

CONTINUING CARING CONVERSATIONS
CC 7: UNITY, MARRIAGE & ORDINATION
Saturday, November 5, 2011
Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo

*An in-service event for clergy and congregational leaders
hosted by the Kitchener/Waterloo Conference.*

Grace and peace to you.

At the 2011 National Convention, the ELCIC adopted a *Social Statement on Human Sexuality* together with three related motions concerning the unity of the church and the marriage and ordination of gay people. These convention actions followed upon many years of national, synodical, conference-wide and local reflection on various aspects of the place of gay people in the life of the church.

In view of our national convention actions, a **Caring Conversations 7** event will be offered on **Saturday, November 5, at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo**. CC 7 is the seventh Caring Conversations event hosted by the Kitchener/Waterloo Conference. Details of earlier events and related materials can be accessed on the website of Trinity Church, New Hamburg: www.telc.ca. Click on Caring Conversations.

At CC 7 we will explore next steps. What do we do now?

- What do we do as pastors?
- What do we do as congregational leaders?
- What is appropriate to our local context?

CC 7 will be especially helpful to pastors, council members and those congregational leaders charged with reflecting upon the policies of the church as they apply to local congregations. This invitation is being extended to people in the Kitchener/Waterloo Conference and four neighbouring conferences — Toronto, Hamilton/Niagara, London and Georgian Bay. Of course, others are welcome!

We are inviting each congregation to send a team of 4-6 people and to register as a group. Please register by **Monday, October 31**, and pass the word. We look forward to greeting you!

All blessings this fall day.

Bonnie Schelter-Brown,
Dean, K/W Conference

PS People have more than one option on November 5. Our **Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song** is presenting a *Shape of the Liturgy* workshop. Participants are to “explore the relationship between the liturgical pattern and liturgical roles found in Anglican and Lutheran worship.”

A conversation with Debbie Lou Ludolph yielded the helpful news that similar workshops will be offered down the road. She also suggested that where a pastor & council members might be attending CC 7, a congregational worship team might profitably attend *Shape of the Liturgy*. The worship team would then debrief and plan next steps with their pastor upon their return. For details of the *Shape of the Liturgy* event visit www.easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/.

So... Choose one or both events, get your team(s) together and register!

CC 7 + AGENDA

- 8:30 - 9:00 am Arrival. Registration. *Coffee is on!*
- 9:00 - 9:30 am Gathering Worship
- Tanya Ramer** presides and **Bonnie Schelter-Brown** preaches at our Holy Communion.
- 9:30 - 9:45 am Welcome. Introductions. Housekeeping.
- 9:45 - 11:00 am What do we do now?
1. **André Lavergne** ~ Introduction: Where have we been?
 2. **Bob Kelly** ~ What did we just do?
 - ELCIC Social Statement
 - Three policy motions
 3. **Mike Pryse** ~ Where do we go from here?
- 11:00 - 11:20 am Plenary conversation and direction
- 11:20 - 11:30 am Break
- 11:30 - 12:15 nn Congregational teams meet in local groups for conversation
1. Where are we now? (taking our bearings)
 2. Where do we want to be? (charting a course)
 3. How do we get there? (thinking about next steps)
- 12:15 - 1:00 pm Brown-Bag Lunch (Coffee, tea and juice provided.)
- 1:00 - 1:50 pm Workshop 1
1. **Bob Kelly** ~ How we talk about important issues: using the *ELCIC Social Statement* in the congregation.
 2. **Mike Pryse** ~ What do our new *ELCIC policies* mean for my congregation?
 3. **Mark Harris** ~ Leadership: a non-anxious presence in anxious times.
 4. **Randy & Jessie Schnarr; Pat Lovell, presiding** ~ A Caring Conversation. Parents of a Gay Child: A Journey to Peace.
 5. **Lorre Calder & Janice MacDonald; Claudine Carlson, presiding** ~ A Caring Conversation. Coming Out: A Witness of Acceptance.
 6. **Tim Hegedus & Harold Remus** ~ Word of God, Good News: Reading the Bible Today.
 7. **Oz Cole-Arnal** ~ The Lutheran Confessions: Keeping the Main Thing *the Main Thing!*
- 1:50 - 2:00 pm Break
- 2:00 - 2:50 pm Workshop 2 (a repeat of the choices offered earlier)
- 2:50 - 3:00 pm Break
- 3:00 - 3:30 pm **Mike Pryse** ~ Plenary Conversation
- 3:30 pm Closing Prayer. Godspeed.

