

THEME SPEAKERS

Rev. Michael Dowd

Rev. Michael Dowd is a bestselling eco-theologian, sustainability activist, and pro-science evangelist whose book, *Thank God for Evolution*, was endorsed by 6 Nobel laureates and other science luminaries, including noted skeptics, and by dozens of diverse religious leaders. He has delivered two TEDx talks, a program at the United Nations, and has spoken to some 2,700 religious and secular groups across North America, gaining international media attention in the process. Rev. Dowd has also conducted two acclaimed online conversation series: “The Advent of Evolutionary Christianity” and “The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness.”

Emma Seamone

Emma Seamone is the descendant of the Friendly Protestant German Immigration to Nova Scotia and the United Empire Loyalists of New Brunswick- for generations formed by life on the unceded territories of Wabanaki Peoples. She was raised on Nova Scotia's North Shore by Three Harbours Pastoral Charge, the daughter of Penny and Warren Hebb of Wallace. Greatly influenced early on by the work of Tatamagouche Centre Emma has spent her career working with communities, and always asking who's voice is not in the room and how do we speak acknowledging their perspectives. Emma studied Environmental Science at Acadia University and went on to work for several Environmental non-profits in the Maritimes, she took on the role of convener of the Maritime Conference Environmental Working Group in 2012. Called to ministry Emma worked in Youth Ministry at Saint John's St. Mark's United Church for three years and received her Youth Ministry Diploma from the Atlantic School of Theology in 2018. Committed to Indigenous Reconciliation Emma served as the Education for Reconciliation Project Coordinator at St. Stephen's University in 2017, where she organized an ecumenical symposium for church leaders on the topic. For the past two years, Emma has joined youth and traditional Chiefs of the Wabanaki Confederacy at the United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Emma Seamone is a candidate for ministry from Wesley United Church of St. Andrews NB, currently enrolled in AST's summer distance MDiv program and serves the Pastoral Charges of Upper Mills, Bocabec, and McAdam. She lives in St. Stephen NB with her husband Jason, and their cat Harley Quinn.

Shannon MacLean

Shannon MacLean lives a life that is in technicolour. She strongly believes the bumper sticker's wisdom that says, “the best things in life aren't things”. She feels blessed to be surrounded by amazing people who constantly challenge her to be the best version of herself. She is mother to three awesome people who are working to be change makers in the world. She is host mother to two international students as well and is happiest when her house is filled with conversation, shenanigans and laughter. Her family tree is filled with United Church ministers and she feels called to “the family business”. Shannon graduated from the Atlantic School of Theology with her M.Div. this month after choosing *the long and winding* educational path. She holds an MA in

Counseling Psychology from Yorkville University and a BSc (Bio-psychology) from Mount Allison. Shannon loves her job. She has been working in the UCC for the past 15 years as a youth minister. She presently works at Woodlawn United where she is taking a short break from youth ministry to complete her Supervised Ministry Education (SME). She will be ordained in 2020, God willing. Aside from her family and her vocation, Shannon loves games nights, Thai food, doodling and unusual pets. She has a passion for social justice and believes we are all called to work to make the world a more equitable, just and loving place.