The Gathering of Baptists

Program: ***"to faithfully evolve ..."***

Sat, Oct 24, 2026
8:30 am – 5:00 pm
at MacNeill Baptist Church, Hamilton
and online (with registration)

The Christian Church landed in North America, along with the European colonizers, and immediately became complicit in

- *genocidal treatment of the indigenous peoples,*
- *the enslavement of Africans, and*
- *destruction of the land, air and waters,*

believing they "had dominion" and were called to subdue. Add in the Church's history of marginalizing/persecuting women, the queer community, Jews, and Muslims, and we get to where we are today.

This European-based Church's influence—like its attendance—has waxed and now, perhaps thankfully, wanes.

*The question addressed in this day's program is, "**Critically and constructively, what do various of the historically dominated and marginalized populations have to say to the Church, in order for it to faithfully evolve?**"*

- *What must we, the Church, learn and integrate from each of them?*
- *How must we be reformed?*

*In other words, the Church arguably did not land in North America as Jesus would have intended; **what do we do now, in order to repair the harm and get it right?***

About *The Gathering of Baptists ...*

We are a gathering rooted in the Baptist tradition of soul liberty, listening deeply, speaking honestly and walking together in mutual respect. We create a safe environment for courageous conversations - exploring hard questions around faith, justice, culture and community. Guided by scripture and the spirit of Jesus we seek unity, not uniformity, believing that the body of Christ is strengthened when we gather to explore our differences yet stand together.

Registration Tab | Schedule Tab | Presenters Tab | Flyer / Poster

This event is co-sponsored by MacNeill Baptist Church whose Russell Aldwinckle Memorial Fund has underwritten a significant portion of the costs.

Dr. Aldwinckle was the Professor of Theology at McMaster Divinity College from 1947 through his retirement in 1976. He died in 1992. The Memorial Fund was established by his widow, Muriel, who became a member of MacNeill after Russell's death. Muriel herself died in 2003. The fund is designated to support events (lectures, concerts, colloquiums) that align with, and thus honour, Russell's legacy.