

Accommodation

Book before 31 Dec with our preferred accommodation partners:

• **Best Western Carlton Plaza**
(www.bestwesterncarltonplazahotel.com/)
642 Johnson St - Toll-free phone: 1 800 663 7241.
Ask for Connie Stecyk or Caroline Grantham, quote FIRSTMET rate.
Rate: \$75 per night for up to 3 persons sharing a studio suite (with kitchen) or guest room.

• **Executive House Hotel**
(www.executivehouse.com/)
777 Douglas St - Toll-free phone: 1 800 663 7001.
Quote code EPIPH when reserving.
Rate: \$76 per night single or double guest room,
\$96 1-bedroom suite, \$15 per additional person.

• **Billeting** is available with First+Met members at no charge on a first-come/first-served basis.
Deadline: 10 December 2010.

Visit our website for answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the conference, Victoria and tips on getting to Vancouver Island.

Two ways to register:

⇒ Preferred method: register & pay online
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.

Special Needs:

Email epiphany@firstmetvictoria.com or call **250 388 5189**. Our Special Needs Coordinator will discuss and arrange for your needs to be met while attending the conference.

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, 20 January

2:15 - 2:30 pm Opening Remarks
2:30 - 4:00 pm **SO1 Amazing Grace, Transforming Gospel Through Song**, Marty Haugen
7:00 - 9:00 pm **SO2 Another View of Afghanistan**, Flora MacDonald

Friday, 21 January

9:00 - 10:20 am **SO3 Gender in Islam**, Raheel Raza
11:00 am - 12:20 **SO4 Getting God at the Centre of the Church**, Anthony Robinson
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 **SO5 Growing in Grace, Part 1**, Philip Yancey

Saturday, 22 January

9:00 - 10:20 am **SO6 Growing in Grace, Part 2**, Philip Yancey
11:00 am - 12:20 **SO7 Growing in Grace, Part 3**, Philip Yancey
2:00 - 3:15 pm **SO8 Exploring Soul, Community and Creation**, Moderator Mardi Tindal
3:45 - 5:00 pm **W3 Workshop Option (Workshops G to M)** or labyrinth
7:00 - 9:00 pm **SO9 Ubuntu: The Essence of Humanity**, Nontombi Naomi Tutu

Sunday, 23 January

9:00 - 10:00 am **Communion Worship**
11:00 am - 12:00 **Worship**, Mardi Tindal preaching
2:30 - 4:00 pm **S10 The Wit and Whimsy of Arthur Black**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **S11 Exploring the Mystery of Emily Carr**, musical with Rebecca Hass & Mike Lenz

Monday, 24 January

9:00 - 10:20 am **S12 Spiritual but not Religious**, Douglas Todd
11:00 am - 12:20 **S13 Preacher, People, Powerful World**, Herbert O'Driscoll
12:20 - 12:40 pm Closing Remarks

Epiphany Explorations 2011

January 20 - 24

Spiritual nurture and continuing education for your personal journey

Listen · Learn · Laugh · Sing

featuring

Marty Haugen
Flora MacDonald
Raheel Raza
Anthony Robinson
Philip Yancey
Mardi Tindal
Nontombi Naomi Tutu
Douglas Todd



First+Metropolitan United Church
932 Balmoral Road Victoria, BC V8T 1A8
Ph: 250 388-5189

Registration opens August 15

Register by November 30 and SAVE!
www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany

Epiphany Main Sessions

Thursday, 20 January

2:15 - 2:30 pm Opening Remarks

2:30 - 4:00 pm S01 Amazing Grace, Transforming Gospel Through Song, Marty Haugen
Scripture and our living, evolving forms of worship offer Christians a strong centre amidst an increasingly fearful and self-absorbed culture. What we say and do, sing and embody in our gatherings helps us remember, imagine and invite Jesus' alternative vision: a reign of justice, mercy and peace. In this session, we explore passionate, transformative worship.

Marty Haugen is a liturgical composer, presenter, performing and recording artist, and author. He has presented hundreds of workshops and concerts in many parts of the world. Marty has numerous recordings and separate printed editions.

7:00 - 9:00 pm S02 Another View of Afghanistan, Flora MacDonald

How obstacles were overcome to improve the lives of women and children in Afghanistan.

