

The Very Reverend, the Honorable Dr. Lois M Wilson, C.C, O.C.

B.A. (Man); B.D., M.Div. (Wpg) ; L.L.D. (Dal) (Tor) (Trent) D.C.L. (Acadia)
D.D. (Victoria, Tor), (Mt All) (Queen's Theol) (United Theol) (Wycliff); (Regis,Tor)
S.D.T.(Ripon) D.Hum L. (Mt St.Vincent) F. Massey College

An ordained minister of the United Church of Canada ('65) and its first woman Moderator ('80-82) she has a long and distinguished record with the voluntary sector and the ecumenical community on social and theological issues, and on human right, inter-faith and women's' issues at all levels of church and government. Married to The Rev. Dr. Roy F., Wilson (deceased 2005) she has four children and 12 grandchildren.

Education:

April 8, 1927 born in Winnipeg, Manitoba
1947: B.A. Graduate from the University of Winnipeg
1950: a diploma in Theology and an M.Div ('65). U of Winnipeg.
1974: Certificate in TV and Radio production, Ryerson U, Toronto
1980: Certificate in French Immersion in Jonquiere, Quebec

United Church of Canada involvements: She served in team ministry with her husband in United Church pastoral charges in Winnipeg, ('54-'60) Thunder Bay, ('60-69) Hamilton ('69-'78) and Kingston ('78-'80).

1969-1977 Board member of First Place, Hamilton, a multi purpose high rise facility including 450 units of housing, stores, offices and church facilities built after fire destroyed First United Church.

1980-82: The first woman Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Ecumenical involvements:

1944-46: President of the University of Manitoba Student Christian Movement

1967-68: Director of Town Talk, Thunder Bay, an innovative ecumenically sponsored program, utilizing all media, inviting citizens to publicly discuss issues affecting the future of their city.

1976-79: President of the Canadian Council of Churches. Visited Cuba.

1983-1990 Co-Director of the Ecumenical Forum of Canada. She led four ecumenical study tours for theological students:

1985: to U.S.S.R. (documented by CBC –TV award winning Easter Special)

1986: Latin America (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay);

1987: China 1988: Africa (Kenya/Tanzania)

1983:-1991 She was elected one of seven Presidents of the **World Council of Churches** at the Vancouver Assembly. As the first Canadian President of the World Council of Churches as well as a member of its Executive and Central Committee, she visited member churches extensively in all continents. She was central to initiating the Decade of Church's in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society. ('89-'98)

. She served short term 2-3 month appointments as **ecumenical minister**

1975: to the Ecumenical Centre, Bangalore, India

1983: to Grosse Point Memorial Church, Detroit, Michigan

1993: to the Tauhura Centre for Spirituality New Zealand

1994: to Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, California.
1990-94. Consultant on Ecumenical affairs to the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
1994-99 Board member Centre for Studies in Religion and Society (U. of Victoria, B.C.)
1990: 6 week WCC sponsored tour of theological colleges in India to support the ordination of women. Attended mtgs. of Association of Theologically Trained Women
1984: Canadian CBC commentator on the Pope's visit to Canada

Canadian Government Appointments:

1984-88: Board member: Institute for International Peace and Security
1984-89 Refugee Status Advisory Board
1997-98 Chair of Rights and Democracy in Montreal
1989-97 Panel Member of Environmental Assessment of the Disposal of Nuclear Waste
1998- 2002 Independent Senator
('99-'02); Appointed by Minister of Foreign Affairs as Canada's Special Envoy to the Sudan
(2000) Leader of Parliamentary Delegation to DPRK (N Korea) leading up to establishment of diplomatic relations
(1999) Leader of joint Parliamentary, Canadian Council of Churches trip to China on freedom of religion
(2000-'02) Co-chair Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security

Honours/Prizes/Awards

1977: Queen's 25th Anniversary Medal
1984: The Canada UN Pearson Peace Prize.
1984: The World Federalist Peace Prize
1984: Visiting Fellow, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the S.W., Austin, Texas
1984: Officer of Order of Canada
1989-91 McGeachy Senior Scholar of United Church of Canada which focused on re-writing Bible stories for children from a feminist theological perspective.
1991: Order of Ontario
1992: Commemorative Medal for 125 th anniversary of Canadian Confederation
2000: The Iona College Chancellor's Award for leadership in social justice.
2004: Companion of Order of Canada
2009: Fellow of the Community Justice Centre, Comox Valley, B.C. for Restorative justice work.
2010: The Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Award for Christian Unity-from National Council of Churches, USA and Church World Service.

Current work:

1995- Member Public Review Board of Canadian Automobile Workers.
1975- Board member Canadian Civil Liberties Association;
2006- Engaged in Re-Development of United Church Property and Personnel in Regent's Park, Toronto, ON
2010- Distinguished Minister in Residence, Emmanuel College, U of T, Toronto

Books by Lois M. Wilson

1981- "**Like a Mighty River**"-God's power and love as I have seen it revealed around the world in the struggle for justice and righteousness.-Woodlake Press, B.C.

1989-"**Turning the World Upside Down**" –ecumenical memories - Doubleday, Toronto

1992-"**Telling Her Story**-Theology out of Women's Struggles"-(The McGeachy Papers Volume 1V)-The United Church Publishing House. (Trans into Japanese)

1992- "**Miriam, Mary and Me**"-Biblical stories for children, re women re-told from a feminist perspective-Woodlake Press, B.C. (Translated into Korean)

1997- "**Stories Seldom Told**"-Biblical stories of violence against women for children, re-told from a feminist perspective-Woodlake Press. B.C. (translated into Korean)

2000-"Nuclear **Waste**-Exploring the Ethical Dilemmas"-The United Church Publishing House, Toronto.

2004- "**Transforming the Faith of our Fathers**"- Chapter One: an autobiographical chapter on the conjunction of religion and feminism in Lois Wilson's life-edited by Ann Braude-from a Harvard Divinity School conference of 2002-Palgrave Macmillan-available in University libraries.

2006-"**Streams of Faith**"-Young women canoeists struggle with God, death, forgiveness, and other important matters in their maturity. The United Church Publishing House.