



Beyond the Broadcast

A chronological list outlining

***Spirit Connection
12th, 13th, and 14th season programs –
Oct. 4, 1999 to Jun. 18, 2002***

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Spirit Connection Programs - 12th season 1999/2000

Oct. 04, 1999 – Premiere of 12th Season

This interview with Bill Phipps was taped in September 1999. Phipps talks about the upcoming year: what the major issues for the church will be, the impact of the "Consultation on Faith and the Economy," and the challenge of the healing process with First Nations peoples (8:00). *Bushel for Bushel* is a musical based on an historical act of compassion and sharing: a farmer gives other farmers the seed they need because theirs has been destroyed by frost; he refuses payment, asking only that they return the gift, "bushel for bushel" (7:48). An interview with Rev. Arlinda Marcal from East Timor and Kathryn Robertson of the Canada-Asia Working Group provides background about the current situation in East Timor (6:21). The half-hour ends with a tribute to Edie Parker, a member of the *Spirit Connection* team, who died of cancer in September 1999.

Oct. 11, 1999 – Rayo-X: Nicaragua After Hurricane Mitch

An analysis of the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua reveals, like an x-ray, the problems with the infrastructure of this country. What was a natural disaster became a human-made catastrophe that affected thousands of people. The documentary includes stories of men, women, and children struggling to come to terms with the loss of family members, their homes, and their livelihood. (29:30) (*This program won the highest award at WorldFest Houston in April 2000 – the Gold Special Jury Award.*)

Oct. 18, 1999 – The Jubilee Initiative

Canadian Foodgrains Bank helps provide food to countries experiencing extreme shortages (7:00). The United Church has had an ongoing concern for the debt situation of Third World countries (2:30). Peter Noteboom of the Canadian Council of Churches and Deborah Marshall of the United Church talk with host, Royal Orr, about the success of the Jubilee Initiative's petition. The petition calls upon the world's most advanced countries to reduce the debt of Third World countries caught in a never-ending cycle of debt repayments (7:03). Commune-I-Care is a program designed by Rev. Sharon Cohoon in Alberta for keeping in touch with the members of a congregation using trained volunteers and phone contacts (7:10).

Oct. 25, 1999 – We Want Peace: Belfast

The World Council of Churches has produced a number of documentaries on the theme of reducing violence in the cities. "We Want Peace" shows the efforts to find solutions to the problems that lead to violence between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. (29:30)

Nov. 01, 1999 – Spirituality

Spirituality reflected in action and prayer! A nurse in a rehab centre provides healing with the music of her flute and by helping patients create their own songs (8:33). Yvonne Stewart and Linda Katsuno talk with host, Royal Orr, about ways that help people connect with their spiritual depths, for example, Celtic spiritual practices and Taize prayer (6:00). Some Christian churches are using the ritual of "Walking the Labyrinth" to help people focus on meditation and prayer.

Nov. 08, 1999 – “For the Boys” Remembering Civilians and Airmen of WWII

“For the Boys” is an award-winning program about WW II. Two Belgian civilians died for every Allied airman that they helped through the WW II escape lines. The survivors and families of Halifax bomber crew “E for Easy” join with the townsfolk of Herselt, Belgium, to remember a night in April 1944 that changed the lives of all of them. Hosted by Royal Orr. (29:30) (*This program was awarded a Bronze at the international film festival, WorldFest-Houston, in 1999.*)

Nov. 15, 1999 – Youth and The Millennium

Moderator Bill Phipps talks with host, Royal Orr, about the current stage of relationships between First Nations peoples and the United Church – both the litigation issues and the longer term issue of healing (5:00). Young people look to the future and reach out to one another: *Spirit Connection* visits Cuba where a youth choir from Canada shares music and builds friendships with their Cuban hosts (8:15). Paul Fayter discusses the impact of the Millennium on the young adults he teaches. Many see it as a “new beginning, a jubilee” (5:00). Theological education looks at the future needs of congregations (6:17).

