

# Facilities

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## Location:

CAW-Canada, Family Education Centre  
115 Shipley Avenue  
Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

## Accommodation & Meals:

This year we are offering an on-site accommodation and meal package (double room and single room rates) as well as several meals-only packages. We will also be offering billets for those who desire that option. We are able to meet several dietary restrictions which are outlined on the registration form.

**On-line registration and payment** are also available through the Hamilton Conference web site ([www.hamconf.org](http://www.hamconf.org)). Payment for the accommodation and/or meal package **must accompany your registration**.

We are also offering an early bird rate if your registration is received on or before March 31, 2012.

## Accommodation:

Double and single accommodation is available on site at the CAW Family Education Centre and we are also offering billets in the Port Elgin area.

If you choose to stay off site but do not want to be billeted, you are responsible for making your own reservations and paying for accommodations at a hotel/motel or bed & breakfast. A complete list of accommodation in the Port Elgin area can be found on the Saugeen Shores Tourism website at [www.saugeenshores.ca/tourism/accommodations.php](http://www.saugeenshores.ca/tourism/accommodations.php).



*“Let the Spirit  
Lead...”*



**HAMILTON  
CONFERENCE**  
The United Church of Canada

**88th Annual Meeting  
Port Elgin, Ontario  
June 1-3, 2012**

The 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference will be held at the CAW-Canada Family Education Centre, 115 Shipley Avenue, Port Elgin, Ontario, from Friday, June 1 to Sunday June 3, 2012. Our President, Sybil Wilson, has chosen as her theme for this year "***Let the Spirit Lead...***"

Because the General Council of the United Church of Canada meets August 11-18, 2011 in Ottawa, this year's Annual Meeting will include the election of Commissioners to the General Council and the consideration of Proposals, formally known as Petitions. As well, Lewis Coffman, who has been the Hamilton Conference Lay Representative to the General Council Executive, is completing his six-year term and the Annual Meeting will be electing a new Lay Representative to the General Council Executive.

There will of course be opportunities to pray and worship together and opportunities to renew old friendships and make new ones. We will elect a President-designate, approve the Conference budget, receive the Settlement Report and appoint individuals to the committees and related organizations of the Conference. We will hear from our Candidates and give prayerful consideration to their future ministry. There will be an opportunity to recognize our retirees and jubilands during the Celebration of Ministries Service on Saturday evening.

We are very pleased to have Moderator Mardi Tindal as our guest speaker at this Annual Meeting. Mardi will be the theme speaker on Saturday. She will be addressing us on Spirit-led leadership.

Also on Saturday we will be enriching our time together with workshops on spiritual practices. There will be a variety of two-hour workshops offered in both the morning and the afternoon with an opportunity to attend one in each time period. Many generous and talented individuals from across the Conference will be sharing their gifts with us by leading these workshops, and blessing us thereby. We hope that you will find the two that will feed your spirit, help you listen for the movement of the Spirit, and encourage you in a daily spiritual practice that will enrich you in your relationship with God.

The **Celebration of Ministries Service will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** at the CAW-Canada Family Education Centre, Port Elgin. A reception will follow at 9:00 p.m.

If you are a Presbytery Representative for your congregation, or if you are ministry personnel, you are expected to attend the Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting.

## Registration:

**On-line registration and payment is available at [www.hamconf.org](http://www.hamconf.org).**

- Please complete **one Registration per person.**
- Please print clearly and provide **complete contact information.**
- Registration and payment must be received at the Conference Office by **March 31, 2012 for early bird pricing. Final deadline for meals and/or accommodation at the Centre is May 9, 2012.**
- Please note that, if you wish to purchase meals and/or accommodation, **payment must be submitted with your completed registration form.** Please make your cheque payable to Hamilton Conference.
- Those individuals who are inclined to make a donation toward the cost of the Annual Meeting over and above this charge could do so through their Pastoral Charge.

## Youth Forum: *Find the Spark... Free the Spirit!*

Youth Forum—a program for high school aged young people (usually 14-19) years of age—will meet this year at the CAW Family Education Centre, Port Elgin, and will run from the Centre concurrent with the Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting.

Beginning Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> with registration at the CAW Family Education Centre, YF will be hosted by Port Elgin United Church for Friday and Saturday nights, and will end Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> with the close of Conference. More information and applications for YF leadership and registrations for YF participation are available for download on the Hamilton Conference website, or from the Conference Office upon request.

