

The image features decorative floral illustrations in the corners. In the top right, there are yellow and blue flowers with green leaves and dark blue berries. In the bottom left, there are purple, yellow, and blue flowers with green leaves. The central text is set against a plain light beige background.

A gift from OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

To our dear Nicola...

To our dear Nicola...

We warmly invite you to receive these heartfelt farewell messages and expressions of gratitude from the community as you prepare to open a new chapter in your life, Nicola!

In the 19 years since starting your employment with OneSpirit, you have left an indelible mark on the organisation through your unwavering commitment, insightful leadership, and shared profound wisdom. Countless lives within the community have been deeply enriched by your efforts, fostering both personal and collective growth.

As Director/Focaliser of OneSpirit, as Seminary Leader, as part of the Faculty, as a Supervisor, and as a cherished colleague and friend, your impact has been transformative.

As you depart from your role within the OneSpirit faculty, the community came together to create a heartfelt message of gratitude, celebrating your profound impact on us all. We want to celebrate your remarkable contributions and surround you with collective support, gratitude, and best wishes for the journey ahead!

Thank you for all that you've done - and all that you are.



From Joanna Petts,

Travel well on the next journey of life my friend. May everything come into focus for you when you are ready for it too. Opportunities don't necessarily knock quietly.

Much love Joanna

From Ian Mowll,

Thank you Nicola for your time as a tutor for the class of 2011. Your empathic and person-centred approach was hugely helpful to me on my journey to ordination. I wish you all the very best for the future. With warmest wishes!

From Jackie Wilkinson,

There are no words to express the depth of love and gratitude for the many years we worked, played, laughed and cried together. Your wisdom and compassion shine from you dear friend and whatever the future holds for you I know the world and those around you will be blessed by your presence.

From Kim Goode,

Nicola was one of the most wonderful tutors that I have experienced in my life (and there have been many!) Her wisdom, kindness and compassion are huge - and much appreciated. Thank you, Nicola. You were, and are, an inspiration and a role model. With much love for the next part of your journey,

Kim x



From Robin Alfred,

Dearest Nic,

I can only sense the impact and potency of your work in OneSpirit, but I want to testify here to the deep love, care, sensitivity and power that you have brought to me on so many occasions – including our glorious wedding 11 years ago, the deeply moving funeral you held for Dürten more recently, your fantastic supervision of me in holding my dear friend Dave's funeral, and in so many ways as a friend, Trustee and more.

I await with more than curiosity your next steps and admire your courage in letting go in order to allow the future to arrive within you. Whatever it is, I'm sure it will be marked by your characteristic sense of love, service and commitment. I am very happy to know that I will be walking alongside you as you continue to journey! With love and sending you so many, many blessings,

