

RIVER RUNNING: AN INTERCULTURAL CONFERENCE

Friday, November 20:

- 3:00 Registration opens ' Refreshments. Informal drum circle
- 6:30 Welcome, gathering, & introductions
- 7:00 Keynote 1: Katalina Tahaafe-Williams
- 9:30 Vespers (optional)

Saturday, November 21:

- 8:30 Matins (optional)
- 9:00 Welcome & Worship
- 9:15 Keynote 2: Stan McKay & Aboriginal dancers
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Workshops
- 12:30 Lunch. meetings with keynote speakers and Uniting Church of Australia
- 2:00 Workshops
- 4:00 Break with refreshments
- 4:15 Theological Reflection with the Moderator)
- 4:45 Testimony Time / Listening to the Spirit / Question & Answer Time
- 5:30 Dinner: on your own or simple soup & bread option
- 7:00 Evening Art Event *Jamie Oliviero, Bob Haverluck, Phoebe Mann, Brian Cloud, and storytellers from the Manitoba Theatre for Young People*
- 9:30 Vespers (optional)

Sunday, November 22:

- 8:30 Matins (optional)
- 9:00 Welcome & Gathering
- 9:15 Keynote 3 & Worship: Laura Mariko Cheifetz *Communion. Testimony Time / Listening to the Spirit. Q&A.*
- 1:00 Farewells



A Conference on Intercultural Ministry
University of Winnipeg. November 20-22

Theme Speakers



Stan McKay

Stan was born at Fisher River First Nation Reserve, a Cree First Nation community and attended the Birtle Indian Residential School. He was elected in 1992 as Moderator of The United Church of Canada; he is the first and, so far, only Aboriginal person to serve in this role. He was national coordinator for Aboriginal Ministries for The United Church of Canada and a leader in the formation of the All Native Circle Conference where he balanced European and Aboriginal theologies. He served in Aboriginal ministries for Winnipeg Presbytery, has worked as a teacher, and offered 11 years of pastoral ministry in Fisher River. He was the national coordinator of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre—a seminary that prepares Aboriginal people for ministry—and also worked as director of spiritual care at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.



Laura Mariko Cheifetz

Laura is a hapa (mixed-race Asian American) Presbyterian minister from the Pacific Northwest of White Jewish and Japanese descent. She has worked for many years in racial justice and intercultural ministries, and is passionate about social justice. Formerly the director of Asian American Discipleship for Vocational Empowerment, Nurture and Transformation (AADVENT), Laura is now director of the Common Ground Project at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. This project brings together African American, Asian American, and Latino/a pastors and young adults around questions of vocation and cross-cultural ministry. Laura enjoys cooking, fiction, and her two Shih Tzus, and is hooked on back episodes of *The Wire*.



Katalina Tahaafe-Williams

Katalina has worked for many years in the area of multicultural ministry in the Uniting Church in Australia, and as executive secretary for racial justice and multicultural ministry for the United Reformed Church in the UK. Her commitment to the vision of the multicultural community of Christ has been a driving force in her life and ministry, leading to her involvement with global ecumenical mission bodies [World Council of Churches, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Council for World Mission]. She is now director of the *Communitas* program in the United Theological College of the Uniting Church in Australia. Katalina was a keynote speaker at *Behold! One Another*, in the fall of 2008

Workshops

1 Let's Worship Together! An Introduction to Intercultural Worship

How does one create an intercultural worship experience? Are there models, techniques, and guidelines different from "regular" Sunday worship? Is it intercultural if we use a drum and colourful fabrics? This workshop will explore an approach to creating intercultural worship that revolves around instruction, inspiration, and imagination. We will investigate myths and assumptions about intercultural worship and move toward practical, contextual, and dynamic ways of integrating an intercultural vision with worship. This workshop will excite and equip participants for the joyful adventure of bringing intercultural expressions into their own faith community's worship experiences.