CC 7 + REGISTRATION & NOTES

Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible to Pastor Rick Pryce at stphilip@golden.net.

1. CC 7 will take place at **Mount Zion Lutheran Church**, 29 Westmount Road South, Waterloo, Ontario. For directions, Google the address or call Mount Zion at 519-886-5820.
2. CC 7 will be especially helpful to congregational pastors, leaders and council members. Of course, others are **welcome** as well.
3. We are suggesting that congregations send teams of **4-6 leaders including the pastor**.
4. Please **register your CC 7 team by Monday, October 31**, by e-mailing Pastor Rick Pryce at stphilip@golden.net and providing (1) the name and (2) the location of your congregation, together with (3) the names and (4) the e-mail addresses of participants.
5. There is no cost for the day. Please remember to bring a **brown-bag lunch**. The K/W Conference will provide coffee, tea and juice.

CC 7 + RESOURCES & PRE-CC 7 WORK

A web page was created in 2002 in connection with the K/W Conference Caring Conversations events. Go to www.telc.ca and click on "Caring Conversations." Details of CC 1 through CC 6 and a large collection of related resources are carried there.

We are asking participants to review the material to get a general sense of some of the work congregations have been doing over the last 10 years, including *Caring Conversations*, crafting *Affirmations of Welcome*, and studying the *ELCIC Social Statement* and related motions.

- ELCIC Social Statement - www.telc.ca/pdf/ELCIC_re_Sexuality_2011.pdf
- Three Motions - www.telc.ca/pdf/Three_Motions_2011.pdf
- Bishop Pryse's July letter - www.telc.ca/pdf/Bishop_re_Sexuality_July_2011.pdf
- Eastern Synod Pastoral Considerations - www.telc.ca/pdf/Pastoral_Considerations_2011.pdf
- Bishop Pryse's October letter - www.telc.ca/pdf/Bishop_re_Sexuality_October_2011.pdf

CC 7 + STAFF

Dr. **Oz Cole-Arnal**, Bishop William D. Huras Professor of Church History and Ecclesiology Emeritus, taught Church History at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary for over 30 years. An ordained Lutheran pastor, he has two sons and is stepfather to three daughters. He is married to Bonnie, a United Church minister, and is an active member of Christ Lutheran Church, Waterloo. The author of various books and articles in the history of Christianity, Oz is also active in the social justice concerns of the wider church.

Lorre Calder is a life-long member of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cambridge, where her congregational participation intensified as a youth. Lorre has served in many capacities in connection with the congregational council, including three years as council chair and five as secretary. Lorre is active in the worship life of St. Peter's where she sings in the choir. For the last twelve years, she has edited the parish newsletter. Lorre works as an administrative assistant in an OB/GYN ultrasound clinic in Kitchener. In August, 2009, Lorre married Janis Collins. They reside in Cambridge (Preston).

Claudine Carlson has been a pastor in the ELCIC for eighteen-and-a-half years, pastoral ministry being her "fourth and final" career. Educated in California and Ontario, she has a B.A. (history), an M.A.Sc. (psychology), and an M.Div. She loves parish ministry but has also served the wider church in various capacities, most recently as a member of the National Church Council.

A member of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo, and an ordained ELCIC pastor, Dr. **Mark W. Harris** is an assistant to Bishop Michael Pryse. Ordained in 1980, Mark served congregations in Peterborough, Owen Sound, and Waterloo before accepting a call to the Eastern Synod in 2008. Mark earned a doctorate from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, in 2007.

A member of Christ Lutheran Church, Waterloo, and an ordained ELCIC pastor, Dr. **Tim Hegedus** is an Associate Professor of New Testament Theology at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. In addition to representing the ELCIC on Jewish-Christian and Muslim-Christian dialogues within the Canadian Council of Churches, Tim has a keen interest in the history of Biblical interpretation.

