

THE LESTER RANDALL
PREACHING FELLOWSHIP

THE STRENGTH OF OUR WORDS

OCTOBER 26-OCTOBER 28, 2025 | YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

STEVE BELL | THE REV. DR. ANNA CARTER FLORENCE | MALCOLM GUIE

A CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT FOR CLERGY PRESENTED BY:

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, in partnership with Metropolitan United Church,
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's United Church, Christ Church Deer Park,
and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church

SUPPORTED BY:

Acadia Divinity College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Center for Practical Theology,
Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Emmanuel College, Huron College, Knox College,
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OCTOBER 26-OCTOBER 28, 2025
YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

YPBC CONFERENCE ROOM DIRECTORY

Admin Board Room **502** Sanctuary **Sanctuary**
Library **301** Cameron Hall **CH** Friendship Room **302** Red Boardroom **120**
Youth Zone **508** Christ Church Deer Park **CCDP**

The WIFI password is ypb1928

RECHARGE LOUNGE - ROOM 213

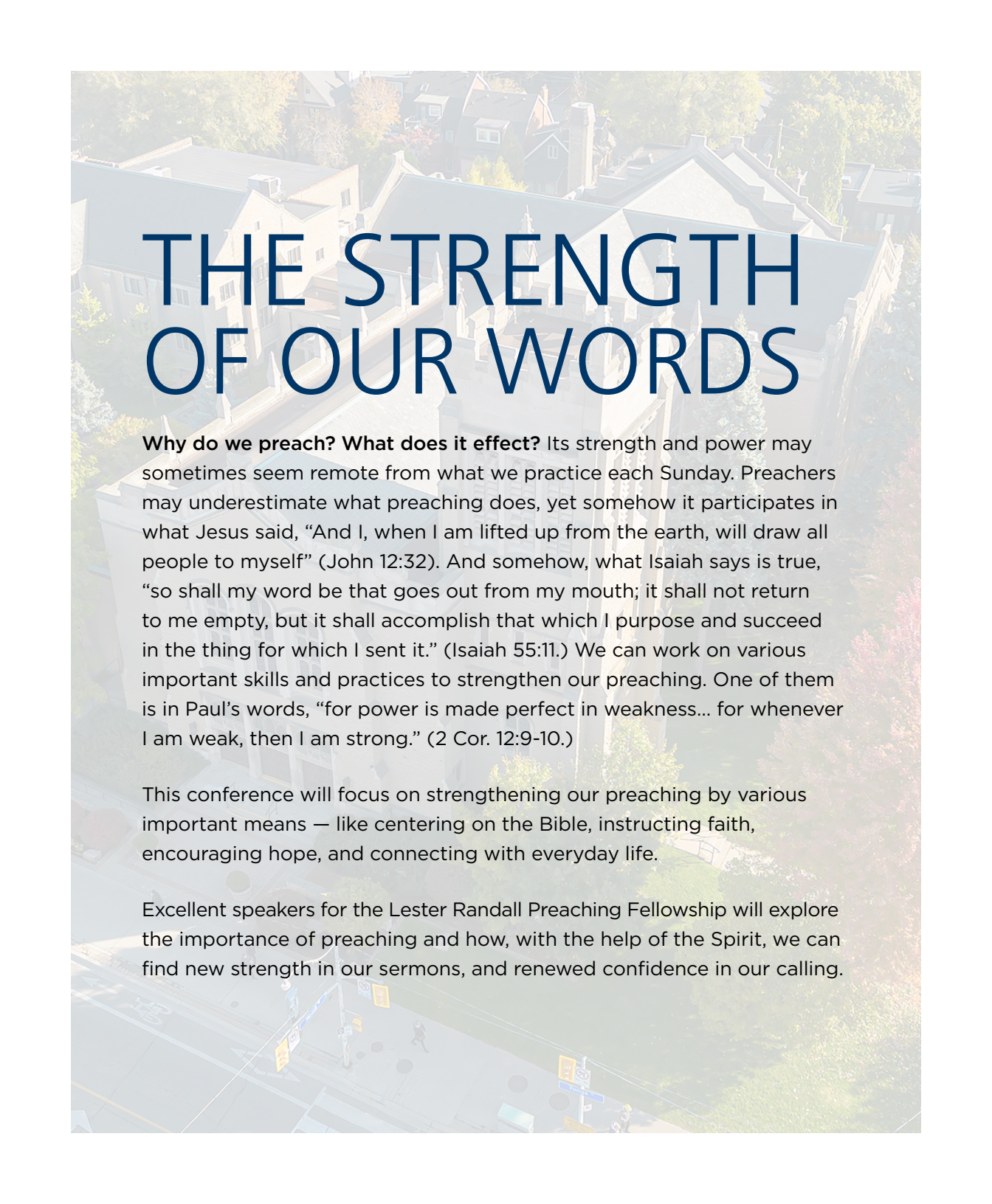
Need a moment to unwind?

