

Jim Gurnett brings years of experience in community work to the pastoral assistant position at ICPM. Whether editing the newspaper for a small community, serving as principal in a neighbourhood school, guiding the work of such community organizations as Bissell Centre and Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, or supporting academics researching the human quality of hope, he has always practiced the importance of honouring each person where they are at, respecting their choices, and supporting their decisions to change. And he has always held the view that when people are connected in safe and healthy ways in community with each other that the power of the whole is greater than the sum of the individuals. Most recently he has worked with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Executive Director of the Government Caucus. His volunteer commitments include being president of Canadians for a Civil Society, the host organization of the annual Daughters Day celebration, and treasurer of Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. One of his most treasured volunteer activities is being part of the planning committee for the annual Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross.

Jim grew up in the Christian Brethren church but began attending an Anglican parish during years working in Afghanistan, and has mostly found his home there in the years since. He lives in Sherwood Park, and treasures time to spend with nine grandchildren, scattered in Edmonton, northern Alberta, and Vancouver Island.

Jim’s role with ICPM, apart from the Sunday and Mid weekly ministry of presence, will be to build relations and offer support men and women reintegrating within the community from places such as McCullough Centre and Rehab facilities. The long-term goal is that ICPM will eventually be able to help persons leaving institutions to reintegrate into the faith community of their choice by securing the care and support of those communities.

