

Considering Ways of Being Church

AMID THE NEW URBANISM

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

- 1:30pm Check-in and Sign-up for Workshops
- 2:00pm Opening and Keynote Presentation
"Beyond Social Christianity, an Introduction to the Concern"
 Dr. Wendy Fletcher, Principal-Dean of VST
"A Post/Pre Colonial Christianity"
 Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, Radio's own "Radical Rev'd,"
 and MPP for Parkdale-High Park, Toronto
- 3:30pm Coffee and Snacks
- 3:45pm Workshops: Session 1 (*see following for descriptions*)
 A. Church as Commune: Tim Otto & Rick DiMicco, Church of the Sojourners
 B. Christian Resources for Grassroots Capacity-Building: Matthew Guynn,
 On Earth Peace & Denominational Staff of Church of the Brethren
 C. Being Church Among the Marginalized: Kathi Bentall, The Listening Post &
 Rivendell Retreat
 D. The Vowed Life: Martin Brokenleg & Shane Bengry, The Community of St.
 Michael, the Archangel (Benedictine) with Chris Dierkes, former Jesuit (2000-04)
 E. Sabeel, Palestinian Liberation Theology
- 4:45pm Coffee and Snacks
- 5:00pm Workshops: Session 2
 A. A Healing Community: Killian Noe & David Shull, Recovery Café & Samaritan
 Inns
 B. Ministry Amidst Gentrification: Jason Byassee, Observer of the New
 Monasticism at The Christian Century
 C. Emerging—23 Years in the Life of an Ecumenical, Lay-Led Congregation:
 Kathleen Remund, Community of St. Martin & St. Martin's Table
 D. Christian Peacemaker Teams: Anita Fast
 E. Jacob's Well
- 6:00pm Dinner (*catering by Potluck Catering*)
- 7:00pm Closing Keynote
Church for the 21st/22nd Centurion, Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo
- 8:15pm Taize Liturgy (*for those who wish to attend*)

THE FAIR EMERGENT CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

From dispersed lay orders to street ministries to intentional communities and the new asceticism: these are but a few examples of an emergent Christianity that are reshaping our understanding of “church.” Presented as a six hour mini-fair, this conference showcases practices and theologies engaged by various North American communities for living Christian faith in this era of global cities.

Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo is the former senior minister at Emmanuel Howard Church in Toronto. She hosted a weekly radio show entitled the “Radical Reverend Show.” In 2006 she was elected to Queen’s Park as the NDP representative of the provincial riding of Parkdale – High Park. In this work, Cheri has been most recognized in her leadership to end poverty in Ontario with the Living Wage Bill and Payday Lending Bill. She received her M.Div. from the University of Toronto and her D.Min. from Toronto School of Theology.



Introducing the Concern of the Day

The Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher is the Principal and Dean of Vancouver School of Theology. Wendy holds a B.A. degree from the University of Western Ontario, a M.Div. (Honours) degree from Huron College at the University of Western Ontario and a Ph.D. from the University of St. Michael’s College. Her most recent book, *Like Water on a Rock: Gender Integration in Canadian Anglicanism* was published by artemis enterprises.

Workshops:

Please arrive early to allow yourself time to sign up for the workshop selections offered by the various groups presenting at the conference.

Workshops: Session 1

A. Church as Commune: Tim Otto & Rick DiMicco, Church of the Sojourners

This seminar will explore the practices and theology of how sharing time, money, and space might be an especially helpful embodiment of the church in the city. The presenters will draw on their experience of life together at the Church of the Sojourners in San Francisco, the book of Deuteronomy, and Anabaptist theology—especially the thinking of John Howard Yoder. Tim Otto (MTS, Duke Divinity) is a leader at the Church of the Sojourners, a home health nurse, and co-author of *Inhabiting the Church: Biblical Wisdom for a New Monasticism*. Rick DiMicco has been active in the recovery community for many years and works at Walden House in San Francisco, a therapeutic community for adolescent males.

