



ONE DAY REGISTRATION –SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

Did you want to attend The Gathering, but couldn't? Did you hear about it, but had other commitments that weekend? Come and get a taste of the excitement. For the 2020 National Presbyterian Women's Gathering, Through the Waters, we are accepting a limited number of one-day registrations for Saturday May 16th.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, Ontario
Cost: \$125.00
Deadline: April 15, 2020

Day at a Glance

9:00 a.m. Worship and Praise
10:30 a.m. Keynote Address with Dr. Marie Wilson
12:00 p.m. Lunch (at your own expense)
2:00 p.m. Forum #1
4:00 p.m. Forum #2
5:30 p.m. Reception
6:00 p.m. Dinner and Performance with Susan Aglukark

Highlights

- Join with hundreds of Presbyterian women from across Canada as we celebrate, learn together, and grow in our faith.
- Be challenged by our speaker, Dr. Marie Wilson, one of three Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Learn from her experiences with the commission.
- Raise your voices as we worship God in song under the direction of Agnes-Marie Henderson. Agnes-Marie has been music director at Knox Listowel since 1993 and is a talented performer, music teacher, and leader.
- Enjoy the words and music of Susan Aglukark as she shares with us during our Saturday night banquet.
- Choose to participate in two of four offered forums where you can enjoy a time of singing, be challenged to love as Jesus did, explore the scripture theme in depth, or consider the moral challenges facing Canada.
- Worship with The Rev. Dr. Ester Acolatse as we come together to remember our calling and are renewed to travel through the waters. Rev. Acolatse is currently Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Intercultural Studies at Knox College.

Leadership Preview

Dr. Marie Wilson

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Marie Wilson served as one of three Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada following decades of experience as an award-winning journalist, trainer, and senior executive manager, including many years as the Regional Director for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in the CBC North region responsible for three northern territories and northern Quebec. Fluently bilingual in French and English, she has been a university professor, a high school teacher in Africa, a senior executive manager in both federal and territorial Crown Corporations, and an independent consultant in journalism, program evaluation, and project management.

Marie was appointed the 2016 Professor of Practice in Global Governance at the Institute for Study of International Development, McGill University, and a 2016–2017 Mentor for the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation. In addition to receiving awards for writing and journalism excellence, she is the recipient of a CBC North Award for Lifetime Achievement, Northerner of the Year, the Calgary Peace Prize, the Toronto Heart and Vision Award, and the Pepin Award for Access to Information. She has received Honorary Doctorates from six Canadian universities, including St. Thomas University, University of Manitoba, Atlantic School of Theology, University of Alberta, Western University, and the Vancouver School of Theology. She has also been awarded the Order of the Northwest Territories, the Meritorious Service Cross, and the Order of Canada.

Marie was raised in and is a longstanding member of The United Church of Canada. She's also been exposed to many other Christian denominations as well as other spiritual traditions.

Dr. Marie Wilson and her husband, Stephen Kakfwi, have three children and four grandchildren. She sees them as her most valuable achievements!

Susan Aglukark

Saturday Banquet Speaker

During a career that has spanned more than 25 years, Susan Aglukark's journey as a singer-songwriter has led her to reflect on who she is, where she comes from and the importance of discovery—discovery of history, culture, and self.

Susan is the first Inuk artist to win a Juno (3) and a Governor General's Performing Arts Award for lifetime artistic achievement, she is an officer of the Order of Canada, holds several Honorary Doctorate degrees and has held command performances; but Susan also acknowledges the path has not been easy.

“Here I was, living a life I never imagined, but I was struggling to understand who I was. There was no opportunity growing up to learn about who we were, the Inuit, from our own perspective. In essence, we were institutionalized by being told who we were, how we would live and when you are told a story for so long, you learn to believe it,” explains Susan.

During the past 25 years of reflection and songwriting, Susan kept coming back to one area of profound knowing. The knowledge that the Inuit are an extraordinary people deeply grounded in a culture forged by their ancestors; their journey is what shaped them.

“The conversations around reconciliation have provided an opportunity to begin to re-write our narrative. The Indigenous people in Canada come from highly organized societies built on knowledge, process and organization—without which none of us would have survived,” says Susan.

For Susan, art has played a significant role in her healing journey and in the re-writing of her narrative and she believes it plays an important role for Indigenous youth who are dealing with contemporary identity issues today.

Susan has always been very open about how her own fears and personal trauma that left her disillusioned and disconnected. Born in Arviat, Nunavut, her parents' formative years were in traditional Inuit culture. However, her formative years were not traditional and were somewhat disconnected from her culture.

Forum Descriptions:

1. The Gift of Music and Song

Agnes Henderson

There are several references in the Bible inviting us to sing and make music from our hearts to the Lord. No matter how we are feeling or where we are on our journey in this life, music can be a way for us to reach out to God, as well as a way for us to feel God reaching out to us.

Psalms 96 begins with the words "Sing a new song to the Lord." At some point in time every song was a new song, from the oldest hymn to the newest song of praise. As new songs are continually written, many different styles develop, resulting in a vast repertoire of music to choose from, yet we all have our favourites.

As we cover a variety of music that hopefully includes something for everyone, join us for an opportunity to sit back and listen, or sing along as we share God's love and faithfulness through the gift of music and song.