Recharge yourself and your phone in our quiet space – perfect for a quick call, reflection, or reset between sessions

* Events marked with an asterisk are open to the public – EVERYONE IS WELCOME

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the prayerful hope of true reconciliation and healing we acknowledge the land we are meeting on has been the site of human activity for over 15,000 years. This land is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to live, work and worship on this land.



THE STRENGTH OF OUR WORDS

Why do we preach? What does it effect? Its strength and power may sometimes seem remote from what we practice each Sunday. Preachers may underestimate what preaching does, yet somehow it participates in what Jesus said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). And somehow, what Isaiah says is true, “so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11.) We can work on various important skills and practices to strengthen our preaching. One of them is in Paul’s words, “for power is made perfect in weakness... for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:9-10.)

This conference will focus on strengthening our preaching by various important means — like centering on the Bible, instructing faith, encouraging hope, and connecting with everyday life.

Excellent speakers for the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship will explore the importance of preaching and how, with the help of the Spirit, we can find new strength in our sermons, and renewed confidence in our calling.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26

5:00 pm	REGISTRATION OPENS	YP Centre
7:00 pm	WORSHIP: Anna Carter Florence* <i>Preaching from Inside the Walls</i> (Joshua 2:1-15) Liturgist: Will Ingram and Paula Willis	Sanctuary
8:00 pm	BREAK	
8:15 pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER PANEL DISCUSSION* Steve Bell, Anna Carter Florence, Malcolm Guite, with Katie Givens Kime (Moderator)	Sanctuary

MONDAY OCTOBER 27

8:00 am	REGISTRATION	YP Centre
	COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS Coffee, tea and cold continental breakfast, vendor tables and displays	Gym
9:00 am	WORSHIP: Kimberly Heath – The Paul Scott Wilson Preacher <i>Preaching in a Dangerous Time</i> (1 Samuel 3:1-21) Liturgist: Jeff Crittenden, Musician: Steve Bell	Sanctuary
9:40 am	LECTURE: Malcolm Guite Topic: The Poetry of Preaching	Sanctuary
10:40 am	BREAK	
11:00 am	WORKSHOP SESSION ONE	
	Steve Bell: <i>Psalms, Saints & Ancient Prayers: Nourishing the Faith Community</i>	Sanctuary
	Paul Scott Wilson: <i>Gospel In Sight: Allowing Art Works to Speak in the Sermon</i>	Friendship Room
	Sarah Travis: <i>Deeply Grieving: Preaching Traumatic Texts in Advent</i>	Red Boardroom
	Anna Carter Florence: <i>A Parable Universe: When Preachers Start Looking for Parables in Everyday Things</i>	Cameron Hall
	Sheryl Spencer: <i>Bringing Life to the Dead: Employing the Writer's Craft in Funeral Sermons</i>	Admin Boardroom
12:15 pm	LUNCH	Heritage Room
1:20 pm	LECTURE: Jason Byassee Topic: <i>What Preaching is Not</i>	Cameron Hall
2:20 pm	WORKSHOP SESSION TWO	
	Pamela McCarroll: <i>Eyes to See and Ears to Hear: Trauma-Informed Preaching Toward Hope</i>	Friendship Room
	Mary Hulst: <i>How Can I Grow in My Preaching, Really?</i>	Youth Zone
	Malcolm Guite: <i>Poetry and the Preacher</i>	Sanctuary
	Jeff Crittenden: <i>Remembered Voices – Whispers of Grace and Shouts of Strength</i>	Admin Boardroom
	Mark Jefferson: <i>Rhythms and Algorithms: Embodied Preaching in the Digital Age</i>	Cameron Hall
3:35 pm	BREAK	