Flora MacDonald was a long-time Canadian Member of Parliament and the first female Secretary of State for External Affairs. She is an active humanitarian through her foundation, Future Generations Canada, and has made more than 10 trips to Afghanistan to help communities attain electricity, clean water and education.

Friday, 21 January

9:00 - 10:20 am S03 Gender in Islam (Sun, Sand and Muslim Women – Myths & Facts), Raheel Raza
For 14 centuries the Quran was interpreted solely by men. Everything was filtered through male intellect - even women's issues. This presentation will touch upon the history and background of how and why Islam gave women rights to inheritance, voting, equal pay and freedom of choice in marriage and divorce, dwelling briefly on the lives of some famous Muslim women whom history has forgotten.

Raheel Raza is an award-winning writer, professional speaker, diversity consultant and interfaith advocate. She is the first Muslim woman in Canada to lead mixed gender prayers. She has spoken at the Justice Department, school boards and universities, including Harvard and Columbia, and Canada's Parliament.

11:00 am - 12:20 pm S04 Getting God at the Centre of the Church, Anthony Robinson

Sometimes we get so busy doing church that God seems to be all but forgotten; Tony will talk about ways that congregations are renewing the centre of their church by putting God there.

Anthony Robinson is known for his work in congregational leadership. He has taught at Toronto School of Theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and Vancouver School of Theology. He is the author of nine books, including *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way*

for *Congregations* and a frequent contributor to journals, including *The Christian Century*, *Congregations*, and *Perspectives*.

7:00 - 9:00 pm S05 Growing in Grace - Part 1, Philip Yancey

Award-winning author, Philip Yancey asks "If grace is so amazing, why don't Christians show more of it?" Join him on a soul-searching pilgrimage into the art of growing in grace, over three sessions on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Philip Yancey has sold over 15 million copies of his award-winning books, including *Soul Survivor*, *The Jesus I Never Knew* and *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Philip is editor-at-large for *Christianity Today* and writes articles for *Reader's Digest*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, among others.

Saturday, 22 January

9:00 - 10:20 am S06 Growing in Grace - Part 2, Philip Yancey

11:00 am - 12:20 pm S07 Growing in Grace - Part 3, Philip Yancey

2:00 - 3:15 pm S08 Exploring Soul, Community and Creation, Mardi Tindal
How do we live with integrity as followers of Jesus, attending to both the contemplative and the active for the sake of God's wholeness and healing?

Mardi Tindal is Moderator of the United Church. She is an adult educator, author and video producer who recently was Executive Director of Five Oaks Centre, one of the United Church's education centres. Mardi served as co-host of the former United Church television program *Spirit Connection*.

7:00 - 9:00 pm S09 Ubuntu: The Essence of Humanity, Nontombi Naomi Tutu

Learn about the value of Ubuntu, a concept found in almost all African languages, which translates best as Humanity. What is Ubuntu? What does the concept have to offer us in our 21st century very busy lives?

Nontombi Naomi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu, is the founder of the Tutu Foundation for Development and Relief in Southern Africa. Having taught at numerous universities in the USA and abroad, she recently was program coordinator for Fisk University's Race Relations Institute.

Sunday, 23 January

9:00 - 10:00 am Communion Worship

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Worship, Mardi Tindal
preaching

2:30 - 4:00 pm S10 The Wit and Whimsy of Arthur Black

A humorous look at the Great White North from the vantage point of its soggy green southwest corner. **Arthur Black** is a three time winner of the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour, and was the host of CBC's national radio show "Basic Black". He also wrote and hosted two award-winning TV shows: "Weird Homes" and "Weird Wheels". Black writes a column in *ZOOMER* magazine, as well as a humorous commentary carried by over 50 newspapers. He has published 13 books to date.

7:00 - 9:00 pm S11 Impressions of Emily Carr; Exploring the Mystery, Rebecca Hass & Mike Lenz

At age 58, Emily Carr began a diary that shares her candid views on art, aging, spirituality, nature, her sisters, death, war, life's mystery. In this dramatic production, excerpts of her diary are accompanied by visuals of her paintings plus musical selections ranging from spirituals to Wagner. **Rebecca Hass** has a rich and varied musical career that embraces opera, concert work, musicals and cabarets. She has sung on stages in Canada and the USA for over 20 years, appearing with many Canadian opera companies and symphonies. She will be teamed with husband **Mike Lenz**, also a veteran of drama and music, as they present a musical review based on the journal of Emily Carr.

