

Barbara J. Cairns

As a small child growing up in Southern Ontario, I loved to play outside. It was a place that offered freedom and wonder. I found this when I was playing in streams looking for tadpoles, swimming in lakes, running among the trees playing hide and seek, or sitting by a campfire listening to stories being told. I have come to realize that these early years have played a role in my spiritual formation and in how I experience holy presence. I find this same presence in church. It happens in the voices of the community, singing, praying, and responding to the Word. It is an embodied feeling that connects me to holy mystery and I have come to treasure these moments as a source of ongoing nurture.

I give thanks for my family, especially my husband David who from the beginning has supported this journey towards ordination with love and grace. I can honestly say that without it I would not have finished. My children have been amazing as we learned to dance within the places to which this call has brought us. I thank my mother who has always modeled for me the importance of family with strength and love. I thank my dear friends who have helped me to take the necessary steps towards realizing this goal. I thank the mentors who have challenged me to be authentic; Madonna Fradsham, Barb Wagner, John Moses, Keith Gale and Kevin MacKenzie. I am grateful to the members of my home church Park Royal United in Prince Edward Island for the ongoing support and prayers. A special thanks to the members of the Learning Support Teams at Park Royal, Central Queens and St. David's.

I end by giving thanks to the One who has called me by name. I love you Holy One, Creator, Friend, and ever present God. It was over 25 years ago when my life was changed. Thank you for the ongoing love that continues to be my rock and salvation. This crazy thing called love is an ongoing dance that I embrace with excitement, passion, creativity, enthusiasm, integrity, and joy. I can't wait to see what the next 25 years will bring! Amen.