SCHEDULE

3:50 pm OPEN SESSIONS (Open to registered attendees only)

Poetry Reading: Featuring in-person readings by the poets, Margo Swiss, John Terpstra and Malcolm Guite
Hosted by: David Kent of the St. Thomas Poetry Series

Sanctuary

Panel Discussion: *The Strength of Our Words*
 A panel discussion on the 2025 theme featuring panelists Jason Byassee, Sarah Han, Kimberly Heath, and Scott Hoezee
Facilitated by: Paul Scott Wilson

Friendship Room

Panel Discussion: *Facing the Future: Preaching in an AI World*
 A panel discussion featuring panelists Michael Coren and Joanna W. Ng
Led by: Katie Givens Kime and Mark Jefferson

Cameron Hall

4:50 pm WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION: Sponsored by DAY1
 Celebrating 80 Years of Day1: A Legacy of Faith, A Future of Possibility

Christ Church
Deer Park

6:00 pm DINNER

Heritage Room

7:15 pm Concert: The Bell and the Bard*
 Steve Bell in concert with renowned English poet Malcolm Guite. "An unforgettable evening of masterful songwriting, rich poetry and captivating storytelling."

Sanctuary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

8:00 am COFFEE AND REFRESHMENT
 Coffee, tea and cold continental breakfast, vendor tables and displays

Gym

9:00 am LECTURE: Anna Carter Florence
 Topic: *Canaan, Jericho, Moab, and Jerusalem: Preaching from the Worst Possible Place and Time*

Sanctuary

10:00 am WORKSHOP SESSION THREE

Emily Bisset: *Preaching and Poetry – With a Focus on Several Poets*

Red Boardroom

Susan Sparks: *Cross-training for Preachers: Leveraging Lessons from Unexpected Disciplines*

Sanctuary

Sarah Han: *Sparkling Gospel Power Within Our Preaching*

Friendship Room

Leanne Friesen: *The Grieving Preacher: Preaching Hope When Your Heart is Broken*

Youth Zone

Scott Hoezee: *Show, Don't Tell: Detail and Vividness in Preaching*

Cameron Hall

11:15 am BREAK

11:45 am WORSHIP: Malcolm Guite
Bringing it Home (John 1:1-14)
 Liturgist: Jason Myers Musician: Steve Bell

Sanctuary

AFTERNOON

12:30 pm LUNCH

Heritage Room

2:15 pm FINE-TUNED PREACHING

Group 1 Gail Ricciuti & Mark Jefferson

Gladstone Library

Group 2 Mary Hulst & Scott Hoezee

Red Boardroom

Group 3 Susan Sparks & Michael Knowles

Admin Boardroom

Group 4 Sarah Han & Paul Scott Wilson

Friendship Room

Group 5 Emily Bisset & Jeff Crittenden

Chapel

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



STEVE BELL

Steve Bell, C.M., O.M., is a Canadian singer/songwriter and guitarist based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He is among the best-known Christian musicians in Canada and is an accomplished songwriter and record producer. Before embarking on his solo career, he was a long-time member of the group Elias, Schritt and Bell. In 1989, Bell founded the independent recording label Signpost Music along with Dave Zeglinski, long-time friend and co-producer. His first solo album, *Comfort My People*, was released on Signpost that same year. Bell now has twenty albums to his credit. Among his many awards are two Junos, several GMA Canada Covenant

