

December 2019



Dear friends in Christ,

As a new year begins in this season of Advent and Christmas, I'm taking time to reflect on all I have seen and done and learned over the past twelve months. One thing that remains constant in my life is gratitude for all I have been given, and Mission & Service continues to be one way that I express that gratitude.

I am grateful for the new life that is born when people gather for hope and healing. Through Mission & Service, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people are able to be in conversation with one another and work together to find new ways to walk a path toward right relations, like this congregation in Kingston, Ontario:

*Faith United Church is a small congregation that meets weekly at a high school in Kingston. They had bought land years ago, intending to build a church. During the last year, the congregation began to discern that they wanted to offer the land as a place of healing. Now the church and the Indigenous people of Kingston are sharing ideas for creating a place where they can come together in friendship.*

*"We open our eyes now," the Elders and congregation members reported. "We aren't blinded by hopefulness and naivety... when we walk together in a good way; when we root the process in ceremony and healing we are acknowledging we are walking this path alone. Together we can. Together we will. One step along the path of peace."*

I am grateful for the generosity that so many of you show through your gifts to Mission & Service, generosity that lights our way to right relations, justice, and hope for the future. I ask you to join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith and discipleship. Thank you!

*From this house to yours,  
may you share in the gifts of this season.  
May love, the promise of generations, attend you.  
Joy, the gift of life together, fill you.  
Peace, the desire of neighbour and nations, find you.  
Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you.  
And may a very Merry Christmas be yours. Amen.*



Wishing you all the blessings of this season of waiting and waiting fulfilled,

The Very Rev. Richard Bott  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

*(prayer written by Rev. Andrew O'Neil, in Advent Unwrapped)*

To make a donation, call 1-800-268-3781, ext. 2738; choose Donate at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca); or use the reply card below. If you contribute to Mission & Service in your congregation, please receive our heartfelt thanks.

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Thank you for your patience.



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