

Moving to Higher Ground: Conversations in a New Key

Three Saturdays

from 9:30 am — 3:00 pm

September 24, October 29 & December 3

and

Four Thursdays

October 6 & 20, November 10 & 24

from 7:00 — 9:15 pm

Cost: \$280.00

(Saturday lunch available at \$12 each)

LOCATION: Queen's House of Retreats

Summary

Family strife and racism, reconciliation with First Nations and same-sex marriage, understanding Islam and integrating new immigrants, assisted suicide and abortion — all subjects that can spark controversial and polarizing disputes. Most of us have experienced the painful alienation that can result from such conversations. Unresolved divisions and disputes, conflicting worldviews and moral standards risk leaving relationships permanently impaired or ended. Each time that happens our capacity to love unconditionally suffers.

If there was ever a mission for the Christian churches in today's conflict-ridden world, it is to move difficult conversations to higher Spirit-filled ground. This process will challenge persons of faith to choose listening before judging, sharing before walking away, receiving before dismissing, and loving before condemning. Together we will learn to put into practice God's call to us all to live in renewed relationship, both with God and with one another in all the complexities and diversity of this broken yet beautiful world God has created.

This series is not intended as a Bible Study "about" reconciliation, but aims to engage the hard relational work of reconciliation. While grounded in Scripture, group work will also draw from additional resources such as the book *Living Reconciliation* (Phil Groves and Angharad Parry Jones) as well as in-between-meeting assignments for group conversations. While using personal life experiences, participants will be challenged to leave comfort zones and minimize political activism. Each person will be called to give of themselves with the principal desire to grow closer to one another through Jesus Christ who showed radical compassion and mercy, and who goes before us in all things.

NOTE: Number of participants is limited to 12. Participation in all sessions is vital, unless prevented by circumstances. Once formed, the group will close to new members. If interest warrants, a new group will begin in January 2017.

Facilitator:

Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers

Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers has been married to Jim for over 36 years. Mother of three adult children and grandmother of three adorable granddaughters. Marie-Louise has a *Masters in Divinity* and extensive training in spiritual direction. Raised in the Catholic tradition, she considers herself a denominational "hybrid," having been shaped by the strengths and gifts of various Christian traditions. Marie-Louise is a member of the *Anglican Church of Canada* and is currently in discernment for priestly ordination. An accomplished author of two books and freelance writer, she is a popular retreat leader, preacher and conference speaker. Marie-Louise has worked in diocesan and parish ministry, in ecumenical dialogues and ministry as well as guides private retreats. For the past nine years she has been co-ordinating an ecumenical network for women in ministry. Marie-Louise and Jim live in Humboldt, SK.

For more on Marie-Louise visit her website:

<http://prairiencounters.wix.com>

Marie-Louise blogs at:

<https://graceatsixty.wordpress.com>

Session Themes:

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| I — Living Reconciliation | VI — Reconciliation and Justice |
| II — Journey into Uncertainty | VII — Risk, Risk, Risking Grace |
| III — Unlikely Companions | VIII — Costly Love in Mercy |
| IV — Encounter with Power | IX — A New Creation |
| V — Transforming Conflict | X — Sharing the Vision |

To register, please call **306-242-1916** or email: receptionist@queenshouse.org

Some bursaries available for those with limited financial resources.

Please contact reception for more information.