

On Holy Ground

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You and Your Faith Story

I. ROSS BARTLETT

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Preface

A book about sharing faith stories is clearly the product of the insights of many. I am grateful to those who helped in a process which, for me, has been going on for a number of decades. I first became interested in this topic when, as a newly-minted seminary graduate, I was invited to be part of a denominational task group engaging the United Church of Canada in the project *Confessing Our Faith*. My interest has continued as I have wrestled with the very poor “fit” of many evangelism models with my church’s personality and yet the discomfort many of my parishioners feel in speaking about their very real faith. This book is an attempt to go a slightly different direction in meeting that challenge.

Thanks are due to the following who gave specific permission for the gathering of materials originally published elsewhere. Given that resources are often shared in different forms and experienced and recalled in different ways, I recognize that the sources cited here may not be the first place of publication. So I would appreciate any information regarding more complete acknowledgement

- The Rev Dr Hallett Llewellyn, Secretary, Theology, Faith and Ecumenism, United Church of Canada;
- Ms Marilyn Harrison, Chairperson, Confessing our Faith Project, United Church of Canada;
- Ms Betty Smythe, Resource Consultant, *Exchange Magazine*.

PREFACE

Thanks are also due to Knox United Church, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia for agreeing to a sabbatical during which most of the writing took place; to the Collegeville Ecumenical Institute, Collegeville, Minnesota for a wonderfully rich and rewarding space in which to reflect and write, and the Board of Governors, Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, Nova Scotia, for generous financial support.

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Halifax, NS
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