

Day of Encouragement - 2016

Keynote speaker Loren Wilkinson

October 29, at The King's University



CO-LABOURERS WITH CHRIST: Pig Farmers, Potato growers, Fishers of men
- what can we steward together that we can not do apart?

Brochure and Registration info available at:
www.diaconalministries.com or on the
Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference
Facebook page:

Costs:	Full Day	Under 30	1/2 Day
Early Bird:	\$50	\$30	\$25
After Oct 14:	\$60	\$40	\$25

Keynote Address with: Dr. Loren Wilkinson

How Are Humans Good for Creation?

That God is good is something we can be very sure of.
That creation is good--indeed, very good--we are told
repeatedly in Genesis 1.

And we know that God intends us to be good as well.

But what does the goodness of we humans mean for creation? Or, to put it more bluntly: Are humans good for creation? Or bad for creation? The answer to that question certainly begins with day-to-day matters of stewardship: decisions about what and how we eat, drive, and build. But it extends far beyond these matters of use. If the earth (in Paul's words in Romans 8) waits in "eager expectation" for we sons and daughters of God to be what we were created and redeemed to be—how would that fulfilled expectation be "good news" for the earth?

We will explore this big topic in both sessions—but dwell more on the questions in the morning, and some answers in the afternoon. We will range from the small (why are meals important, and not just food?) to the big: what politicians, policies and economies should we encourage? What might the gospel imply for what we do with all of that dirty bitumen in the north of the province?

Rick Abma After serving the Woody Nook CRC for 18 years, Rick, his wife Joyce and their four children have become missionaries in the neighbourhoods of Central Alberta. As a professional broadcaster, Rick hosts a show on Central Alberta's, Sunny 94. He also roasts "Good Neighbour Coffee" and offers other tools that bring neighbourhoods together for the sake of Christ. Rick and his family look to creatively re-imagine our role in the neighbourhood, making the gospel more accessible to the many who do not participate in Christ's body.

Ken Bosveld has been a part of Carpenters and Friends since 2010, has worked as the Volunteer Coordinator for Service Link (of the CRCNA) and has been involved in community newspaper organizations.

Rich deLange is in his 25th year of serving as a CRC pastor, and **Hilary Smith** is in her fourth year, both currently at Trinity Church in Edmonton. They believe that without prayer--seeking God's face and His leading in ministry--the Church cannot be all that God has in mind. In fact, it won't have God's power. Rich has been deeply blessed by the denominational prayer summits and has been working with Hilary and others in our classis to create a growing prayer movement.

Ron DeVries is the Youth Ministry Consultant for the Christian Reformed Church in Northern Alberta and has fulfilled this calling for 9 years. Ron also serves the Christian Reformed denomination as a Faith Formation Catalyzer for the entire province of Alberta and has recently taken on the role as co-director for the Christian Reformed Church in a pilot project overseeing Canadian Youth Ministries. In all, Ron has served in the various youth ministry roles both in the local church and on the denominational level for the last 24 years. Both roles allow him to engage with congregations, teaching and interacting on topics focused on the faith nurturing journeys of God's children. His primary focus has been on equipping leaders who serve churches ministering to youth and young adults aged from 12-30. Ron has been married to Monique for 31 years and they have two children, Amanda and Shawn who are both married, Amanda to Matt, and Shawn to Roxanne.

Neil de Koning is Pastor at Woody Nook CRC in Lacombe and has written the book *GUIDING THE FAITH JOURNEY*. He previously served churches in Calgary, AB and Sarnia, ON. Neil grew up in Toronto, Ontario, with 3 sisters and 3 brothers. After graduating from the University of Toronto and the ICS (Institute for Christian Studies), he attended Calvin Seminary where he received his M. Div degree. Neil is married to Klaaske deGroot and together they have 4 married children and 8 grandchildren. Neil enjoys photography, reading, and woodworking in his free time.

