



## Hello From Jennifer

Once in a while there are wonderful moments in life when you meet folks who are close to you in their values and approach to life, and you don't feel like you are in the midst of strangers - you know that you are with friends. This happened to me when Jan and Colleen invited me to join the choir of the First Unitarian Congregation in Ottawa last September. Jane, our talented and committed director, and the members of the choir with whom I sang are generous and welcoming and the music is, of course, inspiring.

I certainly felt I was among friends again as I met delegates at the CUC Conference and Annual General Meeting in Thunder Bay in May - my first assignment with the CUC. And now in Toronto, as I get to know Linda and Phil and Karen, meet with Shawn, Ellen, Calvin, Robbie, Debra, Art and others, have a lovely afternoon and evening with John and Mary Ellen, and engage in many more conversations, I feel highly motivated to contribute all I can.

Let me say that I'm happy to be the new Executive Director, to join the group of Canadians who have filled the position. It is a privilege to be in this significant company. Thank you all for your commitments and contributions. And special thanks to

Linda Thomson for your yeoman work over the past several months.

It is especially gratifying for me to have the opportunity to help ensure the national services that contribute to the strengthening and voice of Unitarians in Canada as together we face the fast-changing economic, social and political circumstances in the world around us... changes that effect our communities, our regions, the country, and families around the world.



*"One of the great misfortunes of history is that all too many individuals and institutions find themselves in a great period of change and yet fail to achieve the new attitudes and outlooks that the new situation demands. There is nothing more tragic than to sleep through a revolution. And there can be no gainsaying of the fact that a social revolution is taking place in our world today."*  
(The Ware Lecture 1966, delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.)

It's hard to believe that this quote refers to conditions North Americans faced in the sixties - for certainly the same thought describes today's circumstances. While the word 'revolution' may be too strong, we all know that the worldwide changes we are experiencing are highly consequential - for ourselves and for all our families.

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**I**t has always been a priority of Unitarians to play a role in periods of change. The Canadian Unitarian Council can help the people of our congregations speak to the global perspective. The world in which we live is now geographically ONE. Through our communications technologies and financial capabilities, we have made the whole world a neighbourhood. Now more than ever, through moral and ethical commitment, it is our responsibility and opportunity to make it a village. No person can live alone, no nation can any longer live alone.

I remember singing in the choir in high school in Ottawa, a lovely song Joan Baez sang from the words of John Donne, "*No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.... because I am involved in mankind, therefore send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.*" This truth is one I commit to in my new assignment and am grateful for the opportunity and especially for the many kind expressions of support and offers of help received. Thank you all. As the work proceeds, I hope we'll meet soon...



No man is an island, no man stands alone  
Each man's joy is joy to me  
Each man's grief is my own  
We need one another, so I will defend  
Each man as my brother, each man as my friend  
I saw the people gather  
I heard the music start  
The song that they were singing  
Is ringing in my heart  
No man is an island, no man stands alone  
Each man's joy is joy to me  
Each man's grief is my own  
We need one another, so I will defend  
Each man as my brother, each man as my friend.

#### Travel Plans for Jennifer

Here are my current travel plans... watch this space for updates.

June 4 & 5	Kingston	Jean Pfleiderer, Board of Directors
June 24 - 28	Salt Lake City	UUA General Assembly
July 16 - 19	Kingston	CUUL School
Oct 1 - 11	Western Canada	Several Meetings with congregations and Board members