



Roberta's Summer Renewal Leave Adventure

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Dear friends,

I am writing to let you know of my plans for my time away from Trinity UMC this summer. As you have heard, I will be taking a two month unpaid renewal leave in combination with my four weeks of vacation. This coming Sunday, May 8th, will be my final worship with you until Sunday August 21st. Ryan Scott, our lay associate Pastor, will be increasing his hours gradually over the next few months to provide a consistent pastoral presence while I am away. In addition, Elaine Brown, Jan Peterson, Pat Rankin and Jennifer Williams will serve as a lay pastor support team.

So what are my plans for this time away? I leave on May 13th for **England** where I will be attending the first ever International Messy Church Conference. Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church was hosted by the Trinity Messy Church Team for training in Portland recently in which 75 people from the greater Northwest attended. Messy Church has now spread to 30 different countries and over 3000 Messy Churches have started in those countries. I am thankful that I will be able to attend this exciting gathering as we prepare for Pentecost to hear stories about the Holy Spirit doing a powerful new thing in the world.

I will officially begin my renewal leave on May 21st at the ecumenical Iona Community located on a small western Isle of **Scotland**. To get to Iona requires using two separate ferries from the mainland. During the week, I will live in community at the Abbey with people from all over the world. I will engage in two worship experiences each day and plan to take regular hikes on the island. After a week on Iona, Lynn will join me in Scotland to tour the Scottish highlands for a week.

When I return to Eugene in June, I plan to continue the rhythm of **daily prayer** and activity. I hope to explore various **hikes** around the **beautiful Northwest**. I will also attend a conference in July with Father Richard Rohr who is the author of many of my favorite spiritual books like *Everything Belongs* and *Falling Upwards*.

The beginning of August will be a time of reconnecting with **family**. My sister, who lives in Germany, will be in Oregon for an extended stay and we will celebrate her birthday by trips to central Oregon and the coast.

As I noted in my initial proposal for a renewal leave last October, the demands of the local church are both exhilarating and challenging. Throughout the past 5 ½ years (this July marks 6 years) since I have been appointed to Trinity, we have worked hard together in visioning and getting more clarity about our health and vitality as a congregation...with the completion of the prescriptions which have now been completed...it is a good time for me to step back for a time of spiritual growth and renewal.

I leave you with this blessing from an ancient **Scottish prayer**:

*God to enfold you,
God to surround you,
God in your speaking,
God in your thinking*

*God in your sleeping
God in your waking,
God in my watching,
God in my hoping.*

*God in your life,
God in your lips,
God in your soul,
God in your heart.*

~Carmina Gadelica, Ancient Oral Celtic Prayer

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Roberta