Lucinda Klapwyk works for Diaconal Ministries Canada as the Edmonton area Diaconal Ministry Developer. She holds a degree in Social work. Married to Mike, she is a mom of 3, and a member of Inglewood CRC in Edmonton.

Ron Klok is a Pastor in the Christian Reformed Church. In conjunction with King's University, and with others, he is launching a new school for spiritual direction called The Studion. He is currently pursuing a degree in pastoral psychology and counseling, owns a finishing carpentry company, and grows a pretty mean vegetable garden including super-sweet Taber corn!

Ron Knol has experience as a manager of retail operations, executive director of various charities, director on various charity boards, g.m. of a sports team, and consultant work in planned giving & estate planning. This unique set of skills which, when joined with his business and law degrees, makes for an interesting portfolio. He now works for Cornerstone Counselling Centre in Community Engagement.

Michelle Kool is part of the Elders Ministry Team and is passionate about discipleship and faith formation. She has served Classis Alberta North in a variety of ministerial ways including regular preaching, serving on the Classis Interim Committee, participating in pastoral study groups and the Classis Prayer Summit. She studied at Calvin Seminary and is married with three children.

Willard Metzger is Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada. The rich experiences of engagement across Christian expression and travels to over 70 countries provides the platform for discussing how giving of oneself is the forgotten key to fulfillment and contentment.

Joanne Moyer is an assistant professor of Environmental Studies and Geography at The King's University. Her recent research explores faith-based organizations engaged in environmental work in Kenya and Canada. She has worked with the Mennonite Central Committee and currently serves as a council member for the Mennonite Creation Care Network.

Michelle Nieviadomy is a member of the Kawacatoose Cree First Nation. While her roots are in Saskatchewan, she has been living in Edmonton for the past 16 years. In 2013, she received an Esquao Award-Clara Woodridge Community Involvement for her work within the Indigenous community. She is the Assistant Director of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre where she has worked with the urban Indigenous community for over 13+ years. She is also involved in various programs around social justice. She is passionate about social justice, community development & Zumba!!

Greg Sinclair is an ordained CRC pastor and a former missionary to Mali, West Africa. Greg now leads Salaam 2.0 – a ministry of Christian Reformed World Missions that helps congregations engage with their Muslim neighbours through education, dialogue, and training in outreach. Greg is married to Nelly. They have four children and live in Hamilton, ON. Greg and Nelly attend New Hope church – a church plant in the east end of Hamilton.

Elly VanAlten is a retired registered nurse with experience in psycho-geriatrics and mental illness. She also struggles with her own disabilities from osteoarthritis and fibromyalgia. She is the Regional Advocate for Disability Concerns for Classis Alberta North and a member of Trinity CRC in Edmonton.

Karri Munn-Venn is the Senior Policy Analyst at Citizens for Public Justice, a national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy. She is also a gardener, adventurer, and avid knitter. Karri lives in Ottawa with her husband and three children.

Rachel Vroege is the Regional Ministry Developer for Western Canada for Diaconal Ministries Canada. Her work includes equipping churches and deacons in justice, benevolence and community ministry. Rachel and her husband Russ have two children, Micah and Aaliyah and live in Chilliwack, BC.

Reverend Annabelle Wallace is the minister at Westmount Presbyterian Church. She came to Westmount in 2009. Prior to this ministry she was doing New Church Development in Northeast Edmonton. For 16 years she was in a team ministry at St. Andrew's in Saskatoon. Prior to studying at Vancouver School of Theology she was a Diaconal Minister with training in Christian Education and worked in BC and Ontario.

Karen Wilk has been a vocational pastor in Edmonton for 30 years and has a Doctorate in Missional Leadership from Northern Seminary (Chicago). She works with Home Missions (of the CRCNA) as well as Forge Canada in helping congregations learn and discern new ways to join God in their neighbourhoods and follow God in mission together. She is also a neighbour, wife, mom, pastor of N.E.W. (Neighbourhood Engagement Workers') Community and President of her neighbourhood Community League.

