

Epiphany Main Sessions:

Thursday, January 21 Changes

2:15 – 2:30 pm Opening remarks

2:30 – 4:00 pm S01 Beyond the Gods...and Back? *Reginald Bibby*
Three decades of trend-tracking reveals that religion in Canada is not what it used to be. We are getting our first glimpses of what a Canada with a significant number of people "beyond the gods" looks like. Yet the research suggests that the desire for the gods may lead many Canadians back to a religious involvement radically different from what most existing groups have to offer. **Reg Bibby** is a sociology professor at the University of Lethbridge, who has surveyed the beliefs and attitudes of Canadian teens and adults for over 30 years. His research in Canada and the United States gives him a unique perspective on the similarities and differences in social trends affecting religion and spirituality in these two countries. He is the author of five books that focus on religion, most recently, *Restless Gods* (2002), and *Restless Churches* (2004). His latest books focus on the boomer generation and the emerging generation of teenagers.

7:00 – 9:00 pm S11 Reflections of an Artist and Conservationist, *Robert Bateman*

Wildlife artist and co-author of Thinking Like a Mountain, Bob will share of his art and passion for the environment. He says, "I can't conceive of anything more varied and rich and handsome than the planet Earth. And its crowning beauty is the natural world." Robert Bateman is one of the world's greatest artists depicting the natural world. Bob has become a spokesperson for environmental and preservation issues using his artwork in fund-raising efforts for these causes. Bob has dedicated his life to preserving the diversity of the natural world.

Friday, January 22

9:00 – 10:20 am S12 Texts that Trouble; Biblical Texts that Support, Endorse, or Enjoin Violence, *Lois Wilson & Interfaith Friends*
How do Jews, Muslims and Christians interpret texts that appear to promote violence, hate or exclusion? What are the implications for inter-faith dialogue? **Lois Wilson**, first woman moderator of the United Church of Canada, senator, recipient of many awards and honorary degrees and former President of the World Council of Churches, was most recently the Ecumenist-in-Residence at Toronto School of Theology. She will be joined by representatives of the Jewish and Muslim faiths

11:00 am – 12:20 pm S04 The Spiritual Journey, The Human Journey, *David Benner*

David examines of the foundation of any spirituality that supports the journey toward full being. **David G. Benner** is an internationally known clinical psychologist, author, lecturer and spiritual retreat leader. He has authored or edited many books and has held numerous clinical and academic appointments. Dr. Benner was the founding Director of the Institute for Psycho-spiritual Health (Toronto, Ontario). He currently is Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Spirituality at Psychological Studies Institute, Richmond Graduate University (Atlanta, Georgia).

2:00– 3:15 pm W1: Workshop Options 1
Choose a workshop from the list on the reverse side of this brochure.
OR

Walking tour (Optional – numbers limited, so register early; \$5)
Join Phil Foster on a tour of historic Victoria, through Canada's oldest Chinatown, Market and Bastion Squares, and the site of Fort Victoria, founded by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1843. The tour ends at the Legislature and Empress Hotel; transport back to the church provided.

3:45 – 5:00 pm W2: Workshop Options 2
Choose a workshop from the list on the reverse side of this brochure.
OR

Tour of Our Place (Optional)
Tour Our Place, a warm, friendly haven to those in need in Victoria's inner city. *Our Place* provides many kinds of support. We are striving to give people a hand up, not just a hand out.

7:00 – 9:00 pm S05 The Coming Four Horsemen: How You Can Read the Signs of your Life and Times, *Leonard Sweet*

We live in a time when God is calling people to the front lines, to confront and confound some of the most threatening forces ever set loose on planet Earth. Are you one of those being called? Twice voted "One of the 50 Most Influential Christians in America", **Leonard Sweet** is a historian of North American culture; a futurist who "sees things the rest of us do not see, and dreams possibilities that are beyond most of our imagining"; and a preacher and writer who communicates the gospel powerfully to a post-modern age. Currently the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University, Madison, NJ and a Visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University, Portland, Oregon, Len has held leadership positions within the United Methodist Church .