Agnes Henderson is the Director of Music at Knox Presbyterian Church in Listowel, Ontario, where she leads all aspects of the music ministry. She has written original music for the choir to sing, including two Easter musicals based on scripts written by her sister Kim Henderson (who is an ordained minister with the Free Methodist Church in Canada).

2. Loving Across Difference

Dr. Wendy VanderWal-Gritter

Loving Across Difference: In our pluralistic contexts, the invitation to love across difference offers an extraordinary opportunity for personal growth and engagement in the work of justice. Loving the other can also be painful and costly. Together, we'll reflect on spiritual postures and practices that will equip and sustain us in our commitment to love as Jesus did.

Dr. Wendy VanderWal-Gritter has served as Executive Director of Generous Space Ministries since 2002. Wendy is an internationally recognized contributor to the conversation at the intersection of faith, gender, and sexuality and is deeply committed to the work of justice and equity particularly in relationship with LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ.

3. Through the Waters with Naomi and Ruth

Dr. Marion Taylor

What does it mean that God will be with us when we pass through the waters and walk through the fire (Isaiah 43:2)? In our time together, we will examine the lives of Naomi and Ruth—two Old Testament women who experience great loss and trauma and also experience God's presence in their pain, suffering, and despair. These great foremothers of our faith have much to teach us about how to cope when we are faced with the challenges that come our way.

Dr. Marion Taylor grew up in Toronto and began her academic studies at the University of Toronto. Her journey took her to Yale University, where her interest in the history of the interpretation of the Bible was solidified. Marion's interests in the Old Testament are broad. Most recently she has focused on forgotten women interpreters of the Bible. Marion has written, edited, and published books, resources and articles. She is currently teaching at Wycliffe College, Toronto School of Theology.

4. Why Are We Here?

Dr. Mary Jo Leddy

Why are we here? During our time together we will examine the moral challenges facing Canada in a time of social exclusion and environmental ruin. We will focus on three of the country's national blind spots—relationship with Indigenous peoples, immigration, and its poor record of caring for the environment.

Our future depends on a profound shift in our attitudes to this place on earth we inhabit. You are invited to explore themes of sin, gratitude and redemption, refusing, ultimately, to treat this place as some chunk of earth we own.

Dr. Mary Jo Leddy is a Canadian writer, speaker, theologian, and social activist. She is the founder of Romero House Community for Refugees and currently serves as Director. She is also an adjunct professor at Regis College, University of Toronto.

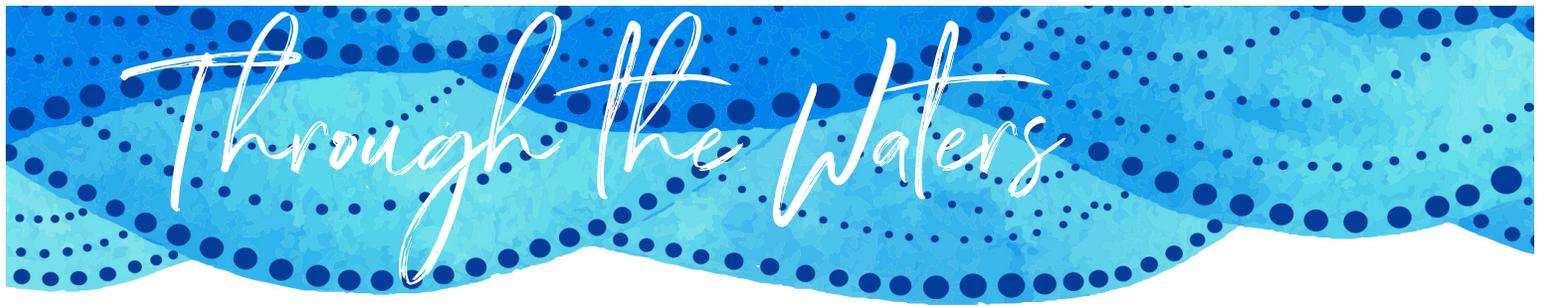
Mary Jo is the author of several books, including, Why Are We Here? A Meditation on Canada, The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home, and Radical Gratitude.

National Presbyterian Women's Gathering

50 Wynford Drive Toronto ON M3C 1J7

416-441-1111 800-619-7301

womensgathering@presbyterian.ca www.womensgathering.ca



ONE DAY REGISTRATION FORM—SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GATHERING 2020, THROUGH THE WATERS
FORM TO BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN APRIL 15TH

(Please print legibly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City/Province/Postal Code

Telephone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Home Congregation: _____

Age Range (optional): 20 30 40 50 60 70 80+ Are you a WMS member? _____

Registration Fee: \$125

Forum Choices:

Select your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for forums. (The timing of your forum will be determined by availability.
Forum choices will be determined on a first come, first served basis. Please fill out multiple choices.)

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

National Presbyterian Women's Gathering
50 Wynford Drive Toronto ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 800-619-7301
womensgathering@presbyterian.ca www.womensgathering.ca

Name: _____

Payment Options:

1) By Credit card:

Visa Mastercard

Cardholder's Name _____

Card # _____

Expiry date _____ CVV# _____ (3 digit number on back of card)

Signature _____

2) By Cheque, Payable to: Women's Missionary Society

Total Payment enclosed _____

Please return registration form to: National Presbyterian Women's Gathering
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7; womensgathering@presbyterian.ca

If you have any questions regarding registration please call 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111

Keep the forum descriptions for your records.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 43:2 (NRSV)

