

# Spring Gathering

of The Gathering of Baptists

28 April 2018

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

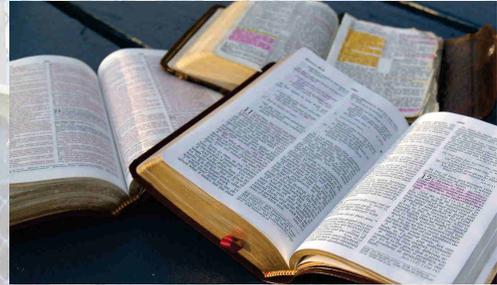
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

1585 Yonge Street

M4T 1Z9 Toronto, Ontario

[www.yorkminsterpark.com](http://www.yorkminsterpark.com)

Staying over? Yorkminster Park Baptist Church worship is at 11:00 am, Sundays.



Morning: LeeAnn McKenna

## How do we read the Bible?

Afternoon: Blake Eady

## Why the autonomy of the local church matters

### Registration:

\$20 includes Saturday lunch

To facilitate planning of meeting rooms and meals, please register before 20 April by contacting:

Gary Caldwell, [caldwell@silomail.com](mailto:caldwell@silomail.com) 519-647-3504.

In the morning, we will test out a way of approaching the scriptural text that will ask such questions as these:  
Does the Bible reveal a violent or a non-violent God? The one? The other? Both?

If God is love, what does one do with those passages that command death, ostracism, slavery, persecution, dread, extermination, genocide, and the violation of the rights and dignity of a multitude of categories of the human community?

Does God have good days and bad days, nice days and nasty days, sort of like me? And thus, both? Capriciously unpredictable? Or steadfastly loving?

In this Bible Study, we will take a whole-Bible approach to the problem, focussing in the end on those passages that have often been used to isolate and 'other' our LGBTQ neighbours and to limit the freedom of local congregations called to be both welcoming and affirming.

In the afternoon, we will be considering together an attribute of being Baptist that remains precious to many: the autonomy of the local church – and doing so in the context of a convention-wide discussion about same-sex marriage. 

The **Rev'd LeeAnn McKenna** was the first person to be ordained by the Gathering of Baptists – and to a ministry of peacemaking. She works with partners around the world who are looking for nonviolent solutions to conflict. For Christian communities caught in violent conflict, the closely examined Bible is an indispensable tool in the peacemaker's toolbox.

The **Rev. Blake Eady** is a seasoned pastor currently serving Selkirk Baptist Church. He is an acknowledged volunteer leader in his community with a passion for fairness and the dignity of all human persons.

*Gathering  
of Baptists*  
A community *of* learning and caring  
[www.gatheringbaptists.ca](http://www.gatheringbaptists.ca)