

THE *L*ESTER RANDALL
PREACHING FELLOWSHIP

BE INSPIRED. BE EQUIPPED. BE ENCOURAGED.

PREACHING JESUS CHRIST

OCTOBER 25 – OCTOBER 27, 2026 | YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

THE REV. DR. CRAIG BARNES JOHN BELL THE REV. DR. TERESA FRY BROWN

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,
McMaster Divinity College, Trinity College, Tyndale University, Wycliffe College

THE **LESTER RANDALL** **PREACHING FELLOWSHIP**

OCTOBER 25 – OCTOBER 27, 2026
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.

PREACHING JESUS CHRIST

At the heart of Christian proclamation stands the call to preach Jesus Christ.

Through keynote addresses, workshops, and preaching sessions, LRP 2026 will explore how faithful preaching bears witness to Christ in the life of the church and the world today.

Why a fresh study of Jesus Christ today?

Preachers once took preaching Christ as a given. Today there can be uncertainty about what preaching Christ might mean in our complex pluralistic world. How do we speak of Christ when so many social issues raise controversy? The cross and resurrection – and what God has done and is doing in our world – might itself seem to be controversial. Talk of Jesus Christ can be interpreted as disrespectful of people of other religions or none. Christ-language may be perceived by some as a stumbling block to faith. Christ can be ignored in sermons, or reduced to a mere moral example to imitate, or he can be treated as though he blesses or condemns others based on their political affiliation.

Christ gave disciples the authority to preach. He promises to be present where *“two or three are gathered in my name”* (Matthew 18:20) and says, *“whoever hears you hears me”* (Luke 10:16). The Spirit gives us words to say (Luke 12:12). How do preachers ensure that they hear God and preach God’s Word, not their own?

Every Sunday is a ‘little Easter’. This conference will explore how best to preach Jesus Christ in today’s world. How does Christ care about our problems? Is it possible to preach Christ from the Hebrew Scriptures or the majority of New Testament passages that do not mention him directly? What is a resurrection lens with which we may read the Bible? With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, preaching Jesus Christ becomes exciting, inspiring, even prophetic. Excellent speakers will suggest practical tools with which to preach faithfully the living Christ to the powers of this world.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

5:00 pm	REGISTRATION OPENS	YP Centre
7:00 pm	WORSHIP: Craig Barnes* <i>Jesus Is In Our Boat</i> (Mark 4:35-41) Liturgists: Ken Bellous, Emily Bisset, William Ingram, Paula Willis	Sanctuary
8:00 pm	BREAK	
8:15 pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER PANEL DISCUSSION* Craig Barnes, John Bell, and Teresa Fry Brown, and Michael Brooks with Katie Givens Kime (Moderator)	Sanctuary

MONDAY OCTOBER 26

8:00 am	REGISTRATION	YP Centre
	COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS <i>(With thanks to the Acadia Divinity College)</i> Coffee, tea and cold continental breakfast, vendor tables and displays	Gym
9:00 am	WORSHIP: Michael Brooks, 2026 Paul Scott Wilson Preacher <i>Pointers</i> (Mark 1:1-15) Liturgists: Jeff Crittenden, John Borthwick	Sanctuary
9:40 am	LECTURE: Teresa L. Fry Brown Topic: <i>Mining Moral Imagination In Unsettling Times</i>	Sanctuary
10:40 am	BREAK	
11:00 am	WORKSHOP SESSION ONE	
	John L. Bell: <i>Creative Communal Bible Study</i>	Cameron Hall
	Sarah Han: <i>Preaching Jesus from Rhythms of Abiding</i>	Red Boardroom
	Gail Ricciuti: <i>Jesus the Conundrum – Preaching the Questions</i>	Teal Boardroom
	Andrew Stirling: <i>Learning from Bonhoeffer's Christology for Our Time of Hyper-nationalism</i>	Youth Zone
	Eugene Sutton: <i>Preaching Public Issues</i>	Chapel
	RH Thomson: <i>The Power of The Story – Wondrous or Malevolent</i>	Friendship Room
12:15 pm	LUNCH	Heritage Room
1:20 pm	LECTURE: Craig Barnes Topic: <i>Preaching Jesus Christ In A Day of Fear</i>	Cameron Hall
2:20 pm	WORKSHOP SESSION TWO	
	Teresa Fry Brown: <i>Luke 4 Sermons: Pastoral, Prophetic or Problematic?</i>	Friendship Room
	John Boutros: <i>Proclaiming the Presence: From Pain to Paradise</i>	Chapel
	Jason Byassee: <i>What is Jewish about the Ongoing Saving Significance of Jesus?</i>	Teal Boardroom
	Scott Hoezee: <i>Quoting Jesus: When Jesus' Words Get the Preacher into Trouble and What to Do about It</i>	Youth Zone
	Susan Sparks: <i>Clearing the Clutter to Channel the Call: Jesus and Marie Kondo</i>	Cameron Hall
	Sarah Travis: <i>Baptized and Called: Equipping Lay People to Preach</i>	Red Boardroom
3:35 pm	BREAK	

