

Biography

Lieutenant-Colonel the Reverend Canon James E. McCorrison, CD

Victoria, BC

I was born in Ottawa, Ontario, and raised in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, within an evangelical faith tradition that shaped my early Christian faith and spiritual life. After completing high school, I took a gap year with an ecumenical missionary organization, training in southwestern Ontario and travelling through Honduras, through the United States, and in southwestern Ontario. This experience opened my perspective on the riches of different faith traditions and deepened my commitment to service.

I pursued my undergraduate studies at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, where I earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. Following this, I studied theology at the Toronto School of Theology before returning to Halifax to complete a Master of Divinity at the Atlantic School of Theology.

My ordained ministry began as a deacon where I served as curate in North Sydney, Nova Scotia. Once ordained a priest I was appointed rector of Stellarton with Westville, and subsequently Chester, Nova Scotia. During my time as rector in Chester, the parish developed, raised funds and constructed a new parish centre which was designed to support and sustain ministry, as well as be a resource to the wider community, for future generations.

While serving in Chester, I also became a military chaplain, enrolling in the Primary Reserve as chaplain to the Princess Louise Fusiliers, Halifax. This time in the Reserves allowed me to serve during periods of heightened operational tempo associated with Afghanistan. I provided pastoral care and support during critical incidents and undertook a technical assistance visit (TAV) on Operation Athena, Rotation 3, serving in Kandahar Airfield and at Forward Operating Bases.

In 2010, I joined the Regular Force Chaplaincy. Since then, I have served at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, 5th Canadian Division Headquarters, Halifax, the Maritime Forces Atlantic Fleet (MARLANT), the Office of the Chaplain General, and in the National Capital Region as Team Lead of the chaplain team. Currently, I am serving as Formation Chaplain, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, Victoria. Across these postings, I have worked as a unit chaplain, staff officer, team leader, and formation chaplain, providing spiritual care, leadership, and support to members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

On a personal note, my spouse is a priest and a member of a Franciscan dispersed community within the Anglican Communion. I am also the parent of four grown children.

I have a simple appreciation for good food and conversation—which I often find in pubs.