Saturday, January 23

9:00 – 10:20 am S06 Preaching and Worship in a Post-modern World *Leonard Sweet*
Len explores the role of images, technology and the shift from performance to participation in the worship experience.

11:00 am – 12:20 pm S07 So Beautiful: Building Life and Church God's Way, *Leonard Sweet*
Based on his 2009 book *So Beautiful*, Leonard Sweet probes the meaning of what it means to live and do church in an MRI mode: Missional, Relational, Incarnational. (See his biography above.)

2:00 – 3:15 pm S08 Listening to and Living Our Affirmation of the Word, *Ann Weems*
This presentation draws on Ann's upcoming book, *From Advent Hallelujah to Easter Morning Light*. **Ann Weems** is one of the great theological poets of our time, a writer, keynote speaker, liturgist and workshop leader. Her books include *Kneeling in Bethlehem, Reaching for Rainbows, Family Faith Stories, Searching for Shalom, Kneeling in Jerusalem, and Putting the Amazing Back in Grace*.

3:45 – 5:00 pm W3: Workshop Option 3
Choose a workshop from the list on the reverse side of this brochure.
OR

Walk the labyrinth at Christ Church Cathedral. (Optional)

7:00 – 9:00 pm S09 World Music Concert, *Bruce Harding and friends*
A celebration of musical diversity with Bruce Harding and friends. **Bruce Harding** is a congregational song leader at Royal Heights United Church in North Delta, B.C., and a passionate advocate of exploring music from around the world. He was managing editor for *More Voices*, and he travels regularly across Canada leading singing with gatherings large and small. Bruce was the worship/music leader at "Behold! One Another: An Intercultural Conference".

Sunday, January 24

9:00 – 10:00 am Communion Worship, *Danielle Ayana James preaching. Music featuring Dennis Donnelly on harp.*

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Worship, *Michael Blair preaching. Music with Linnea Good.*

2:30 – 4:00 pm S10 Music and Story Telling for All-Ages Worship, *Linnea Good*

Linnea will lead an exploration of the role of music and storytelling in worship that brings people of all ages together for a spiritually satisfying experience. **Linnea Good** is widely known for her songs expressing a contemporary, thoughtful spirituality. Her CDs have reflected a spiritual voyage both personal and profound, and that has seen her achieve international recognition, including five hymns in *More Voices*.

7:00 – 9:00 pm S02 Talk to Her: Learning from 'the Other' Sisters, Muslim Women Making Peace, *Chung Hyung Kyung*

Based on her recent Sabbatical research and pilgrimage, Chung Hyung Kyung will speak of insights gained as she visited 17 Muslim countries and interviewed about 200 Muslim women. Using metaphors of "One Piece Women" and "Rainbow Islam", the presentation will share highlights from her upcoming book, *99 Tales to the Heart of Mecca*. **Chung Hyung Kyung** is Professor of Ecumenical Studies at Union Theological Seminary, New York, a charismatic speaker and a lay theologian of the Presbyterian Church of Korea. She defines herself as a "salimist" (Korean Eco-feminist) from the Korean word "salim," meaning "making things alive." Her books include *Struggling to be the Sun Again: Introducing Asian Women's Theology* and *Hyung Kyung and Alice's Fabulous Love Affair with God*, co-authored with American novelist, Alice Walker.

Monday, January 25

9:00 – 10:20 am S03 Love Meets Wisdom: Christian Buddhist Dialogue, *Chung Hyung Kyung*
Chung Hyung Kyung is a Christian theologian and a Buddhist Dharma teacher. She was born and raised in the Korean Presbyterian church. She has practised Zen meditation for 20 years to relieve personal suffering and become a Buddhist gradually. She says, "Now I am a Buddhist-Christian, a double believer in the spiritual world." She wrote a book about the experience, titled *In the End the Beauty will Save Us All*. (See her biography above.)