Awards and the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



ANNA CARTER FLORENCE

Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University (BA) and Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv and PhD). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Anna served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Anna's books include *Preaching as Testimony*, *Inscribing the Word*, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, based on her 2012 Lyman Beecher

Lectures on Preaching at Yale Divinity School, and *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture* (2023). She has also published articles and chapters in numerous books and journals, including a year's worth of lectionary text commentaries for www.WorkingPreacher.org.

Anna's research focuses on testimony, preaching pedagogies, and creative strategies for communities to engage and encounter the biblical text for our present context. She is a frequent preacher and teacher in the U.S. and abroad, which gives her plenty of opportunity to do what makes her happiest: sitting around a table with a group of people, a big passage of Scripture, and a big block of time to dive into it. She and her husband, the Rev. David Carter Florence, have two grown sons, Caleb and Jonah, and two new daughters-in-law, Kate and Kyra. They also have a dog, a cat, a log-splitter to keep their wood stove going, and way too much knitting yarn.



MALCOLM GUITE

Malcolm Guite is an English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest, and academic. Guite earned degrees from Cambridge and Durham universities. His research interests include the intersection of religion and the arts, and the examination of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Owen Barfield, and British poets such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was a Bye-Fellow and chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge and associate chaplain of St. Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge. On several occasions, he has taught as visiting faculty at several colleges and universities in England and North America.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Guite is the author of five books of poetry, including two chapter books and three full-length collections, as well as several books on Christian faith and theology. Guite has a decisively simple, formalist style in poems, many of which are sonnets, and he stated that his aim is to “be profound without ceasing to be beautiful”. Guite performs as a singer and guitarist fronting the Cambridgeshire-based blues, rhythm and blues, and rock band Mystery Train. He also has a YouTube channel where he shares his passions and musings with his viewers.

PAUL SCOTT WILSON PREACHER



KIMBERLY HEATH

On August 11, 2025, the Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Heath was installed as the 45th Moderator of The United Church of Canada. Heath now oversees 2,500 congregations within Canada, and three in Bermuda. Born in Lusaka, Zambia, and raised in Canada, Heath was ordained in 1999 and had previously served at the Wall Street United Church, in Brockville, Ontario.

Kimberly's recent Doctorate in Ministry thesis, *Aware, Repair, Renew: Preaching into Transformation in a Mainline Church*, deepened her understanding of the power to effect transformation, in ourselves and the world, through small steps and minor shifts.

Kimberly is married with four children and makes time in her life to sail, swim, ski and skate.

LECTURER



JASON BYASSEE

The Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee is the senior minister of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto, Ontario. He previously served as the professor of Homiletics and Biblical Hermeneutics at the Vancouver School of Theology. His primary vocation is to reinvigorate today's church with the best of ancient and contemporary wisdom for creatively faithful living.

Jason is the author or editor of a number of books, including, most recently, *Northern Lights: Resurrecting Church in the North of England*, with Ross Lockhart, *Better than Brunch: Missional Churches in Cascadia* (both with Cascade) and

Surprised by Jesus Again (Eerdmans).

