

## 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. How God Heals and How We Can Help. Nancy Reeves (Replacing Ann Weems)**

Through story, discussion, spiritual practice, practical information, and song, we will explore spiritual tools for healing loss of all kinds - ranging from chronic illness and bereavement to shattering of a dream. A focus will be on how God offers us healing and how we can, both accept this gift for ourselves and partner with God to help others. Appropriate for helpers and for people experiencing a personal loss.

**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, francophone, 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.