Nov. 22, 1999 – A Song for Pele: South Africa

In north-eastern South Africa, one of the after-effects of the apartheid era is evident in the lack of an effective infrastructure to take care of children who have been neglected or abused or afflicted with AIDS. In the town of Barberton, a white woman, referred to as Mother Sophia, has opened her home to care for such babies, though some people in this formerly apartheid town express disapproval. As word of Mother Sophia’s mission spreads, people, both black and white, assist with funding and volunteer time. Hosted by Royal Orr. (29:30) (*This program won a Gold Award at the WorldFest Houston competition in April 2000.*)

Nov. 29, 1999 – Cape Breton Stories

In Cape Breton, a region renowned for its natural beauty and cultural richness, people respond in solidarity, finding new economic patterns to replace resource industries that are no longer viable. *Spirit Connection* covers stories of creative economic solutions in The Sydney River Renewal project. Church people express hope for the future as their congregations reach out to help those suffering from the impact of unemployment and the out-migration of many young people. Those involved in the fishing industry explain the need for their involvement in policy making and for co-operative ventures. Hosted by Royal Orr. (29:30)

Dec. 06, 1999 – The Struggle for Human Rights World-Wide

Removing the land mines from Kosovo villages and farms is a dangerous but essential task, enabling people to return to their lands and lives (8:35). Rod Booth speaks of the mandate of Action by Churches Together (ACT), working on behalf of the World Council of Churches in Kosovo and other regions of the world (7:57). This is followed by a documentary of the World Council of Churches’ efforts in Bangladesh, where the economy and lives of people have been devastated by floods (6:00). Baffour Ainoa, a social activist from Ghana, discusses interchurch action and the Canadian Jubilee Coalition’s efforts to seek relief for Third World countries from international debt (4:30).

Dec. 13, 1999 – Human Rights in Canada

Featuring the Montreal Men's Choir, Chorale Accueil de Bonneau, this is a story of homeless men in Montreal who formed a choral group that now travels the world (7:27). Royal Orr talks with Donna Bomberry, the Indigenous Ministries Co-ordinator of The Anglican Church about the perspectives of Indigenous peoples with regard to land claims and other human rights (6:03). This is followed by a selection of comments by Canadians from many walks of life about poverty and its devastating impact on individuals and on our society (6:00). A youth revival takes place under the leadership of a pastor who drew on the young people's interest in music to build strong bonds of respect between the youth and others in the congregation (4:30). Hosted by Royal Orr.

Dec. 20, 1999 – A Christmas Card

The timeless story of Jesus' birth, told in familiar carols and drama, moves us to reflect on God's relationship with the world. It's a re-telling by a cast of all ages and of multicultural backgrounds. It's a "Christmas card" to share with friends and family (and it includes some comments by some of the young "angels" about what Christmas means to them). Hosted by Royal Orr. (29:30) (*This program was awarded a Finalist Award at the WorldFest Houston competition in April 2000.*)

Dec. 27, 1999 – No Place to Call Home – in Kosovo, and the world

In Kosovo, refugees flee war, their numbers adding to the 50 million uprooted people in the world. What are the underlying causes of uprootedness? This program traces the enormous growth in numbers of refugees and uprooted people throughout the 20th century. It is a story that raises questions about how this recurring situation can be overcome and how the world can be made safer for ordinary people caught up in forces beyond their control. Hosted by Royal Orr. (29:30) (*This is an update of the program that won Gold at the Worldfest-Houston competition in 1998.*)

Jan. 03, 2000 – Interfaith Dialogue

A multifaith workshop addresses some of the problems of racism (6:37). Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum and Rev. Karen Hamilton discuss the United Church's document, *Bearing Faithful Witness*, which is being developed to help create better relationships between Christians and Jews (9:52). Christians and Sikhs in British Columbia plan and carry out an interfaith dialogue event (8:00).

Jan. 10, 2000 – Footprints of Faith

In India and Canada groups of women from both countries meet and share common concerns. As they walk in one another's footprints, in one another's country, bonds of friendship and understanding grow. This project was sponsored by the Division of World Outreach. (28:30)

Jan. 17, 2000 – Challenges

"Dancing with God," an ethnic ministry gathering of women, experiences how sharing cultural expressions, such as dance, enriches spiritual lives (8:00). Rev. Christopher White talks with host, Royal Orr, about *Jacob's Blessing*, a book co-authored with Donna Sinclair that looks at the struggle to envision the future of the church (5:07). A short documentary by the World Council of Churches presents the challenges faced by the people of Cameroon (8:00). A music teacher shows how she helps her singing students turn even frightening experiences into emotional and spiritual strengths (5:00).

