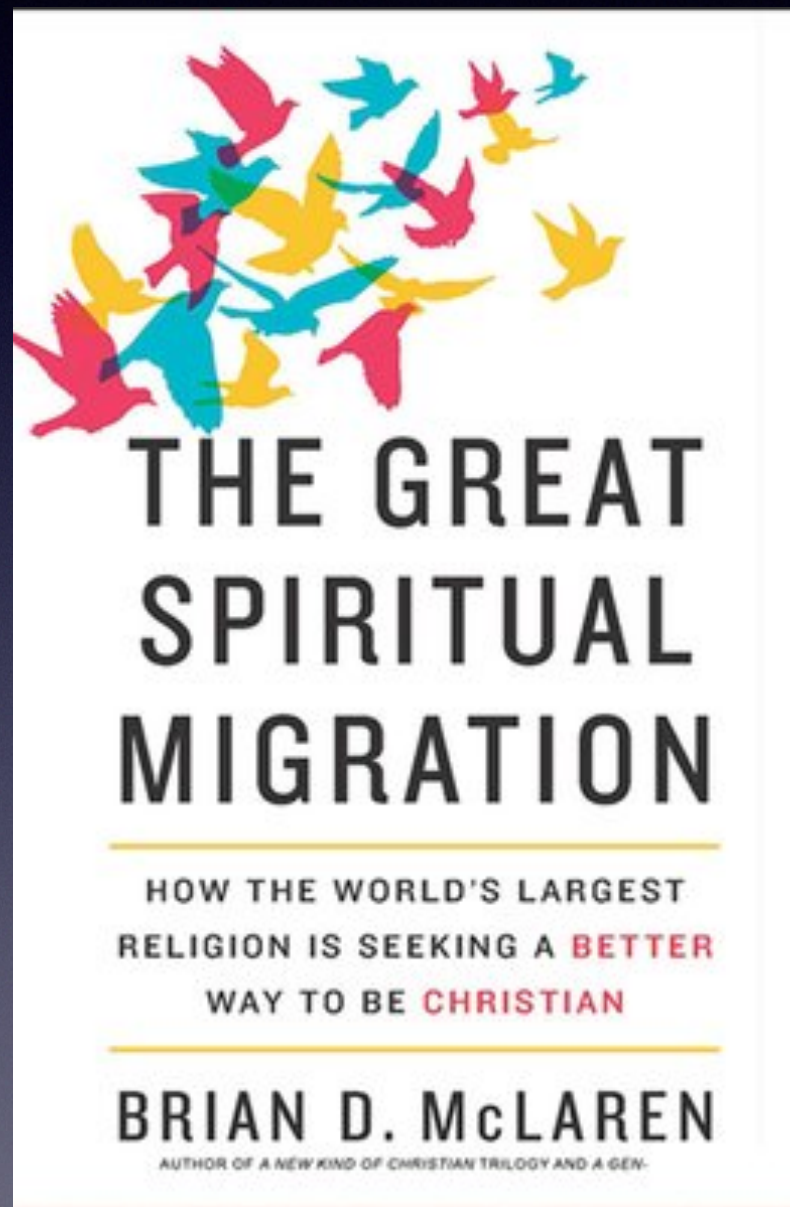


The Great Spiritual Migration



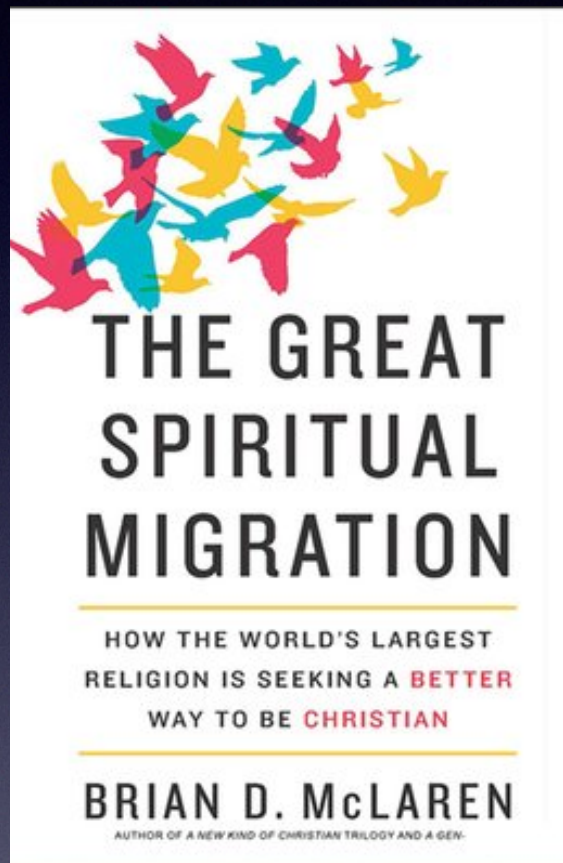
Holy Manners Bookstudy 42

ACTS
Winter 2019

St David's United Church
Calgary

Related Themes/Persons - Webpage Links

Ch 8 Salvation From The Suicide Machine



Climate Links

- [UN chief Guterres calls for more action to tackle climate change](#) 2m42s
- [COP24 Poland Dec 2019 - Greta Thunberg](#) 3m40s Isaiah 11:6 "... and a little child will lead them."
- [TEDx Stockholm - School Strike for Climate - Greta Thunberg](#) 11m11s A further statement of the present frustration and need
- [Climate Change: Evidence & Options](#) LG Thompson UofCalif TV. 58m. Superb overview
- [Paul Beckwith - Climatologist U of Ottawa](#): Youtube channel. Twice weekly 15m lectures on the "climate emergency". Excellent. Extensive resources and data delivery. Lectures explain current applicable satellite maps and weather. Good introduction to plethora of world-wide data.

Theological Education

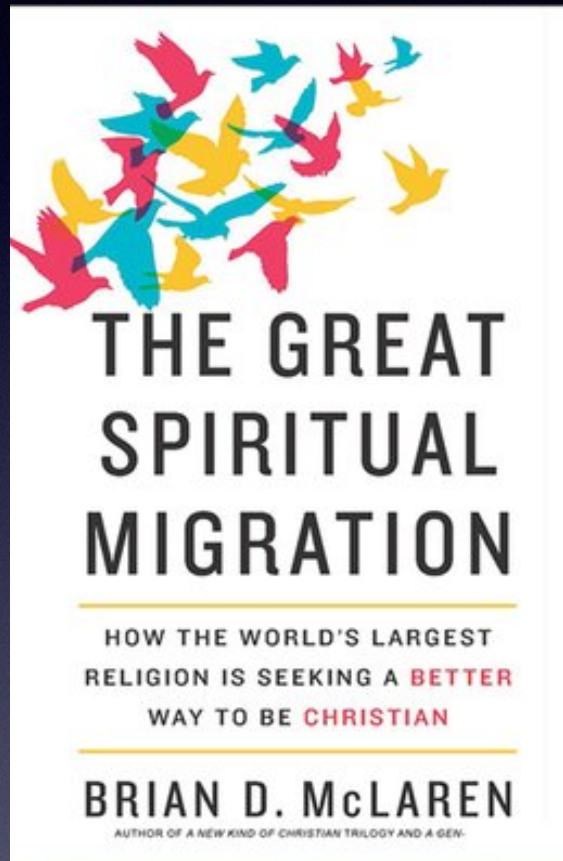
- [Christian Century Article](#): "It's time to rethink our assumptions about where theological education happens". Ryan Bonfiglio. Considers a local role for churches cooperating with seminaries.
- [TheoEd Talks](#) - Joint training program of First Presbyterian and Columbia Seminary.
- [TheoEd Talks](#). Article from Christian Century on Presbyterian Seminary coordinating with a community church.
- [UCC Diaconal Training Website](#).