He was previously senior pastor of Boone United Methodist Church in Boone, North Carolina. He has also served as pastor of a small, rural congregation in NC, as interim preacher at First Baptist Vancouver, and as preacher to the English-speaking congregation at Chinese Presbyterian in Vancouver. He is married to Jaylynn and together they have three boys.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



EMILY BISSET

The Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset has been the minister of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Toronto for 13 years, where Calvin shares in ecumenical shared ministry with Deer Park United Church. Emily has her Th.D. in Homiletics from Knox College/The University of Toronto. She was raised and ordained in the PC(USA). Emily was received into The Presbyterian Church in Canada in 2007 and became a Canadian citizen in December 2020. Emily has been involved in the life of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) in a variety of ways including preaching and coordinating worship for the General Assembly, National Women's Gatherings, and national

Stewardship conferences. Emily has written curriculum and worship liturgy for the PCC on issues such as what it means to be the church in today's society, human sexuality, and preaching/sacraments. She has led congregational renewal retreats and women's gatherings for local and regional groups. She is an adjunct faculty member at Knox College, where she teaches a course in advanced preaching. She is married to another Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Alex Bisset, and is mom to a wonderful teenager.



JEFF CRITTENDEN

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Crittenden has served in congregational ministry for over thirty years throughout Canada (ON, QUE, NB, AB, NFLD) and is currently serving St. Andrews (TO). Jeff holds Doctoral degrees in Theology (PhD) and Homiletics (DMin). He is an Assistant Professor in Practical Theology at Huron University (Western); the Founding Director of CPT (The Centre for Practical Theology) and the author of *Leisure Resurrected*.



LEANNE FRIESEN

The Rev. Leanne Friesen is the author of the book *Grieving Room: Making Space for All the Hard Things After Death and Loss*, which recently won the Christopher Award for works that celebrate the best in the human spirit. She is also the curator of the popular Instagram group [@grieving.room](https://www.instagram.com/grieving.room) which has 42,000 followers from around the world. In her day job, Leanne was a pastor for eighteen years and is currently the Executive Minister of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ). She has preached through many seasons of her own grief.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



SARAH HAN

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Han is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Director of the Tyndale Centre for Pastoral Imagination at Tyndale University Seminary and brings practical ministry experience as an ordained minister and theological expertise as an academic. Dr. Han considers herself to be “third culture” Canadian-Korean-Chinese and her formative theology was shaped on the mission field abroad. She has provided leadership in the Canadian immigrant church context for over a decade and has diverse experience in the Canadian public and private sectors. Dr. Han’s vocational commitment and theological passion are to critically

observe and reflect on how ecclesiology shapes and informs missiology, and her research focuses on an intercultural, intergenerational, missional ecclesiology for Canada.



SCOTT HOEZEE

The Rev. Scott E. Hoezee is an ordained Pastor in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. From 1993-2005 he was the Minister of Preaching and Administration at Calvin CRC in Grand Rapids, MI. In the spring of 2005 Scott accepted the Seminary’s offer to become the first Director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching. He has also been a member of the Pastor-Theologian Program sponsored by the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey, where he was pastor-in-residence in the fall of 2000. From 2001-2011 Scott served on the editorial board of *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* and was co-editor of that journal from 2005-2011.

Rev. Hoezee is the author of several books including *The Riddle of Grace* (1996), *Flourishing in the Land* (1996), *Remember Creation* (1998), *Speaking as One: A Look at the Ecumenical Creeds* (1997), *Speaking of Comfort: A Look at the Heidelberg Catechism* (1998), *Proclaim the Wonder: Preaching Science on Sunday* (2003), *Grace Through Every Generation* (2007), *Actuality: Real Life Stories for Sermons That Matter* (2014), and *Why We Listen to Sermons* (2018).