Jan. 24, 2000 – 75th Anniversary of the United Church

"Refining Fire, Sustaining Grace" is the theme of the celebration to mark the 75th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada. Born in controversy, the United Church has a history of tackling difficult issues and taking tough stands. This video traces the journey, pointing to some of the key events and decisions of the church. Through interviews with leaders in the church, four main areas are highlighted:

i) Inclusiveness – ordaining women, developing a policy regarding sexual orientation, and creating the Ethnic Ministries Council.

ii) The United Church as part of Canada – helping create the social safety net, making an Apology to Native People, reaching out to Canadians through TV, developing church school curricula.

iii) The United Church as part of the world – through partnerships within Canada and overseas, seeking justice (such as supporting the anti-Apartheid campaign).

iii) The Future – young people in the church sharing their vision. (28:30)

Jan. 31, 2000 – Jubilee 2000

In the prairies, farmers and church people are working together to reduce the impact of the crisis affecting the family farm (6:54). Elsie Manley-Casimir talks with Royal Orr about the ways in which the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church is used to support disadvantaged groups in our country and around the world (6:01). At the Wish Centre, support is offered to women in terms of a late evening hot meal and a safe place to rest before they head out into the streets of Vancouver to earn their living (4:30). Mark Stephenson, a minister with the Methodist Church, talks with host, Royal Orr, about his work in the inner city mission of Cape Town, South Africa (5:30).

Feb. 07, 2000 – A Journey to Hope

A television version of a hard-hitting play that was presented at the 1998 gathering of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe. It is a tough, angry, and satirical look at the history of Africa and its exploitation by colonialists and the so-called "big men" of the independence era. (28:30)

Feb. 14, 2000 – African Heritage II – Canadians of African Heritage

Three Canadians of African descent take leading roles in Canadian society. Muniini Mulera is a paediatrician in Newmarket, Ontario. Aldith Baker is a deacon in the Anglican Church, and Rosemary Sadlier is a writer and president of the Ontario Black History Society. In this program, they examine their African heritage, celebrate their roots, and express their perspectives on the "shadow" on their lives cast by the historical fact of slavery. (28:30)

Feb. 21, 2000 – Playing in the Light

Young adults, from 15 to 26 years of age, from many walks of life, talk about their exciting faith journey into the 21st century. These members of the so-called "Generation X" hold a wide range of opinions about the future; in fact, they wonder whether there is such a thing as a Generation X. Listen, and decide for yourself! (28:30)

Feb. 28, 2000 – Kosovo: More Than Words

Action by Churches Together International (ACT) works on behalf of the World Council of Churches. In Kosovo, ACT has supervised the clearing of land mines and the reconstruction of homes. This program gives a glimpse into the challenge of churches trying to undo the effects of recent conflict and memories of historical acts of discrimination and atrocities. (28:30)

Mar. 06, 2000 – Alberta Special

In Edmonton, a group who name themselves “Poverty in Action” share their personal stories to help people understand the impact of poverty on both adults and children (6:15). “Inn from the Cold” describes a Calgary church initiative to provide food and shelter for homeless people in their city (8:25). An interview with Conference Executive Secretary, George Rodgers, gives a church perspective on the struggles of those marginalized by lack of employment and poverty (3:35). At Garneau United Church, located in a new housing development on their former site in Edmonton, an “assisted living” program is part of the plan (8:35).

Lenten Study – Six broadcasts – March 13 to April 17, 2000
A Common Soul: Connecting faith and the economy in 2000 and beyond

A Common Soul invites the viewer to travel across Canada during Lent, exploring the relationship of faith to the economy. Using readings from Mark's gospel, we journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem, reflecting on themes that speak to issues of our economic and spiritual well-being.

