



Love of God & Love of The Neighbour  
Or Love of The Good & Love of The Neighbour

Our mission, according to our web site [www.interfaithtoronto.ca](http://www.interfaithtoronto.ca), is to create and widen awareness of World Interfaith Harmony Week in the Greater Toronto Area and to help plan, conceptualize, facilitate, promote and co ordinate its events.

**Toronto Steering Committee**

- John Voorpostel CPA, CMS
- Rev Michelle Singh
- Rev Tuula van Gaasbeek
- Yasmin Ratansi
- Paul McKenna
- Sid Ikeda
- Chander Khanna
- Vivian Kwok
- Shaila Kibria Carter
- Sanam Islam

**2022 Highlights**

10<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year Of City Of Toronto Proclamations And The Celebration Of A Decade Of Events You Can Find Listed In Our Web Site

Release Of Video, “The Power Of Proclamations”, A Call To Grassroots Everywhere To Help Promote World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Presentation Of 3<sup>rd</sup> Interfaith Champion Award To Mr Paul McKenna

\*9 Out Of 15 Scheduled Events This Years Were In Whole Or Part Organized By Members Of The Toronto Steering Committee. Other Organizers Contacted Us To Help Them Publicize Their Events

10<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year of City of Toronto Proclamations



\* In February 2013, Toronto first officially celebrated World Interfaith Harmony Week by issuing, at our Committee’s request, a signed Proclamation declaring February 1 to 7 as World Interfaith Harmony Week in Toronto

On February 1 2022 Mayor John Tory once again did so for 2022, marking a decade of such proclamations in Toronto.

In addition Mayor Tory appears via video at the St Philips Lutheran Church service to offer official Toronto support for our efforts in promoting and bringing World Interfaith Harmony Week to Toronto. He supports our video by appearing in it.



\* “The Power of Proclamations” video is a call out to grass roots around the world to organize World Interfaith Harmony Week and gain official recognition and support.


The project had its roots in discussions with the Parliament of World Religions in 2018 then resurrected as a workshop presentation for the virtual October 2021 Parliament.

On February 6 2022 the video was officially launched after the St Philips Lutheran Church Interfaith Service.

Watch it here

<https://vimeo.com/674001831/0b20df55c4>

<p>February 1</p>  <p>Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested</p>	<p>Mississauga Mayor Crombie hosted the annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast <b>organized by the Interfaith Council of Peel</b></p> <p>It was bring your own breakfast to your computer and listen to the Mayor and assorted others talk about World Interfaith Harmony Week and the "Year of the Garden-Nurturing Diversity"</p>
<p>February 1</p>  <p>Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested</p>	<p><b>The Canadian Interfaith Conversation</b> used the week to launch their "AnOther Story" project and web site.</p> <p>CIC are calling for 200 untold stories of the people, moments and communities of faith that have shaped Canada. Deadline is March 13 2022</p> <p>Another Story Website  <a href="https://www.another-story.org/">https://www.another-story.org/</a></p>
<p>February 2</p> 	<p>*Host Reverend Michelle Singh in a 90 minute Zoom and Youtube stream discussion, "Taking Action on Climate Change: An Interfaith Conversation" that went 15 minutes over time and was live cast to about 100 people</p> <p>Speakers included Roop Sidhu, President at EcoSikh, Areej Riaz, Director of Climate Programs at EnviroMuslims, and Agnes Richard, Coordinator at Mouvement Laudato Si' Movement Canada.</p>
<p>Watch it Here  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcnoXB7O8bM&amp;t=74s&amp;ab_channel=Faith%26theCommonGood">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcnoXB7O8bM&amp;t=74s&amp;ab_channel=Faith%26theCommonGood</a></p>	
<p>February 2</p> <p><b>Interfaith Circle Meet &amp; Greet</b>  (Presents INTERFAITH:The Musical)</p>	<p>*Host Vivian Kwok and Ruth Broyde Sharone talked about Ruth's journey through film, writing and journalism to composer and lyricist for INTERFAITH: The Musical.</p> <p>This was followed by an interactive discussion among an estimated 80 attendees</p> <p>Watch it Here  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/136V-pVj3BCWrBhdl49hSM_LmpyzHM1Qh/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/136V-pVj3BCWrBhdl49hSM_LmpyzHM1Qh/view?usp=sharing</a></p>

