

June 28, 2023

Hello from FSLDW President

This past Sunday I had the delight to celebrate in person with the congregation of Winsloe United Church, PEI; to offer a reflection and bring greetings on your behalf as they celebrated their 25th Anniversary of being one congregation in a new building.

Over copious cups of tea and coffee and the typical UCC feast, people rejoiced as pictures and stories of 25 years ago filled the space.

It is a remarkable story. In the mid 1990s, after many, many conversations, five small congregations agreed to amalgamate and become one congregation. They let go of the five buildings and constructed a new accessible church building which was officially dedicated in June, 1998.

Personally, it was a bit of a home coming as my childhood church home was one of the five. Friends I have not seen for many years joined the celebration sharing stories I had long forgotten. When the new facility was constructed, significant pieces of furniture from the five churches were brought to the new location. A communion table from one, a stained glass window from another, a lectern from another, the pulpit from my childhood church.

Which meant that while preaching on Sunday I was able to lean on the same pulpit that I hid behind as a child. How special is that!

Finally, my goal of sharing these vignettes of life across the region is best expressed in a Thank You note I received in response to virtually participating in a recent covenanting service. The note reads. "I could feel the blessings and love of all the faith communities and regional councils."

May each of us continue to bless and love one another as we share this incredible ministry.

In Peace

*Elizabeth*

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