Your dear friend,

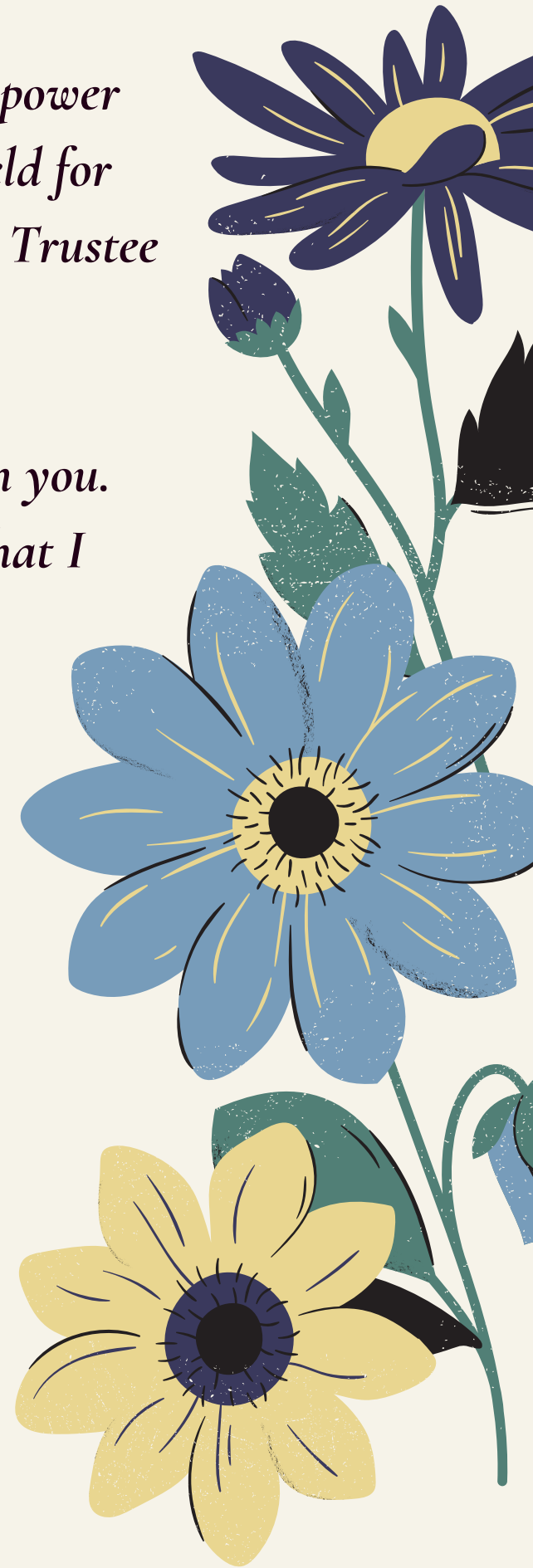
Robin

From Christopher Corps,

"Why are we here?" This was and is Nicola's invitation which echoed from Introductory day through to two years of seminary training, support as a mentor, and then, as a OneSpirit trustee. Nicola and Jackie were and are, instrumental to my continuing 'opening' to All That Is. As I write this I relive the delight and substance, the challenges, tears and laughter of that time.

Thank you, Nicola. All that is apparently past, remains present.

Go well dear friend as life unfolds for you and your family. Chris x





From Ava Dècage,

Dear Nicola,

Working with you has been a true privilege. You are a heart-first human, and that has been something I have been inspired by in working with you. Your thoughtfulness and dedication shine through in everything you do, and your authenticity has created a safe and empowering space for us to work together.

Thank you for everything you've done for me and for being such a vibrant person. I wish you all the best on your path. Your presence will be deeply missed. With big smiles and the highest gratitude, Ava



From Kailee Smart,

Dear Nicola,

I think you're a remarkable person. You are so fully yourself that it's both inspiring and, at times, intimidating—which is inspiring in its own way.

I'm grateful to have worked with you, even for a very short time. It's clear your impact on OneSpirit, from the staff to the faculty, the curriculum, and the community itself.



I wish you nothing but the best moving forward, and I hope your next adventure leaves you smiling.

From Mel Cronin,

Dear Nicola

Firstly, let me wish you every blessing on this next step of your journey. Whoever gets to work with you next will be blessed indeed.

I feel incredibly fortunate that you were our course leader, and I cherish the memories of our 2 years together on the training.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to have had some amazing teachers, and you are right up there. Your ability to hold the space for us all, individually and collectively is unparalleled. I always felt seen, and I always felt safe.

Your wonderful combination of professionalism and approachability lends itself so well to this work, and I think most of all, I loved the almost childlike sense of fun that was rarely far from the surface. That combination of the sacred and the mundane that really appeals to me.

Anyway, Nicola, I wish you very well, and I thank you once again, from the bottom of my heart, for all I learned from you, or because of you.

With love,

Mel Cronin



From Carolyn Wallis,

Dear Nicola,

This is a greeting from Carolyn who was in Cedar Class last year (2023). Until we met during our Open Days, I had only watched your video clips on the Hub. So it was a lovely experience to finally meet you in person.

This message comes with deep gratitude for your dedication, commitment and service to One Spirit as an Organisation and for what it stands for in our hearts. I send all good wishes for your future plans and no plans where you can simply, be.

With love from Carolyn Wallis - Cedar Class 2023



From Jane Lewis,

Dear Nicola, I wanted to wish you well on your journey as you step beyond OneSpirit and to thank you for the various roles you have taken over your time with One Spirit. I know you best from your role as lead facilitator for our One Spirit cohort (graduating in 2018) - one of the last cohorts to be fully in-person, I think. Leadership is not for the faint-hearted, and the courage you've shown steering One Spirit and leading the various cohorts is a gift to be cherished.