Monday, 24 January

9:00 - 10:20 am S12 Spiritual but not Religious, Douglas Todd

British Columbia is the most "unchurched" region in North America. Many here, however, do say they're "spiritual." What are the beliefs and practices of the "spiritual but not religious?" And, toughest question of all, how can churches appeal to them?

Douglas Todd was referred to by *Vancouver Magazine* as "arguably Vancouver's most thoughtful journalist." He has received many journalism honours, including first place in the Templeton Religion Reporter of the Year award, which goes to the top religion reporter in the secular media in North America and is the highest award for opinion writing from the American Academy of Religion.

11:00 am - 12:20 pm S13 Preacher, People, Powerful Word, Herbert O'Driscoll

Integral to the effectiveness of the preaching event is the inner life of the preacher and his/her relationship with those listening. We will reflect on those related worlds while exploring the lectionary for insights. **Herbert O'Driscoll** is one of the best known and highly regarded preachers in the Anglican Church. He was an urban cathedral dean in Vancouver and a former Warden of the College of Preachers, Washington National Cathedral. Herbert is a celebrated author of over 30 books.

For a list of suggested pre-readings go to www.firstmetvictoria.com/epiphany

Workshop Sessions

Note: Workshops A to F will be offered twice on Friday, 21 January: from 2:00 to 3:15 pm and again from 3:45 to 5:00 pm.

A. Sufism: The Soul of Islam (SP), Raheel Raza

A viewing of William Dalrymple's film called *Sufi Soul - the mystical music of Islam*, a personal journey into the mystical and musical side of Islam as he charts the traditions of Sufi music in Syria, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Morocco. This will be followed by discussion and some hands-on chanting. See *Main Sessions for Bio*.

B. Nuts and Bolts of the Parish Music Ensemble: Microphones, Instruments and Voices in Real Spaces (W), Marty Haugen

The primary goal of the music ministry ensemble is to encourage and support the voice of all. What are the considerations, possibilities and pitfalls in music leadership? How can we use technology and architecture to open rather than obscure the sung Word? See *Main Sessions for Bio*.

C. Finding Our Way: The Art and Practice of Discernment (W), Linda Mulhall

How do I tell the difference between the promptings of Spirit and my ego's need for control, certainty and power? How do I know when I am on track and when I am off? What do the promptings of Spirit look like? These are some of the questions that will be addressed.

Linda Mulhall, a Spiritual Guide and retreat leader, brings an appreciation of diverse spiritualities. After eight years in a Roman Catholic community, she became General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of Canada and was influenced by the Christian Feminism Movement. She draws upon Métis and First Nations spirituality and has studied with the Sufi teacher, Atum O'Kane.

D. Leaders Make a Difference (P), Anthony Robinson

Leading congregations isn't easy, but it is important. Tony will help us think more deeply about the nature and practice of congregational leadership. See *Main Sessions for Bio*.

E. The Spirituality of Sexuality (P),

Mike Schwartzentruber and Lois Huey-Heck

Using art; Jewish, Christian and Islamic sacred texts (including Sun poetry) and discussion, this workshop invites us to explore the meaning and role of Eros in our lives and the inherent connection between sexuality and spirituality.

Mike Schwartzentruber, Associate Publisher for Wood Lake Publishing, has edited several books on sexual health and childhood sexual education. **Lois Huey-Heck** is a spiritual director, retreat leader/group facilitator, author and visual artist. For over 20 years her day job (spiritual publishing) also connected her to matters of spirituality and practical concerns of putting values/beliefs into action. Mike and Lois recently co-authored *The Spirituality of Sex*.

F. Opening the Intercultural Treasure Chest (P),

Megumi Matsuo Saunders

This workshop focuses on an integrated congregational approach for children, youth, young adults and families, with a particular focus on how to invite, welcome and honour

children and families of cultural diversity. It offers practical and visionary strategies for building children's ministry and beyond, in a variety of contexts.

