

Experiencing **GOD** in Today's World



Views of religious scholars
Presentations • Scripture Recitals • Exhibition
Refreshments & Dinner

Sunday, September 16, 2018
Humanities Theatre
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

38th
Anniversary

Canada's
LARGEST & LONGEST running
Multi-Faith Event

Experiencing God in Today's World



Sunday, September 16, 2018
12:30 pm - 5:45 pm
Humanities Theatre,
University of Waterloo

It is a question from time immemorial on how can one experience God? In a diverse modern world this question is ever so relevant and takes on new meanings in a technologically advanced planet. This conference will present scholars of world faiths, who will share their personal experiences of God.

You're invited. Free Admission. Register Online at
www.WorldReligionsConference.org
Complimentary Refreshments and Dinner.

Toll-Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC (1-877-463-6972)
Email: info@WorldReligionsConference.org

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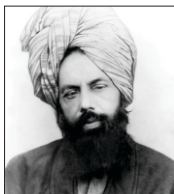
Interfaith Harmony

Quotes from Recent Religious Leaders

"... This is the most attractive and peace-giving principle. It provides the basis for reconciliation among nations and promotes better moral conduct. It teaches us to believe in the truth of all the prophets ..."



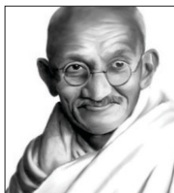
*Hazrat Ahmad, Promised Messiah
(Muslim Leader - 1835~1908)*



"... Our innermost prayer should be that a Hindu should be a better Hindu, a Muslim a better Muslim, a Christian a better Christian. I broaden my Hinduism by loving other religions than my own ... All religions are true..."



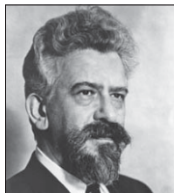
*Mahatma Gandhi
(Hindu Leader - 1869~1948)*



"... The problem to be faced is: how to combine loyalty to one's own tradition with reverence for different traditions ..."



*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel
(Jewish Leader - 1907~1972)*



Quotes from Contemporary Religious Leaders

"... My fundamental belief is that all religious traditions have the same potential to make better human beings, good human beings, sensible human beings, compassionate human beings ..."



*His Holiness Dalai Lama Gyatso
(Buddhist Leader - Reign since 1950)*



"... All the major religions of the world taught the worship of God and love and compassion ... If these original teachings were upheld today it would lead to a harmonious society, free from conflict and war ..."



*His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad
(Muslim Leader - Khilafat since 2003)*



"... Dialogue is born from an attitude of respect for the other person, from a conviction that the other person has something good to say. It assumes that there is room in the heart for the person's point of view, opinion, and proposal ..."



*His Holiness Pope Francis
(Christian Leader - Papacy since 2013)*



Program

September 16, 2018



Presided and Moderated by
Phil Allt

A multifarious and impartial event host, Phil is a city Councillor in Guelph, who has attended the Universities of Western Ontario, Guelph, McMaster and Toronto earning 3 degrees and engaging in doctoral studies as well. His focus has been on European Modern Thought, Christianity with a focus on liberation theology, social justice and pacifism and aesthetics. He enjoys neighbourhood breakfast programs, playing Jazz guitar, and scuba diving.

Opening Session

12:30p ~ 1:55p

- 12:30p Doors Open
 – Welcome and Registration
 – Visit to World Religions Displays
- 12:50p Opening World Religions Multi Media Presentation
- 1:00p Welcome by the Presiding Chair
 – Phil Allt, Councillor City of Guelph
- 1:02p Opening Reading from a Holy Scripture
- 1:05p Opening Ceremony
 – Introduction of Speakers and Dignitaries
 – Unveiling of the World Religions Conference Plaque
 – Singing of O'Canada - National Anthem of Canada
- 1:16p Introductory Remarks
 – Lal Khan Malik, National President,
 Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada
- 1:19p Speaker's Introductory Teaser Remarks *
 1:20p – Christianity: Michael Clifton – Waterloo
 1:22p – Islam: Imam Afzal Mirza – Toronto
 1:24p – Buddhism: Bhante Sasanasarana – Toronto
 1:26p – Sikhism: Jasmine Kaur – Toronto
 1:28p – Baha'i Faith: Jaellayna Palmer – Waterloo
 1:30p – Indigenous Religions: Brenda Jacobs – Hamilton
 1:32p – Judaism: Dr. Daniel Maoz – Cambridge
 1:34p – Hinduism: Swami Parivrajika – Kitchener
 1:36p – Humanism: Sassan Sanei – Kitchener
- 1:38p Messages and Greetings from Guest Dignitaries
 – Local and Regional Leaders
 – Provincial and National leaders
- 1:55p Break Time and Social Interactions
 – Complimentary Refreshments

Theme Session

“Experiencing GOD”

