



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

CONSEIL
UNITARIEN
DU CANADA

Dear Unitarian Church of Edmonton!

These heartfelt wishes come your way from the Canadian Unitarian Council. A blessing for your journey taken from one of Vyda Ng's favorite poems.

Building community together takes commitment, energy, tenaciousness and courage. In these paraphrased words of Rev. Ray Drennan, it's like paddling a big canoe. He suggests that a few simple guidelines might be helpful:

"You have to show up, grab a paddle and step into the boat. Virtual paddling or instructions shouted from the shore are not helpful.

In our community of communities canoe there is room for both paddlers and passengers. Everyone's presence is needed as if any are missing, the canoe will be off balance.

Just because you have a paddle in your hand doesn't mean that you know how to paddle in community. Take the time to learn how to paddle with others effectively. There are lots of different strokes, different talents and energy levels. They will all come in handy as we float down the river together.

Someone has to steer. We can take turns but only one direction at a time, please.

Even though we may be in separate canoes and there are diverse readings of the map, there is only one river and whether we recognize it or not we are all heading in the same direction.

Music, laughter and singing are always good travelling companions. They help, especially when our muscles and sprits are bone tired.

Don't forget to stop along the way and listen to the silence and the water lapping at the boat. Beauty surrounds us.

Paddling, both the fun part and the hard-work part, takes passionate and steady engagement.

Paddling together with friends makes life worth the living, especially when the currents are strong."

Unitarian Church of Edmonton, you are a long term, valued and loved member of our Canadian UU family. Yours is a story of strength and now in this time of transition, we wish you all the very best. We

also want to make clear that we are in this community of communities canoe with you and want to walk alongside you in celebration, growth and strength.

"Go In Peace.

Go Making Peace,

Live Gently,

Love Mightily

& Bow to the Mystery!"

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joan".

Joan Carolyn, Congregational Life Team Lead