



**Gospel and Empire:
what about us?**

Maritime Conference
The United Church of Canada

The 84th Annual Meeting
Sackville, New Brunswick
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SECTION 1
REPORTS TO CONFERENCE

“Empire is a metaphor for interconnected **systems of domination** that affect all levels of human relationships and in which all people participate in some way.

Empire-like behaviour can be found in

- relations between states
- international trade agreements
- forms of institutional governance, including within the church
- interpersonal relationships, including families

The common thread is the *unjust use of power* by someone resulting in the disempowerment, abuse, or destruction of others.”

Gary Kenny, United Church Program Coordinator
for Southern Africa/Emergency Response

On the Cover

The empire logo on the cover was designed by Joyce Cosby. The net represents the unjust systems and structures—for example, globalization, militarization, consumerism, environmental destruction, racism, and sexism—that work together to oppress some people while allowing others to flourish. People working together pull at the net to help release the earth from these constricting forces. Not only humans but all of creation, symbolized by the birds, begins to burst free. The addition of the Maritime Conference reflects our involvement in Empire.