2:20p ~ 5:12p

- 2:20p Introduction to the Theme Session – Moderator
- 2:23p Experiencing God as a Christian – Michael Clifton
2:36p Christian Holy Scripture Recitation – Christian Community
- 2:39p Experiencing God as a Muslim – Imam Muhammad Afzal Mirza
2:52p Islamic Holy Scripture Recitation – Ahmadi Muslims
- 2:55p Experiencing God as a Buddhist – Bhante Sasanasarana
3:08p Buddhist Holy Scripture Recitation – Buddhist Community
- 3:11p Experiencing God as a Sikh – Jasmine Kaur
3:24p Sikh Holy Scripture Recitation – Sikh Community
- 3:27p Experiencing God as a Baha’i – Jaellayna Palmer
3:40p Baha’i Faith Holy Scripture Recitation – Baha’i Community
- 3:43p Experiencing God as an Indigenous – Brenda Jacobs
3:56p Indigenous Holy Scripture Recitation – Indigenous Community
- 3:59p Coffee Break – Complimentary Refreshments and Social
- 4:24p Experiencing God as a Jew – Dr. Daniel Maoz
4:37p Jewish Holy Scripture Recitation – Jewish Community
- 4:40p Experiencing God as a Hindu – Swami Haripriya Parivrajika
4:53p Hindu Holy Scripture Recitation – Hindu Community
- 4:56p Experiencing the Absence of God as a Humanist – Sassan Sanei
5:09p Presentation of Secular Principles – Society of FreeThinkers

(* The order of speeches was determined via random draw on Nov. 4, 2017)

Concluding and Interactive Session

5:12p ~ 6:00p

- 5:12p Announcing rules of the Q/A Session – Moderator
- 5:14p Open Question & Answer Session
– with all speakers of different faiths and philosophies
- 5:55p Vote of Thanks - Recognition of Speakers and Volunteers
– Nomaan Mubashir, President WRC Organizing Committee
- 5:57p Closing Remarks – Moderator & Chair
- 5:59p Silent Multi-Faith Prayer – All Faiths
- 6:00p Dinner and Social

(Program agenda subject to change)

Speaker Profiles

Distinguished Speakers
of the
38th World Religions Conference
September 16, 2018



Representing Christianity

Michael Clifton – Waterloo

Charming presenter, Michael is a lawyer, adjudicator, lay minister, community volunteer, punk rock singer, and concert producer. Has degrees in law and philosophy, served over 35 years in ministry and administration for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and is on the Steering Committees of Interfaith Grand River and Christians Together Waterloo Region. Though various voluntary commitments keep him busy, his favorite titles are husband, father and grandfather.



Representing Islam

Imam Muhammad Afzal Mirza – Toronto

Prolific speaker and a learned scholar of Islam. Muhammad is the Imam of the Bai'tul Islam Toronto, one of the largest Mosques in Canada. Takes keen interest in youth welfare. Regularly hosts a live phone-in radio program explaining contemporary Islamic issues. Graduate from the Ahmadiyya Islamic University. Worked as a Missionary in Pakistan, USA and now in Canada. Former Vice President of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Toronto.



Representing Buddhism

Bhante Sasanasarana – Toronto

Engaging and influential teacher of Buddhism. Bhante is ordained in Sri Lanka in 2014 under the guidance of Ven. Kiribathgoda Ghanananda Thero in Theravada Buddhist tradition. Master of Satellite Communication Engineering from Westminster University in England. Currently, he is teaching Buddhism and meditation in Buddha meditation Center and to the high schools in Greater Toronto area. He served as a preacher in Sri Lanka and Winnipeg.



Representing Sikhism

Jasmine Kaur – Toronto

Brilliant speaker. Jasmine found her calling in the Sikh faith and was formally initiated in 2013. Graduated from McMaster, and now pursuing her Doctors of Chiropractic in Toronto. Has been speaking at Sikh conferences, retreats, and gatherings in Canada, U.S. and England. Moreover, loves to sing, serves as an organizer for the Sikh Youth Federation, and studying multi-faith scriptures and meditation under the guidance of Swami Ram Singh Yogi.



Representing Baha'i Faith

Jaellayna Palmer – Waterloo

Extensive essayist, Jaellayna is a newspaper columnist and publisher of book of personal essays "Personal Path, Practical Feet". Long time resident of the Waterloo region. Originally from the US, moved to Canada after 8 years as volunteer at the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa, Israel. Retired from her career in Instructional Design, she is passionate about travel – having visited 45 countries so far – and fitness.



Representing Indigenous Religions

Brenda Jacobs – Hamilton

Inspiring Speaker, Brenda is a phenomenal member of Mohawk Nation of the Bear Clan from the Haudenosaunee Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Her greatest roles are being a mother of three beautiful children and grandmother of five. Personal healing work on intergenerational trauma has helped her become who she is today. Trained as an Aboriginal Midwife. Currently, Cultural Resource Coordinator at the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre.



Representing Judaism

Dr. Daniel Maoz – Cambridge

Engaging speaker and Jewish scholar, Daniel is member of both Orthodox and Reform Jewish communities in Kitchener-Waterloo. He is Scholar-in-Residence at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University and a Research Associate for Concordia University, Montreal. Holds a Ph.D. from France and M.A. in History. Widely published and internationally presents his research in Jewish Studies.