Loren E. Wilkinson Professor Emeritus of Interdisciplinary Studies & Philosophy at Regent College. He was an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Seattle Pacific College and a Fellow at Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship. Loren's teaching interests include Christianity and the arts, philosophy, and earthkeeping. He has written many scholarly and popular articles developing a Christian environmental ethic and exploring the human relationship to the natural world in its environmental, aesthetic, scientific, and religious dimensions. His books include *Earthkeeping: Christian Stewardship of Natural Resources and Caring for Creation in Your Own Backyard* (co-authored with Mary-Ruth Wilkinson). He is currently working on a book entitled *Circles and the Cross: A Trinitarian Response to Some Contemporary Religious Movements*. Loren Wilkinson lives on Galiano Island with his wife Mary-Ruth. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

AM Workshops 10:30 — 12 noon >>>>>>>>

AM #1

Finding our Way as Elders:

Context, Practices and Vision. Elders are called to provide leadership to the community of Christ followers. The church order mandates certain practices as a way to engage our call. But we all know that what worked so well in the past does not work as well in our present context. While the vision to form disciples for

Christ remains, the way we practice our call is changing. We will explore key practices that give shape to our lives today and how elders can encourage the development of these practices.

- With Michelle Kool and Neil deKoning

AM #2

(Cree)ation Care:

A response to our ecological crisis from a Cree perspective. Using story & teachings to demonstrate creation care by the Original stewards of this land.

- With Michelle Nieviadomy

AM #3

Building Blocks of Faith:

Discipleship is a “fuzzy animal” because it is both holistic and organic, and therefore difficult to get a handle on. A recently developed concept entitled “The Building Blocks of Faith” provides tools for assessing and strategizing congregational discipleship while honouring its holistic and organic character. This workshop will describe the concept and also provide tools for working with it in congregational ministry for all ages.

- With Ron DeVries

AM #4

What Guides How We Give?

This workshop is based on the latest book by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett: *Helping Without Hurting*, in *Church Benevolence*. This book is a practical guide for exploring "the principles for poverty alleviation in the local church context... designed for groups directly engaged with people seeking financial assistance and how to tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ".

Our time together will provide you with information on a best practice approach to church benevolence. There will also be time for discussion on these principles and how work in your diaconate.

- With Lucinda Klapwyk

AM #5

What's Next In Loving Your Neighbour?

The world is changing and labels like post-modern and post-Christian make that clear. How is the church to understand and respond to these adaptive challenges and thus steward her time and resources well? Perhaps it begins by learning again how to listen, discern and experiment as the people of God called to participate in the Spirit's work right where we live. Discuss and reflect on the 'posts,' the questions and, experience a 'taste' of a discernment journey in this workshop.

- With Karen Wilk

AM #6

A Toolbox to Equip Elders to Pray:

Hilary Smith and Rich deLange are pastors at Trinity CRC in Edmonton. Together they will share some practices that are ongoing but have helped Trinity build a stronger prayer ministry that seeks to exalt God. This workshop aims to equip church leaders and other members grow the prayer ministry in their churches, to help us understand the significant power of prayer for the church and to ignite or reignite a passion for prayer in our churches.

PM Workshops 1:45 — 3:15 pm >>>>>>>>

PM #1

Reclaiming the “Vast Territory” of the Soul. Spiritual Direction and the Real Work of an Elder:

Has the church given up on the work of the soul, and farmed it out to secular psychology and medical science? Why do we feel so inadequate when it comes to “mental health?” Have we forgotten the rightful place of feeling and affectivity in the spiritual life? Do we even know how to deal with another’s inner life? How can we begin to reclaim the vast territory of the soul, and how can spiritual direction help us?

- With Ron Klok

PM #2

It’s In You to Give:

Because we were made in the image of God, we are happiest when we cooperate with the yearnings God has already planted deep within us. Come discover how sacrificial living is linked to our created purpose as children of God.

- With Willard Metzger

PM #3

Watershed Discipleship: A Faithful Response to a Hurting Planet.

