Sacred Spaces

Day of Encouragement: Edmonton, AB

Keynote address brought to you by, Dr. Bill McAlpine, Ambrose University

Registration link - www.regonline.ca/doe2018edmonton
Music performed by special guest: Clinton Richardson

Workshop presenters include:

**Bernadette Arthur** - Race Relations Coordinator for the Office of Race Relations in Canada

**Tom Baird** - Lead pastor at Bethel Community CRC in Edmonton

**Peter Bulthuis** - Associate Director for Church relations with World Renew

**Ben Bentum** - Counsellor with Mercy Counselling, a ministry of Catholic Social Services in Edmonton

**Debbie Fawcett** - Women's Reintegration Chaplain at The Mustard Seed

**Bryan Haley** - program producer for Church Juice, a media ministry dedicated to energizing church communications

**Bill McAlpine** – Pastor and Professor of Theology at Ambrose University in Calgary

**Faith Nostbakken** - Spiritual Director at Providence Renewal Centre and Diaconal Minister of ELCIC

**Danielle Rowaan** - Justice Communications Team Coordinator for the CRC in Canada

**Cindy Stover** - Justice Mobilizer for the CRC in Canada

**Gerald Van Smeerdyk** - Military Chaplain with the CRC, stationed at CFB Edmonton

**Arlette Zinck** - Associate Professor of English and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at King's University

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**Schedule for the Day**

8:15—9:00 am
Registration/Check In

9:00—9:15 am Opening & Songs

9:15—10:15 am Keynote Address

10:15-10:45 am Fellowship & Coffee

10:45—12:00 AM Workshops

12:15—1:30 pm Lunch/Interlude/Fellowship

1:30—2:45 PM Workshops

2:45-3:15 pm Fellowship & Coffee

3:15-3:30 pm Closing & wrap up
Ben Bentum – The Sacredness of Grief

Paula D’Arcy, who experienced the deaths of her husband and toddler in a car accident, wrote in her book “The Gift of the Redbird,” “There is an advantage to having your life cut through to the bone. It swiftly eliminates all the distractions and all the illusion. The clarity of my sight is fierce. I see what matters and what does not. And If I am going to encounter God, he will encounter no resistance. No games. No asking for signs. Just come. I am split open. God will come all the way in, if he is out there at all.”

This beautifully illustrates the power and depth of suffering in grief. In this workshop we will discuss how grief brings us to these places of transition, and how we can journey alongside others (and ourselves) through these devastating and sacred experiences. Practical tools for living with grief related emotions, and supporting those who are grieving will also be provided.

Ben is a Registered Provisional Psychologist working in Edmonton. He has been honoured to spend time with those who are grieving through research, counselling, and workshops. His passion is walking alongside people toward hope. As well as working for Catholic Social Services, Ben has his own private practice in counselling called “Wellwood counselling.”

Bernadette Arthur – The Sacred Space In and Of Culture

How do we cultivate faith communities that offer authentic places for cross-cultural belonging and growth? Together we will explore and discuss how church communities can host sacred spaces that encourage cross-cultural transformational discipleship.

Bernadette is a trainer, facilitator and coach in the areas of racial justice, biblical reconciliation and asset based community development. She is gifted in designing and facilitating learning events that offer “safe” space to listen, interrogate, unpack, explore, create and heal. Bernadette designs community learning spaces that intersect faith, justice and healing. Bernadette works as a Race Relations Advocate (Canada) for the CRCNA and is a vetted Community Advancement Coach and trainer with Communities First Association.

Bill McAlpine – Sacred Space for the Missional Church

A friend once said to me, “It does not matter where we worship, only that we worship.” This session is based on the conviction that such a statement is fundamentally flawed on a number of accounts. In our time together we will consider how and why the built environment is much more than an inert container in which worship and ministry occurs. Sacred space, whether intended or not, is part of who we are (our identity) and what we do (our ministry) and thus is integral to fulfillment of our mission.

