THE GATHERINGS

WHERE, WHAT & WITH WHOM

We had been gathering for more than four years, although our nomenclature was not defined initially. Then, in October 1993 a group of over 40 Baptists, both lay and clergy, met together in Hamilton and expressed a desire to create an organization "of mutual help and comfort," a place where discussion, searching, and debating of concerns may occur with those of like-mind. It's been a life-line for many - a way to stay connected to other Baptists.

You may find the list of our venues, speakers and topics of interest:

Oct. '93 MacNeill Baptist, Hamilton
- Rev. John Boyd, First Baptist, Halifax (past-present of the Atlantic Baptist Fellowship): "What Next?" (i.e. do we want to become a formal group?)

April '94 First Baptist, Oshawa
- Dr. George Rawlyk, Professor of History, Queen's University, Kingston: "The Rage For Water" (Baptist origins in Canada)

Oct. '94 Highland Baptist, Kitchener
- Dr. Paul Dekar, Professor of Christian History, McMaster Divinity College, with members of the Mennonite Peace Committee from Kitchener area: "Peace and Justice"

April '95 Calvary Baptist, Cobourg
- Dr. Ray Hobbs, Dr. Ron Watts, Rev. John Dickinson, Rev. Gary Caldwell, Rev. John Furry, & Dr. Chris Page, leading sessions on "How `Free' Baptists Can Effectively Witness"
... The Canadian Council of Churches, The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Vehicles of Social Concerns, & The Baptist Peace Fellowship

June '95 Aboard Captain John's Harbour Boat Restaurant
- Rev. John Dickinson, James St. Baptist, Hamilton: "Baptists: General or Particular?"

Oct. '95 Woodbine Heights Baptist, Toronto
- Dr. Arthur VanSeters, Principal, Knox College, Toronto: "The Church In the 21st Century"

April '96 Burlington Baptist
- Dr. John Rook, Executive Director of The Hub: "Picking Up The Broken Pieces"

Oct. '96 Dundas Baptist
- Rev. Peter O'Donnell, organizational change consultant and missioner: "Facing Change"

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April '97 Central Baptist, Oakville
- Rev. Roger Prentice, Chaplain at Acadia University:
"De-Scribing Ourselves (Mark 1:22)"

Oct. '97 Highland Baptist, Kitchener
- Stan Hastey, Director of The Alliance of Baptists, U.S.A.:
The History of The Alliance and Where From Here?

April '98 Calvary Baptist, Toronto
- Rev. Dr. Barry Morrison and Heather Hobbs: "Worship"

Oct. '98 FBC Woodstock
- The Rev. Bob Bond leading Open Space
"Baptist Identity Now - How Do We Live The Fragile Freedom?"

April '99 Fonthill Baptist
- Jeff Pool, Brite Divinity School: "Creedalism"

Oct. '99 Lorne Park Baptist
- The Rev. Bob Bond leading Open Space
"To Think, To Love, & To Minister - The Process IS the Ministry"

April '00 Martin Grove Baptist, Toronto
- Dr. T. Raymond Hobbs:
"Conscientious Objections: Living as Baptists in the 21st Century"

Oct. '00 Geoff & Dorothy Hearn's Retreat/Home, Caledon
- The Rev. Bob Bond leading Open Space
"God's Preferential Options For The Future"

April '01 Dundas Baptist Church
- Dr. Phylis Trible, Prof. of OT, Divinity School of Wake Forest U.
"Life On The Margins"

June '01 Woodbine Heights Baptist Church
"What Does The Bible Really Say About Homosexuality?"
- Dr. T. Raymond Hobbs: "The Bible & Lifestyles"
- The Rev. Linda Sparks: "Why is an Ethic & Theology of Love More Than Fluff?"

Oct. '01 Cheltenham Baptist,
- The Rev. Bob Bond leading Open Space
"What Does The Lord Require of You?"

April '02 MacNeill Baptist, Hamilton

- The Rev. Dr. Dan Buttry, F.B.C. Dearborn & BPFNA

"Transforming Conflict: Through Conflict to Growth"

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Oct. '02 First Baptist, Oshawa
"Living As Baptists"
- Dr. T. Raymond Hobbs: "Welcoming Each Other"
- The Rev. Barbara Bishop: "Caring for Each Other"
- Dr. George Soulis: "Learning With Each Other"

April '03 Dundas Baptist Church
- Dr. Elizabeth Boetzkes, U of Lethbridge, & Dr. Travis Kroeker, McMaster
"Ethics & Christianity; Ethics in Exile"

Oct. '03 Aylmer Baptist
- Carla Nelson, CBM Task Force on HIV/AIDS
- Daniel Coleman, Research Chair in Critical Ethnicity & Race Studies, McMaster
"Guardians of Hope & The Problem of Thick Skin"

April '04 Burlington Baptist
- Stan Hastey, Exec. Director of the Alliance of Baptists
"Hopeful Alliances for the Journey Ahead"

Oct. '04 Yorkminster Park Baptist
AM Randall Preaching Fellowship with Dr. Joseph Jetter, Brite Divinity School
PM The Rev. Rick Mixon, Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, USA

April 05 F.B.C., Ottawa
- Lee McKenna and Dr. Gary Purdy
"The Future of Peacemaking:
What Would I Change in My Life to Bring Peace in the World?"