## CAYTS:

Children and Young Teens for pre-high-school youth ages 9-13 meet this year on site with the Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting at the CAW Family Education Centre, Port Elgin ON. The program will run in conjunction with the Conference meeting with registration beginning Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and the program closing at noon on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parents/guardians are responsible for overnight care. See the Conference website for more information, leadership applications and CAYTS registration forms.

## Celebration of Ministries Service:

The Celebration of Ministries Service will be held on **Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** at the CAW-Canada Family Education Centre, Port Elgin, Ontario.

# Leadership

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## Sybil Wilson, President

Sybil E. Wilson is an active lay member at Silver Spire United Church (St. Catharines) in the Niagara Presbytery of Hamilton Conference. Silver Spire is a “new old” church, an amalgamated congregation of three pastoral charges, each of which brought over 100 years of history and traditions into amalgamation. Sybil was a member of one of those three pastoral charges. She was its delegate to Presbytery and has continued with that unbroken service in the new congregation.

At the Presbytery level Sybil has served on several committees, was chair of the Presbytery and is currently serving on the Potentials Fund committee and the Brock University Ecumenical Chaplaincy committee. As chair of Niagara Presbytery she served on Hamilton Conference Executive Committee; as past chair she served on the Conference Nominations Committee. She has also served on the Interim Ministry Committee. She was a Conference delegate to the 40th General Council in Kelowna, B.C. in 2009, and was a facilitator for the series of racial justice workshops delivered throughout the Conference in 2010.

Dr. Wilson retired from Brock University (St. Catharines) as Professor Emeritus. During her tenure of many years at Brock she was professor in the Faculty of Education and served in many leadership positions including chair of her department, director of the Centre of Adult Education and Community Outreach, associate dean and then interim dean of the Faculty. She served the wider university community in many capacities including chair of the University Senate. During retirement years she has maintained academic engagement through contractual work with Brock University, Trent University, and Niagara College; and also as editor of an international journal in teacher education.

Sybil brings to the role of President of Hamilton Conference extensive leadership experience; belief in the dynamism and profundity of the Jesus Way; an abiding faith in Jesus the Christ; willingness to grow in that faith; and a desire to deepen her own spiritual life and to see the church do likewise.

## Keith Hagerman, Music Leader

An ordained minister, currently serving at Parkminster, Waterloo, Keith has served churches in London, Hamilton and Maritime Conferences. With a life long passion for music in worship, Keith has led many workshops on music and worship, has been song leader for London Conference, planned major worship services for General Council, written a musical on solidarity with Guatemala, and recently completed a Fellowship at Harvard Divinity School looking at the interface of spirituality and the arts. He was our music leader at last year’s Annual Meeting. A multi-instrumentalist, Keith is especially interested in enabling congregational singing.



# Theme Speaker

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## Mardi Tindal



Mardi Tindal, a layperson from Brantford, ON, was elected Moderator at the 40th General Council in Kelowna, BC, on August 14, 2009. She has served in staff and volunteer leadership roles at all levels of the United Church. She grew up in the rural community of Victoria Square, ON, now part of Markham. She holds an M.A. in educational psychology from the University of Toronto and a B.A. in psychology from York University.

Tindal has enjoyed a diverse career as an adult educator and facilitator, organizational consultant, author, and video producer. Before being elected Moderator, she was executive director of Five Oaks Centre, near Paris, ON. She has served in other United Church staff roles as internal consultant on leadership and program development in the Division of Mission in Canada, communication and stewardship officer at Hamilton Conference, coordinator of recreational ministries and youth resources at the General Council Office, and director of Camp Big Canoe.

Tindal became well known in the 1980s and 1990s as a co-host, story producer, and writer with *Spirit Connection*, the United Church’s former weekly national broadcast on Vision TV. Her work has also appeared on TV Ontario, CTV affiliate stations, and Anglican Video.

Tindal has consulted widely with government, private-sector, church, and voluntary organizations in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain to improve effectiveness, build productive teams, and navigate rapidly changing environments.

More recently she has become a Circle of Trust® facilitator with Parker J. Palmer’s Center for Courage and Renewal.

Among her many volunteer commitments, Tindal has served on the board of *The United Church Observer*, provided court support to women in conflict with the law as a volunteer with the Elizabeth Fry Society, and worked with students preparing for diaconal and ordained ministry, including serving on two congregational lay supervision teams. She is an active member of Sydenham Street United Church in Brantford, where she has been a team leader at a weekly community supper.

