

## A summary of Rev. Sue and Glenn Genge's Journey to The Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, August 13-18/23

Did you hear the one about the rabbi, the female Roman Catholic priest and the Baptist minister? No? Well, actually, I think I did! In fact, no fewer than 218 Spiritual Traditions were present at The Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago Illinois, last summer, when Rev. Sue and Glenn Genge journeyed there. As two of over 8,000 attendees, Sue and Glenn interacted with people from 97 countries and the event reached 2.5 billion worldwide. Sue recalled the week's activities via Zoom on Tuesday, January 23/24 at 7PM, with support from Sharon Hull and Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander.

The week long event was a celebration of A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights as well as Towards a Global Ethic, a foundational document that was put in place 30 years ago by The Parliament of the World's Religions. Some of this organization's shared goals are: inter-religious harmony (not unity) and advocating for action against threats to freedom, democracy, and human rights around the world. The year's subthemes were Crisis, Women's Dignity, Conscience, Community and Climate.

Sue vividly recalled an action packed week through slides and commentary.

The evening's presentation began with The Lord's Prayer, in Aramaic—the language spoken by Jesus— followed by an English re-translation that was poetic and inspiring.

Sue spoke of watching colourful parades, listening to luminaries(speakers), having lunch in a shared Langar— the gift of Seva(selfless service)---served by hundreds of Sikh volunteers, as well as evening bus tours and dancing demonstrations. Sue was clearly very grateful for the opportunity to attend The Parliament of the World's Religions, with support from ECORC, and she was honoured to present to us, 32 in attendance, last Tuesday evening.

If you are thinking of travelling the world someday I'd suggest, instead, registering for the next Parliament of the World's Religions which will take place in 2026. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the Chicago event and I hope that ECORC'S Antiracism, Interfaith, Intercultural Forum will continue to support opportunities like this and offer presentations via Zoom —which enables many to attend from all over our large region. Source: [parliamentofreligions.org](https://parliamentofreligions.org)

*Submitted by: Carol Peterson, Maynooth Madawaska Community of Faith musician and lay leader, member of FN&J*