Representing Hinduism

Swami Haripriya Parivrajika – Kitchener

Disciple of H.H. Brahmishi Shri Vishvatma Bawra Ji Maharaj, Haripriya completed M.A. in psychology from Rijks University of Leiden, Holland. In India did spiritual practices, studied Sanskrit, Yoga, Upanishad and other scriptures and since 2001 a preacher at Brahmishi Mission of Canada. Teaches Yoga, Sanskrit and delivers discourses at various places including Universities in Canada, India and Europe. Organizes and conducts Yoga Camps and courses for children and adults.



Representing Humanism

Sassan Sanei – Kitchener

Amazing Speaker, Sassan is a Humanist Officiant who performs marriage ceremonies and other life celebrations for people of all backgrounds. A graduate of the University of Waterloo, with degrees in philosophy and electrical engineering. Works in the technology sector and currently serves on the board of directors for Humanist Canada as an advocate for equal rights, secular schools, and public policy formulated on science and evidence.

History in Canada

World Religions Conferences

This conference has been organized in Southwestern Ontario, Canada (Brantford, Waterloo, Kitchener, Guelph) for 38 years. It is Canada's largest and longest running interfaith event. Each year the event explores a new theme and promotes interfaith harmony, respect and tolerance between the followers of different faiths and philosophies.

Glimpses From Some Previous Event



November 4, 2017: My Faith and Canadian Values - Waterloo



November 20, 2016: End-of-Life Decisions - Waterloo



November 1, 2015: Tackling Radicalization in Faiths - Guelph



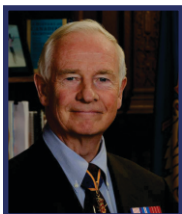
September 24, 2014: Pathway to Peace - Guelph

World Religions Conference In the Eyes of Canadian Dignitaries



“... Endeavors such as the World Religions Conference are vital for they demonstrate to the world that despite the richness of our differences, we have so much in common and can live together in a spirit of understanding and compassion ...”

*The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (Former)*



“... Your presence at this conference demonstrates a shared belief in working together and collaborating with one another to understand the varied perspectives of faith structures as they relate to our world today ... you are learning more about each other and taking an active role in improving the human condition for all ...”

*His Excellency The Right Honourable David Johnston
Governor General of Canada (Former)
President University of Waterloo (Former)*



“... Canada is a country made strong not in spite of our differences but because of them. We don't aspire to be a melting pot – indeed, we know true strength and resilience flows through Canadian diversity ...

... This event provides a platform to discuss and better understand the teachings of different faiths and philosophies. ...

... I would like to commend the organizers for their commitment to fostering awareness, respect and understanding of religious diversity ...”

*The Right Honourable Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*

Premier Sponsor & Organizer



AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT

C a n a d a

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is the largest organized Muslim Community in the World. It was founded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{AS} of Qadian, India in 1889. He claimed to be the Promised Messiah and al-Imam al-Mahdi, whose advent was awaited by the world community of religions. The Community established by Hazrat Ahmad is an embodiment of the benevolent message of all world religions; peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God.

The objective of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is to educate the world about Islam, to promote understanding between people of different religions and to bring harmony among the people of the world by bringing them closer to God.

alislam.org
ahmadiyya.ca



Living in accordance with their ethic of non-violence and their motto, "Love for All, Hatred for None", the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community strives to serve humanity and the cause of peace and security by engaging in charitable

and philanthropic work such as the founding of hospitals and schools for the poorest and neediest populations in the world and providing relief and assistance to the less fortunate through its world renowned humanitarian relief charity 'Humanity First'.

humanityfirst.ca



This year, in July 2018 the organization launched a nationwide initiative, named "Pathway to Peace" which provides comprehensive solutions and principles set to enable sustainable and ever-lasting world peace. Learn more and endorse the campaign at thepathwaytopeace.com

thepathwaytopeace.com

WRC Partners

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|---|--|
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|  <p>Sikh Students' Association</p> | <p>Multi-Faith Resource Team Ecumenical Campus Minister The University of Guelph</p> |
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| <p>Baha'i Community of Waterloo</p>  | <p>KW Council of Churches</p> |
|  <p>SACRED SECULAR SANCTUARY</p> |  <p>GUELPH SIKH SOCIETY GUELPH</p> |
|  | <p>CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL Waterloo, Ontario</p>  |
| <p>Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Association Univ of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier & Univ of Guelph</p> |  <p>Society of Ontario Freethinkers <i>reason • ethics • dignity • equality</i></p> |
|  <p>University of Waterloo FEDERATION OF STUDENTS</p>  | <p>Aboriginal Resource Centre University of Guelph</p>  |
|  <p>St. Philip's Lutheran Church Kitchener</p> |  |
|  <p>Humanity First CANADA</p> |  <p>WLU FreeThought Alliance</p> |
| | <p>Promoting Harmony CROSS CULTURES through knowledge MAGAZINE and better understanding</p> |
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Live Video
Web Streaming

No Admission Charge
Limited Seating
Complimentary Parking in Lot H (Univ of Waterloo)
Toll Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC (1-877-463-6972)

Registration and More Details Online
www.WorldReligionsConference.org

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