Spirit Sings

- [EDGE](#) God breaking open the church, breaking into the world.
- [The Shadows](#) Song by Sandel
- [Liberated Carbon](#) Song by Andrew Revkin

Related Themes/Persons - Webpage Links

Ch 9 - You Are Social Poets



- [Father Thomas Berry](#) - Ecologist, Theologian “Our Biggest Mistake is not seeing the Earth as a sacred reality” 2m31s
- [When God Was a Little Girl](#). Program Book. United Church Resource Distribution (Bookstore).
- [Pope Francis choosing his name](#) from St. Francis of Assisi. 2m
- [Pope Francis TED Talk](#), April 2017. In a hopeful message to people of all faiths, to those who have power as well as those who don't, the spiritual leader provides illuminating commentary on the world as we currently find it and calls for equality, solidarity and tenderness to prevail
- [“What Happened Next?”](#) Vincent Donovan, Thirty-five Years On - International Bulletin of Missionary Research. 2009

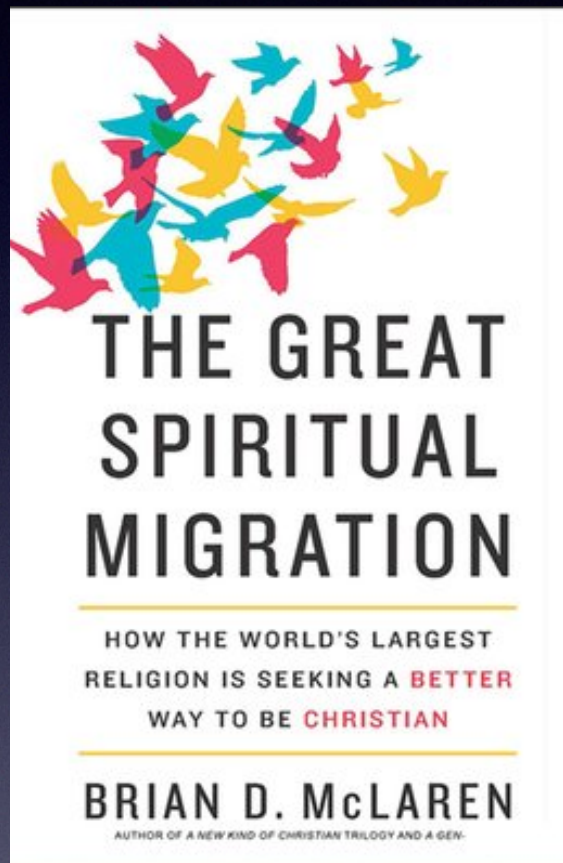


Opening Meditation

Session # 7

- Opening
- Welcome & Housekeeping
- Wayne - St Peters Ecumenical Church
- Jock - Ch 12 Salvation from the Suicide Machine
- Discussion Time
- Hospitality Break
- Wayne - Ch13 You are Social Poets
- Discussion Time
- Closing

SESSION # 7



Welcomes Housekeeping Handouts

Tonight:

St Peter's Ecumenical Church, Slave Lake
Ch 8 Salvation From The Suicide Machine
Ch 9 You Are Social Poets



St. Peter Ecumenical Church, Slave Lake, Alberta

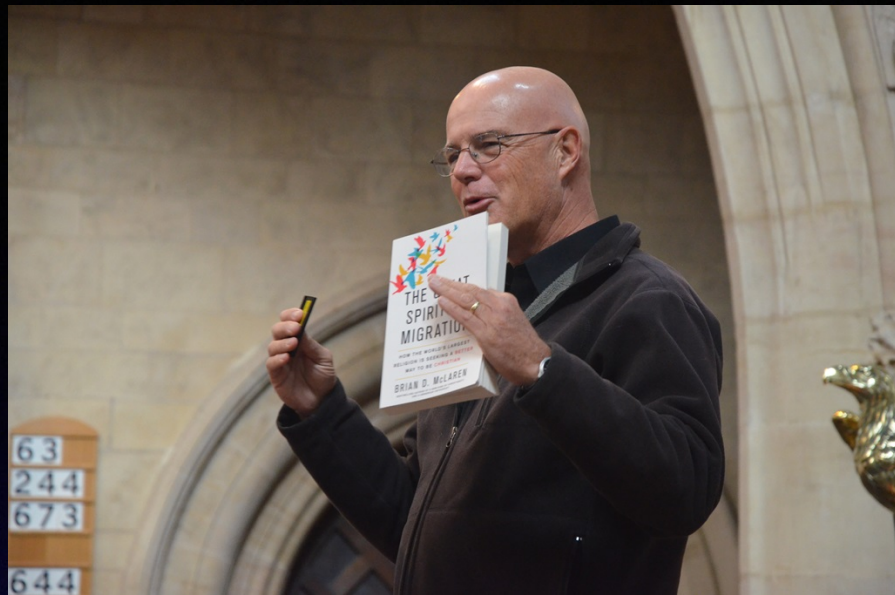
A shared ministry of the Anglican, Lutheran and United churches of Canada. A vision for the church in Canada.

That ministry was a vision 50 years ago.

Tonight's Question - What is our vision now?

Our experience of St. Peter Ecumenical Church this past Christmas Eve was a special grace for me. It took me back to hopes and visions half a century old. It encouraged me to dream of even greater possibilities for what the future of the church in Canada holds. ... Wayne Holst

See article in Anglican Journal - [LINK](#)



Chapter 8

Salvation From The Suicide Machine

“We are headed for self-destruction and our destructive way of life needs more than minor tweaking, more than modest incremental change. It is time for a great spiritual migration to a new way of life, supported by a new kind of Christian faith.” McLaren p151

- “If you want to save your life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it.”
Jesus, Matt 15:25
- “There is something fundamentally wrong with treating the earth as if it were a business in liquidation.” Herman Daly, Economist.
- “Our compliant priests have profited, while our prophetic voices have been silenced, ignored, or bought off.” McLaren, p149

2015 World Climate Conference

- McLaren says matters have now become urgent.
- We need to hear:
 - “the cry of the earth”
 - “the cry of the poor”.
 - That catastrophe follows catastrophe.
 - That the system “requires an endless supply of greed”.
 - That no one says, “OK. I’m satisfied. I have enough.”
- McLaren speaks of the importance of the recent 2015 World Climate Conference.

2015 World Climate Conference

There follows, two compelling voices from the recent United Nation's COP 24 Conference on Climate, in Poland this last Dec 2019.

- Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General 3m
- Greta Thunberg, Swedish student 4m

and,

- Greta at a TEDx conference in Stockholm.11m



arirang
NEWS
New York 20:19

Antonio GUTERRES, UN Secretary-General

**UN chief Guterres calls for more action to tackle climate change
2m42s**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C2pBvqI4Lk>



COP24 Poland Dec 2019 - Greta Thunberg

3m40s

Isaiah 11:6 "... and a little child will lead them."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7NEcbPSak4>