Tindal’s spouse is Douglas Tindal, a communications professional. They are the proud parents of two grown sons, Chris and Alex. Her interests include theatre, hiking, reading, and “locavorism,” or eating locally-produced food.

# Proposed Agenda



88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference  
of The United Church of Canada  
Port Elgin, Ontario  
**Friday, June 1 to Sunday, June 3, 2012**

## **Friday, June 1, 2012**

9:00 am	Registration Begins
10:00 am	Constitution of the Court Welcome and Greetings Enabling Motions Introductions Open Nominations Safe Community
10:45 am	Worship
11:15 am	President & Moderator: Approaching Our Work in a Prayerful & Spirit-led Manner
11:45 am	Table Group Time
12:00 pm	Announcements & Lunch
1:30 pm	Candidates' Addresses
2:15 pm	Settlement Report
2:30 pm	Candidates' Motions and Ballot
3:00 pm	Break
3:30 pm	GCE Report
4:00 pm	Budget Presentation and Questions for Clarification
4:45 pm	Introduction to Proposals & Table Group Time
5:20 pm	Book Room Presentation
5:30 pm	Supper
6:30 pm	Rehearsal for Celebration of Ministries Service
7:00 pm	Proposals
8:15 pm	End of Day Worship
9:00 pm	Adjourn

No.	Workshops	Session
<b>16</b>	<b>Soul Collage®: A Spiritual Art</b> This creative process, designed by Seena Frost, allows us to access our inner wisdom with visual images. Participants will learn Soul Collage® and make a card of their own. Artistic background not required. For more information see <a href="http://www.soulcollage.com">www.soulcollage.com</a> . <b>Facilitator:</b> Barbara Booth	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Standing in the Gap: Intercessory Prayer</b> The <i>What, Why, Who &amp; How</i> of Intercessory Prayer. We will explore the practice of intercessory prayer by examining Biblical teaching and models <b>Facilitator:</b> Jeeva Sam	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Walking Meditation</b> A practice of mindful walking to learn how to see God in creation and to love the earth and walk on it in sacred ways. We will share a scripture and then, holding that in our mind, walk with fellow pilgrims, in conversation with others and with God. <b>Participants need to be mobile.</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> John Lawson	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>

## **Workshop Registration:**

- More detailed descriptions of the workshops are available at [www.hamconf.org](http://www.hamconf.org).
- Please indicate your workshop choices as part of your on-line registration or by completing the **Spiritual Practices Workshop** section on page 2 of the Annual Meeting Registration Form.
- Please note that some workshops are offered twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, while others are offered only once in either the morning or afternoon session.
- Please use the workshop number (1–18) to indicate which workshop you would like to attend.
- As some workshops are limited to a certain number of participants, we ask that you indicate your first and second choices for each session. We will endeavour to honour your first choice on a first-come-first-served basis.

No.	Workshops	Session
11	<p><b>Inner Drives/Outer Expectations: The Search for Core Practices for Stability, Courage and Joy</b></p> <p>An exploration of personal and communal practices of body, mind and spirit developed out of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola as adapted from a United Church perspective. <b>Bring:</b> an inquiring spirit, paper and pen/pencil.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> John Buttars</p>	AM & PM
12	<p><b>Journeying Toward Greater Generosity</b></p> <p>The generosity of God and the generosity of those who have gone before us have changed the lives of many. How do we join this ongoing journey of incarnational generosity for the present and future generations when our resources become increasingly limited and even self-serving?</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Kim Uyede-Kai and Lisa Di Veto</p>	AM & PM
13	<p><b>Morning Pages</b></p> <p>A simple tool of stream-of-consciousness writing that potentially releases creative energy in transformative ways. We will write Morning Pages to discover its power and will engage in tasks to uncover "magical moments" of insight of one's own potential. Participants should expect to be surprised and refreshed! <i>Morning Pages</i> releases energy and lets the Spirit lead to inspire ideas and novelty.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Rose Ann Vita</p>	AM & PM
14	<p><b>Pilgrimage: Ancient Practice, New Relevance</b></p> <p>Participants will explore the practice of Christian pilgrimage and how the way of the pilgrim—part attitude, part physical journey—is particularly relevant today.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Sheryl Spencer</p>	PM only
15	<p><b>Singing Your Spirit</b></p> <p>How do you <b>feel</b> when you sing? Nurture your spirit during a program of joyful singing and fun ... no judgment ... just joyful noise praising God! <b>Bring:</b> <u>Voices United</u></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Linda Clark</p>	PM only

