

PRAISE FOR STORIES UNITED

“What a life giving project for the congregation! What a rich resource for individuals wanting to explore their own faith journey! The book’s chief value is its function as catalyst to intrigue the reader into a reflection on the major themes of one’s own life since the book includes all ages and stages, from birth and childhood to old age and death. Buy it and read it.”

– *The Very Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson - Senator and former Moderator of the United Church of Canada*

“Old age is the time when the meaning of the play becomes clear to us.’ This vivid insight of Rabbi Schacter-Shalomi is only one of the many gifts I have received from these pages. As an elder myself, everything about Stories United affirms and respects the stage of life I myself now live daily.... The cover speaks of this work as ‘harvesting elders’ wisdom.’ In this harvest there is much golden grain.”

– *The Rev. Dr. Herbert O’Driscoll - Anglican priest, author, international speaker and hymn composer*

“In the tradition of oral historians like Studs Terkel and Barry Broadfoot, whose work both recorded and shaped the spirit of their times, these stories of the heart will not only captivate the storyteller in each of us but also contribute powerfully to bringing the elder into renewed relationship with a society that desperately needs the wisdom that comes with age and shared insight.”

– *Tim Scorer - writer, educator and spiritual director*

“These life stories are tender, funny, sad and deeply moving. Beginning with childhood memories, the elders move through their life journeys and give us an open and honest look at aging, loss, grief, death and their thoughts on life after death. Their stories are both universal and highly personal. While the stories and questions for the reader to consider are a blessing in themselves, the book also contains a chapter on how to establish a program in your congregation that includes developing and supporting Spiritual Companions. What a gift!”

– *Dr. Marion Best - former Moderator of the United Church of Canada*

First † Metropolitan United Church
www.firstmetvictoria.com



STORIES UNITED
Harvesting Elders’ Wisdom

Dance-Bennink

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STORIES UNITED
Harvesting Elders’ Wisdom

from
The Spiritual Companions Program
First † Metropolitan United Church, Victoria, B.C.

Terry Dance-Bennink, Editor

STORIES UNITED – *Harvesting Elders’ Wisdom*

“Hearts with ears and a pen.” That’s how elders describe 12 lay volunteers at FirstMet Victoria who’ve been trained as spiritual companions to help elders reflect on their life experience and harvest the wisdom in a newly published book *Stories United*.

Many rich stories have been collected during this pilot program sponsored by the Watkins Fund of the United Church of Canada. Elders, ages 75 to 100, are eager to “feast” on their lives in the company of a younger friend. The stories will touch you deeply. The reflection questions at the end of each chapter may prompt you to follow in our elders’ footsteps. Read the book right through or dip into whatever theme will help you on your journey.

- Early memories**
- Love and friendship**
- A life’s work**
- The joys and challenges of growing older**
- Accepting loss and death**
- Building a faith community**
- The many faces of God**
- More words of wisdom**

An **Elders’ Gallery** presents each elder’s biography and photo, together with the companion’s photo and the **Wisdom Learned** from the elder.

The Story behind the Stories ends the book for those who wish to learn from our experience. **Book reviews** by Lois Wilson, Marion Best, Herb O’Driscoll and Tim Scorer are on the back cover.

Book specifications: 314 pages, 6” x 9” soft cover, ISBN 978-1-897518-36-6 published by First Metropolitan United Church

PRE-ORDER FORM

I’d like to receive an order form to purchase _____ copies of *Stories United*.

Name _____ Email _____

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City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

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or visit our website: www.firstmetvictoria.com or call (250) 388-5188