With love,

Jane

From Karen Anke Braun,

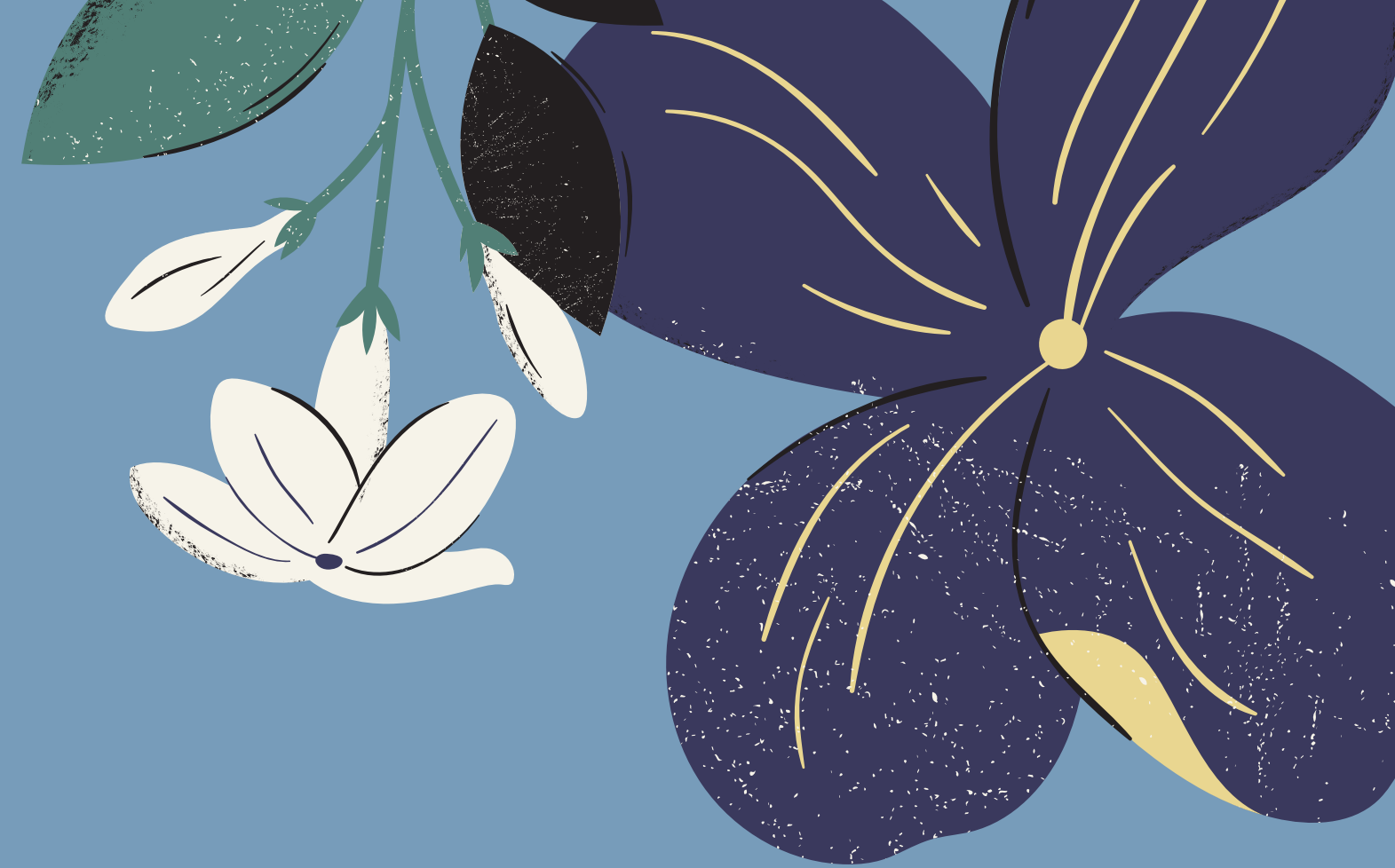
Dear Nicola, I find it really difficult to imagine OneSpirit without you! For me, you did very much embody the core of this institution. But the only thing certain in life is change, and I am sure you have discerned your decision to set out to new shores very thoroughly.

I have learned so much from you during my training, which continues to inspire both my daily life and my ministry! You lead with confidence and grace, yet are never shy to share your own vulnerability. This makes your teachings all the more authentic. You radiate clarity and compassion. You do not shy away from what is gritty and difficult, but embrace it with openness while holding the boundaries of your own sensitive heart.

