

# Ministers' Musings

from Rev. Graham Brownmiller & Rev. Jay Olson

**To you the beloved members, adherents and staff of Jubilee United Church. From the depths of my heart I say thank you and goodbye.**

We have come to the end of the Interim Ministry. The specifics of the work are done which means that you have, by God's grace, adjusted your course to head fully toward the future destination to which God has invited you.

As I consider where you began in 2014 and where you are today, I am thrilled not just that you are moving forward with more strength and courage but that you are doing so *with joy!*

I am reminded of T.S. Eliot's poetry, "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

When witnessing your experience of God's new Jubilee community, I see that you have been restored to joy, as if, as Eliot said, for the very first time. I celebrate with you God's generosity and your responsive offering over of this beloved community to God's future. You have excellent, gifted leadership with Rev. Graham, Marcus and the Transitional Council. I am so glad to have been with you for this exploration and am grateful for the many blessings along the way.

The course adjustment means also that it is time for me to step off this congregational "vessel" and board a new one. I don't know yet which vessel, so for a few weeks I will wait and rest "on the dock". The next four months of leave will be spent in study, rest and play. The study will include Canada's Acadian history, Dr. Brueggemann's volume on the Old Testament, and balancing that with novels, the theatre and being a tourist in my own city. I expect that by the end of my time on the dock I will be ready to step onto a new vessel with joy and renewed strength. I am blessed and grateful.

Stepping off this vessel requires that I honour my Interim Ministry obligations, you, and Rev. Graham which means that effective April 1, 2017 I will continue to pray for you yet will not:

- be involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in this congregation;
- intrude in the life of the congregation by supporting or giving advice to anyone involved in Jubilee United Church;



- engage in any behaviour or conversation that could undermine your pastoral relationship;
- accept any requests, except as invited by the current Lead Minister, for pastoral services including baptisms, weddings, funerals, memorials, anniversaries and visiting the sick and homebound; and will
- consult with the Lead Minister regarding my future attendance at worship, any special events, weddings, and funerals.

Accepting these best practises when leaving a congregation is in the church's best interest. Moving on from here does not mean that I am rejecting you; for me to honour these obligations is to honour you.

Of course my leaving you is painful. My heart breaks with every leaving. As we make room for each other to move on it means also that there will be a time when I can return and just be me and not your Minister.

I am enormously grateful to God and to you for the many gifts and learning I received. You trusted me with your deepest grief, your greatest joys and your many wonderings. Awed by your trust, I held it as respectfully and carefully as I possibly could. I hope you felt that.

I leave knowing that you have a *great* ministry partner in Rev. Graham and that together there's nothing you can't do.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the privilege of serving with you.

Be of good courage because God is with you. Thanks be to God!

## ON HER WAY OUT THE DOOR

Rev. Jay reminds us all that there are those for whom spoken announcements, written or projected materials are not accessible. You know who they are, so you contact them directly, thereby keeping them in touch with their church family.

## FROM REV. GRAHAM

As Rev. Jay takes leave from our community, please know that I wish to honour your story in the same way that she has over the past years. As you lose one of your ministers, I too lose a team mate. Rev. Jay has been a consummate team mate who has both honoured me by teaching, and learning from me.

I look forward to continuing building this relationship, all the while figuring out what this community of Jubilee United Church can and will be!

## REV. GRAHAM'S CONTACT & AVAILABILITY

[minister@jubilee-uc.ca](mailto:minister@jubilee-uc.ca)

m. 778-791-1864

Monday: Off

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday: Off

Saturday: by appointment

*Tuesdays and Wednesdays include meetings and other appointments. It is advisable to make an appointment by phone, text, or email. If you would like a pastoral visit, or in the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please do not hesitate to be in touch.*