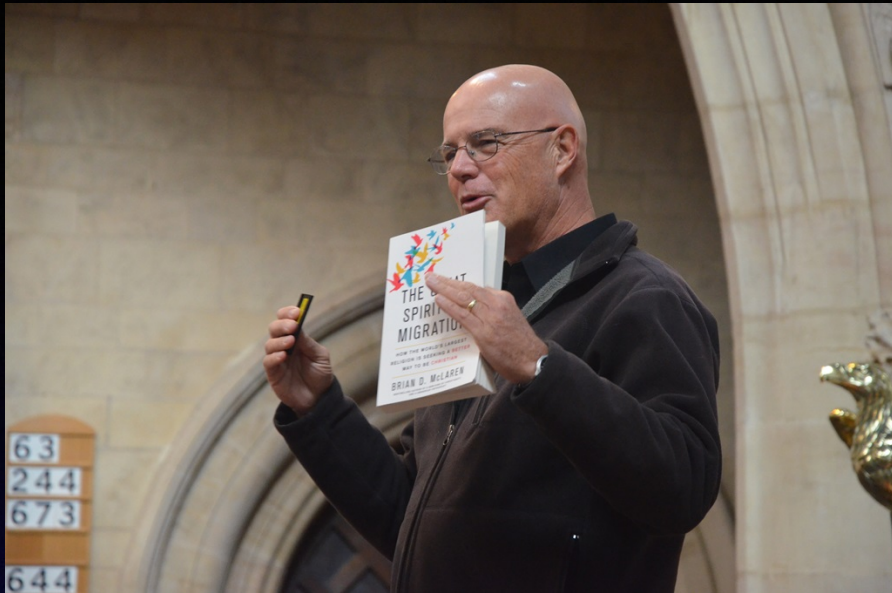


TEDx Stockholm - School Strike for Climate - Greta Thunberg

11m11s

A further statement of the present frustration and need

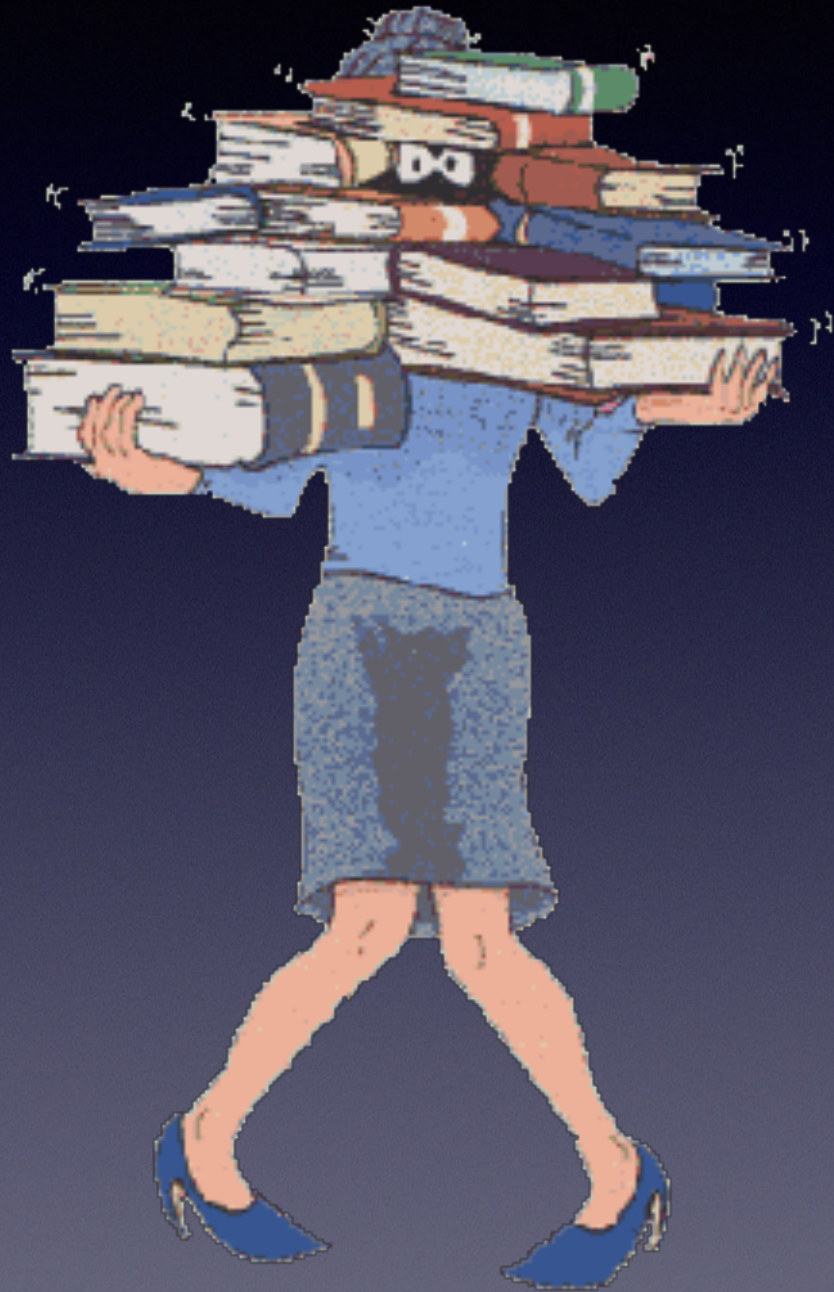
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAmuUIEsN9A>



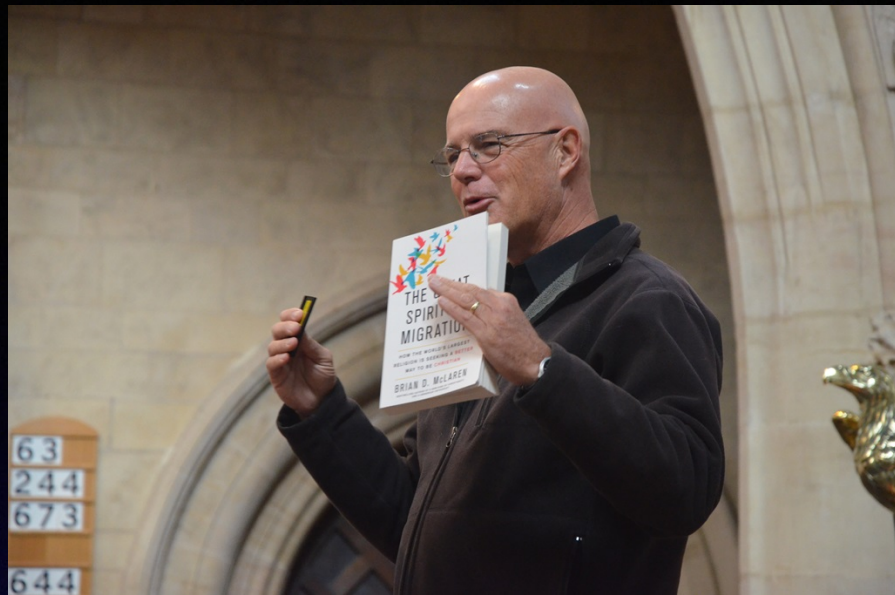
Migration as Salvation

- “... we can join God in God’s holy work ... saving the earth and its inhabitants from human evil and folly.” p151
- “... from a religion organized for self-preservation and privilege to a religion organizing for the common good of all.” p153

Christian Migrants Will:



- redefine the curriculum
- have guided on-line learning
- collaborate with seminars
- pair leaders with mentors
- link with other emerging migrants



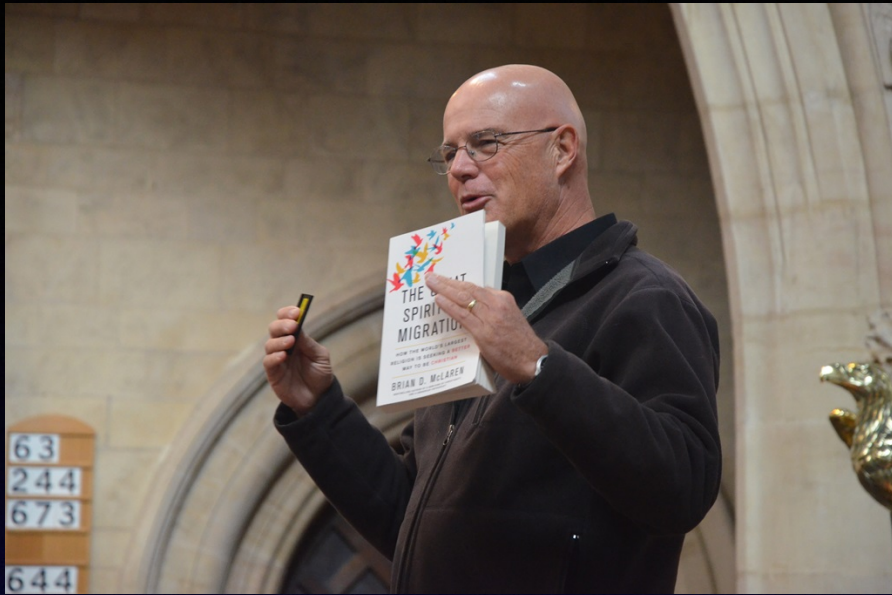
Three Movement Proposals

(Seeking a Better Way
to be Christian)