As you know, my own life has changed tremendously this year, and due to my husband's ongoing disability after his stroke it will probably never be the same. I could not have weathered these storms without all I was gifted at OneSpirit. And I would very much like to stay in touch with you! Please let me know what you are up to now, and be assured that my prayers and deep blessings will accompany you on your journey!

With love,

Karan ❤️



From Elaine Walker,

Dearest Nicola, Thank you and a deep bow, as I we have said before, your heart and my heart have been friends forever. I am so very thankful not only for your personal contribution to my life, but for the most extraordinary way you gifted One Spirit. It was such a privilege to work with you and I cherish many happy memories.

May this next chapter bring you much joy.

With love,

Elaine



From Caroline Lennon,

Dearest Nicola, I hope our paths cross again in the future. In the meantime, I wish you the very best that life has to offer. I feel incredibly privileged to have been guided by you during my two years of study with the OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation. Thank you! As you step towards the next chapter of your journey, I want to share that you truly bring Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman" to life for me.

*"Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.*

*I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.*

*I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

*I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.*

*I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

*Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.*

*I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

*Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need for my care.*

*'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me."*



From Ian Bonner-Evans,

Dearest Nicola,

I know that this will be a profound time for you as you step away from active involvement with OneSpirit into a future hopefully graced with countless opportunities and blessings. I just wanted to add my own few comments to what will be countless others, I'm sure.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being such a wise, inspirational and compassionate tutor and supervisor. Being a part of the 2014-2016 class was life-changing, and you played a very significant role in that for me. As a former tutor and supervisor myself, I bow to your immense knowledge, skills and experience, not to mention your deep spiritual and emotional capacity to connect with others.

Diolch yn fawr iawn a phob lwc! Ian xx

From Zafira Vrba Woodski,

Nicola, I am immensely grateful to have been supported by you on my journey to becoming an Interfaith Minister! Your elegance in holding space, solving conflicts and weaving everyone in - leaving no one outside - are skills I'm growing within my own ministry with plenty of inspiration from you <3

Thank you for everything! May you have plenty of time to watch the stars and the trees grow as you find your new path.

Much love, Rev Zafira





From Amy Firth,

I am so proud of you. For all that you have created. For all that you have planted. For all that you have watered. For all that you have endured. For all the work - seen and unseen - that you have done to keep yourself in service to this organisation. For the resurrection. For the courage. And for knowing that the time is now right for you to bring your gifts to the world in new ways.

You may never truly know the depths of how deeply your skilful words, steadfast presence and tenderness have unlocked the hidden places of so many through your decades of service to OneSpirit.

I am so grateful to you for the countless ways you have and continue to weave your wisdom into my worlds - and I'm so excited to hold space for all that is to come next... from all of us standing on the OTHER side of OneSpirit... knowing how hard it is to trust and walk away... we are ready to receive you and celebrate you and love you and watch you flourish in the world in all your stunning glory. I got you. Deep love and rest and inspiration to you my beloved, always.

From Rob MacLachlan,

Hi Nicola, it's amazing to reflect that almost a complete 'generation' of students has trained under your care over the past 2 decades! I remember from my own final year of OneSpirit training, when you stepped up during the chaos of Miranda's departure, how tender and inspiring and wise and authentic and most of all how skilful and loving your care and guidance can be. So much love and healing have flowed through you into the world during that time, and I've no doubt this will continue in whatever form your service next takes. Meanwhile, as you step away, I wish you the deepest possible space for rest and reflection — and hopefully a long 'holiday' somewhere! Please say hello to Elmer and Lucien from me too. With much love and appreciation. Rob



From Catherine Wright,

Thank you for all you have given, and when, in its own time, the 'blank page' is filled... may it be with wonder and grace and joy. I was shocked to read that you are leaving OneSpirit. You have been such an extraordinary part of OneSpirit all the time I have been involved. To me, it feels a little inconceivable that it will continue without you. Often your 'take' on things has landed very deeply in me. And I am grateful for that. As a supervisor, you are wise, kind and creative. The space you open for me is very deep and I feel very safe. Sometimes I have come to sessions with such troubling tricky things... Sometimes I have muddled my way into scary holes. And you have always helped me to find my way out. I feel seen and held and heard and loved. THANK you THANK you THANK you.

*From Sylvia Robertson,
Dear Nicola,*

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you've done for One Spirit. Your hard work, love and dedication has seen the organisation through difficult times and has helped to make it the wonderful organisation it is.

Thank you also for me personally for you have been there for me at some of the most important and significant times in my life. I value and cherish your friendship. I wish you much love and many blessings in whatever your future path holds for you.

Sylvia



From Lorraine Pickles,

Nicola, sorry to hear you are leaving although I know you will find different ways to serve. You have always been a source of inspiration to me, I remember you said 'Lorraine, you don't have to be rushing about in robes to be a Minister!' How true that is 😊

I wish you and your family all the very best. I was sorry to read your Mother was ill - I remember meeting her in Bristol at a Welcome Day and instantly liking her. May the future be full of good things for you. I thank you for all I have learnt from you and send you all my love, Lorraine



From Una Devine,

Dear Nicola,

I value all that you bring to this "One Spirit" intention. Warmth and genuine friendliness. A depth of esoteric spiritual sensitivity that has inspired my continued allegiance to the organisation. I love how you ask the difficult but essential questions that keep us true. You share those aspects of yourself that are human and frail and thus encourage an honesty that is the centre of our strength.

You will be so missed. I will miss you.

I hope that I can tap into the wonder and love that you have showered us with and hold that light for you.

Thank you so much for all you have given and the difference you have made.



*From Alan Briscoe,
Dearest Nicola,*

As you prepare to step into a new chapter, I find myself reflecting on the profound impact you have had on my life and the lives of so many others. Your presence in OneSpirit has been a beacon, an embodiment of the welcome that this organisation stands for, guiding us with your wisdom, compassion, and unwavering dedication.

From the moment we first met, it was evident that you possess a unique ability to touch hearts and inspire those around you. Your genuine kindness and empathy have created an environment where everyone felt valued and understood, allowing us to grow not just professionally but personally as well. You have a rare gift of seeing the potential in people, and your encouragement has helped countless individuals, including myself, to open in ways we never thought possible. Your leadership has been marked by grace and integrity, qualities that have left an indelible mark on our community, and you leave behind a legacy that will resonate for years to come. You have set a standard that will continue to inspire those who follow in your footsteps.

But beyond all this, it is your warmth and humanity that I cherish the most. The moments of laughter, the heartfelt conversations, and the times you offered a listening ear or a comforting word will forever remain etched in my memory. I am eternally grateful for having had the joy of knowing you.


As you move forward, know that your influence will continue to ripple through our lives and the lives of countless others. We are better for having known you, and while your presence will be deeply missed, your spirit will always be a guiding light in our hearts. Thank you, Nicola, for everything. May your journey be filled with joy, discovery, and the same love you have so generously shared with us.

With deepest appreciation and love.





*From Lindsay Reynolds,
Dearest Nicola*



I am finding it impossible to find ample words of farewell. You have given so many years of love, inspiration, dedication and leadership and travelled a long, long road through all that has been OneSpirit over the past 20 years. For me, you have always been the heart of OneSpirit and I hold the time that we have shared and travelled together, with warmth in my heart.

So, I will simply wish you all that is good, and send you off on our new journey with much love and huge hugs.



Take care, Lindsay xx (and for Bob too xx)

From Dawn Russell,

Dear Nicola,

Thank you so much for this part of our journey together.

You have (and still are) been an inspiration to me and helped me to bring myself to the work.

Your integrity and dedication to the work and to the students has been phenomenal.

Your skill and vision inspiring.

Your presence and love heart warming.

So much love to you dear friend.

Dawn xx



From Annie Heppenstall,

Dear Nicola,

It has been a profound experience, working and walking with you these years, and I am so very grateful for all that I have learned through this time. Thankyou. For all that you have brought to this awesome organisation, your passion and courage, your sense of vision and commitment, your great heart, may all these many blessings flow back to you in abundance, as you step into this new chapter of your life.

I wish you and your family all the very best for the time ahead, and that you know yourself to be free and happy and safe and peaceful, and deeply loved - and 'seen'!

With much love, grace and peace to you,

Annie



Thank you!

Though "thank you" may not fully express our gratitude, we still want to say it— for all that you've done, for all that you are, and for all that you will continue to do. OneSpirit is forever grateful. We wish you the best of luck on your next adventure!