MARY HULST

The Rev. Dr. Mary S. Hulst has served as University Pastor since 2009. Before coming to Calvin College, she spent eight years serving as the senior pastor at Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids before leaving to pursue a PhD in communication ethics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her bachelor’s degree is in classical studies from Calvin College, and her Master of Divinity was granted by Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Hulst taught for one year in the Communications Arts and Sciences Department at Calvin College and then for two years at Calvin Theological Seminary, as Assistant Professor of Preaching, where she still teaches on occasion.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



MARK JEFFERSON

The Rev. Dr. Mark Andrew Jefferson serves as the John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and the Dean of Sarah Daley Nickerson Chapel at Acadia Divinity College at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Mark has served churches in both Virginia and Georgia and more recently served on the faculty of Virginia Theological Seminary where he developed innovative courses in prophetic proclamation, homiletics, and leadership formation. His work explores the confluence of race, class, technology, contemporary cultural expressions and preaching. His forthcoming book, *I, Too, Preach America: Race, Class and the Future of Christian Proclamation* (Wipf & Stock, 2025) reexamines Black preaching through the perspectives of the

Hip-Hop emcee and the folk preacher. His next project, *The Algorithm and the Anointing: Proclamation at the edge of Surveillance and Spirit* investigates the theological ramifications of preaching in an era dominated by digital algorithms.

Dr. Jefferson has preached around the globe – in South Africa, Israel, the Caribbean, and throughout the United States. He is also a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College. Whether in pulpits, classrooms, or digital platforms, Dr. Jefferson brings a theologically rigorous and culturally resonant vision for Gospel witness.



MICHAEL KNOWLES

The Rev. Dr. Michael Knowles is a graduate of Wycliffe College and the Toronto School of Theology. Dr. Knowles retired in 2024 from the George Franklin Hurlburt Chair of Preaching at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, where he now serves as Professor Emeritus. His most recent book-length study, *Third Voice: Preaching Resurrection* (2021) addresses the spirituality of preaching in light of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Dr. Knowles is ordained within the Anglican Church of Canada.



PAMELA MCCARROLL

The Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll is Vice Principal and Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Practical Theology at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, a Certified Supervisor-Educator with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care and a Registered Psychotherapist in Ontario. Her research focusses on lived experiences and theologies of trauma and hope, especially as these are known in the context of the global climate crisis. She also publishes on spiritual care/chaplaincy theory and practice. Pamela inspired us as a keynote speaker at the LRPF in 2015. We are delighted to have her back with us.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



GAIL RICCIUTI

The Rev. Gail Ricciuti (Presbyterian Church USA) is Professor Emerita at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, where she taught preaching and practical theology for 23 years. During the 25 years preceding her teaching career, she and her husband (the Rev. Anthony Ricciuti) pioneered the field of co-pastoring in Byron, New York and at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, she earned degrees from the University of Puget Sound and Princeton Theological Seminary, with an honorary Doctor of Divinity conferred by Keuka College. She co-authored the two-volume *Birthings and Blessings: Liberating Worship Services for the Inclusive Church*.



SUSAN SPARKS

The Rev. Susan Sparks is a trial lawyer turned standup comedian and Senior Pastor of the historic Madison Avenue Baptist Church in NYC. Installed in 2007, she is the 15th Senior Minister of MABC and the first woman in its 175-year history. A North Carolina native, Susan received her B.A. at the University of North Carolina, a law degree from Wake Forest University, and her Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

An award-winning nationally syndicated columnist and best-selling author of five books, Susan is also a nationally known speaker (including TEDx), preacher, and professional comedian touring nationally with a Rabbi and a Muslim in the Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour. Her work with humour, healing, and spirituality has been featured in O (The Oprah) Magazine, the New York Times, and on such networks as ABC, CNN, and CBS. For more information, check out SusanSparks.com.



SHERYL SPENCER

The Rev. Dr. Sheryl Spencer's lifelong curiosity about the human condition lends itself well to both her work as a minister and as a writer. Sheryl is the minister at Tobermory United Church at the tip of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. She graduated with honours in May 2025 as part of the first cohort in the D.Min. program in Creative Writing and Public Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Her work has been published in Broadview, the Porch Magazine, the United Church Observer, the Globe and Mail, CBC Radio and other places. She is the proud mother of three adult children and also recently became a grandmother!

