



red deer lake
united church

**you're welcome, wanted, accepted -
join us on the journey**

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Hey friends,

At our December 11, 2022 in-person service, Rev Nick shared with us that after nearly 10 years at RDLUC, he will be leaving us in February and moving to work with a church in Burlington, Ontario.

Nick confirmed that while it wasn't an easy decision, it is something he feels called to do, and thanked us for the time spent with us. Having made it through Covid, with people now coming back and optimism growing, this is a good time for RDLUC to find a new minister to help us keep moving forward.

We will start our search early in the New Year, with help and support from the United Church. Rev. Grant Dawson, long-time friend of RDLUC, has agreed to help us in the transition. How long that transition takes depends on how long it takes us to decide on our needs and direction. Once we do so, it's then a matter of "calling" a Minister, which we'll all learn much more about in the New Year. **We know this brings up all kinds of emotions and raises a lot of questions. We encourage you to feel them all and trust that we'll get to those questions.** For now, we keep going. We'll celebrate Christmas together for the first time in 2 years and in the new year we'll keep doing the things we've been doing.

From Nick: "Being able to serve and work alongside this community has been such a gift. You have helped me find my voice, hone my craft, learn and grow, and you have shown me just how beautiful the church can be. Thank you for that. I am so proud of what we have done and where we have gone together. **While our time is ending, yours certainly is not. You have what it takes to keep going and be the church that God needs you to be. I'm excited to see where you go and what you will do together.** For now, though, we've got lots of time to keep being the church together and, of course, Christmas to celebrate!"

As this is now public knowledge, please feel free to pass it on to those who might not have heard, and to wish Nick all the best in this exciting next step in his journey, as we, likewise, do so in ours!

For now, as Nick said, we've got Christmas to celebrate. We're looking forward to gathering together in person and online as we celebrate it and all it means.

Blessings,
Rev. Nick Coates
& Rob Howard, Board Chair