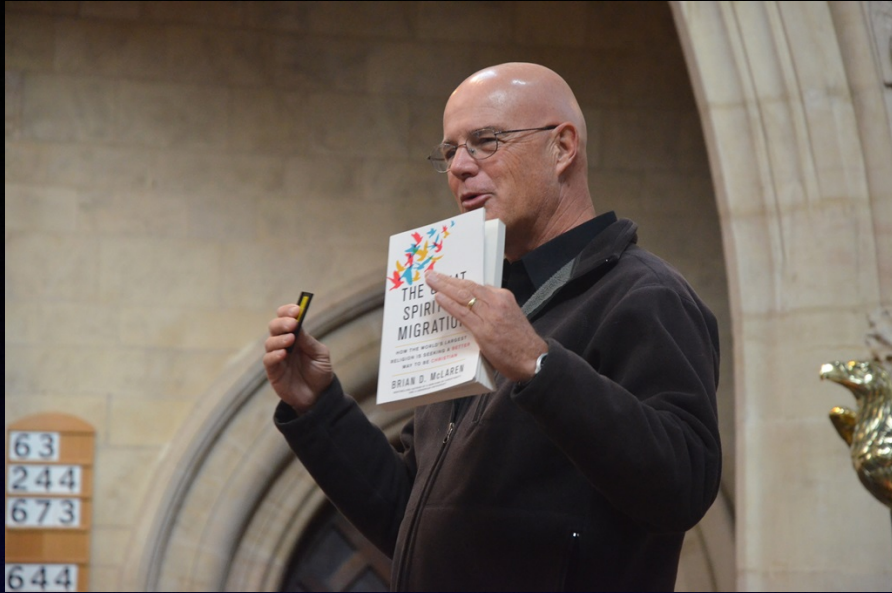
1. **Identify.** McLaren calls upon Christians to identify themselves as migrant communities.
2. **The Young.** To begin afresh with children, youth and college aged adults.
3. **Training.** To recruit and train leaders differently for Christian communities, movements and institutions.

Point 1

Avoid Polarizing Paralysis



- **Stop** “the binary culture war mind-set”
- **Include** both conservative and liberal.
- **Be** “collaborators and companions, not competitors”
- **Let the world know** “that there is a new kind of Christianity”



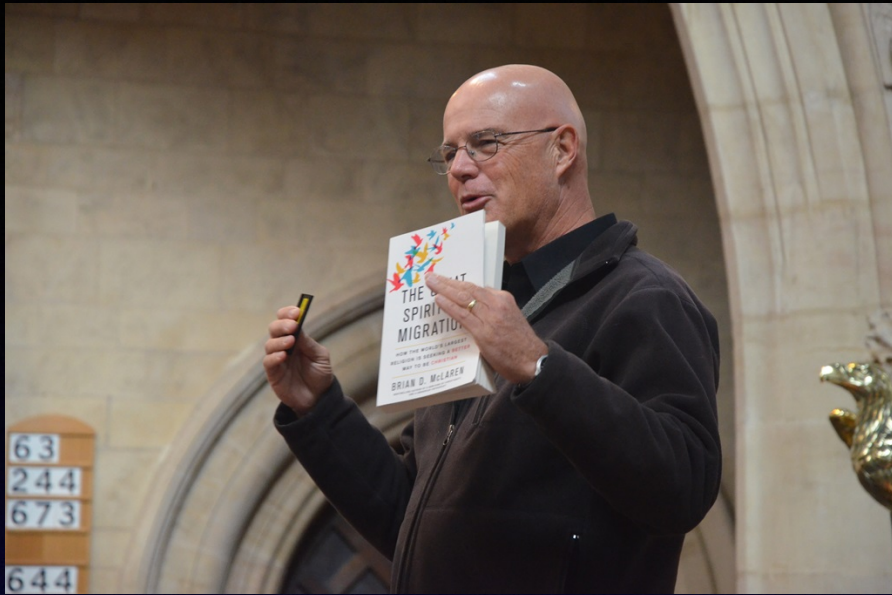
Point 2

Create new theology for children, youth and college aged adults.

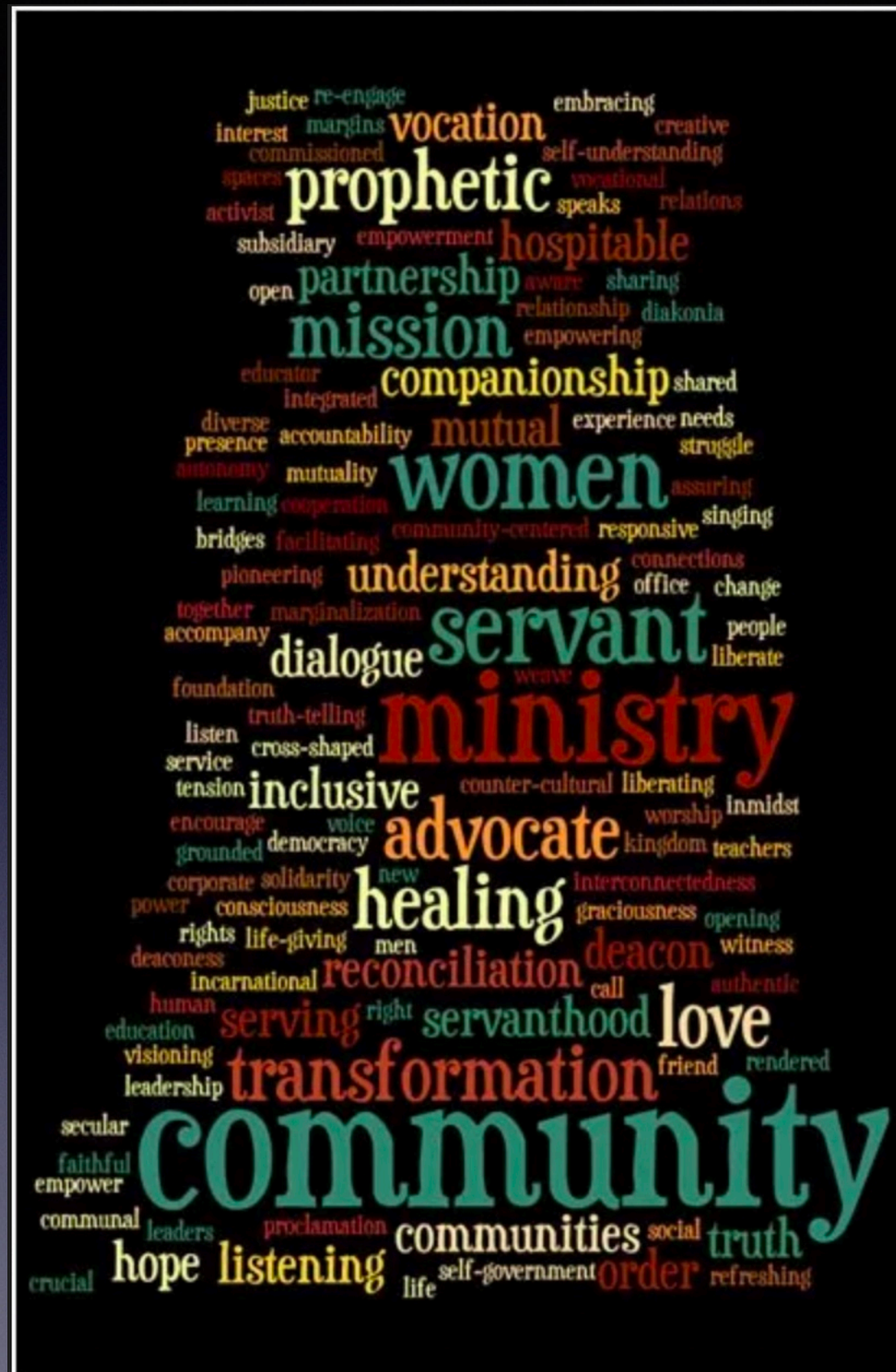
- McLaren sees the need to teach kids and youth a new and creative theology, and not the traditional “elevator theology”.
- McLaren proposes that “Christianity become a movement of young people again”.

Point 3

New Leadership Training



- “... a course of study centered in a way of life rather than a system of belief.”
- “... architects of a regenerative way of life rather than chaplains to an extractive, destructive, suicidal economy.”
- McLaren calls for changes to seminary courses, costs, practices.



UCC - Deacons

This “wordle” includes the aspects of training under the UCC Diaconal Program.

Deacons have long held important roles in the church.



LINK



Lay Schools & Summer Courses UCC - Naramata

Open to people of all ages, Naramata Centre is an inclusive, welcoming place to connect and deepen in mind, body and spirit. Situated on 23 acres of land on the east shore of Lake Okanagan, the Centre provides a peaceful oasis for children, teens, adults, families and elders to play, relax, grow and be authentically themselves, supported in community.