11:00 - 12:20 am S13 A Walk Through Pentecost Season, *Herbert O'Driscoll*
Gain fresh insights into the scriptures on this tour of the upcoming season of Pentecost, led by **Herbert O'Driscoll**, well known and highly regarded preacher in the Anglican Church, a former urban Cathedral Dean in Vancouver, a former Warden of the College of Preachers, Washington National Cathedral, and celebrated author of over 30 books including *A Doorway in Time* and *Emmanuel*.

12:20 – 12:40 pm: Closing Remarks

Transportation

Experience has shown that airline tickets purchased through a conference number may not be any cheaper than those found by watching for seat sales, especially when purchased online.

Accommodation

Our preferred hotel partners are:

Traveller's Inn-Downtown (5 blocks, 0.4 km from church): 1-888-254-6476 (toll-free) or email: downtown@travellersinn.com. Confirmation number: G254018-1850.

Traveller's Inn City Center (5 blocks, 0.4 km from church): 1-888-877-9444 (toll-free) or email: citycenter@travellersinn.com. Confirmation number: 3501-1961.

You may also book online at www.travellersinn.com. Rate for conference participants is \$49.95 for a single room with 1 queen or king-size bed for one or two persons and \$59.95 for a double room with two queen or king-size beds for up to four persons. Rates do not include 17.95% taxes and surcharges. Rooms must be booked before Jan. 5, 2010. Complimentary shuttle service to/from conference.

Billeting in the homes of First†Metropolitan members is available free of charge for the duration of the event on a first-come/first-served basis to those who request billeting no later than December 11, 2009.

If you would prefer to find your own accommodation, please visit the website of Tourism Victoria: www.tourismvictoria.com

Visit our website for answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the conference and Victoria.

Two ways to register:

Preferred method: register and pay online at www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany

Or complete the registration form (one per registrant) in this brochure and mail with your cheque to First†Metropolitan United Church. **No post-dated cheques please.** Additional forms may be printed from our website.



First†Metropolitan United Church
932 Balmoral Road
Victoria, BC V8T 1A8
250-388-5189
www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany

Special Needs: Let us know of any special needs you have by emailing epiphany@firstmetvictoria.com or calling 250-388-5189. One of our Planning Team members, experienced with special needs, will call to discuss and arrange for your needs in attending.

Schedule at a Glance—Updated October 2009

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11:00 am – 12:20 pm **S04 The Spiritual Journey, The Human Journey**, *David Benner*
2:00 – 3:15 pm **W1 Workshop Options 1 (Workshops A to F) ~ or ~ Walking Tour**
3:45 – 5:00 pm **W2 Workshop Options 2 (Workshops A to F repeated) ~ or ~ Our Place tour**
7:00 – 9:00 pm **S05 The Coming Four Horsemen: How You Can Read the Signs of your Life and Times**, *Leonard Sweet*

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2:00 – 3:15 pm **S08 Listening to and Living Our Affirmation of the Word**, *Ann Weems*
3:45 – 5:00 pm **W3 Workshop Options 3 (Workshops G to M) ~ or ~ labyrinth**
7:00 – 9:00 pm **S09 World Music Concert**, *Bruce Harding and friends*

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12:20 – 12:40 pm Closing remarks

Gathering music with Linnea Good, Bruce Harding, First†Metropolitan Vocal Ensemble, & Contemporary Sabbath Group.

Epiphany Explorations 2010

January 21 to 25, 2010

Spiritual nurture and continuing
education for your personal journey:
Listen, Learn, Laugh and Sing!



Featuring: Chung Hyung Kyung, David Benner,
Ann Weems, Leonard Sweet, Reginald Bibby,
Robert Bateman, Bruce Harding, Linnea Good

First†Metropolitan United Church

932 Balmoral Road
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www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany

Register by Nov 30
and SAVE!