WORKSHOP LEADERS



SARAH TRAVIS

Sarah Travis is Associate Professor, Ewart Chair in the Practice of Ministry and Faith Formation at Knox College, University of Toronto. She has written several books including *Decolonizing Preaching: The Pulpit as Postcolonial Space*; *Metamorphosis: Preaching after Christendom*; *Unspeakable: Preaching and Trauma-Informed Theology*; *Unsettling Worship: Reforming Liturgy for Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples* and *Remembering the Body: Preaching that Affirms Sexuality*. Sarah is passionate about training lay and ordained people to preach in a rapidly changing world.



PAUL SCOTT WILSON

The Rev. Dr. Paul Scott Wilson is Professor Emeritus of Homiletics, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. He has lectured widely around the world and is the author of numerous books on preaching, including *The Four Pages of the Sermon* (1999, 2018).

FACILITATORS AND PANELISTS



MICHAEL COREN

Michael is an author, columnist and priest. He hosted a nightly television and radio show for 15 years, and he's now a columnist for The Toronto Star and a frequent contributor to numerous Canadian and British newspapers and magazines. He's the best-selling author of 19 books, including biographies of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, and has received numerous awards for his writing and broadcasting, including the Ed Murrow Award for Radio Broadcasting, the RTNDA Radio Broadcasting Award, the Communicator Award in Hollywood, and in 2012 was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for services to media. His last book, *The Rebel*

Christ, was praised by Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of Church History at Oxford University as, "By turns witty, angry, rueful and moving, Michael's passionate foray into theology and contemporary society is hugely valuable". Actor and writer Stephen Fry commented, "I live on the other side of the faith divide from Michael, but that doesn't prevent intense admiration of his insight, clarity, courage and honesty. These essays reveal the integrity, wit and passion of a fine advocate for the best of Christian thought and a faith that encompasses the human as well as the divine." His last book, a memoir, is entitled *Heaping Coals*. His next book, *Diary of a Lowborn Cleric*, is published in January, 2026.

FACILITATORS AND PANELISTS



DAVID KENT

Dr. David A. Kent is retired from Centennial College, Toronto. He has published widely on English and Canadian literature, including Early Modern English, English Romantics, and Christina Rossetti. He edited or co-edited two parish histories (1993, 2024) for St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Toronto, edited *Christian Poetry in Canada* (1989, 1993), and is the general editor for The St. Thomas Poetry Series which has published nearly forty books of Christian poetry over the past thirty years. His biography of Canadian Christian poet Margaret Avison is forthcoming.



KATIE GIVENS KIME

The Rev. Dr. Katie Givens Kime is President and Executive Producer, Alliance for Christian Media, and Host of “Day1”. Katie leads ACM and Day1 after years of collaborations at the intersection of faith, media and the public square. Katie first joined ACM in 2022 as grant writer, then director of the 4-year project funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.’s Compelling Preaching Initiative, then as Interim Executive Director in 2023. Previously, as the Director of Religion and Civic Engagement for the faith-based media non-profit Odyssey Impact (2018-22), Katie envisioned, launched, and obtained external funding for the international Odyssey Fellows Program, equipping faith leaders with new media skills. She holds a M.Div.

from Union Theological Seminary (NYC) and a Ph.D. from Emory University and was a member of the Post-Doctoral Teaching and Research Faculty at the Universität Bern in Switzerland in 2017-18, and served as the Associate Pastor for Mission, Adult Education and Young Adults at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Ga., for six years. Before that, Katie worked at Marble Collegiate Church and at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, both in New York City.

Katie and her husband and daughter live in Edinburgh, Scotland.



JOANNA W. NG

Joanna W. Ng is an AI technologist, inventor, and thought leader renowned for seamlessly integrating cutting-edge scientific innovation with Christian faith. A former IBMer, she was accredited the prestigious title of IBM Master Inventor, with 50 patents granted to her name. Joanna also served as Head of Research and Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies at IBM Canada for seven years.

