



MANITOBA  
MULTIFAITH  
COUNCIL

## MMC CONNECTS

*news, updates, inspirational memes and articles*

September 2, 2024



As multiple conflicts rage across the world, it can be easy to give in to feelings of hopelessness about humanity's prospects for a peaceful and prosperous future. The dream of true and lasting world peace is universal, yet elusive. What will it take for us to finally set aside our petty differences and historical grievances to find a common vision for humanity? Does peace simply entail the absence of war, or does it incorporate freedom from all forms of injustice and oppression?

Many philosophers and spiritual leaders have posited that we cannot achieve global peace and unity until we realize peace within ourselves – an intriguing perspective inviting new and creative interpretations. Perhaps, peace need not be more complicated or grandiose than a walk amongst the wildflowers or a late-summer sunrise.

In the **2025 Multifaith Calendar - Pathways to Peace**, we invited artists to reflect deeply on these perennial questions and to channel their visions of peace into artwork that soothes the spirit, uplifts the soul, inspires others to action, and ultimately offers solace to a divided world. We hope you find that the included art evokes a sense of both comfort and optimism.

**What's New for 2025:** Over the years, the Multifaith Calendar has been privileged to moons and moon cycles according to different Indigenous Peoples, including Nisga'a (northwestern BC) and Ojibwa (eastern BC to western Quebec and in the upper and mid-west in the US), Cree (across western and central Canada and Quebec as well as in Montana), and Coast Salish (Pacific Northwest). This year, the 2025 Multifaith Calendar again features moons and months as observed by the Mi'kmaq First Nations.

The Mi'kmaq are a First Nation of Indigenous people whose territory—called Mi'kma'ki—spans the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and parts of Newfoundland and Quebec. The Mi'kmaq have lived there for 11,000 years and their language is one of the Eastern Algonquian family of languages. The Mi'kmaw Moons names denote the passage of time by reflecting activities in the natural world through the seasons.

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## 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 7:00 pm  
St Mark's Lutheran Church 600 Cambridge St (at Corydon Ave)

Pursuant to **By-LAW NO.1** of **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc.** (2011), and with concurrence of the **MMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, formal notice is hereby given for the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc.** to be held on this date, time and location.

The purpose of said meeting is **to receive the reports of the President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Committees of MMC, and Auditor(s); to appoint Auditors; to elect a Board of Directors; and to consider and transact any other MMC business as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.**

  
Ray Harris, Secretary

  
Payam Towhig, President

  
Christine Baronins, Vice President



Our **2024 Annual Report** is being compiled, and will be made available via **MMC CONNECTS** as well as our **MMC website**. *Respecting the environment, paper copies will not be printed.*

FEATURED SPEAKER

### John Longhurst

*Winnipeg Free Press – Faith Reporter*

In columns and reporting for the *Winnipeg Free Press* over two decades, journalist **John Longhurst** has covered faith from a multitude of perspectives. ***Can Robots Love God and Be Saved? A Journalist Reports on Faith*** is a collection of his most stimulating reflections on faith is also a series of reports on culture, politics, technology, and just about anything else that intersects with religion. Longhurst is perennially curious about religious faith in its various expressions. Whether writing about Holocaust survivors, residential schools, religious relics, interreligious misunderstandings, assisted dying, or how women religious leaders are treated, **John Longhurst** has something thought-provoking to say about the way faith touches all aspects of our lives.

**John Longhurst** has carved out an impressive career in journalism, media relations, and marketing & communications (especially from a non-profit perspective), working for organizations such as Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Mennonite Central Committee, and Mennonite Disaster Services. Longhurst organized **Canada's first major conference on faith and the media** in Ottawa in 1998, and in 2021 received the **Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding in Manitoba**. His book ***Making the News: An Essential Guide to Effective Media Relations*** was published in 2006. He has written over 900 columns and over 600 articles about faith for the *Winnipeg Free Press* over the past two decades and continues to cover the faith beat for the *Free Press* and many other publications.



[www.manitobamultifaith.org](http://www.manitobamultifaith.org)

[www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil)



13th Annual  
Lieutenant Governor's

# Award

for  
the Advancement of Interreligious  
Understanding

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

for individual members of a Manitoba religious community whose volunteer efforts demonstrate a commitment to fostering dialogue and harmony among the various faith traditions in Manitoba and beyond.

For submission requirements  
[CLICK HERE](#)



Deadline for submissions  
September 15th, 2024

Each year, under the patronage of the **Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba**, presented to recognize the **contributions of an individual member of Manitoba's various religious communities** toward **greater interfaith understanding and harmony** among the religious communities in the Province and beyond.

The **recipient's contributions** may be offered through **any realm of endeavour**, such as the **arts, community organization or service, cultural engagement** or the **media**.

Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba  
The Honourable Anita R. Neville, P.C., O.M.



**PAST RECIPIENTS:** **Rev. Dr. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, 2024** – celebrating a professional career undergirded by the conviction that building relationships with people of other faith traditions holds a greater possibility of effecting change in our world. ■ **Bill Weissmann, 2023** – lay clergy at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, where he has guided daily prayer services and welcomed visitors from many different faiths and gives his time to explain Judaism to religious studies classes across Manitoba colleges and universities. ■ **Pastor Bill Millar, 2022** – during years as pastor at Knox United Church, building and maintaining relationships with communities outside conventional parameters. ■ **John Longhurst, 2021** – nationally-respected advocate and chronicler in the fields of Christian ecumenism and interreligious dialogue and understanding. ■ **Sensei Fredrich Ulrich, 2020** – as a Buddhist leader, seizing opportunity “to help others understand his faith tradition and maybe their own as well.” (Brenda Suderman, WFP) ■ **Michel Aziza, 2019** – driving force behind the Operation Ezra project to rescue, sponsor and resettle Yazidi refugees. ■ **Manju Lohda and Ray Dirks, 2018** – collaborators on educational multi-faith initiatives including the “In the Spirit of Humanity” project and “Leap of Faith” DVD. ■ **Devon Clunis, 2017** – former chief of Winnipeg Police Service. ■ **Rev. Karen Toole, 2016** – former provincial spiritual care coordinator, radio host and newspaper columnist. ■ **Rabbi Doctor Neal and Carol Rose, 2015** – Rabbi Neal a professor of religion at The University of Manitoba for more than 30 years; Carol a writer, poet and spiritual teacher. ■ **The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, 2014** – former Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of The University of

Winnipeg, life-long active lay member of The United Church of Canada. ■ **The late Dr. Redwan Mogbel**, 2013 – former head of immunology, faculty of medicine at The University of Manitoba and member of the Baha'i faith. ■ **Dr. Atish Chandra Manjar** – a Hindu priest and **Mae Louise Campbell** – Ojibway-Métis elder, 2012. ■ **Zane Zalis**, 2011 – composer and [musician](#). ■ **Sandy Hyman**, of the Jewish community; **Dr. Asad Kahn**, Manitoba Muslim; and **Ms. Frieda Lalbihari**, a Roman Catholic – presented with Canadian Centre for Ecumenism plaques, 2007.

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