Megumi Matsuo Saunders, the Minister of Children, Youth and Families at First+Met, believes nurturing children's faith journey at an early age helps build their own identity and faith which will sustain and encourage their life journey in adulthood. She uses popular education including drama, music, games, and crafts as important teaching methods.

Note: Workshops G to L will be offered on Saturday, 22 January from 3:45 to 5:00 pm.

G. Church Leadership in a Pluralistic Society (P),

Lois Wilson

In what areas does the church need to give leadership today? How do we set priorities? What is it in our religion that requires us to co-operate with people who hold very different beliefs to ours?

Lois Wilson was the first woman elected president of the Canadian Council of Churches and moderator of the United Church of Canada. Author of several books and recipient of many honorary degrees and awards, she has been a president of the World Council of Churches, chancellor of Lakehead University, a senator, and Ecumenist-in-Residence at Toronto School of Theology and Queens University.

H. Music for the Contemporary Worship Experience (W), Amy Collins and Jeff Poynter

A sampling of a smorgasbord of music offered by two UVic Music Students who lead First+Met's Sabbath Worship and music group.

Amy Collins and **Jeff Poynter** are the co-leaders of contemporary worship at First+Metropolitan. Amy is a student at the University of Victoria's School of Music and has been part of the Naramata Centre's summer staff. Jeff, also a music student at UVic, plays piano, saxophone, guitar, a little bit of bass and accordion. He provides music leadership at Pilgrim United.

I. Writing and Sharing Your Life Story (W),

Terry Dance-Bennink and Edeana Malcolm

Here is a powerful way to harvest your life's wisdom. First+Metropolitan's book *Stories United* will show you how to record your memories and those of others through a simple but profound form of life review. *Stories United* includes sample stories from elders based on eight themes, reflection questions and a "how-to manual".

Terry Dance-Bennink and **Edeana Malcolm** have been leading *Writing & Sharing Your Life Story* workshops. Terry is the editor of *Stories United*, a personal historian, educator and spiritual guide. She created the Spiritual Companions program at First+Met. Edeana is a writer, poet, ESL teacher, a member of the *Stories United* Editorial Committee and a spiritual companion.

J. Why Is The United Church of Canada So Confusing? (And How This Deters Newcomers to the Church) (P), Bethel Lee

As we all know, the United Church doesn't have the luxury of waiting around anymore. If we want to connect with the world around us, we need to acknowledge our fears, understand our current situation, and walk toward creative solutions. Let's enter the conversation by bringing to light what outsiders find so confusing. Then we may start the process of clarifying who we are to a world that wants to know us.

Bethel Lee moved to BC and joined the United Church of Canada after receiving her MDiv from Duke Divinity School in North Carolina. She currently is writing a book, *Doubt & Consolation*, that explores the transformation of her fundamentalist Christian beliefs into her present self-identification as a "metaphorical Christian".

K. Music for Meditation, (SP) Denis Donnelly and Lanny Pollet

For over 10 years, hundreds have come to First+Met to start the New Year with Meditative Music offered by well-known musicians, Denis (harp) and Lanny (flute). Meditate to a diverse range (Celtic to Japanese) of beautiful selections.

Denis Donnelly and **Lanny Pollet** are two outstanding Victoria musicians. Here is an opportunity to meditate to their beautiful blend of harp and flute or to simply listen and reflect.

L. Prayer: Finding Our True Self (SP), Sue Clough

We will focus on the "what" and "why" of prayer, how our image of God informs our prayer, as well as various practices that include praying with the body, the prayer of quiet and inter-spiritual prayer. These will invite us to discover how to pray in a way that is most authentic to who we are and that can lead us to our True Self.

Sue Clough MRE, LMT is an educator who has worked with high school students and adults for many decades. With a background in Theology and Psychotherapy, she was a Chaplain who facilitated adult faith formation, walking with people as they search for meaning, wholeness and a fuller awareness of the sacred in their lives.

While all sessions will include a mix of presentation, discussion and exercises,

W = a more hands-on workshop format

P = a more content-oriented presentation

SP = 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; mark the workshop(s) you wish to attend on the registration form.

Space is limited, so please register early!

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