[LINK](#)



CALGARY-ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

<https://www.metroalliance.ca/index.html>

Our St Davids United Church joined the Calgary Alliance last year as a vehicle of continuing community commitment - very much in McLaren's manner.

Objectives of the CACG

- Create a network involving people from diverse religious, non-profit, labour, neighbourhood and ethnic groups to foster meaningful relationships with each other and their respective communities.
- Develop leaders who can promote healthy and effective civic life
- Effectively address the key justice issues facing Calgary
- Harness the voice and the power of the people of Calgary to transform our city by addressing the systems, policies, and underlying causes of poverty and injustice.



CALGARY-ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

<https://www.metroalliance.ca/index.html>

Members

Amalgamated Transit Union
Local 583

Ambrose University

Anglican Diocese of Calgary

Bethany Care Society

Beth Tzedec Congregation

B'Nai Tikvah

Calgary Centre for Global
Community

Christ Church Anglican

ELCIC ABT Synod

General Teamsters Local 362

Good Shepherd Community

Church - a church in the
Moravian tradition

Holy Nativity Anglican

Knox United

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Roman Catholic Diocese of

Calgary: Office of Social Justice

Scarboro United

St. David's United

St. Laurence Anglican

St. Stephens Anglican

Temple B'nai Tikvah

Unitarian Church of Calgary

United Church Presbytery

UBCJA - 2103

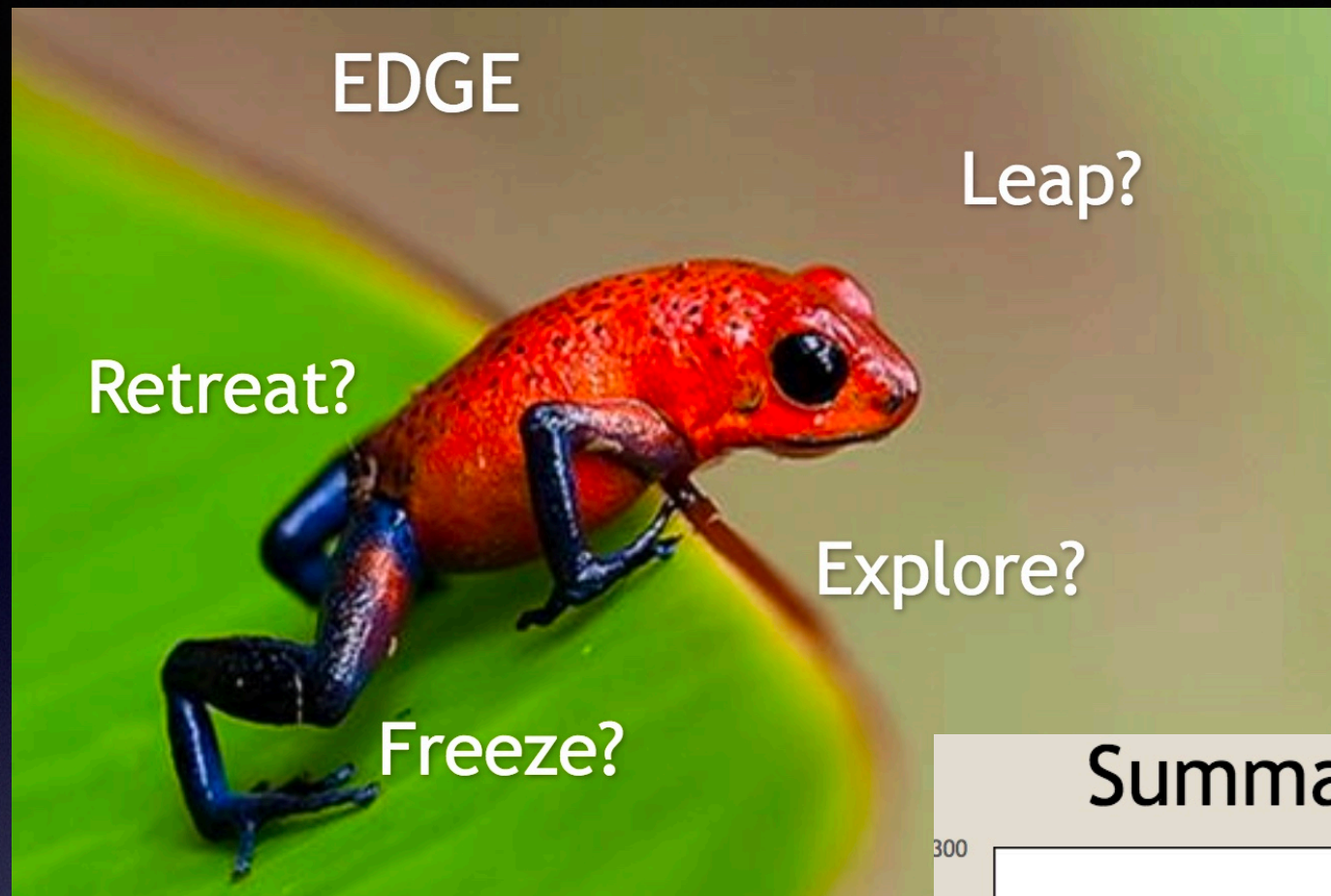
Vibrant Communities Calgary



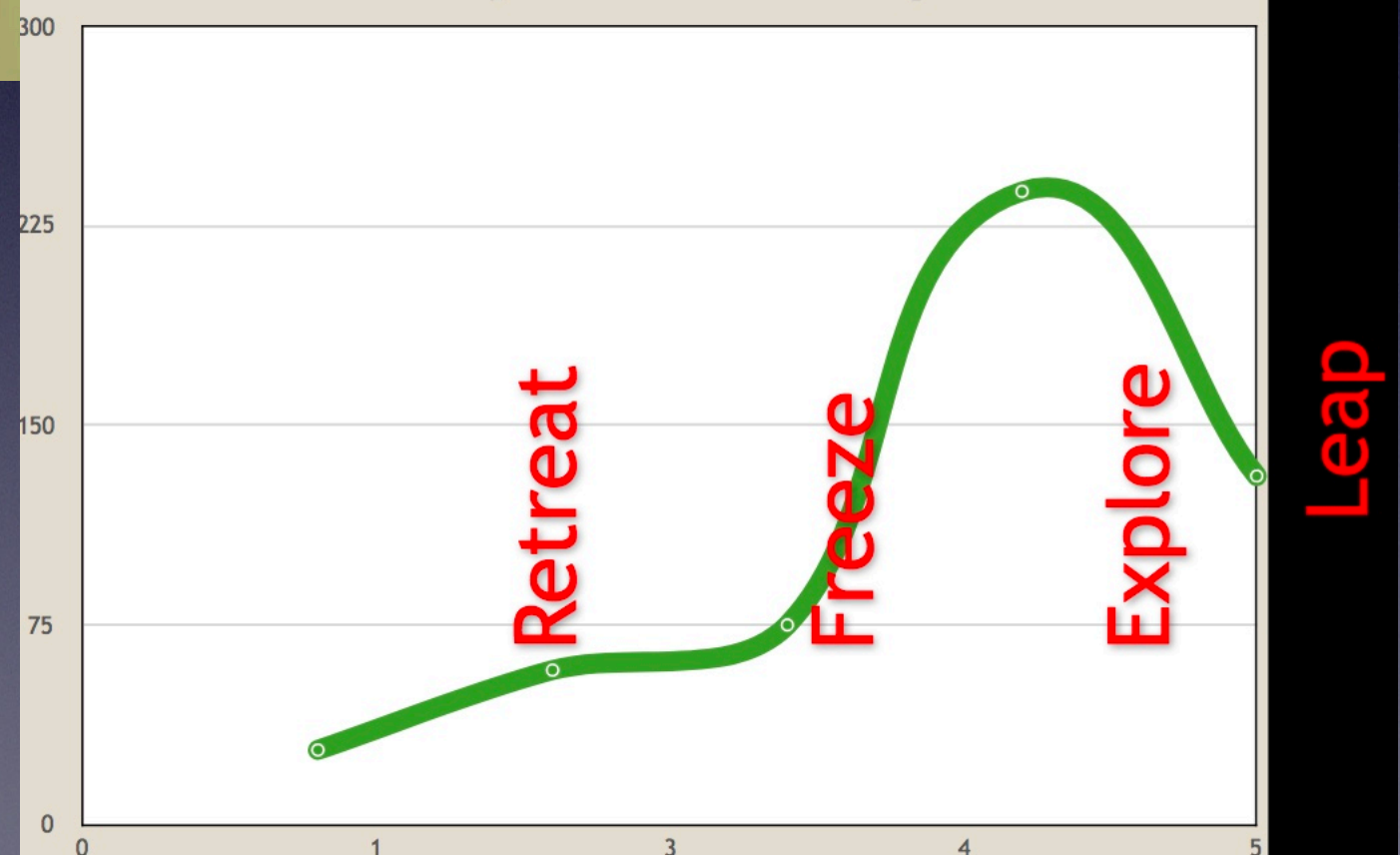
EDGE - Renewing Ministry

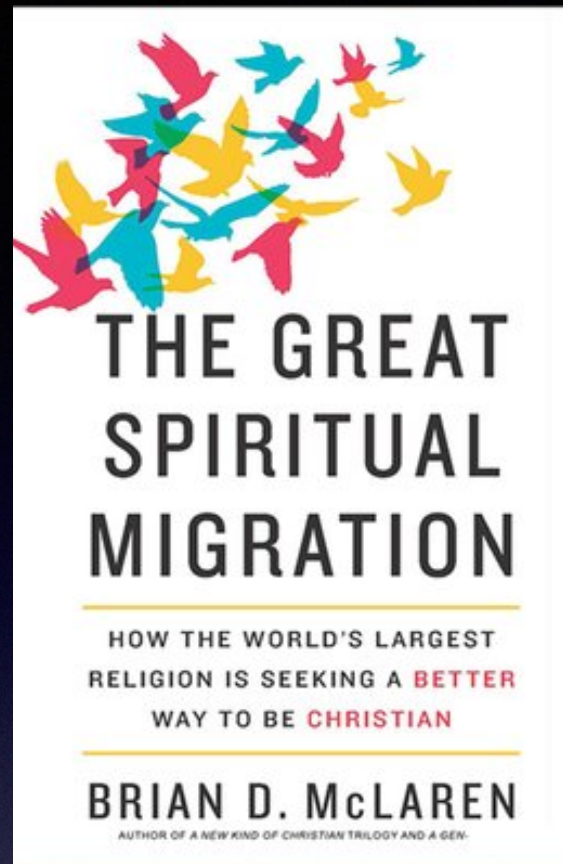
God is up to something. Are you in?

- StDavids is presently engaged in a UCC EDGE review - exploration is the consensus.
- EDGE joins hands with those willing to take a leap into the promise; God breaking open the church, breaking into the world. [LINK.](#)
- EDGE is a living web of new and renewing ministries and leaders in the power of the Spirit, following Christ, embracing God's mission in the world.
- Colin Outtrim is administrator. His 36 page report of last November 25 is at the church website [SDUC.ca](#) at [LINK](#)



Summary of All Responses





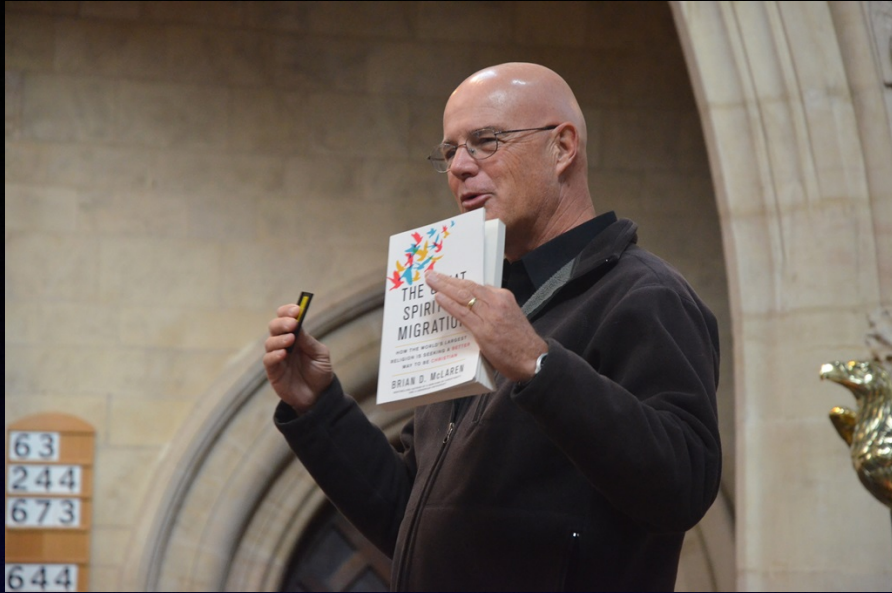
Discussion

Ch 8 Salvation From The Suicide Machine





Time now. Please return.

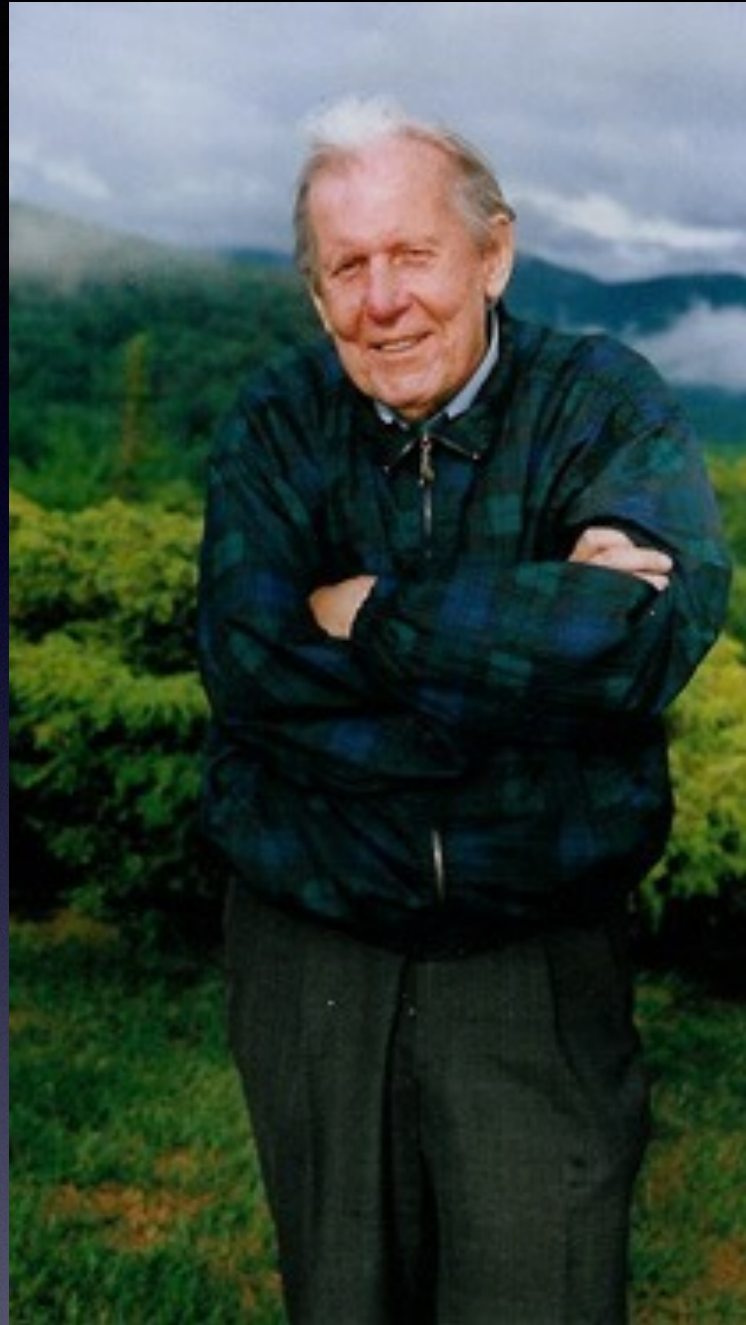


Ch 9 - You Are Social Poets

Key Themes of this Chapter

What does it mean to be "doing mission" today?

How do we envision the task to do mission in our time?



“The earth is
a communion of subjects
not a collection of objects.”