Mar. 13, 2000 – A Common Soul, Cape Breton (Part 1 of 6)

Economic renewal projects spring up as local Cape Breton people take leadership. The faith that empowers a community in spite of economic challenges is revealed in the "town hall" exchange of opinions.

Mar. 20, 2000 – A Common Soul, North Bay (Part 2 of 6)

Volunteer agencies advocate economic projects based on justice. The "town hall" discussion focuses on the risks and hopes of pursuing a moral economy

Mar. 27, 2000 – A Common Soul, Toronto (Part 3 of 6)

What can be done in the cities as the gap between rich and poor increases? The growing gap impacts on both the physical and spiritual health of the community.

Apr. 03, 2000 – A Common Soul, London (Part 4 of 6)

In London, Ontario, new ways of working together help marginalized people find their voice and their dignity. Moderator Bill Phipps talks with people about how faith and economic structures can produce a moral economy.

Apr. 10, 2000 – A Common Soul, Edmonton (Part 5 of 6)

Moderator Bill Phipps meets with people of Edmonton, where amidst towering office buildings, groups like "Poverty in Action" speak out. The challenge of serving God or Caesar is raised in the "town hall" discussion.

Apr. 17, 2000 – A Common Soul, Port Alberni (Part 6 of 6)

The cross-Canada journey by Moderator Bill Phipps to explore the connection between faith and the economy ends in Port Alberni. In the "town hall" discussion, people share visions of a sustainable, resource-based industry in which local people, both employers and employees, are empowered.

Apr. 24, 2000 – Looking Ahead: An Easter People

The 12th season of *Spirit Connection* reflects faith in God's purpose for all people as it pursues stories that illustrate people working together to bring hope, as Jesus did in his ministry on earth.

The Moderator – Bill Phipps talks with Royal Orr about his three years as Moderator, speaking in particular about the Moderator's Consultation on Faith and the Economy and about the relationship with First Nations peoples. Phipps expresses his belief that the United Church can offer leadership to Canadians in rectifying the injustices of the past and building new relationships, a process that he feels will take some decades to accomplish.

The United Church's Television Ministry – In recognition of the United Church's use of film, video, and television to communicate the work of the church over the past 40 years, a collage of images, conversations, and events trace highlights of these efforts.

A Rural Ministry – The closing story celebrates the life of a rural congregation on Denman Island, B.C., where a community of worshippers gathers to praise God with music and word, and follows the service with the community of fellowship – an informal lunch is provided in the "loaves and fishes" manner.

Spirit Connection Programs - 13th season 2000/2001

Oct. 11, 2000 – The Role of the Moderator in the Changing Church

Marion Pardy talks with Royal Orr about her role as Moderator in our changing church and her vision for a church – facing the challenge of understanding history with First Nations peoples and finding ways for reconciliation; and studying the reorganization of its structure and seeking new ways for the UCW, now called "Women of the United Church," to reflect the wider diversity of its membership and mission.

Nov. 08, 2000 – When a Bird has Wings: Haiti

Earlier this year, *Spirit Connection* met with church members in Haiti where the struggle continues to bring about social justice in the shadow of free trade liberalization and to reduce the poverty that limits the opportunities of the majority of the people.

Dec. 13, 2000 – Advent: Telling the Christmas Story through Music

What better way to celebrate this joyous time of year than through music? Two United Church choirs, one a youth group called the Liturgically Hip and the other a traditional group from Eglinton - St. George's United Church, bring their different expressions of the season to you in gladsome song.

Jan. 02, 2001 – Politics of Aid

Every week, new places in the world come to our attention – countries where people are suffering from natural disasters, civil war or attacks from neighbouring countries, ethnic tensions, economic distress or disease. How do we decide which countries or situations will receive emergency aid? In this program, we meet church leaders and relief agency representatives who struggle with these competing needs.

Feb. 13, 2001 – Day by Day: The Rebuilding of Kosovo

Over the past two years, the United Church, as a member of the World Council of Churches, has been involved in helping people of Kosovo rebuild their lives and their country. This documentary gives a graphic account of the challenge of non-governmental organizations and church groups who are still trying to broker peace and bring about reconciliation an investment in the future – in a country where past injustices continue to fuel anger and resentment between ethnic groups.