**Saturday, June 2, 2012**

9:00 am	Worship
9:30 am	Theme Address: Moderator
10:00 am	Introduction to Workshops
10:15 am	<b>Spiritual Practices Workshops</b>
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Theme Address: Moderator
2:00 pm	Move to Workshops
2:05 pm	<b>Spiritual Practices Workshops</b>
4:05 pm	Return to Plenary
4:15 pm	Knee Group Time
4:45 pm	Theological Reflection
5:00 pm	Announcements & Supper
7:00 pm	<b>Celebration of Ministries Service with Communion</b>
9:00 pm	Adjourn/Reception

**Sunday, June 3, 2012**

9:00 am	Worship
9:30 am	Nominees for Lay GCE Rep addresses
9:45 am	Ballot for Lay GCE Rep
10:00 am	Nominees for President-designate addresses
10:15 am	Ballot for President Designate
10:30 am	Budget Discussion and Decision
11:00 am	Ballot – Commissioners to GC 41
11:15 am	Proposals
12:00 pm	Installation of President
12:15 pm	Courtesies
12:30 pm	Lunch



# Saturday Workshops: Spiritual Practices

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No.	Workshops	Session
1	<b>Awaken to Your Dreams</b> We will look at dreams in scripture and from our own experience and explore what they might mean for us. Join us as we begin to understand our dreams as God's metaphorical language to us. No experience is necessary! <b>Facilitators:</b> Kellie McComb and Elaine Graham	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
2	<b>Biblical Meditation with Hand Drumming</b> Participants will be introduced to basic hand drumming techniques and rhythms that will facilitate the practice of biblical meditation. No experience necessary. Limited to 20 participants. <b>Facilitators:</b> Mark Rutledge and Jeff Allman	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
3	<b>Bibliodrama: Exploring Scripture through Role Play</b> An opportunity to deepen our exploration of scripture by connecting personally with the characters in the story, through the use of our imagination. <b>Facilitators:</b> Linda Clark	<b>AM only</b>
4	<b>Chanting</b> St. Augustine said, "Those who sing pray twice." Chanting invites us to connect more deeply with prayer beyond the mind. <b>Bring:</b> Bible. <b>Facilitator:</b> Linda Nash	<b>AM only</b>
5	<b>A Class Meeting in the John Wesley/Methodist Style</b> Experience the Methodist class meeting including prayer, Bible study and conversation in the tradition of a people called Methodists. <b>Facilitator:</b> Jenny Stephens	<b>AM only</b>

No.	Workshops	Session
6	<b>Clear Your Clutter</b> Hanging onto possessions can make us feel stuck, stagnant and overwhelmed. This workshop will help us to explore our challenges with the <i>stuff that possesses us</i> . Come ready to ponder, reflect and explore your own experience with <i>stuff</i> ! <b>Facilitator:</b> Valerie Pitt	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
7	<b>Contemplative Prayer</b> "Come and Find the Quiet Centre." Whether you are experienced in contemplative prayer or new to this practice, this workshop can help you learn to relax in God's presence and to remain centered in divine love and peace even in the midst of distractions. <b>Facilitator:</b> Diane Clark	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
8	<b>Courage to Lead® as Spiritual Practice</b> An introduction to practices offered by Parker J. Palmer and the Centre for Courage & Renewal ( <a href="http://www.CourageRenewal.org">www.CourageRenewal.org</a> ), by which we reconnect who we are with what we do for renewed passion, commitment and integrity in our life and work. <b>Facilitators:</b> Mardi Tindal and Fred Monteith	<b>AM only</b>
9	<b>Embodied Prayer-Dance</b> Explore how movement and dance might enhance your prayer life. Participants will explore both individual and group expressions of embodied prayer, using the words of spoken prayers and psalms, hymns, instrumental music, and silence. (No previous dance experience required.) <b>Facilitator:</b> Louise Rutledge	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>
10	<b>Experiencing Creation Spirituality</b> Beyond "living with respect in creation," this workshop will explore some of the emerging ideas in creation spirituality and give participants an opportunity to experience it through photography and/or writing. This workshop would be a nice compliment to Workshop #18 "Walking Meditation" offered by John Lawson. <b>Bring:</b> pen/paper/digital camera if you have one. <b>Facilitator:</b> Garry Van Bruchem	<b>AM &amp; PM</b>