The Great Work

Introducing the subject
through the
life and thought of
"geologian"
Thomas Berry,
scientist and
theologian who speaks
of a new convergence
of faith and science.



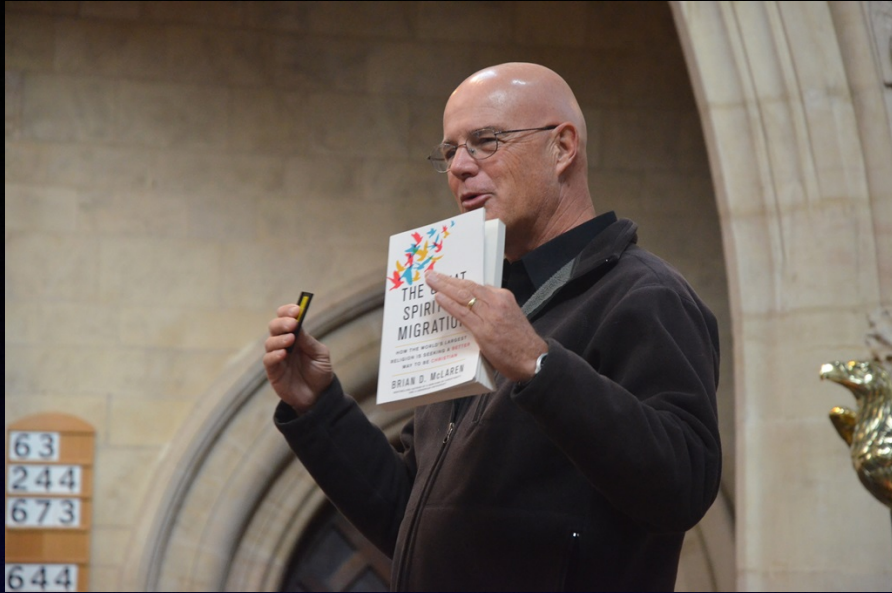
Thomas Berry
Ecologist Theologian

Father Thomas Berry - Ecologist, Theologian

“Our Biggest Mistake is not seeing the Earth as a sacred reality”

2m31s

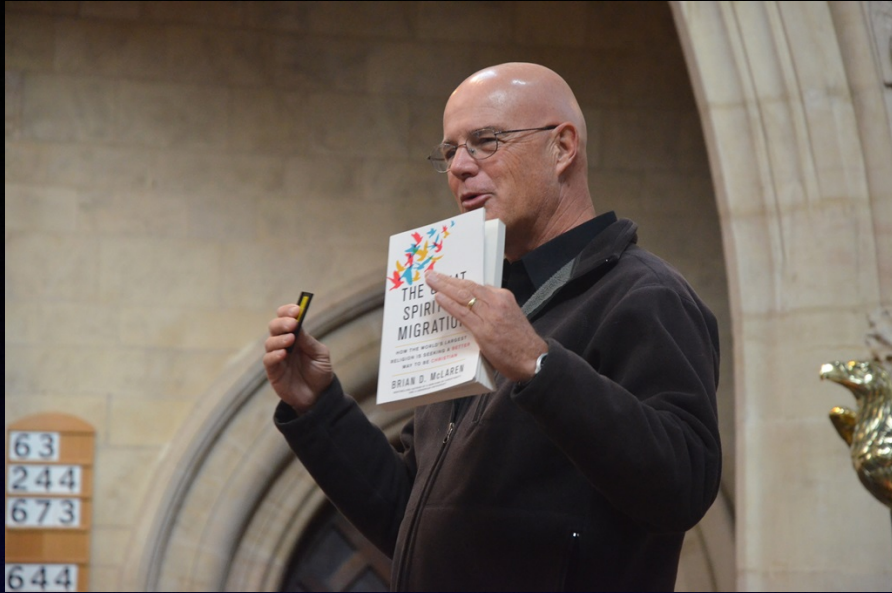
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cCCKo5rxE0>



The Four Crises

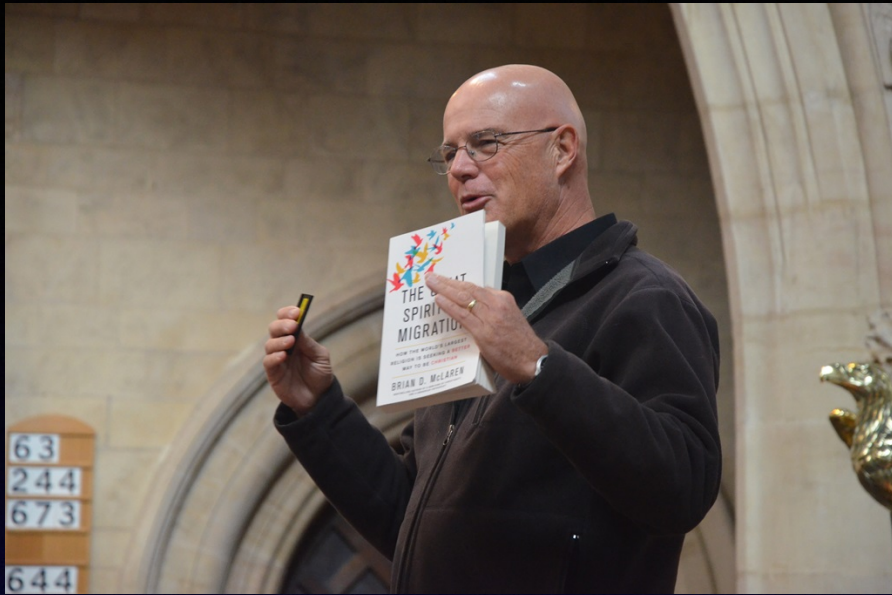
Mc Laren leads us through a review of four crises confronting humans today:

- ecological
- economic
- sociopolitical
- spiritual and religious



McLaren writes:

"To save the world from this quadruple threat is the GREAT WORK for which all people of faith and goodwill, including Christians must be mobilized"
(p. 166)



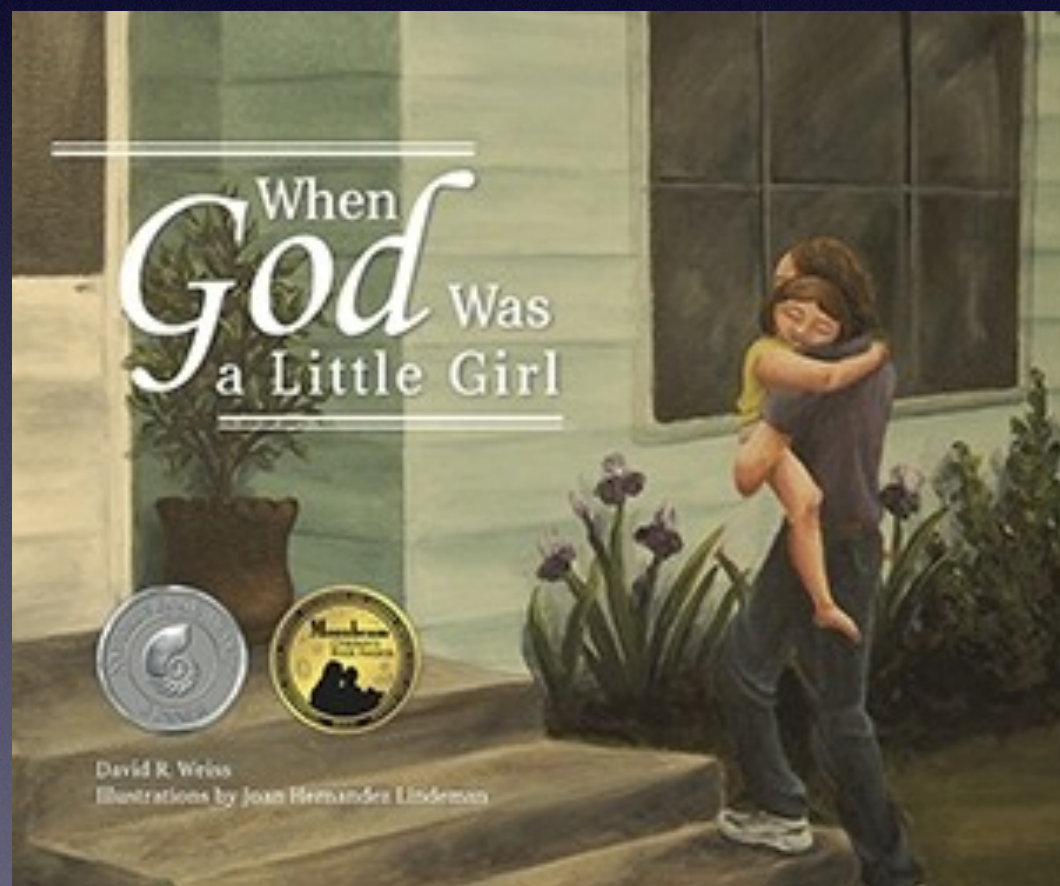
Religious Language

These are the major challenges facing us all and the traditional Christian terms like "sin" "salvation" and "eternal life" need to be understood and shared in new ways to connect with people.