Mar. 13, 2001 – Soul Maps

Mardi Tindal, former host of *Spirit Connection*, continues her life-long concern for each person's need to find spiritual wholeness. Her recent book, *Soul Maps*, examines the particular issues for people approaching the mid-years of life. *Spirit Connection* showcases the documentary based on Mardi's book. (*Winner of the Gold Award for religious programming/documentary at Aurora Awards, Salt Lake City, Utah*)

Apr. 20, 2001 – Native Justice

In Canada, the impact of decisions and policies with regard to the relationships between the newcomers from Europe and the Native peoples already present in North America are being played out in our time, as the actions of one generation are felt by the generations that follow. From matters of land rights to the establishment of residential schools, Canadians today are seeking to find ways of bringing about reconciliation and a new relationship between Native and non-Native peoples.

May 09, 2001 – Magazine format program

This month's magazine format program features several stories. First there is a report on the church's involvement in the People's Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, in keeping with the United Church's long-standing commitment to working in solidarity with national and global partners to lift up causes of human rights and sustainable development. *Spirit Connection* also profiles the recipients of the first Davidson Trust Award for excellence in scholarship and theological education. There follows a story of the Embera Katio indigenous nation of Columbia – a people who are struggling for their lives. For the "people of the water and the land," a way of life and their existence is swiftly being destroyed by exploitation, development, and military forces.

Jun. 13, 2001 – Mozambique

Mozambique is a country still battling with the vestiges of colonialism and a brutal internal war that lasted 17 years. Recent droughts and floods have added to the woes of a people left with little in the way of resources to rebuild their lives. Yet, in spite of this, the people of Mozambique have continued to tackle their problems head on.

Jul. 11, 2001 – Betty Bridgman

In July, *Spirit Connection* highlights the life and work of Betty Bridgman, a woman who has dedicated her whole life to the work of The United Church of Canada and its partners in Africa.

Aug. 08, 2001 – A Journey to Jubilee

Spirit Connection presents the World Council of Churches (WCC) documentary "A Journey to Jubilee," celebrating the biblical concept of Jubilee around the theme, "Turn to God – Rejoice in Hope." The WCC represents about 400 million Christians through more than 330 churches, denominations, and fellowships in 100 countries and territories throughout the world. Its mission is to promote worldwide Christian unity through sharing, support, and advocacy.

Spirit Connection Programs - 14th season 2001/2002

Sep. 11, 2001 – When A Bird Has Wings: Haiti

Spirit Connection met with church members in Haiti where the struggle continues to bring about social justice in the shadow of free trade liberalization and to reduce the poverty that limits the opportunities of the majority of the people.

Sep. 18, 2001 – Christian Communication

Moderator Marion Parly reflects on the grief and loss of September 11th. The program also takes a look at a place of Christian communication in the modern world; the World Association for Christian Communication met in Amsterdam last summer and urged communicators to find new ways to tell their stories. A panel of journalists who work in religious media challenge the Association's views. Join us to see the excerpts from the Amsterdam meeting and the reaction of the journalists who have stories to tell and deadlines to meet.

Oct. 09, 2001 – All that Glitters

The latest rush for gold is seriously disrupting the Indigenous peoples of the Philippines. Already marginalized in their homeland, they now face the arrival, en masse, of small, independent miners, keen to make their fortunes, and Canadian mining companies with larger operations. The *Spirit Connection* crew was given rare access to the sites and the people caught in the repeating saga of upheaval caused by gold's allure.

Oct. 16, 2001 (broadcast on Oct. 28th) – Reconciliation

It's a tall order in a world of conflict, but reconciliation between people and nations is a gospel imperative. *Spirit Connection* looks at the different paths to reconciliation that are personal and corporate. The program includes interviews with Native leaders and a story from Northern Ireland.

The Changing Church (in 2 parts)

The United Church of Canada is changing rapidly, but the news is far from dismal. There are growing congregations, and a new zest is taking hold among the membership. *Spirit Connection* looks at the stories of hope and renewal within the church and its congregations.

