

Walking Together: Sharing the Work and Ideas that Call to Us
A Multi-faith, Multidisciplinary Conference for Scholars,
Activists, and Practitioners

Vancouver School of Theology
May 26 – 28, 2026

All times listed are Pacific Daylight Time

All events are accessible both in person and via Zoom unless noted otherwise

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, MAY 26

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet

For registered online participants
Chair: Nicola Hayward • CTA:

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Keynote Address

Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan
From Conflict to Connection: Spiritual Community in Stressful Times
Epiphany Chapel
Chair: Casey Collins • CTA:

8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Reception

For registered in-person participants
Epiphany Chapel & Garden

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee (Atrium)

9:00 – 10:30 am

Opening Plenary Session

Daniel Melvil Jones

“You Will Need to Seek, Find, and Speak:
 Naming Nature with Psalm 19 and The Lost Words Project”
 Epiphany Chapel
 Chair: • CTA:

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Break (Atrium)

10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Paper Presentations

<p style="text-align: center;">Models for Inter-Religious Engagement Room 110 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shan Zee - <i>Bridging Belief and Belonging: Interfaith Dialogue as Social Cohesion in Pakistan</i> • Marcia Gibson - <i>Liberative Theologies in the Questions and the Answers: Contributions of Liberation, Womanist, Feminist, and Decolonial Theoretical Approaches for Community-Engaged Qualitative Research Practices</i> • Frani Goodman - <i>Holding Our Breath, Holding Space</i> • Kauanoë Moana Hoomanawanui - <i>From Pō to Ao: Navigational Theology of the Sacred in Hawai'i</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Walking Together in Activism Room 218 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Novia Layantara & Joas Adiprasetya - <i>Theophany from the Between: Rethinking Deforestation in Indonesia Through the Lenses of Raimon Panikkar and Nicholas of Cusa</i> • Eleanor Boyle - <i>Values as Motivation for My Food Activism</i> • Michael Polanyi - <i>How Are People of Faith Called to Respond to the Climate Crisis? An Exploration of the Theory and Practice of Nonviolent Civil Disobedience</i> • Kyle Boschman - <i>Imitating the Wounded Christ: Discipleship and the Theology of Nonviolence</i>
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12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

Pick up food in the Atrium and enjoy with others in room 110 or on the patio.

1:45pm – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Paper Presentations

<p style="text-align: center;">Art and Spirituality Room 110 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Duff - <i>Poet(h)ic Inquiry at the Crossroads: A</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Navigating Scholarly & Ministerial Positionality Room 218 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Martins - <i>The Chimera of Detachment and the</i>
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<p><i>Dance-Drama of Interspace</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parvaneh Farhangpour - <i>The Beauty of Spirituality</i> • Gabrielle Heidinger - <i>Singing the Mystery: Hymnody as Theological Translation in Preaching and Liturgy</i> • Stephane Gauline-Brown - <i>Designing for Encounter: Architecture, Aesthetic Experience, and the Journey Toward God</i> 	<p><i>Academic Approach: Practitioner Ethnography and its Challenges and Possibilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey Mackie-Deernsted - <i>Conversion in the North: Ministry in an Indigenous Context</i> • Andrea Tsugawa - <i>Recovering and Unveiling Andean Indigenous Methodologies</i> • Gretsjanialdi Apner - <i>Vulnerable Tables: The Last Supper, Potlatch, and Intercultural Theologies of Encouraging Encounter</i>
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3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Coffee Break (Atrium)

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Paper Presentations

<p>Writing, Storytelling, and Narrative Journey Room 110 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Dawson - <i>Walking Together in Story: Fiction as a Commons for Reimagining Faith and Activism</i> • Mark Stein - <i>Walking with Christians, Carrying the Bones of Joseph</i> • Brigid Maya Douglas - <i>Gifts of Storytelling: Womanist Practices of Engaging the Spirit</i> 	<p>Media of Connection Room 218 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karrie Myers - <i>Playable Dharma: Spiritual Video Games as Art, Theology, and Contemplative Practice</i> • Jacqueline Cleland - <i>Wi-Fi as the Vine: Bearing Fruit Through Digital Hospitality</i> • Kate Miller - <i>More than Metaphor: Mending as Spiritual Practice</i>
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DAY 3 – THURSDAY, MAY 28

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee (Atrium)

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Workshops

<i>More than Music and</i>	<i>Beyond Beliefs:</i>	<i>Spiritual Care Without</i>
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<p><i>Sermons in Worship Planning: Creating Visual Arts, Dramatic Role-Playing, and Having Collaborative Conversations</i> Warren K. McKinnon</p> <p>Room 110 Chair: • CTA:</p>	<p><i>Observing the Role of Relationships in Changing Beliefs</i> Dixie Vandersluys</p> <p>Room 218 Chair: • CTA:</p>	<p><i>Doctrine: Anticipatory Beliefs, Moral Injury, and a North Star Routine Filter</i> Bebe Makena</p> <p>Epiphany Chapel Chair: • CTA:</p>
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10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Coffee (Atrium)

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Workshop & Paper Presentations

<p><i>Abide in Me: Practicing Holy Spaciousness a Hurried World</i> Robin Anderson</p> <p>Room 110 Chair: • CTA:</p> <p><i>Rooted in Christian theology, this workshop invites interreligious dialogue by exploring how practices of presence and attentiveness function as shared sacred ground.</i></p>	<p>Walking Together in Our Social Contexts Room 218 Chair: • CTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammed Marzuq Abubakari - <i>The Beauty of Religious Diversity in the Context of Secularism: Analysis of Laïcité</i> • Christian Nathen Ng - <i>In Search of Ecclesial Egalitarianism: Pentecostal Theology in a Constructive and Critical Dialogue with Confucian Philosophy</i> • David Kwun-Ho Tai - <i>Chinese Pentecostals in Diaspora: The Pentecostal Vancouver Tabernacle as a Cantonese-Speaking Immigrant Church in Canada</i>
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12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Break
Pick up food in the Atrium and enjoy with others in room 110 or on the patio.

1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Paper Presentations

Walking with Our Elders
Room 110
Chair: • CTA:

- **Teresa Charlton** - *New Wine from Old Skins; Literally!*
- **Miranda Sutherland** - *Walking Together Across the Lifespan: Elder Development, Gero-Transcendence, and the Theology of Advanced Vocation*
- **Allen Jorgenson** - *Retirement as Vocation?*
- **Jack Gray** - *Holding Queer Lives at the End of Life: Rethinking Spiritual Care*

Walking with Those We Serve:
Spiritually-Engaged Work with Students,
Refugees, Patients, and the Incarcerated
Room 218
Chair: • CTA:

- **Dina-Hasida Mercy** - *Being my Brothers' Keeper: Walking with Incarcerated People*
- **Yehuda Mansell** - *Wounded Healers at the Borders: Theological and Clinical Ponderings on Moral Injury, Burnout, and Compassion Fatigue in Refugee-Sector Work*
- **Nasir Zaidi** - *Heart-to-Heart Care: A Model for Inter-Religious Community Formation in Spiritual Healthcare*
- **Susan Porter** - *Nurturing the Whole Graduate Student*

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Coffee (Atrium)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Closing Plenary Session

Epiphany Chapel & Nitobe Memorial Garden (weather permitting)

Facilitator: Casey Collins

CTA: