



May 19 & 20, 2026

**Join us at Life Branch Church
10 Lancaster Dr., Dartmouth**

Together we want to change the narrative of decline around Canada's church lands and properties, into storylines about the renewal of church communities through the reimaged use of assets for flourishing neighbourhoods and rural and urban well being.

Thousands of churches closed in Canada over the last 10 years; many disappearing to the private market. In the next 10 years many more churches will redevelop, sell or close. Some church properties are underutilized; other congregations are awakening to possibilities for justice and partnership within their neighbourhoods. Our coalition's calling is to enrich the spiritual and social commons, with other stakeholders – community organizations, municipal planners, Indigenous groups, non-profits, artists, housing agencies. So how might we renew these civic spaces with their existing assets of bricks, mortar, and land? This gathering aims to address these questions in a Maritime context including recently rising land prices in rural and urban properties. Join us for these vital conversations!



A Canadian coalition

Schedule

Tuesday

- 6:15pm Registration (coffee, tea available)
- 7:00pm Keynote with Danny Zacharias: A Theology of Land
Response with Jodi Spargur

Wednesday

- 8:30am Doors open, coffee, tea, snacks
- 9:00am Storytelling Sessions
- 10:15am Expert Panel Discussion
- 11:30am Breakout Workshops
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Critical Pathways to Exploring Land Development:
Next Steps

Registration \$90.00

Registration includes Tuesday evening lecture and dialogue and Wednesday sessions, and lunch Wednesday afternoon. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be available.

Register Here!





Speakers and Presenters

Rev. Dr. Danny Zacharias

Rev. Dr. Zacharias is Associate Dean & Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies at Acadia Divinity College and is ordained with the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada. As an Indigenous follower of Jesus, he is interested in the intersection between culture and theology and believes an Indigenous approach to Christian theology is a vital voice for the church.

Jodi Spargur

Jodi is a Settler of Nordic/German heritage who lives as a guest on unceded Coast Salish territory on the west coast of Canada. She leads Red Clover Initiatives, which works to heal and restore relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous neighbours across Canada. Jodi is the author of the recently published book, *Mend: An Invitation from Jesus to Return to Land-Based Repair*.

Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau

Tim Dickau was the pastor of Grandview Church in Vancouver, BC for 30 years leading a church that found developed 26 unit community housing project, housing for refugee claimants, a social enterprise developer in their church building and a host of other community efforts. He now leads Citygate, an organization which builds networks around key societal issues such as poverty in schools, unaffordable housing, refugees and social isolation. Along with David Kupp and Amanda Mina, Tim has developed this national coalition around Reimagining Church, Land and Community. In addition to his role as director of Citygate Vancouver, Tim is also an associate at the Center for Missional Leadership at St. Andrew's Hall on the UBC campus where he leads the Certificate in Missional Leadership Program for church leadership cohorts.

David Kupp, Ph.D

David Kupp combines his passion for theology and community justice with his love of building sustainable stuff as a project manager for Flourish, a non-profit social-purpose real estate development services. Flourish deploys the 50 years of accumulated experience of Indwell, a leader in building and operating deeply affordable and supportive housing in SW Ontario. David is currently overseeing the restoration of two heritage buildings in London, Ontario, that will together contain 128 deeply affordable, supportive housing units. Prior to his work at Flourish, David was a professor at Wycliffe College, directing the Community Development track of the Master of Theological Studies program.



Speakers and Presenters

Rev. Miriam Bowlby

Miriam Bowlby is Executive Director of United Property Resource Corporation, where she provides strategic leadership to help communities of faith make sustainable, values-based property decisions. An ordained minister in The United Church of Canada, Miriam has served congregations across Newfoundland and Labrador and played a key role in transforming historic church buildings into vibrant community spaces and affordable housing.

Karen Plater

As the Associate Secretary for Stewardship & Planned Giving for The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Karen Plater helps congregations develop effective stewardship programs and encourages them in their mission outreach. She graduated from the International Development Program at the University of Toronto in 1996. While working with the church Karen has visited partners in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, India, Malawi, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Ukraine and is passionate about engaging congregations in mission and stewardship.

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