Workshop Options

While all sessions will include a mix of presentation, discussion and exercises, **W** indicates a more hands-on workshop format, **P** indicates a more content-oriented presentation, and **SP** indicates a session that offers an opportunity to engage in a spiritual practice.

Please note that you may register for **TWO workshops during the three time periods allocated for these sessions. Please make sure to mark the workshop(s) you wish to attend on the registration form. Space is limited, so please register early.**

You may register for two workshops on the Friday, or one on each day. During each time block, we have one alternative activity: the bus tour (cost \$5 and must be booked in advance), tour of *Our Place*, or walking the labyrinth on your own (brochure and map available).

Friday Workshops: Offered from 2:00 to 3:15 and repeated from 3:45 to 5:00 pm:

A. Soul of the City, a Workshop about Urban Ecology (W), Bill Phipps
Can we create cities with ecological integrity? Does your city (or community) have soul? We will explore ways in which we can create sustainable, soul-filled cities into the future. **Bill Phipps** is a Canadian church leader and social justice activist, and currently serves as International President, World Conference on Religion and Peace. He was Moderator of the United Church of Canada from 1997 to 2000. He is the author of *Cause for Hope: Humanity at the Crossroads*.

B. Transforming Vision: Art as an Aid to Prayer (SP), Juliet Benner
This workshop is built around meditation on works of religious art as a means of deep encounter with the Biblical texts that inspired them and as an aid to contemplative prayer. No background in art is necessary. All that is required is openness to meeting God in your depths and a willingness to learn to do so in the posture of attentive spiritual gazing. **Juliet Benner's** use of religious art as a resource in Christian contemplation and spiritual formation is at the core of her writing, retreat work and spiritual direction. Her primary training was at St. Joseph's Centre for Spirituality (Hamilton). Juliet is in demand internationally as a retreat and workshop leader.

C. Restless Gods and Restless Churches: Reading and Responding to the Emerging Times (W), Reg Bibby
This workshop takes brief look at key social and demographic trends that are affecting ministry in Canada, with reflection on some of the ways that churches might respond and need to respond to current needs and opportunities. (See Reg's biography on Thurs., Jan. 21 at 2:30 pm.)

D. The Hospitality of Worship (W), Linnea Good
Planning Worship Using Music as the Connecting Thread - there is a flow to any good liturgy that mirrors the flow of any good visit with a friend. When planning worship, attention needs to be given to the kind of intimacy and energy that we expect of the participants in the service. (See Linnea's biography on Sun., Jan. 24 at 2:30 pm.)

E. Couplehood as a Spiritual Path (P), Rod & Lois Tomlinson
This workshop is an introduction to this educational program for partners which integrates the principles of a world renowned approach to growing a loving relationship within a faith based framework. **Rod and Lois Tomlinson** currently lead programs and offer training in Couplehood as a Spiritual Path. The method is informed by Harville Hendrix' widely respected Imago Relationship Therapy method and was developed by Hendrix and his wife Helen Hunt at Riverside Church of New York City.

F. First Steps to Becoming an Intercultural Congregation (W), Adele Halliday & Steve Willey
Are you looking for ways to make your church more interculturally inclusive? Come and discover practical ways to deepen congregational engagement around intercultural ministries, and to discern what "intercultural" might mean in your local context. **Steve Willey** and **Adele Halliday** are staff members in the Intercultural & Diverse Communities in Ministries Unit of The United Church of Canada. Steve has served as Conference Personnel Minister, mission strategist for York Presbytery, and interim minister of Centennial-Japanese United Church. Adele has taught students and developed curricula in Toronto, Kenya, and Belize. Steve and Adele were co-staff to organize "Behold! One Another: An Intercultural Conference", the United Church's first conference on intercultural ministries.

