

### Transitions

Last year, a transition group of the Five Oaks board began planning with me for my return to the Centre in the fall of 2012. Three years is a long time of absence from one another, and we wanted to discern how Five Oaks' current needs and my gifts would best merge for the future together. It's been a good process of mutual discernment for which we are all deeply grateful.

Together we have determined that the current needs of the Centre for the position of Director would be better fulfilled by someone new. Both the Centre Board and I have rested with this decision and are feeling what the Jesuits describe as 'consolation' with it. In other words, we are at peace with this decision and believe that Spirit will lead Five Oaks in faithful, new directions which I intend to support fully.

I will be listening for Spirit's leading for my own work, to see where I will be called in the fall of 2012. So far I'm confident that my work will continue to include facilitating "Courage & Renewal" retreats with others of the Center for Courage & Renewal, speaking, writing and facilitating the kind of organizational development that I did before going to Five Oaks.

Fortunately such an early result of our discernment means that Five Oaks can begin now to search for the person who is ready and called to take on this challenging and rewarding position. Please join me in praying for everyone involved in this search and selection.

The body of Christ is ever forming and reforming. Thanks be to God.

- Mardi Tindal,  
Moderator,



### Hand in Hand

We are thrilled to announce that Five Oaks has been awarded a significant grant from The Watkins/Ann Baker Fund of the United Church of Canada for Innovative Seniors' Ministries for the *Hand in Hand: Equipping Congregations for Pastoral Care* program – a brand new program that we launched this fall. This means that we will be able to offer evening and weekend programs to develop and nurture capacity for pastoral care with both lay people and ministry personnel at a subsidized rate. The next *Hand in Hand* program will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Watch our website for details.



### Spiritual Practices Certificate Series

This year marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have offered the Spiritual Practices Certificate Series! This year workshops will feature the leadership of Raheel Raza, Debbie Danbrook, Mark Hathaway and many others. We will explore practices of listening, music, art, the labyrinth and practices that exist within the Muslim tradition. I do hope you can join us for the journey through exploring these various practices over the next few months. All of the details can be found in the programs section of our website: [www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)

### Words to Ponder

"Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow."

- Robert Frost, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*

### March Break Day Camp "Let's Be Creative"

The theme for this year is "Let's be creative!" Each day, March 12 – 14, from 8:30 – 4:30, campers will explore their creativity in games, sports, crafts and drama activities. This will be an excellent opportunity for your child(ren) (ages 5-12) to meet new friends, have tons of fun and use their imagination. \$30/day. For more information, see our website.

### Upcoming Programs

Included here is a sampling of upcoming programs. For a full list of programs visit the Five Oaks website [www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)

- Male Spirituality Circle, two retreats offered, February 6-9, and February 14-17, Cost: \$340
- Spirituality Through Photography, February 17-19, Cost: \$295
- Introduction to Therapeutic Touch TM, February 20, Cost: \$70 (includes lunch and supper)
- Confirmation Retreats, Feb 24-26, March 23-25, Cost: \$150
- Honouring our Dreams: Messages of Healing and Hope, March 16-18, Cost: \$295

### Five Oaks on Facebook

Did you know that Five Oaks has a Facebook page? If you are on Facebook then become our "fan"! There you can see pictures from some of our fall 2011 programs including the Labyrinth Facilitator Training with Lauren Artress where 24 people from both the USA and all over Canada gathered to learn from her incredible wisdom about this incredible spiritual tool.

<https://www.facebook.com/fiveoakscentre>