October 05 F.B.C., Beamsville
- Ross Lawford "Shaping our Future"

April 29/06 Selkirk Baptist Church
- Rob Shearer & friends from Parkdale Neighbourhood Church, Toronto
'Exploring Emerging Ways of Worship"

October 28/06 Quality Hotel & Suites, 580 Bruin Blvd, Woodstock
- Daniel Pryfogle, Signal Hill Mission-Driven Consultants
"Baptists Without Borders"

April 28/07 Donway Baptist Church
- Dr. William Herzog, Andover Newton Theological School
" What's New in the Parables as Subversive Speech?"
(Friday afternoon at Woodbine Heights; supper & evening at Lee McKenna's)

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October 26/07 First Baptist Church, Perth,
- The Revs. Michael Steeves & David Janzen " Interfaith Dialogue"
- Dr. Jean Stairs, Queens U. " The Simplicity & Complexity of Soul Listening"
(Friday evening at the home of Frank & Esther Morgan)

April 19/08 Burlington Baptist Church
- Dr. John Rook and Dion Oxford
"Challenging The Scriptures:
How does The Church Respond to Poverty & Homelessness?"
(Friday evening at the home of Jeff & Kelly Caldwell, Burlington)

October 25/08 Calvary Baptist Church, Toronto
- Dr. Tony Bartlett, Rochester N.Y - Episcopal Seminary
"The Cross Was Not God's Idea - a Non-Violent Theology of the Atonement"
(Friday afternoon/evening conversation circle at the home of Lee McKenna, Toronto)

April 25, 2009 Thornhill Baptist Church
- Lawrence Martin and Betty Albert, First Nations, Prozac Nation
"Healing, Wholeness & Creation from an Aboriginal Perspective"
(Friday evening at the home of Heather Steeves & Karen Turner, Bolton)

October 24, 2009 Woodbine Heights Baptist Church
- Prof. Pat Dutcher-Walls, Hebrrew Bible, Vancouver School of Theology
"Imagining a New Economy" (turned out to be electronic because of flight problem)
(Friday evening at the home of Lee McKenna, Toronto)

April 24, 2010 Aylmer Baptist Church
- Heather Steeves
"A Deepening Engagement with our Canadian Context"
Ref. Phyllis Tickle's 'The Great Emergence'

October 30, 2010 Woodbine Heights Baptist Church
- The Rev. Raul Suarez, Mariano, Cuba (see minutes ofr extensive credentials)
"Peace & Justice in Local Community - A Cuban Baptist History"
(Friday aft at Woodbine; soiree at Lee McKenna's)

April 2011 = no Gathering

October 29, 2011 Parkdale Community Church
- Joe Abbey-Colborne & Parkdale associates
"Jesus, Missing in Action" - - a neighbourhood event
(Friday Soiree hosted by Jeremiah House - Karen Turner & Heather Steeves)

April 2012 = no Gathering

October 27, 2012 Burlington Baptist Church
- Dr Cam Watts "Bone Button Borsht"

April 27, 2013 MacNeill Baptist Church - - A Luncheon Mini-Gathering (noon to 3 PM)

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October 26, 2013 MacNeill Baptist Church ... after 20 years
"The Future of The Progressive Church" ... Del Stewart, Snowstar Institute
"A Perspective of BCOQ History from 1948"
... John Dickenson, one of the founders of The Gathering

April 26, 2014 Ontario St. Baptist Church, Stratford
"The Eighth Day ("On the Eighth Day, man created God") – a Dave New PhD essay
= Naming the God of the Progressive Church
... Lee McKenna & Cam Watts facilitating

October 25, 2014 Calvary Baptist Church, Toronto
- The Rev. Michael Blair, Executive, UCC (formally pastor of Facer St Baptist)
"The Future from the Perspective of a Progressive Church"

April 25, 2015 Hub & Hearth Farm Resort (Lee Ann McKenna, Mono Mills)
- Dr. Stephen Scharper, University of Toronto "For Earth's Sake"
(Friday evening and overnight for a dozen or more at H&H)

September 13, 2015 in person at Aylmer Baptist Church
– Ordination Council and Ordination Service for Lee Ann McKenna

October 24, 2015 First Baptist Church, Otttawa
- Imam Mohamad Jebara "Finding Faithful Living Together ...
An Exploration of Islam in a Climate of 'Fear of The Other'"

