

March 2022

Dear Beloved MCCDC Community,

I am writing to tell you of a significant development in my spiritual life, a journey that has been coming for several years but now has crystalized more concretely.

Some of you may have noticed references in my recent Sunday messages that stress the centrality of nature in our world—that all beings, not just humans, are important and indeed equal parts of Creation. That awareness began developing some years ago but now has become more concrete, leading me to engage with groups and programs that explore the fundamental connection of nature/Earth and spirituality. That has resulted now in my enrolling in a year-long online certificate program in eco-spirituality through the Seminary of the Wild that begins in April.

All of which feels wonderful even as I am having to prioritize my commitments, for the time being, and that has led me to ask Rev. Dwayne and Rev. Cathy to grant me a sabbatical as Writer-Theologian in Residence. They have agreed, understanding that I am not leaving MCCDC (or MCC globally) but that I need time and energy to pursue where God is calling me now. I believe this journey will actually deepen my work as a writer and theologian and hope to be able to share that with you and our community in the future.

I cherish each and all of you, blessed by our shared journey—I have been part of many faith communities and MCCDC is by far the most rich and rewarding experience of my life. So I look forward to being with you as I can and to returning at some point to resume my volunteer ministry with MCCDC.

In faith, hope, and love, and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Dr. Robin Hawley Gorsline
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