A member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, and an ordained Lutheran pastor, Dr. **Bob Kelly** is Bishop William D. Huras Professor of Church History and Ecclesiology at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Active in a number of church-related concerns, Bob has taught historical, systematic and ethical theology at two seminaries for over 30 years.

Serving in a multi-staff ministry with Pastor Anne Anderson, **André Lavergne** has been a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg, for nearly 28 years. Trinity developed and modeled a widely-used Caring Conversations process in 1999 and adopted an *Affirmation of Welcome* and became an RIC congregation in 2004. Trinity has affirmed the ELCIC's policies concerning the unity of the church and of the marriage and ordination of gay people. Pastor Lavergne shares his time with the national church where he serves as Assistant to the Bishop (Ecumenical & Interfaith). Pastor Lavergne is married to Barbara. They have four grown children.

A member of National Church Council and Eastern Synod Council (Chairperson of the Appointments Committee; Team Leader of the Synod's *In Mission for Others* initiative), **Pat Lovell** was raised in Chicago, Illinois, where she experienced racial discrimination in both church and society during the civil rights movement years. Pat immigrated to Toronto where, at length, she found a welcoming congregation at St. Philip's (Etobicoke) and, more recently, at Holy Cross (Newmarket). Pat has over 30 years experience in management positions at Bell Canada and Rogers Cable. Pat represents the ELCIC on the Governing Board of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Janice MacDonald grew up in the small community of Conestogo and, along with her family, attended St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, where she was baptised and confirmed. After a long career at Mutual Life (& Clarica), she retired and, along with her partner Sharon Naumann, moved to Tobermory and says she wakes every morning to the beautiful view of Lake Huron. In Tobermory she attends St. Edmund's Anglican Church; however, she retains her membership at St. Matthew's and even though she lives three hours away still considers it her home church.

Pastor **Rick Pryce** serves the congregation of St. Philip Lutheran Church, Kitchener. Rick is also the chaplain at Lanark Heights Long Term Care facility in Kitchener and is completing his second term on Synod Council. He has also served on the Synod Stewardship Committee and is a long-time member of Interfaith Grand River where he was recently appointed to the Steering Committee. Rick is planning to enter the Doctor of Ministry (Leadership) program at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary next fall.

Ordained in 1985, Bishop **Mike Pryse** served in parish ministry until 1990 when he was called to be Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Synod. In 1998 he was elected Bishop. Bishop Pryse has served as a member of our National Church Council and Board of Directors of Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Bishop Pryse is committed to the cause of Christian unity and is a strong advocate for ecumenical co-operation. He also has a keen interest in questions of global justice and international development. Since 2001, he has served as co-chair of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission. In 2011, Bishop Pryse received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Wilfrid Laurier University. Bishop Pryse is married to Lois. They have four children: Jessica, Katie, Heather and Emily.

In addition to serving with Pastor Krister Ulmanis in a multi-staff team at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo, **Tanya Ramer** also serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. One of Tanya's many passions in ministry is working with families and children to bring together the importance of life-long learning and worship ministry. She obtained a Masters of Theology in Pastoral Care and Counselling in 2008, with a thesis focus on computer-mediated communication with youth.

A member of St. Mark's, Kitchener, Dr. **Harold Remus** is Professor Emeritus, Religion & Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University, retired Adjunct Professor, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and Past President of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies. An ordained Lutheran pastor, he served as the Founding Managing Editor of *Religious Studies Review*, Director of Wilfrid Laurier University Press, and Executive Officer of the Council on the Study of Religion. He is the author of various books and articles related to the New Testament and early Christianity and to the academic study of religion.

Pastor at St. James Lutheran Church, New Dundee, **Bonnie Schelter-Brown** serves as Dean of the Eastern Synod's Kitchener/Waterloo Conference. Bonnie is married to Pastor Rick Brown, who serves the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, Tavistock, in addition to being Dean of the London Conference.

Members at Faith Lutheran Church in Port Elgin Ontario, **Jessie Schnarr** and **Randy Schnarr** are retired, Jessie from a career in sales with Nestle Canada, now doing volunteer work at the Southampton hospital, Randy from a director of sales position, and now doing some consulting and volunteer work in the community. They became involved in Caring Conversations in the spring of 2000 when their son indicated that he was gay.

October 15, 2011