From the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to the Pope’s Encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, the signs that our planet is in trouble are growing. The challenge for many is figuring out how to respond. This workshop explores watershed discipleship, a creation care approach rooted in our local context. Watershed discipleship encourages us to become intimately knowledgeable about and connected to our bioregion, ensuring its wellbeing and adapting our needs to what our watershed can provide.

- With Joanne Moyer

PM #4

Advocacy and Creation Care: Lessons from the 2016 Climate Change Consultations.

We are all connected to climate change. God calls us to love and care for all the Earth. To respond to the human and ecological devastation of climate change with love and justice.

The Canadian government held climate change consultations over several months this year. Thousands of Canadians participated, including hundreds of CPJ supporters and congregations engaged with the CRCNA’s Climate Witness project. A pan-Canadian climate action plan – scheduled to take effect in 2017 – is now being developed.

In this workshop, we will explore how we, as Christians, are called to respond to the climate crisis. We will look at climate change as a justice issue, delve into our own stories, learn about the climate consultation process, and experiment with ways to participate in climate advocacy – and make a real difference.

-With Karri Munn-Venn

PM #5

BEING A DEACON:

“Deacons, I charge you to inspire us, remind us, teach us, prompt us, realize benevolence, minister, encourage us, be prophetic critics, be sensitive counselors.”

These are the challenging words spoken to every deacon at their ordination in the CRC. But what do they mean? And what now? How? Rachel and Harvey will facilitate a workshop to learn and discover and share.

Whether you are a first year deacon or multi term deacon Come!.

- With Rachel Vroege

PM #6

Walking in Faithfulness:

When we look at a passage like Deuteronomy 6:4-9, it is packed with so much history, but when we look at from a faith nurturing context today, what might this text be teaching us? Join us for a conversation around this topic and how these words might inspire us in our own faith nurturing journey’s with those who are placed in our lives.

- With Ron DeVries

Information Sessions (12:30—1:30 pm) >>>>>

Info 1

Building Homes and Community:

In walking with the Westmount Presbyterian congregation, we worked at answering the question “What is God calling us to at this time and in this place?” The answer led us to working with Edmonton Inner City Housing to build housing for large families and having space in a common building for worship and programs. In this workshop we will hear the story of moving ahead with God.

- With Reverend Annabelle Wallace

Info 2

Compassion or Conversion? Justice and mercy and Syrian refugees:

This workshop will involve a discussion around the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and how we balance these when dealing with refugees – many of whom are Muslims. There will also be practical advice on how to initiate relationships with Muslims and Mosque leaders and engage in spiritual conversations and interfaith dialogue.

- With Greg Sinclair

Info 3

Relating to Persons with Dementia:

Relating to someone with dementia can be a challenge. This is an opportunity to get a better understanding of the effect of dementia on the person experiencing it, and what we can do/say to make relating to them and journeying with them more effective. You will both be blessed for having been together.

- With Elly VanAlten

Info 4

We all Need to Know How to Steward our Finances:

Would you like to become financially independent? Are you having financial difficulties? Or, would you like to be sure to avoid problems with money? As the disparity between the rich and poor increases every year and as economies go through downturns, many are falling into financial hard times by unwittingly breaking the three simple financial rules described by author Ted Boers. Anyone's financial situation can be improved by putting these rules into practice. No matter what your circumstances may be, this workshop will help you to follow God's plan for financial stewardship.

- With Ron Knol

Info 5

Community Development, Working to Alleviate Poverty and Drinking Coffee:

Have you heard of the popular phrases and words like micro finance, free/fair trade and direct from farmer? These all speak to issues of justice and involve aspects of stewarding money, resources and the people that grow, make and sell products. Join us in a work shop that tells the unique story about the coffee businesses of the Carpenteros and Friends and how they have connections reaching all the way from farmers in Honduras to people in Ontario and Classis Alberta North. You will hear stories about how these partnerships formed, how the businesses got running and what some of the actual logistics that an enterprise like this involves.

- With Rick Abma and video guest Ken Bosveld