April 30, 2016 Donway Baptist Church, Dom Mills, Toronto
- Joe Abbey-Colborne "Faith & Service in The City ...
An Exploration of Cooperative Faith Community Ministries"

October 29, 2016 Burlington Baptist Church
- Elizabeth Rennie, Milt McLean, and others of BBC "On A Journey to Inclusiveness… "

April 28&29, 2017 First Baptist Church, Ottawa
" Into the Next 150 Years ... A Gathering with the Canadian Assoc. For Baptist Freedoms"
Presenting were John Boyd, Neil Hunter, & Calvin Eady

October 28, 2017 First Baptist Church, Simcoe
- Caldwell, New, Ogden & Watts "First Principles – A Discussion"

April 28, 2018 Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto
- The Rev. Lee Ann McKenna "How Do We Read The Bible "
- The Rev Blake Eady "Why The Autonomy of the Local Church Matters"

October 27, 2018 Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Ottawa
- The Rev Cheryle Hanna "The Post Modern Church – What and How to Get There ? "

April 27, 2019 Burlington Baptist Church, Burlington
- The Rev Lee Ann McKenna "First Nations Reconciliation - A Need ?"
- Joanna Anderson "Blanket Ceremony"

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October 26, 2019 MacNeill Baptist Church, Hamilton
"Honouring our Mentors, Anticipating Tomorrow"
- with Profs Mel Hillmer, Paul Dekar, Ray Hobbs, & John Rook

April 25, 2020 An Electronic "Zoom" meeting because of COVID – was to be McPhail BC Ottawa
"Our Gathering Journey" – a review of our history and workshops on Credentialing, on Programming, and on our Response to the CBOQ Discernment Process.
- Rex Deverell, Dave Oglivie & Gary Caldwell

September 26, 2020 – Combination in-person and Zoom meeting from Burlington Baptist
"Changing Our Mind" with David Gushee PhD on his book f that title – how he changed his mind to become "Welcoming & Affirming."

October 24, 2020 – A Zoom only meeting "Hearing Queer Voices in the Church" featuring Beth Carlson Malena and a panel of Becca Sawyer, Junia Joplin, Jeff Baker, Mary Pepper, & Andrea Storey. We pondered what the Church might learn if it heard those voices.

April 24, 2021 - a Zoom meeting "A Bigger Box of Crayons" with Cal Malena and a panel of regional
notables David Ogilvie, Panel Moderator , John Boyd, NS, Anne Smith, BC, and Rachel Brooks, ON. Malena offered personal testimony, science, history, theology and Biblical claims on the theme that society and church contain more than black and white crayons in their boxes.

October 30, 2021 – a Zoom meeting "The Post Pandemic Church What the Pandemic Revealed" with Michael Blair speaking on what the pandemic has uncovered in the Canadian scene, and Ken Sehested speaking on what the Church needs now to be.

April 23 2022 – a Zoom meeting on the theme "God's Human Future: Overcoming Dogmatic Addiction" with the Rev David Galston PhD.

October 29 2022 - a Zoom meeting on the therme pf "The Doctrin of Discovery and the Church" with The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred

April 29 2023 - an hybrid Live Steam and In Person meeting at Burlington Baptist Church on the theme: What Have We Done – The Roots of the Climate Change" with The Rev Cynthia Rasmussen PhD, Colgate Rochester Crozer Div. School and Episco.Pastor.

October 28, 2023 - an hybrid Live Steam and In Person meeting at Calvary Baptist Church, Toronto Beaches - theme: "Recognizing Our Place In Creation- Christianity & The Climate Crisis" with Sylvia Keesmaat PhD, Biblkical Scholar, Trinity College, Toronto.

April 27, 2024 – hybrid at Burlington Baptist Church - theme: "Faith Under Construction; Wrestlers & Doubters Welcome" with Michael Lafleur, Joanna Anderson, Junia Joplin, & John Rook.

February 25 & June 9, 2024 at MacNeill Baptiist Church – Ordination Council and Ordination Service for Susan St. John

November 2, 2024 – hybrid at First Baptist Guelph – theme "The Wall Between: What Jews & Palestinians Don't Want To Know About Each Other" with Raja Khouri & Jeffrey Wilkinson.

March 15, 2025 – in person at Burlington Baptist Church – "A Visioning Process" attempting to plot our process forward with Cam Watts leading

May 3, 2025 - hybrid at MacNeill Baptist Church, Hamilton – theme "Lament & Hope" with presentations by Prog Cte: Gary Caldwell, Karen Turner, Brent Helwig, Bob Bond

October 25, 2025 – hybrid at Burlington Baptist Church - theme: "Contemplative action for Justice & Renewal" led by Ian Mobsby

November 15 & 16 in person at First Baptist Church Guelph – Ordination Council and Ordination Service for Brent Helwig