Saturday Workshops: Offered from 3:45 to 5:00 pm

G. Crisis and Opportunity: Religion in the Post-colonial Period (P), Paul Bramadat
As many Christian communities in the West are grappling with the implications for themselves of centuries of colonialism, it is worthwhile to pause and consider the issues at stake in and the potential outcomes of this dramatic moment in history. **Paul Bramadat** is the Director of the Centre of Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria. He is an active member of the Metropolis Project, an international network for comparative public policy research on migration, diversity and immigrant integration in urban centres. He is currently working on an edited volume with Matthias Koenig titled *International Migration and the Governance of Religious Diversity*.

H. What We in the Church Say and What We in the Church Do: Who do YOU say that Jesus is? (P), Ann Weems
Reflections on the significance of Matthew 16: 13-20
(See Ann's biography on Sat., Jan. 23 at 2:00 pm.)

I. Through the Eyes of Another: Intercultural Reading of the Bible (P), Michael Blair & Adele Halliday
Learn what insights arose when a diversity of groups from aboriginal, franco-phone, racial-ethnic minority, deaf, and ethnic majority communities all reflected on the same biblical passages. Consider how a similar study could take place in your community. **Michael Blair** is Executive Minister of the Intercultural & Diverse Communities in Ministry Unit of The United Church of Canada. He is the former director of the Toronto Christian Resource Centre (CRC), serving the homeless and marginalized in Toronto's eastern downtown area. He has spoken and preached extensively about intercultural ministries, and offers prophetic wisdom and keen insights in becoming an intercultural church. (See **Adele's** biography at Friday workshop F.)

J. Sabbath: Saving the World by Taking a Rest? (W), Dave Holmes
In our too-busy, environmentally unsustainable, consumer world, could it be that our way forward is to take the rest we so desperately need? Sabbath should NOT be what Dave calls a "dark day of don't" but rather a day to feed your soul and connect with God in community with others. **Dave Holmes** is a trained spiritual director and works in team ministry with his spouse Karen at McDougall United in Calgary. He graduated from the Doctor of Ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta in 2008, having reveled in the chance to study with people like Stan Saunders, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Walter Brueggemann.

K. Stepping Into Silence (SP), Linda Mulhall
There are many ways to come to silence. In this workshop, participants will experience a variety of meditation practices from Sufi, Buddhist, and Christian traditions. **Linda Mulhall** was a nun for eight years, a former General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of Canada, a feminist, and a student and leader of Métis-First Nations spirituality. Since moving to Victoria, she has been an active member of First†Metropolitan United Church and offers a weekly meditation program, "The Listening Heart."

L. Contemporary Worship (P), Amy Collins & Jeff Poynter
University of Victoria music students Amy and Jeff share insights from their experience of planning and leading the "Contemporary Sabbath" worship at First†Metropolitan. These services included music styles including roots, pop, world, folk and jazz. The informal worship was aimed at those for whom "church" might be a new experience. **Amy Collins** sang in our choir, was part of the summer staff at Naramata Centre as well as being active in the United Church in the Lower Mainland. **Jeff Poynter** has studied music for 13 years and plays piano, saxophone, guitar, bass and accordion. He is a lifelong member of the United Church.

M. Making Boards Better (W), Doug Goodwin
Most church and non-profit boards spend far too much time on the wrong things and leave little time for the right things. Find out how the principles of "Policy Governance" can make your board more effective, focused, and valuable. **Doug Goodwin** has been the Executive Secretary of BC Conference of the United Church for the past six years, after serving as a pastoral minister on reserves and small northern communities. His impatience with things that do not work well led him to investigate how boards might work better, resulting in leading lasting change on several boards of various sizes. He has also led workshops for congregational and other boards.

Form a Learning Circle related to this conference and receive up to \$150 grants per person (thanks to the United Church of Canada).

Find more detailed information about the presenters and a suggested reading list.

Information is available at our website: www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany