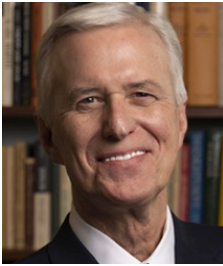
*Events marked with an asterisk are open to the public.

SCHEDULE

3:50 pm	OPEN SESSIONS (Open to registered attendees only)	
	Panel Discussion: <i>Preaching Jesus Christ</i> – Casey Barton, Emily Bisset, Jason Byassee, Scott Hoezee, Eugene Sutton and Paul Scott Wilson	Sanctuary
	Panel Discussion: <i>Once Upon A Sermon – A Preachers Guide to Storytelling</i> – Ins Choi, Susan Sparks and RH Thomson, with Peter Holmes (Moderator)	Cameron Hall
4:50 pm	DAY1 WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION	Christ Church Deer Park
6:00 pm	DINNER	Heritage Room
7:30 pm	Musical Event: THE BIG SING with John Bell* Led by John Bell of the Iona Community, this joyful gathering explores the rich diversity of the church's song, with music that is accessible, meaningful, and rooted in faith.	Sanctuary
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27		
8:00 am	COFFEE AND REFRESHMENT (<i>With thanks to the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship</i>) Coffee, tea and cold continental breakfast, vendor tables and displays	Gym
9:00 am	LECTURE: John L. Bell Topic: <i>A Life In a Comma</i>	Sanctuary
10:00 am	WORKSHOP SESSION THREE	
	Craig Barnes: <i>Preaching Jesus Christ in Times of Conflict</i>	Sanctuary
	Emily Bisset: <i>Preaching Salvation: An Exploration</i>	Teal Boardroom
	John Boutros: <i>Proclaiming the Presence: From Pain to Paradise</i>	Gladstone Library
	Laura de Jong: <i>Dream Deaths: The Comfort and Challenge of a Surprising Saviour</i>	Youth Zone
	Mark Jefferson: <i>Rhythm and Algorithm: Preaching Jesus Christ in a Digitally Scripted World</i>	Cameron Hall
	Eliana Ah-Rum Ku: <i>Preaching Jesus Christ with Hospitality</i>	Red Boardroom
	Paul Scott Wilson: <i>Jesus and the Old Testament</i>	Friendship Room
11:15 am	BREAK	
11:45 am	WORSHIP: Teresa Fry Brown <i>Now</i> (Jude: 24-25) Liturgist: Jason Meyers	Sanctuary
AFTERNOON		
12:30 pm	LUNCH	Heritage Room
1:45 pm	FINE-TUNED PREACHING	
	Group 1: Gail Ricciuti and Jason Byassee	Cameron Hall
	Group 2: Sarah Travis and Michael Knowles	Youth Zone
	Group 3: Sarah Han and Scott Hoezee	Chapel
	Group 4: Emily Bisset and Mark Jefferson	Gladstone Library
	Group 5: Susan Sparks and Casey Barton	Friendship Room
	Group 6: Laura de Jong and Todd Townshend	Teal Boardroom
	Group 7: Michael Brooks and Eliana Ah-Rum Ku	Red Boardroom

*Events marked with an asterisk are open to the public.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



CRAIG BARNES

The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

He served as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI, until 1992 when he became the pastor of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In 2002 he became a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Seminary while serving as the pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. In 2012 he was elected President of Princeton Theological Seminary. He became President Emeritus in January 2023.