B. Christian Resources for Grassroots Capacity-Building: Matthew Guynn, On Earth Peace & Denominational Staff of Church of the Brethren
Reflections on initiatives for resisting militarism and generating positive alternatives for youth will provide the core of this engaging and interactive workshop, where we will identify together resources and practices for Christian-rooted grassroots capacity building. The Rev. Matt Guynn, representative of the Church of the Brethren to the World Council of Churches’ US Committee for the Decade to Overcome Violence (2000-2010), is also coordinator of peace witness for On Earth Peace, the peace education and action agency of the Church of the Brethren, where he helps congregations develop spiritually-rooted and vital ministries to address violence and injustice. Matt previously worked as co-coordinator of training for Christian Peacemaker Teams’ (CPT) Mexico project.

C. Being Church Among the Marginalized: Kathi Bentall, The Listening Post & Rivendell Retreat

This seminar explores a practical way of being church in the inner city by sharing the story of “The Listening Post” in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. The Listening Post supports people’s spiritual journey outside of formal church structures or affiliation. Also linked to this work in the inner city is the unusual retreat place, Rivendell Retreat, on Bowen Island, which operates with a volunteer community.

D. The Vowed Life: Martin Brokenleg & Shane Bengry, The Community of St. Michael, the Archangel (Benedictine) with Chris Dierkes, former Jesuit (2000-04)

Living a vowed life requires the choice to follow an agreed set of customs and rules, such as that of Benedict of Nursia or Ignatius of Loyola. This session explores the dynamics of living by a rule—as distinct from individual preference, family custom, or denominational expectation, a practice contrary to western culture.

E. Sabeel, Palestinian Liberation Theology Centre

The reality of global cities results in political, religious, and cultural tensions and violences. The city of Jerusalem in Israel/Palestine is a prime example. This workshop will explore how Sabeel (Arabic for “the way”) seeks to “do church” by helping Palestinian Christians find non-violent ways to resist oppression and work for justice in a war-torn land. Nora Carmi is a Palestinian Christian from Jerusalem who coordinates community and women’s programs for Sabeel (www.sabeel.org).

Workshops: Session 2

A. A Healing Community: Killian Noe & David Shull, Recovery Café & Samaritan Inns

Killian Noe is the co-founder of Samaritan Inns, a non-profit organization operating healing communities in Washington, D.C., as well as Founding Director of Recovery Café, a healing community for men and women recovering from homelessness, addiction and other mental health challenges, in Seattle. The Rev. Dave Shull (United Church of Christ), teacher and licensed social worker, currently serves as Dean of the Transformation Program of Recovery Café’s School of Recovery.

B. Ministry Amidst Gentrification: Jason Byassee, Observer of the New Monasticism at The Christian Century

Assistant editor for *The Christian Century* and director of the initiative in Theology and Media at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, Jason Byassee will offer a composite sketch of ministries undertaken in response to the new urbanism and specifically in response to gentrification in the neighborhood of the Chicago Loop.

C. Emerging—23 Years in the Life of an Ecumenical, Lay-Led Congregation: Kathleen Remund, Community of St. Martin & St. Martin’s Table

The Community of St. Martin is an ecumenical, lay-led worshipping community. Founded in 1984, the Community is based in urban Minneapolis and emphasizes nonviolence, social justice and care for the earth as core spiritual commitments. The Community also runs a nonprofit bookstore and whole foods restaurant that donates approximately \$2000/month to programs committed to ending hunger. Kathleen Remund, a graduate of and employed by United Theological Seminary, was a founding member of the Community.

D. Christian Peacemaker Teams: Anita Fast

What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking as armies devote to war? CPT attempts to do just that in situations of violence world wide. Could CPT become a model for “doing church” in our own urban realities? Anita Fast (MTS from and Registrar of VST) volunteered with CPT in Occupied Palestine (1999-2002); she currently serves on the consultative committee for the Interfaith Summer Institute (Vancouver), and the Board of the Brethren/Mennonite Council for LGBT interests in Canada.

E. Jacob’s Well (invited, not yet confirmed)

(see over)

Additional Information

Potluck Catering

Potluck Catering is a professional, full service catering company located in the heart of downtown Vancouver. A licensed charitable organization, 100% of proceeds from their catering services go directly to funding employment training and meal programs for residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Today, Potluck provides training and full time employment for ten formerly at-risk Downtown Eastside residents.

Registration

If you have not already registered, online registration is available at www.vst.edu

A very special thank-you goes out to our generous co-sponsors:

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