**Izzeddin Hawamda** was born and raised in a rural village just outside of the city of Nablus in the West Bank, Palestine. He has lived in Canada for over 15 years and currently works as a high school teacher. He is currently working toward a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba. Izzeddin, along with Jewish-Canadian, and Quaker colleagues, is a co-founder of Gaser and has been speaking publicly about the power of dialogue and the importance of sharing, listening, and respecting diverse perspectives and narratives. Izzeddin is also working to develop opportunities for Indigenous students and newcomer students to share spaces and stories in an effort to build bridges and break down the barriers. In addition, Izzeddin is ~~a~~ member of the Conflict and Resilience Research Institute Canada board and a member of the Countering Radicalization to Violence in Manitoba Schools. He has been selected to join the first CBC Manitoba Community Advisory Board, and is a member of the Community & Stakeholder Relations Committee of Mediation Services of Winnipeg. Izzeddin also serves on the Peacebuilder committee of the Winnipeg Rotary club and is passionate about bridging the gap between local and international peacebuilding efforts. Izzeddin is a proud member of the BIPOC Advisory committee of MARL and works to promote voices of marginalized communities. He is also passionate about storytelling, poetry, and the use of dialogue in peacebuilding.

**Humaira Jaleel**

Humaira is the founder and ED of Healthy Muslim Families. She was the CEO of Canadian Muslim Women’s Institute. She serves on the boards of Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba and the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. Humaira is Community Lead for the Coalition of Manitoban Cultural Communities and Families. She served as Co-Chair of Amnesty International’s Winnipeg Group 19. Humaira is a certified career Counselor and a life coach.

**Idris Knapp**

Idris is the Executive Director of the Central Mosque. He has been serving in this position for 18 years. As ED, he offers marriage counselling, helps people navigate through the social system, does maintenance and laundry, drops off food and even gives the sermon if needed—and sometimes at the last minute! He started a community food box, where people can drop off or pick up food. He also started a community garden. He currently serves on the Board of Islamic Social Services Association and has served on the Board of Altered Minds Inc., which runs settlement services and newcomer orientation. He has also been a counsellor with Camp Awakening, a Muslim youth summer camp. He was very involved with the community mosque in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his wife Asili have three children and two grandchildren.

**Rabbanit Dorit Kosmin**

Dorit is an interfaith healthcare chaplain, a rebbetzin and the mother to five children. She has a Masters degree in Social Work and Jewish Communal Service from Yeshiva University and has spent the last few years studying towards her certification in Clinical Psycho-spiritual education. Dorit has worked as a synagogue cantor, Jewish educator, and as a social worker in a number of populations. She has a passion for helping folks of all ages to explore the things that bring meaning and purpose to their lives through active listening, spiritual counseling, mindfulness and a lot of music. Dorit is very excited to be of the Simkin Centre Spiritual Care team.

**Rachel Landrecht**

Rachel is a sacred singer and songwriter who has devoted her life to using her spirit-given gifts in service to the divine.

**Cree Elder, Very Rev. Dr. Stan McKay**

He was born on the Fisher River Reserve, which is a Cree community (Inninowuk), and a party to Treaty#5. He began his education in the Indian Day School in Fisher River and then went to an Indian Residential School for 5 years. He taught in schools in Northern Manitoba after Teacher’s College and then came back to the University of Winnipeg for Arts and Theology. Stan has served as United Church minister and educator. He and his wife Dot have three children and three grandchildren. Stan and Dot are living in Fisher River.

Stan has many titles: Very Rev, which refers to him being a former moderator of the United Church of Canada, as well as a United Church minister. Dr. refers to an honorary doctorate given to him for all of his leadership and writing on Truth and Reconciliation. He has worked with people across Canada and globally with the World Council of Churches. He is also one of the founders of Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Center, a training centre for Indigenous ministers, which later merged with Francis Sandy to become the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. Stan’s title of Elder is given by communities to one revered for their wisdom and guidance.

**Anass Sebbahi**

Originating from a Muslim household in Morocco, Anass found spiritual resonance within the Christian communities of Winnipeg. Their musical expression embodies a personal journey, acting as a celebration of peace and diversity.

**Guest Worship Leaders**

**Rabbi Kliel Rose**

With 20 years of experience as a successful pulpit Rabbi and with an outstanding reputation as an innovative, inspiring leader, Rabbi Kliel (as he prefers to be known as) is the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Etz Chayim. As a senior rabbinical student, Kliel received the prestigious Rabbi Marshal T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellowship at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in New York. He was ordained in 2004. In 2014, Kliel was given the Rabbinical Human Rights Hero award by T’ruah: the rabbinic call for justice. Kliel was recognized for his involvement in interfaith justice work. Kliel was just recently appointed to serve on the Mayor’s “Multifaith & Cultural Liaison Circle”.

**Jedediyah Swampy**

Jedediyah Swampy is from Sagkeeng First Nation and is a Traditional Singer in Ojibwe. He writes that he has been singing since he was 12 years old. The drum has changed his life, as he has been clean from alcohol for over 10 years. He adds that he has never taken drugs or smoked cigarettes. Six years ago, he had a Christian conversion experience and he now follows a dual pathway of Traditional Teachings and Christianity. He writes that God has blessed him so many times. His voice is one of God’s blessings. He sings because he sings for his people. I appreciate Jedediyah’s spirit of joy, which he showed when he sang at Westworth with Walking Wolf Singers last September.