He has nine published books including *When God Interrupts*, *Pastor as Minor Poet*, and most recently *Diary of a Pastor's Soul*. He is the director of a new project of the Association of Theological Schools on "Theologies of Pastoral Ministry," funded by the Lilly Endowment.

He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior designer. They have three fabulous children, four delightful grandchildren, and a frisbee-addicted Bearded Collie.



JOHN BELL

John Bell is an ordained Presbyterian minister (Church of Scotland), lives in Glasgow and is a member of the Iona Community. He has been actively engaged in church music for over forty years as an animateur, composer and author. With his colleagues he has published numerous volumes of congregational songs, many of which have been translated into languages as diverse as Friese and Japanese. He has lectured and conducted seminars throughout the world on issues relating to music, liturgy, scripture and spirituality, and has been honoured by church and academic agencies on both sides of the Atlantic. Among his most

recent non-musical publications are: *Living With The Psalms* (SPCK 2021) and *And Then She Said* (Wild Goose Publications 2025)



TERESA L. FRY BROWN

Rev. Teresa L. Fry Brown, PhD, is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (2022-present) and Bandy Professor of Preaching (2015-present) at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, she served as the fourteenth Historiographer, the editor of the A.M.E. Review, Executive Director of Research and Scholarship (2012-2024), and President of the General Officers' Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2021-2024). Dr. Fry Brown was Director of Black Church Studies at Candler (2007-2015). Dr. Fry Brown obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Religious and Theological Studies from the Iliff

School of Theology and the University of Denver, with an emphasis in Religion and Social Transformation (1996). She earned a Juris Master's from Emory University School of Law (2025), a Master of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology (1988), a Master of Science degree (1975), and a Bachelor of Science degree (1973) in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Fry Brown has extensive teaching and preaching experience in national, international academic, and ecumenical settings. A prolific author, Dr. Fry Brown's books include *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body and Animation in Proclamation*, Fortress Press (2008); *Can A Sister Get a Little Help: Advice and Encouragement for Black Women in Ministry*, Pilgrim Press (2008); *God Don't Like Ugly: African American Women Handling on Spiritual Values* Abingdon Press (2000); *Weary Throats and New Song: Black Women Proclaiming God's Word* Abingdon Press (2003) and *The African American History Devotional*, Abingdon Press (2006). Additionally, she has published sixty other reviews, chapters, and commentaries.

Dr. Fry Brown is a member of the American Academy of Religion (Steering Committee of Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group 2018-2024), Society for the Study of Black Religion, and the Academy of Homiletics First Vice President (2021-2022; President, December 2022-2023). She has been honored for her academic achievements, preaching and activism at the Seminary of the Southwest McDonald Teaching Award (2026), RISE Mentorship Trailblazer Award (2026), the Eighteenth Annual Black Religious Scholar Group Consultation at the American Academy of Religion (2015), Emory-Williams Distinguished Teaching Award (2017), Martin Luther King, Jr Collegium of Scholars (2018), Samuel Dewitt Proctor Beautiful Are the Feet Award (2020), and Turner Theological Seminary Lifetime Achievement Award (2021). She is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and an Associate Minister at New Bethel A.M.E. Church, Lithonia, Georgia.

A native of Independence, Missouri, Dr. Fry Brown is the second oldest of seven children of (late) William M. Fry Sr. and (late) Naomi Parks Fry. She is the mother of Veronica Perry, PhD, and proud "Fab G" to Jonathan David Perry. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Fry Brown's life is governed by the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "Those whose hope is in the Lord gain new strength," and Zora Neale Hurston, "There are years that ask questions and years that answer."

PAUL SCOTT WILSON PREACHER



MICHAEL BROOKS

The Rev. Dr Michael Brooks has served as Lead Minister of Port Nelson United Church in Burlington, Ontario for almost 18 years, where over 1,000 meals are prepared each week for community outreach, and 250 children participate in summer day camps. A graduate of Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto where he studied with Paul Scott Wilson, Michael also holds a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. His thesis, *Lament: From Preaching to Permitting*, garnered the top prize in his 2014 graduating class. Michael teaches in the United Church of Canada's Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

program. He is an Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Music, summer sailing and winter curling occupy his leisure time.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



CASEY BARTON

The Rev. Dr. Casey Barton serves as Assistant Faculty and Professor of the Pastoral Ministry Program at Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary and Graduate School, in Lancaster, PA. He is Ordained to Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Covenant Church and, before joining the faculty of LBC|Capital in 2022, served in various roles in pastoral ministry in Mississauga, ON, San Jose, CA, and Hilmar, CA. He is the author of *Preaching Through Time: Anachronism as a Way Forward for Preaching* (Cascade, 2017), and various articles focused on preaching hope and lament, preaching and eschatology, and preaching with courage. Mostly, Casey

enjoys spending time with his wife Sarah and two sons, Eugene and Theo, snowboarding, riding bikes and kayaking. He also enjoys loudly rooting for the Red Sox, especially against the Yankees.

A California native, Casey attended college at Briercrest College; then Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MDiv, ThM: Homiletics); earned a MTh in Practical Theology (Homiletics) at New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland; and a PhD in Homiletics from Emmanuel College of Victoria University, in The University of Toronto, in 2010.



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.



JOHN BOUTROS

Fr John Boutros is a priest at a young downtown church in Toronto, Canada, St. Moses & St. Katherine Coptic Orthodox Church (SMSC). Fr John met the girl of his dreams, married in 2011, and is now a daddy to Anastasia, Zoë and Élise. Ordained to the priesthood in the Coptic Orthodox Church in July 2012, he was previously a pediatric surgeon. Now, Fr John serves a wide variety of urban dwellers, students, and young professionals. Fr John is equally passionate for the marginalized, the poor, and those who have no one. Being in a community of disciples of Jesus, steeped in ancient faith and Orthodoxy, rooted in Coptic heritage, SMSC lives to incarnate God's love in a modern, metropolitan setting.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



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.



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).

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.



LAURA DE JONG

Rev. Laura de Jong is a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church of North America and has served congregations in Ontario and Michigan. Laura is a graduate of Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary. She is currently working for Friendship Ministries Canada, helping churches become more accessible for and inclusive of individuals with disabilities. Laura is a regular preacher in Christian Reformed and Presbyterian churches, and also serves as a worship coach and consultant. She and her husband live in Hamilton with their dog and two cats



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.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



ELIANA AH-RUM KU

The Rev. Dr. Eliana Ah-Rum Ku is a preacher, theologian, and mother of two teenagers whose life and work move between Korea and Canada. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church of Korea and now holding ministerial standing in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Ku serves as Assistant Professor of Homiletics at the Graduate School of Practical Theology in South Korea and Adjunct Professor of Worship and Preaching at Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary. Ku teaches in interdenominational settings with lay leaders, ordained ministers, missionaries, and pastors serving in diverse ministry contexts. Ku is an educational advisory board member for Solidarity for the Next Generation, a lecturer for the

North American Institute for Preaching Studies and the Center for Art and Preaching. Ku received a PhD in homiletics from Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto and is the author of *Lament-Driven Preaching: Proclaiming Hope amid Suffering*. Her research and teaching focus on homiletics, the theology of preaching, biblical interpretation, and the ethics of preaching, with particular attention to lament, hospitality, and multi-placed lives.