Born to missionary parents in Chad Africa, Bill grew up in a pastor’s home after his parents’ return to Toronto. He studied at Capernwray Hall, England, Columbia Bible College (now Columbia International University), Canadian Theological Seminary, and defended his PhD dissertation through University of Aberdeen in Scotland in October 2006. He has pastored for just under 16 years in Alliance Churches in Ontario and Saskatchewan and is presently serving as Professor of Pastoral Theology at Ambrose University. He has authored two books, Sacred Space for the Missional Church, (2011) and Four Essential Loves: Heart Readiness for Leadership and Ministry, (2013).
Bryan Haley - Keys to Successful Communication

As ministry leaders, you're busy, with long list of things to do, and not enough time in the day to complete them all. Communicating to your church members is just one more thing that you try and do well, but sometimes it can seem like an impossible task. Why does communication and marketing make a difference? Does "communication" really matter? Together, we'll dive into how good communication can help your ministry thrive and what you can do to make communication at your church a streamlined process, without adding hours to your workload.

Bryan is the program producer for Church Juice, a media ministry dedicated to energizing church communications. Bryan helps congregations and their communications by overseeing the Church Juice blog, publishing in-depth ebook resources, consulting, and developing training on topics like marketing, branding, social media, internal communications, and website development.

With years of communication and outreach experience gained in full-time church ministry and church website design, Bryan brings a passion to help churches reach people with the gospel using effective church communications. Bryan and his family enjoy Michigan summers, Detroit sports, and spending time outdoors.

Faith Nostbakken - Holy Places for Everyday People

It may often seem in our busyness that we must seek out quiet places of worship or pilgrimage sites to experience the holy, but sacredness is all around us. Our invitation is to wake up, slow down, and attend in order to appreciate and experience the richness of God's presence enlivening everyday life.

Faith is an experienced spiritual director and a member of the leadership team for the two-year spiritual direction training program at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. She is a diaconal minister and ecumenical officer in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and a graduate of Newman Theological College (MTS). Her personal passions include rich conversation, poetry, photography, music, and dance.

Arlette Zinck – Sacred Spaces for Correction and Learning

We are all so much more than the worst thing we have ever done. This is true for all of us, and our faith teaches us to make corrections, to move beyond our mistakes. But what about the imprisoned? The rules that animate our self-understanding often collapse under the fear and anger that comes with serious crime and the suffering it causes. For the past five years, a team of local academics have been teaching and learning beside a small group of maximum security inmates. This work has taught us to expand our view of "sacred space" to include locations where the incarcerated find belonging, care and support. In this session we will consider what scriptures tell about prisons and prisoners and think about how we, the church, might be more Christlike in our relationships to them.

Arlette is an Associate Professor of English and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at The King’s University. She and her colleagues also volunteer with The Correctional Services of Canada to teach post-secondary courses to incarcerated learners at The Edmonton Institution. Her work with prisoners was recognized in 2012 with a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal and with a 3M Teaching Fellowship, Canada’s highest recognition for excellence in post-secondary teaching, in 2018.
Tom Baird – Sacred Spaces of Renewal

As the church faces declining membership and diminishing cultural impact, many are asking the question God put to the prophet Ezekiel: “Can these dry bones live again?” The answer then was “yes,” and the answer today is “yes”. By the Spirit of God our lives, our churches, and our classis can be renewed and revitalized. But how? That is what this seminar seeks to address.

Tom has been a pastor for over three decades. He witnessed the Spirit of God affect growth and increase the missional impact of Fellowship Church of St. Thomas, Ontario, where he served for 21 years. He has witnessed the same Spirit-work in Bethel Community Church of Edmonton where he has served for six years. Tom is the chair of the Classis Home Missions Committee and has spearheaded the Church Renewal Lab effort that is helping churches throughout Classis pursue renewal and revitalization.

Debbie Fawcett - Finding God in Prison – When It’s Not a Cliché

This workshop will give a brief description of the reintegration work done by the Mustard Seed and a personal story of faith from people on both sides of the relationship.

The Open Door, a reintegration work of The Mustard Seed, supports men and women leaving prison and coming back to the community. Debbie Fawcett has been a reintegration chaplain for a number of years and has been privileged to accompany women as they prepare to be released and are released. Stephanie W. will join her to share about her journey as she has engaged the support of a reintegration chaplain.