The United Church of Canada has been very active in this area and is constantly developing current teaching materials for children and youth.

Here is an example:

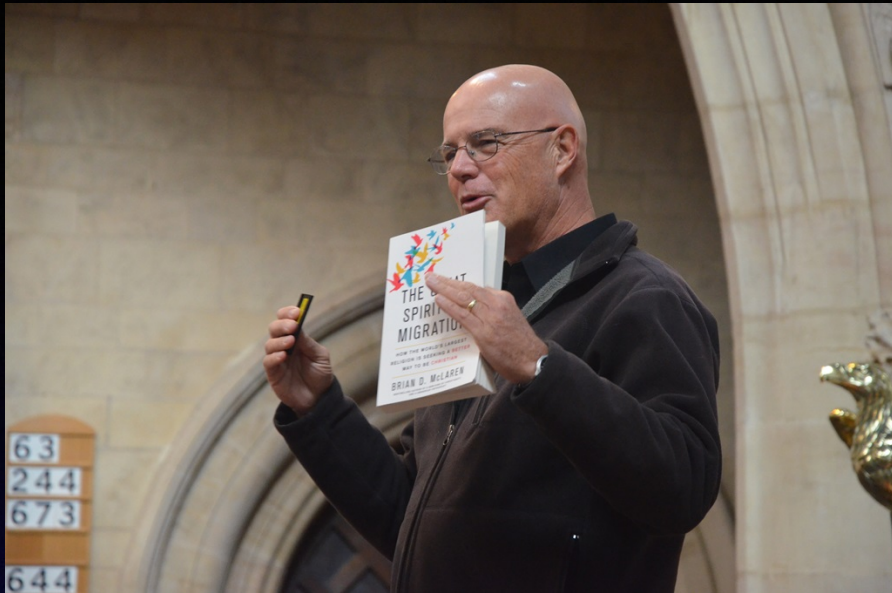


This imaginative retelling of creation sparkles with joy! Girls, whose outer appearance varies in age and culture throughout the book, mirror the uncontainable Love with which God sang the world into being.

Quick Overview of **“When God Was a Little Girl”**

This imaginative retelling of creation sparkles with joy! Girls, whose outer appearance varies in age and culture throughout the book, mirror the uncontainable Love with which God sang the world into being.

Check out the UCC publications website. [LINK](#)



“Missions”

A New Understanding

Also, the "mission field" has changed.
It is not "we going to them with the Gospel"
but rather "we are all in this together"
and "together telling the Good News Story"
with each other



Vincent Donovan
(Catholic priest
and missionary)
says:

We need deep change on all levels (p. 169)

"Our goal is not to leave others where they are stuck in a suicidal system. Nor is it to bring them to where we are right now, as beautiful as that might be for us.

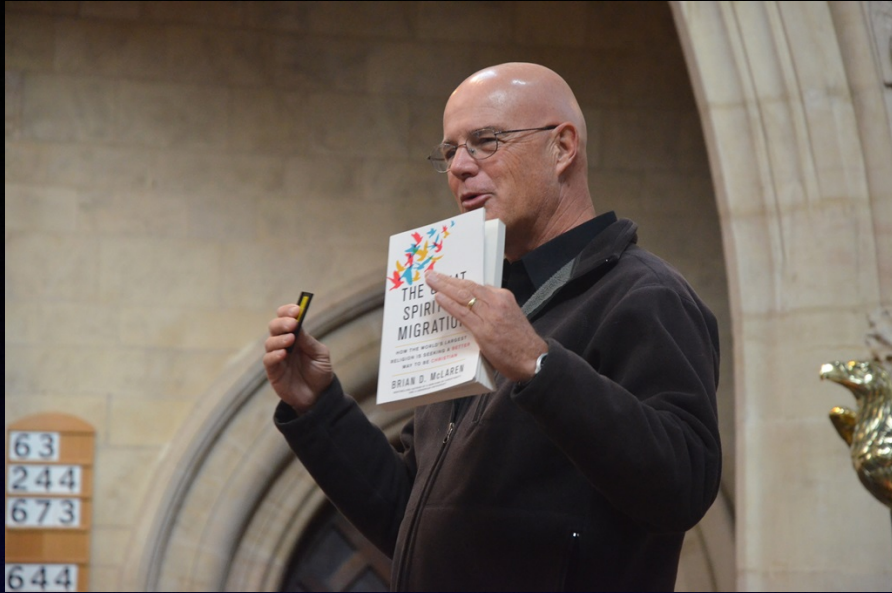


"You must have the courage to go with them to the place that neither you nor they have ever been before."

(footnote, p. 254.)

Our goal is to journey together toward a new place where none of us has ever Been.

(pp. 166-67)



How Activism has changed

- "corporate programs and campaigns"
- "ethical divestment and ethical investment"
- A new understanding of evangelization
- "What does it mean to be mutually converted?"

Discuss



Pope Francis On Justice and Peace:

"You are social poets... above all for people left behind by the world market"

March 16, 2013

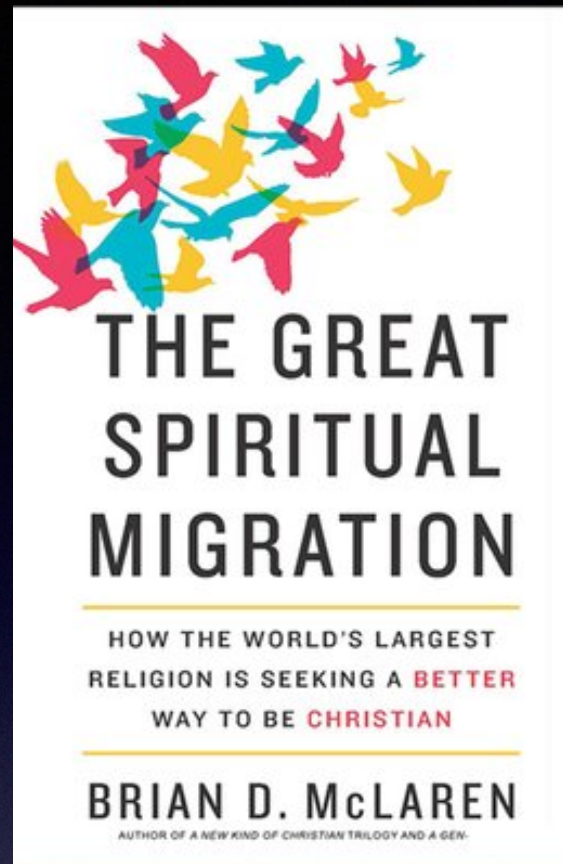
ROMEREPORTS.COM

these days we do not have a very good
relationship with creation, do we?

Pope Francis choosing his name from St. Francis of Assisi.

2m

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hro0LgppVpY>



Discussion

Ch 9 You Are Social Poets

Challenges



St. David's strives to meet the challenges of the postmodern world with creativity, spiritual guidance, acceptance and love. It is important for us to understand that as a church we are not an institution but a community and it is our intention to be a community in which divine relationships develop and grow our spiritual lives. In community we inspire, teach, challenge, love, accept, invite, include and reach out to the wider community with compassion and understanding.

Rev Peggy McDonagh

Rev Peggy McDonagh

compassion and understanding



Closing

Next Readings

Session 8- March 4, 2019

Chapter 10 - The Broken-Open Heart

Afterword: We Stepped Forth. The Waters Parted.

Study Website Postings

sduc.ca