



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

**October 28, 2016**

I spent the weekend in Timmins, Ontario, sharing in Saturday supper with Spirit Dancing Presbytery folks and worshipping with all at Covenant United Church on Sunday morning. The visit brought to fruition a conversation with Covenant's minister Cindy Desilets that began when she joined my supervision committee.... maybe 10 years ago? It was a bit of a nostalgic visit for me too. Although I have never lived in Timmins, my mother spent her teenage years there and we grew up with stories of winter sports and high school experiences long remembered. It was good to be with friends new and old in that place to meld images from the past with real life of today.



On Thursday, I joined mourners at Emmanuel United in Ottawa to celebrate the well-lived life of Bill Squire, life partner for 73 years of former Moderator Anne Squire. Of the many wonderful stories about his life, I loved best the one his oldest daughter told, about a time when she was seven years old and her father took her along on a clandestine

Sunday morning birdwatching and campfire adventure while her mother and sister were at church. The humour and warmth of the memories helped soften the sadness at the loss of a beloved elder.

In between these two events, I was on retreat with our current Moderator and her advisory committee. As Moderator, Jordan Cantwell spends so much of her time visiting, preaching, and being present with people across our church. This was her time to relax a bit, and be with this fine group of people for prayer, worship, laughter, and the odd bit of loving advice.

Another great week of being immersed in the life of the church.

Nora

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