Danielle Ayana James,

4 Through the Eyes of Another: Intercultural Readings of the Bible

Through the Eyes of Another presents a three-year research study of the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well in Samaria (John 4). 120 small groups in 25 countries studied this passage; observations were then exchanged and commented on between contrasting pairs of groups. We are proposing doing something similar in the Canadian context—drawing from a diversity of groups from Aboriginal, francophone, racial-ethnic minority, Deaf, and ethnic majority communities—and having them all reflect on the same biblical passages in 2009. We will also explore these passages as a group in this workshop, and consider how to read the Bible with an intercultural lens. *Adele Halliday is program coordinator and Michael Blair executive minister in the Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry Unit*

2 Communal and Individual Culture in Conversation

Workshop leaders Nanette McKay and Scott Douglas will reflect on what they have learned as a Cree Canadian and a Scottish Canadian living with Indo-Fijians and Indigenous Fijians, and now again with "Canadians." The workshop will engage participants in activities and conversations that explore culture, meaning, and value.

3 Singing in Tongues: Exploring Intercultural Congregational Song

Music is common to all cultural traditions, but the "foreignness" of unfamiliar musical traditions can make intercultural singing seem daunting or even impossible in our own congregational contexts. In this workshop we will sing interculturally, explore the hows, whys, and theology of intercultural song, and talk about the joys and challenges of being musically open to the "other" in absence or in our midst. *Many Knox members will know workshop leader,*

5 Becoming an Intercultural Person

Each of us is somewhere on the journey toward becoming an intercultural person. In the early stages we usually assume that everyone is either like us, or should be like us. Later, we learn to graciously relate to people from many different cultures in appropriate and meaningful ways. In our increasingly diverse country, and church, this is an important ability, but also represents a personal journey in which we are transformed by being in deeper relationships with others. This workshop will be an opportunity for participants to orient themselves on their personal intercultural journey, to share stories, feelings, and experiences in a non-judgmental atmosphere, and to plan practical ways to move forward. Prior to the conference, each participant will be asked to complete the online version of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), which requires an e-mail address and Internet access. Results will be kept confidential. *Steve Willey is program coordinator in the Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry Unit*

6 Rivers Running to the Sea

This interactive workshop will focus on creating intercultural spaces in congregations through the following four movements. Rivers Running: Focus on becoming a living intercultural text and presence in your congregation. Your life story will interact with a biblical story, a Canadian story, and a theological story. Rivers Meandering: Discuss practical ways of "flowing" through congregational structures with an intercultural lens. Share the questions you want to ask, and the dialogue situations you plan to create. Rivers Bending: Encouraging the active role of sacred rituals, the Canadian church calendar, intercultural conversations, and events in congregations. Rivers Thawing: Engaging the performing arts, visual arts, film, literature, music, and humour to move from a monocultural to intercultural imagination.

Aruna Alexander chairs the Intercultural/Interfaith Action Committee, Bay of Quinte Conference.

10 Beyond These Four Walls: A Call to Action for Today's Youth

Although often referred to as the future of the church, youth play an integral role in the life of the church today! This workshop invites youth and young adults under 30 to share their experiences on church and their distinct role in it. It offers an opportunity for youth and youth group leaders to share resources and tips with others on what works and what doesn't work in youth ministry. Youth are also invited to explore intercultural possibilities beyond the four walls of their own churches by meeting and connecting with others. With their diverse experiences and fresh perspectives, youth and young adults can help realize The United Church of Canada's call to be an intercultural church! All self-identified youth and young adults are welcome for cupcakes, conversation, and visioning. *Awit Marcelino*

7 Exploring and Understanding Deaf Culture

Linda Koskie was a key member of Christians for the Liberation of the Deaf Community, is a graduate of the Deaf Training Program as Human Service Worker, and staffed the Deaf Resource Centre in Winnipeg. Her family background is Japanese Buddhist, and she is currently on the leadership team for the Winnipeg

8 Anchors of Hope: The Role of Community Markets and Gardens in Transforming Neighbourhoods

Winnipeg's Central Park is one of the most culturally diverse neighbourhoods in the country. It is home to many Ojibway, Filipino, Vietnamese, Arab, and Chinese families, to refugees and recent immigrants from many ancient cultures of Africa, like Ethiopia, and from war-torn lands such as Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and Burma. The vibrancy of this diverse neighbourhood shines on Market Day, with music, food, and handicrafts from around the world. The transformation of the park, once home to IV drug users and gangs, is a powerful example of neighbours working together to weave a peaceful social fabric, to improve their lives, and to create a liveable community. It is a model from which every neighbourhood and United Church congregation can learn, and it bears witness to a growing global movement. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about the creative role of community markets and gardens in transforming neighbourhoods, using the Central Park experience as a living example.

Othello Weseee and Raymond Djumasse Ngarbouli .

9 Conflict Resolution across Cultures