<p><b>February 5</b></p>  <p>Spiritual Heritage Education Network Inc</p> <p>Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested</p>	<p>This was a big day full of questions around self discovery.</p> <p>What am I? Who am I? Where do I come from?  How do I get here? What is my innate nature?  How does my innate nature develop?  How can I be happy? How can I live a healthy life?  Who and what are you?</p> <p>These and other questions were introduced by SHEN's Fred Lawler, Ashwin Ranjit, Aneela Azeemi, Barbara Benjamin, Shiv Talwar, Upinder Bhatia, Lalit Jairath, Shirish Nathwani, Kate McKenzie and Veeresh Gadag</p>
<p><b>February 6</b></p> <p><b>St Philips's Lutheran Church</b>  Annual Interfaith Service</p> <p>Pastor Tuula van Gaasbeek leads this congregation that is the base and home for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Toronto Steering Committee</p> <p>It is here that John Voorpostel and Pastor Tuula planted the seeds in September 2012 that became the Toronto Steering Committee that October which gave us the platform and ability in Toronto to organize World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2013.</p> <p>Since then the St Philips church community has embraced and supported this United Nations initiative every year</p>	<p>*The service started with a video statement by Mayor John Tory in support of World Interfaith Harmony Week and St Philip's efforts. Pastor Tuula then read our Land Acknowledgement and welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Vivian Kwok, Yasmin Ratansi, Rev Bhante Saranapala, Rev Michelle Singh and Shaila Kibria Carter then also shared readings before John Voorpostel thanked Mayor John Tory and the St Philips congregation for a decade of support before introducing Mr Sid Ikeda to hand Paul McKenna the Steering Committee's 2022 Interfaith Champion Award. The St Philips Youth did not miss with their Bible Bunch contribution, "Everybody's Always Welcome Here".</p> <p>After the service "The Power of Proclamations" video was officially released.</p> <p>Watch the Service here  <a href="https://vimeo.com/674189265/72513f67c3">https://vimeo.com/674189265/72513f67c3</a></p>
<p><b>February 6</b></p> <p><b>Mosaic Interfaith, Temple Har Zion</b></p> <p>A Rabbi, a Pastor and an Imam Walked Into a Restaurant, (Not a Bar)</p> <p>This event was conceptualized by Paul McKenna and our steering committee. Paul contacted Mosaic's Fran Isaacs to host it. Fran contacted Temple Har Zion and the result of it all can be seen here</p>	<p>*Mosaic and Temple Har Zion have been joined together in a 40-year interfaith journey in the Greater Toronto Area</p> <p>The Three Amigos, Rabbi Michael Stroh, Pastor John Hill and Dr Liyaket Takim are a respected trio who have shared their interfaith experiences before audiences over the years</p> <p>In this Zoom event, Moderated by Dr Karen Mock and Rabbi Cory Weiss, The Three Amigos discuss their own Listen, Learn, Engage experiences in Learning to Dialogue, Learning From Dialogue.</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj3g37dl22g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj3g37dl22g</a></p>

<p><b>February 6</b></p> <p><b>Guelph</b> <b>St Andrews Presbyterian</b></p> <p>Sunday service Zoomerview with Brian Carwana, Encounter World Religions</p> <p>Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested</p>	<p><b>February 6</b></p> <p><b>Peterborough</b> <b>Abrahamic Festival Committee</b></p> <p>Zoomerview of discussion of harmony among Abrahamic faiths and stumbling blocks to engagement among Poet Ziyah von Biberstein, Father Paul Massel and Imam Michael Abdur Rashid Taylor</p> <p>Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested</p>
<p><b>February 7</b></p> <p><b>Toronto Spiritual Dialogue Circle</b></p> <p>*Toronto Steering Committee Co Chair Reverend Michelle Singh has been hosting a World Interfaith Harmony Week Spiritual Dialogue Circle since 2014. This Circle was founded in 2008 by Michelle, Farah Eshraghi from the Baha'i community and Rev. Debra Faulk of Don Heights Unitarian Congregation</p> <p>This year, the focus was on Are we truly listening? Are we actively learning? Are we authentically engaging?</p>	<p><b>February 15</b></p> <p><b>Durham Multifaith Community Spiritual Dialogue Circle</b></p> <p>Farah Eshraghi, long time host of this dialogue circle, once again gathered her like minded group together, this time to share re stories, prayers, and insights to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week. The evening's theme was Listen, learn, Engage.</p> <p>Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested</p>
<p><b>February 18</b></p> <p><b>Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada</b></p> <p>*Toronto Steering Committee members Sid Ikeda and Yasmin Ratansi facilitated this event</p> <p>Moderator Adil Malik organized presenters who offered up glimpses into the work being performed by the members and auxiliaries of the Jama'at</p> <p>After a prayer by Mr Aizaz Khan, presenters included Dr Aslam Daud of Humanity First, Imam Imtiaz Ahmed, who discussed spiritual bases for interfaith activities, Safwan Choudhry and Luqman Chattha described outreach work with the Indigenous population of Canada.</p> <p>Watch it here <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8uVnsNoun0&amp;ab_c_hannel=PeaceVillage">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8uVnsNoun0&amp;ab_c_hannel=PeaceVillage</a></p>	<p><b>February 23</b></p> <p><b>National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee</b></p> <p>*Co-Chairs of National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee Pastor Tuula van Gaasbeek and Imam Muneeb Nasir welcomed guests. Co moderators were Vivian Kwok and Shaila Kibria Carter.</p> <p>Speakers included The Rev Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Ustadh Ibrahim J. Long, Pastor Peter Noteboom, and Ms Maduba Ahmad and they addressed "Bridging Our Divides, Fostering Inclusivity and Positive Engagements".</p> <p>Watch it here <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1esK5eZH4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1esK5eZH4</a></p>

February 24

**Archdiocese of Toronto, Toronto District School Board, Mary Ward Centre**

Event brought together Catholic High School students and the interfaith community to discuss Justice & Reconciliation with indigenous activist/rapper, a Sikh poet, a Muslim imam and youth leader, a Catholic theologian and Jewish member of the Council of First Nations.

Watch it here <https://youtu.be/SkMR53J7oF8>

Promotion Only for This Event Was Requested



February 17

**Parliament of World Religions Helps Promote Power of Proclamations Video**

<https://parliamentofreligions.org/blog/toronto-interfaith-group-issues-call-action-faith-leaders-everywhere-participate-interfaith>

**Interfaith Champion Award**



Was introduced February 2020 as a way to recognize interfaith role models, highlight worthy achievement, and invent another reason to gather for a World Interfaith Harmony Week Activity.

2022

Mr Paul McKenna for being a founding steering committee member who joined on the condition we be in this for the long run, then being here 10 tears later to deservedly receive this interfaith award.

2021

Mr Sid Ikeda for his vigorous support for interfaith engagement and attendance at as many possible events as he can.

2020

Mr Chander Khanna for all his contributions to making the October 2018 Parliament of World Religions happen in Toronto.

Submitted on behalf of the World Interfaith Harmony Week Toronto Steering Committee

John Voorpostel CPA, CMS, Co Chair    Rev Michelle Singh Co Chair

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