

VALENTINE'S DAY

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New Hampshire State Department of Education

Let's go walking hand in hand
On land ripe with the clean scent of fresh snow
Among maple trees older
Than our grandparents' grandparents' memories
Let's draw upon the
 Innocent endlessness of days in childhood
 Simple laughter of our youth and
 Vigor and honor of our once new adulthood
And let's season these with the
 Commitment to our family
 Courage in hard times and
 Faith in something far bigger than ourselves
That we have worked so hard to achieve
That life has so strongly insisted we achieve

Let's go walking hand in hand
As we gaze among the birches out across to snowy hills beyond
And wonder where best to build our new home
 To deepen the roots of our lives
 As we make our stand
 Together

Let's build a home worthy of our dreams
 Worthy of our children
 Worthy of our love

* **ROBERT T. McLAUGHLIN, Ph.D.**, chaired Rivier College's education division in 2008. He oversees professional educator preparation program approval for the NH Dept. of Education. His three children, he enjoys telling them, are usually cute and adorable; with his wife he provides a home for four border collies, who all are cute and adorable. He founded and chaired the International Society for Technology in Education's interest groups on innovative learning technologies and digital equity, serves on the national commission on technology and the future of teacher education, and is senior fellow for the Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education.