Danielle Steenwyk-Rowaan & Cindy Stover - Radical Hospitality: Overcoming Privilege and Fear to Become Communities of Welcome

How can we cultivate ‘sacred/kairos moments’ where we ‘wake up’ to our privilege rather than going through the motions in a world that is pre-set around power, prestige and possessions. How can we put ourselves into learning experiences where God breaks through our status quo and our hearts are broken by the disparities of how ‘the other’ experiences the world? These moments should transform and call us to action. One practical way to take action, in the face of the rising fear of refugee claimants, is to practise radical hospitality that casts out fear and moves towards giving up our privilege and our attachment to the status quo, for the sake of the beloved other. The workshop will include exercises and myth busting to help us learn what it means to welcome the stranger and to ‘have eyes to see’ moments where privilege is at play in the world.

Danielle is the Justice Communications Team Coordinator for the CRC, working for the Centre for Public Dialogue, Office of Social Justice, Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee, and the Office of Race Relations. Danielle dreams of a CRC where people of all ethnicities belong and is continuously learning how to live into our call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Danielle loves connecting cross-culturally; her perspective is changed by friends and mentors from many backgrounds. Danielle enjoys biking and local food.

Cindy is the Justice Mobilizer for the CRC in Canada. Having grown up in Northern Ontario, she’s a country girl at heart, but also loves her close-knit neighbourhood in downtown Hamilton, where she is a part of Eucharist Church. She holds a MA of Theology in Urban and International Development from Wycliffe College at the UofT, where she was first welcomed into CRC Campus Ministries. Cindy is interested in seeing people realize God’s call to enact justice and mercy in every area of our lives, from how we shop, to how we talk to our neighbours, to how our churches respond to the most vulnerable. She can often be found reading a good book around a campfire, or watching a BBC miniseries with a cup of tea.
**Bryan Haley - Leading While Not in Charge**

As ministry leaders, you're busy. You have a long list of things to do, and not enough time in the day to complete them all. Communicating to your church members is just one more thing that you try and do well, but sometimes it can seem like an impossible task. Why does communication and marketing make a difference? Does "communication" really matter? Together, we'll dive into how good communication can help your ministry thrive and what you can do to make communication at your church a streamlined process, without adding hours to your workload.

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**Gerald Van Smeerdyk – Where are the Military’s Sacred Places?**

We all are called to have a ministry of presence where we are and can create those spaces we live out, to be sacred. That way we can connect with God and our neighbours, coworkers, friends, but what about our enemies?

Capt. Gerald Van Smeerdyk is a CRC Chaplain with the Canadian Armed Force. He is an ordained minister of the Christian Reformed Church. On Feb. 11, 2008, he was commissioned as an officer in the Canadian Forces, and moved to Ottawa where he began serving as a military chaplain. In the summer of 2010, he moved to his posting in Edmonton, Alberta and in 2018 was transferred to CFB Suffield in Southern Alberta.

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**Peter Bulthuis - CRC Sacred Spaces in Canada: Where from, Where to?**

“We shape our buildings, thereafter, they shape us.” (Winston Churchill, Oct., 1943). Christian Reformed congregations have been building churches since before 1910. Built for worship and community (and embodying theology), they can enable and restrict both. This workshop will illustrate where CRC sanctuaries have come from, how they have changed, and how they engage with 21-st century worship, theology and community needs…especially community needs.

I was a teacher, VP and principal at three Christian High Schools in Ontario for almost 40 years, as well as a geography lecturer at Redeemer. I retired from being a formal educator in 2013. I have always loved teaching geography, and getting to know and share the “good, the bad and the ugly” of human relationships and development. Because of that love, God first told me to volunteer on the World Renew/CRWRC board from 1992 – 2000; God has since lead me to return there as a staff person, where I am the Associate Director of Church Relations. This position has continued to allow me to share what God is doing around the world. (Now…the church building part…) I have been involved with the CRC in Canada all my life (that’s about 65+ years!). I have also had the privilege of visiting a large number of CRC congregations across Canada. I have always had a huge spiritual fascination in church architecture, and how it represents, facilitates and houses our communities and our worship. All of those factors culminated and combined in my desire to compile, catalogue and interpret every CRC church/worship building, past and present, in Canada. Yup! All 250+ of them.
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Any questions, contact: Jesse Edgington – NADC Consultant

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