Nov. 13, 2002 – The Changing Church (part 1)

A profile of Victoria Avenue United Church in Chatham, Ontario, a congregation that split in 1988; the impact *Voices United* is having on worship; a thriving youth group at Edmonton's Korean and Avondale United; and a conversation on who is in the pews.

Nov. 20, 2002 – The Changing Church (part 2)

A look at preaching, through the words of Rev. Anthony Bailey in Ottawa; ministry with children in Fall River, N.S.; a conversation about the new mission theme, "Children: Is Anybody Listening?"; a visit to a unique community that is University Hill United in Vancouver; and a discussion on stewardship – how ministers start the conversation.

Dec. 11, 2001 – Blessed Among Women

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one of the strongest women in the Bible, but she is also a figure in the Koran. *Spirit Connection* looks at the woman at the centre of the Christmas story and her place in several faith communities.

Dec. 18, 2001 – Journey to Bethlehem

Spirit Connection celebrates Christmas in rural Ontario with a "Journey to Bethlehem." Marking their 5th anniversary, this interactive pageant, complete with carol singing, a marketplace, and live animals, attracts over 400 people each year to the magical background at Five Oaks.

Jan. 8, 2002 – Together Against Violence

This is a documentary on the innovative work being done by the S-Corner community coalition in Kingston, Jamaica to deal holistically with the systemic problems of unemployment and violence in one neighbourhood. The work is now part of the Peace to the City network, Decade to Overcome Violence, World Council of Churches (www.wcc-coe.org).

Jan. 15, 2002 – The Conscious Consumers

Meet several families from different faiths who are buying consciously rather than conspicuously as they live their faiths in a world that encourages shopping as a fast track to happiness. Former United Church Moderator, Rev. Bill Phipps, hosts the 20-minute documentary.

Paths of Grace

The special series for Lent looks at the meeting of Native and Christian spiritual traditions through the eyes and voices of four Aboriginal Canadians. Following the Lenten journey, the interviews with host, Royal Orr, will focus on:

Feb. 12, 2002 – The Broken Relationship

Guest: Roger Obonsawin, a member of the Abenaki Nation at Odanak, Quebec

Feb. 19, 2002 – Suffering

Guest: Pearl Cornell, a member of the Ojibway Nation at Cape Croker, Ontario

Mar. 12, 2002 – Forgiveness

Guest: Rev. Maggie McLeod, the minister at Cape Croker United Church, Ontario, was born in the Cree Nation at File Hills, Saskatchewan.

Mar. 19, 2002 – Grace

Guest: The Very Rev. Stan McKay, former Moderator of the United Church, is a member of the Cree Nation in Manitoba.

Apr. 09, 2002 – The Open Tomb

The open tomb is an important and problematic symbol of the Christian faith. Interviews are with United Church minister Frank Hamper and Mt. Sinai Hospital Chaplain, Betty Calvin. Music is from the Union United Church Men's Choir of Montreal, Quebec.

Apr. 16, 2002 – Digital Churches!

A look at how digital technology is changing worship and filling the pews! Video clips are illustrating sermons, and hymns appear in PowerPoint. Sunday services live on the Web are attracting a wider congregation and reaching those who cannot come to church. How is the digital age changing people's spiritual experiences?

May 14, 2002 – Side-by-Side

"Side-by-Side" celebrates Women of the United Church and their contributions. At the local or the national level, women in the United Church have long supported one another and their communities through the joys and sorrows of life. Whether it's listening to a friend or raising funds for new equipment in a local hospital, each act is an expression of their faith. This year marks 40 faithful years.

May 21, 2002 – Theology in a Canoe

Each year, the Five Oak's Education and Retreat Centre offers an opportunity for people to explore the theology of creation. Join Royal Orr as he travels with Bruce Gregersen, Stan McKay, and others on a canoe trip through the lakes of Algonquin Park.

Jun. 11, 2002 – McClure

This program looks at the life and work of medical missionary, Dr. Robert McClure, in India and China.

Jun. 18, 2002 – Communal Conflict

Asghar Ali Engineer is the voice in the wilderness of religious communal tensions in India. This United Church partner works towards peace by naming the root causes of the violence between Muslim/Hindu and India/Pakistan.

