and equipped constituents in ridings across the country to raise peace and development issues with candidates during the 1984 federal election campaign for the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

From 1985-7, as Special Project Director of the Coalition Against the Return of the Death Penalty, Jamie coordinated the national campaign to prevent the return of capital punishment to Canada. As Project Director for the Church Council on Justice and Corrections from 1987-96, he developed congregational educational resources on community alternatives to incarceration, family violence and restorative justice. He organized the first national Symposium on Restorative Justice in Vancouver in 1997.

Jamie was the founding Coordinator of the Collaborative Justice Project at the Ottawa Courthouse from 1998-2003, demonstrating restorative processes in pre-sentence cases of serious crime. Since 1997, he has been a facilitator of post-sentence meetings between family members of homicide victims and offenders, as well as a trainer and mentor for Correctional Service Canada’s Restorative Opportunities program.

From 2003-15, Jamie served as the General Council Officer for Residential Schools for The United Church of Canada providing national leadership to the Church as it addressed the legacy of the Indian residential school system and strove to live out its Apologies of 1986 and 1998. He represented the Church in negotiations for the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement in 2006 and in the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada from 2008-2015.

Retiring in December 2015, Jamie continues his commitment to restorative and Indigenous justice through public speaking and volunteerism. In May 2017, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from United Theological College in Montreal recognizing “Rev. Scott’s profound commitment to indigenous concerns and his work with the Church in preparation for, and response to, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission”.