

September 2009



# Daring Discipleship

A HamPack mailing from Lorna MacQueen,  
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resources, workshops, and opportunities

## Discipleship and Advocacy

Things were much easier in the days when I did not understand advocacy to be a part of the Christian discipleship call. When were those days? Thinking back, those days were when I understood discipleship to be mostly the individual journey of faith, and the living of that faith to be between the individual and God.

I am not sure where 'neighbor' fit in that equation. Probably in the context of charity. It took a while for me to understand systemic injustice/justice. It took a while before I heard the prophets and the strong voice of Christ calling to be in the world in a radically different way.

But once I did, there was no going back. A number of things worked toward this change in me, including a strong group of faithful women in my settlement charge who worked unceasingly for social justice and were great supporters of 10 Days for World Development. They educated me. They challenged me. They enlightened me. They were the wind of the Spirit of God for me.

## Resources:

For those interested in participating in social change and /or application of 'complexity theory' take a look at: **Getting to Maybe: How the World is changed** by Westley, Zimmerman, and Quinn Patton. Random House, 2006.

**Spirit Given Gifts** <http://www.spiritgivengifts.com/> This website offers a number of resources to help you identify your 'spiritual gifts' and access to an online Questionnaire. An interesting 'beginning place' for thinking about Spiritual gifts.

**Faithfulness in Hard Times** - Resources for Churches Navigating the Current Financial Crisis is offered by *The United Methodist Foundation of the Northwest* at <http://www.umfnw.org>

Suddenly I was confronted by the call to 'be political.' To work toward just and compassionate relationships in all avenues of life. Words like 'solidarity', 'justice' and 'advocacy' became familiar in describing the discipleship call. But then what? When we become open to the suffering of the world, the injustice in the world, the cry of the world in a new way that demands response, how do we not drown? There is so much need and so much pain... how do we be faithful and not overwhelmed?

For me this is where the mystical Body of Christ sustains me. It is in the knowledge that I must respond as I can... and so must you... and we each bring our different passions and abilities, our focus on different needs... and together we are what no one of us is alone. Together we are a force to be reckoned with. Together we can be the enfleshed Spirit of God set free to work for life. We are the body of Christ when we do advocacy well. We are the body of Christ even when our voice is unheard and our steps are stumbling.

**WHY: 'Wondering Holy Youth' Newsletter** seeking to connect youth and young adults in the United Church from across the country. For more information or to subscribe: [wondering-holyyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wondering-holyyouth@gmail.com)

**Duty of Care** information is available on the UCC site: <http://www.united-church.ca/local/dutye>. 'The Duty of Care Program works to protect individuals through developing, implementing, and monitoring compliance with administrative standards.' It is a good idea for congregations to review Duty of Care periodically.

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**Privacy Information for Congregations** is also available on the National Website: <http://www.united-church.ca/local/privacy>. It is a good idea for congregations to re-view this periodically. This document may be particularly helpful: <http://www.united-church.ca/files/local/privacy/faq.pdf>

**The Environics Congregational Report** (<http://www.united-church.ca/renewal/congregational/environics>) 'is a practical tool to help congregations develop and implement a focused mission strategy that is faithful and relevant to its context, especially in this time of change. It does this by providing demographic and social value trend data to help you better understand your congregation and its broader

community.' For more information contact Robert Dalglish: 1-800-268-3781

**Learning-in-Community Grants** <http://www.united-church.ca/adultlearning/coned/learningcommunities>  
"To encourage the development of small groups across the country who gather on an ongoing basis for mutual support and education. These grants are available to congregations, presbyteries, Conferences, and local consortiums of congregations or church-related bodies'. Application deadline for fall is **October 15** email: [conedu@united-church.ca](mailto:conedu@united-church.ca)

For those who seek greater understanding of the history of Judaic-Christian scripture and exegesis take a look at :

**The Bible: A biography** by Karen Armstrong. New York: Grove Press, 2007.

**The Song of the Salmon** poem by Scott Douglas, an award-winning writer and playwright: <http://www.united-church.ca/renewal/congregational/living>

**Men's Ministry Network page:** <http://www.united-church.ca/allages/adults/men/network>.

**This may be particularly helpful if you are considering starting or revitalizing a men's ministry of men's group.**

## Programs and Opportunities:

**Church School Teachers: Creating Faith** - Oct 13 at Five Oaks 519-442-3212 - 'learn how the arts can be used with children to help them explore and deepen their faith.'

**Canadian Council of Christian Charities Conference** Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2009, Stage West Hotel, Mississauga, Ontario. A small taste of the workshops offered: 'Information Technology and Privacy of Information for Charities,' 'Help! I Have to Develop a Training Tool!' Christian Group Discernment,' Working with Dr. House: Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace.' Check out the website: <http://www.cccc.org/contents.php?area=y&id=4001>

**Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care Provincial Ed Conference 2009 "Hope for a New Beginning"** Oct 26–27/09, Jackson's Point Conference Centre, Jackson's Point, ON **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Dr. Jean Stairs, Queen's University Theological College - "Theological Foundations for Hope." Workshops include: Youth Unlimited, New Beginnings for Aboriginal Offenders,

Restorative Practices, The Place of Reflection and Meditation, Violence, Anger and Conflict Awareness and some Chaplaincy specific workshops. **Ontario Multi-faith Council** 1-888-837-0923 or [www.omc.ca](http://www.omc.ca)

### **ARC (Associates Resourcing the Church) SEMINARS for Fall 2009**

**APPRECIATIVE LEADERSHIP IN CALM AND STORM** series with Dr. Rob Voyle

**ENNEAGRAM AND SPIRITUALITY WHEEL:** Nov. 24-25, Conrad Grebel Leader: Miriam Frey

**RETHINKING ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER:** Nov 12, 2009 Conrad Leader: Nancy Brubaker

CONTACT ARC at [www.arcministries.ca](http://www.arcministries.ca) email : [info@arcministries.ca](mailto:info@arcministries.ca); or phone: (519)883-8906

Note: **Coaching**, and Consultation for persons and/or congregations can be negotiated through ARC.

**Upcoming Workshops**—Offered through the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute, Inc. <http://www.ctrinstitute.com/fall09/ontario.html>

**VIOLENCE THREAT ASSESSMENT – PLANNING AND RESPONSE**  
Ottawa: Oct. 8; 2009; London: Oct. 14, 2009; Toronto: Oct. 15, 2009

**CRISIS RESPONSE PLANNING**  
Toronto: Nov. 2-3, 2009; Thunder Bay: Nov. 2-3, 2009; Ottawa: Nov. 9-10, 2009

**SELF-INJURY BEHAVIOUR IN YOUTH – ISSUES AND STRATEGIES**  
Toronto: Dec. 3-4, 2009; Ottawa: Dec. 3-4, 2009; London: Dec. 10-11, 2009

