

Commitment to Community,

With or Without God:

Promoting Respectful Dialogue
As we look to the Future
of The United Church of Canada



with Gretta Vosper
and members of
West Hill United Church

The United Church of Canada is in a time of radical transition. Membership is in steep decline and its future is uncertain.

The congregation of West Hill United Church and their minister, Gretta Vosper, with a vision of what the church might become for another generation, have radically redefined what it means to them to be a United Church Community. They have done so, even as Vosper's life-time involvement with this denomination has taken her to a place where she now self-identifies as an atheist.

That has led many to conclude that she has disqualified herself from ministry. Her congregation continues to affirm her ministry. We have invited them to tell their story and share their experience.

This is another of those challenging moments in the life of our denomination. We face it

at a time when civil discourse is hard to come by; when the tactics of the politics of polarization have affected us all.

In this environment it is easier to find echo chambers for our own opinions than it is to engage those with whom we disagree. The need to find common ground and common cause has never been greater.

When people will not speak with one another, there is slim hope for finding that common ground. So we invite you, whether traditionalist or atheist or somewhere in between, to join us with your questions and concerns.

The aim of this time together is to hear and to understand one another. In an atmosphere of trust we hope to consider whether and how the United Church might provide space for all of us.

Two Options:

Monday, September 25

Afternoon and Evening
Sessions begin 1:00 PM
and 7:00 PM

Trinity United Church
36 St John St,
Shelburne, Nova Scotia

To Register:

Contact Joanne McFadden
tuc.shelburne@ns.sympatico.ca
1 (902) 875-2943

OR

Wednesday, September 27

A full day: AM, PM and Evening
Sessions begin at 10:00 AM,
1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Forest Hill United Church
45 Kimble Court
Fredericton, New Brunswick

To Register:

Contact Murray McFarlane
murraymcfarlane@gmail.com
1 (506) 461-1579

Registration Information

Please be in touch with the
contact persons by email
(preferred) or telephone with:

- your name
- your address
- your email address
- your telephone number

The registration fee will be yours
to determine - a free-will offering
- either in advance of our time
together or upon your arrival.
Please be generous in support of
this important exploration.

invite
the
committed
and
the
curious
to
come
with
you

Gretta is the author of
*With or Without God: Why The
Way We Live is More Important
Than What We Believe* (Harper
Collins, 2008)
and
*Amen: What Prayer Can Mean in
a World Beyond Belief* (Harper
Collins, 2012.)

Her website and blog is at
<http://www.grettavosper.ca>