She is the concept creator and co-author of two Springer computer science books—*The Smart Internet* (2010) and *The Personal Web* (2013) – and has published over 20 peer-reviewed academic papers.

As a pioneering thinker at the intersection of faith and technology, Joanna was the first to frame Artificial Super-Intelligence (ASI) as the modern Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) in a widely read Christianity Today article (June 2020). At the 2019 Lausanne Global Workplace Forum in Manila, she asserted that DW > AI: m Divine Wisdom (DW) surpasses AI, warning against idolizing AI.

Joanna is the founder of Devarim Design, an AI startup developing truth-driven, decentralized AI systems that promote fair trade of data and empower personal AI for augmented cognition.

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Passionate about mentoring Christians to live as kingdom priests in their workplaces, Joanna founded The Kingdom On Earth Community (KOE) – a ministry dedicated to faith-work integration. Her published books include *Being Christian 2.0* and *Debugging Discipleship*, call believers to awaken their faith in Christ and embrace their priestly identity to bear fruit that lasts in His Kingdom in a tech-driven world on earth.



MARGO SWISS

Margo Swiss has published three books with the St. Thomas Poetry Series: *Crossword* (1996), the anthology *Poetry as Liturgy* (2007), and *Second Gaze* (2020). She has also published a chapbook *Here Now* (Arkward Press, 2012) and *The Hatching of the Heart* (Wipf & Stock, 2015). Her academic publications include essays on Milton and Donne, and two co-edited collections with David Kent: *Heirs of Fame: Milton and Other Writers of the English Renaissance* (1995) and *Speaking Grief in English Literary Culture from Shakespeare to Milton* (2002). She taught Humanities, English, and Creative Writing at York University until her retirement in 2018. Her next book is entitled *View From the Body*.



JOHN TERPSTRA

John Terpstra is a poet, writer and woodworker. He started writing poems for special days on the liturgical calendar when the music director at his church asked him to write a poem for Pentecost that he could read aloud to piano accompaniment. His one rule for himself was that anything he write for Sunday morning be fit to read on any other day of the week, in any other venue. His poems are often midrash-like explorations of the scriptural text. When his Presbyterian church became minister-less he also began to write liturgy, and has since published two books of prayers with The St. Thomas Poetry Series. In 2024 Knox College in

Toronto presented John with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

John has published ten volumes of poetry and six books of creative non-fiction. His books have won or been short-listed for national and local awards. In 2025, he was given a City of Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award. One of his poems, called *Giants*, is inscribed on a plaque that stands at the edge of the Niagara Escarpment overlooking downtown Hamilton, where he lives and continues to make the occasional piece of furniture in his backyard woodshop.



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THE LESTER RANDALL PREACHING FELLOWSHIP

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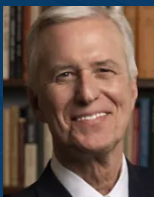
The Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship (LRPF) is the legacy of the leadership of three exceptional figures in the history of Yorkminster Park Church. The Rev. Dr. John N. Gladstone, who served as senior minister for 26 years from 1965-1991, dreamed of establishing a permanent fellowship to exalt the ministry of preaching. Gerard H. Collins believed in the dream and generously provided the funds in trust to make it happen. Lester C. Randall was an outstanding layman of this congregation and the wider church for whom the fellowship is named.

For twenty-five years some of the finest preachers and teachers of the Word were among the LRPF Fellows. In 2012, the organizing committee determined that it was time to reformat the event to better meet the changing needs of ordained clergy and the Church they serve.

Thank you for participating. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Mark Your Calendar for LRPF 2026! **October 25-27, 2026**

We're already building an incredible lineup! Joining us next year are:



Craig Barnes
President Emeritus,
Princeton Theological
Seminary



John Bell
Scottish hymnwriter
and minister of the
Church of Scotland

Don't miss what's sure to be another powerful gathering of preaching, learning, and fellowship. Follow LRPF and watch for registration details in 2026