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.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



ANDREW STIRLING

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling is the Ambassador for the Canadian Bible Society. Prior to that appointment in 2022, he served as the Senior Minister of the historic Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church in Toronto from 1998 to 2021. Andrew was born in the United Kingdom and is a Canadian Citizen. He received his education in England, Bermuda, Canada, and South Africa. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Comparative African Government and Law from the University of Cape Town (South Africa), a Master of Divinity from the Atlantic School of Theology (Halifax, Nova Scotia) and a Doctor of Ministry in preaching from Acadia

Divinity College (Wolfville, Nova Scotia).

In 2008 Wycliffe College (Toronto), recognized his contribution to preaching with an honorary Doctor of Divinity. In 2016 Dr. Stirling was appointed a Lifetime Fellow of Acadia Divinity College. For the past 15 years he has been an IndyCar Chaplain.



EUGENE TAYLOR SUTTON

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton is the Senior Pastor of the Chautauqua Institution, the Assistant Bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and the retired Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland. He previously served as Canon Pastor of Washington National Cathedral and Director of the Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage before being ordained Bishop in 2008. He has served as a college chaplain, parish priest and assistant professor of homiletics and liturgy at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Bishop Sutton's ministry has been noted for his focus on contemplative spirituality, racial reconciliation, nonviolence, and

environmental stewardship. He co-founded Contemplative Outreach of Maryland and Washington, an ecumenical network of those committed to the contemplative dimensions of the Gospel in daily life, and is a contributor to the books, *The Diversity of Centering Prayer*, and *Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace: Challenging the Epidemic of Gun Violence*.



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.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



RH THOMSON

Canadian stage and screen actor RH Thomson was awarded the Governor General's Performing Arts Award and is a Member of the Order of Canada. He has appeared in theatres across Canada and has filmed in Canada, the US, Greece and the Czech Republic. He has earned multiple awards for his work as an actor. He directed the award-winning production of *The Crucible* at Theatre Calgary and performed in *The Message* by Jason Sherman and *This Was The World* by Ellie Moon, both directed by Richard Rose at the Tarragon Theatre Toronto. He played Matthew Cuthbert in the CBC/NETFLIX series *Anne With An E* for which he received two Canadian Screen Awards. As well as being an advocate for the arts, Mr. Thomson has worked on many history/education/arts projects. He has built The World Remembers-Le Monde Se Souvient, an international WWI names Commemoration exhibit with twenty-one participating nations, that is now installed at the Canadian War Museum – www.theworldremembers.org.



TODD TOWNSHEND

The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend, ThD (Homiletics), is a bishop and contextual theologian who seeks to continually (re)discover a radically fresh sense of who Jesus is and the joy of communicating the Gospel. Todd has served as pastor/rector of several congregations, has taught homiletics, liturgy, and pastoral theology in seminaries for over twenty years, and now serves as Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, centred in London, Ontario.



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).

MODERATORS AND PANELISTS



INS CHOI

INS CHOI was born in Korea but grew up and currently lives in Toronto, Canada with his wife and their two teenagers. Some of his acting credits include *Banana Boys*, *lady in the red dress* (fu-GEN); *Hamlet*, *The Odyssey*, *Comedy of Errors* (Stratford Festival); *Alligator Pie*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Kim's Convenience* (Soulpepper). As a writer, his debut play, *Kim's Convenience*, won the Best New Play award and the Patron's Pick at the 2011 Toronto Fringe festival. It then launched Soulpepper theatre company's 2012 season, toured across Canada, and was adapted into a TV series of the same name with *Thunderbird* on CBC and

Netflix for 5 seasons. Ins was a writer, executive producer and co-creator of the TV series. He also wrote the plays, *Subway Stations of the Cross*, *Bad Parent* and *Son of a Preacherman*, which is his solo show that's touring Canada this fall.



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.

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Givens Kime**
and leading
preachers,
including:



REV. DR. TERESA L. FRY BROWN



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REV. DR. SARAH HAN



REV. SUSAN SPARKS



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

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