

# New Shoots from Old Roots

## RURAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE

November 2011 – Entheos Retreat Centre, Alberta

### SUMMARIES OF CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AND DELEGATE EVALUATIONS

#### WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE?

Females	22
Males	34
Total	56

BC	1
AB	25
SK	16
MB	8
ON	4
NL	1
US	1
Total	56

Alliance	1
Anglican	7
Baptist	1
Lutheran	12
Mennonite	9
Presbyterian	4
Catholic	1
Salvation Army	2
United Church	17
Unknown	2
Total	56

Committee	8	Note: overlaps occur between these categories
Workshop leaders	12	
Worship Leaders	4	
Keynotes	2	
Panellists	2	
paying judicatories	5	
pianist	1	
paying delegates	28	
guests	3	



**Written comments to the question: What ideas did you pickup up that will help your situation?**

- \*a very freeing paradigm of what the church can (and should be)
- \*fascinated with home church idea; intriguing notions around enhancing communities
- \*church can be outside of church
- \*alternatives to structured worship
- \*ways to further Bible study - that those who have done a bible study to lead in home small groups
- \*specific examples and instructions (i.e. 'intentional' 'hermen')
- \*great talk but felt a little devalued as clergy in a building
- \*excellent

**Second Address by Rev. David Webber**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total number of evaluators	10										
Number of Ratings (per category)					1			2	4	3	
Average Rating	8.7										

**Written comments to the question: What ideas did you pickup up that will help your situation?**

- \*much information about small groups
- \*absolutely arresting and challenging and wow! A start, a cattle prod to doing something new.
- \*clarity of his vision as transportable suggestions.
- \*ways to empower the ministry of laity

**WORKSHOPS:****1. Vibrant Rural Churches - A Decade Later**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total number of evaluators	3										
Number of Ratings (per category)									1	2	
Average Rating	9.7										

**Written Comments to the question: What did you take away from this workshop?**

- \*refreshing - truly honouring/respecting strengths and contributions and setting it free plus enabling it
- \*next step for our small congregation task force and ideas for home congregation

**2. The Gifts of the Small Church**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total number of evaluators	9										
Number of Ratings (per category)					1			2	3	3	
Average Rating	8.7										

**Written comments to the question: What did you take away from this workshop?**

- \*the assurance that we are important
- \*sermon ideas; community service ideas
- \*felt like they were trying to sell small to the 'choir' - folks already doing that work. Handouts were good.
- \*collegiality and sharing
- \*celebrating strengths of small

**3. Judicatory Workshop**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total number of evaluators	2										
Number of Ratings (per category)								1	1		
Average Rating	8.5										

**Written comments to the question: What did you take away from this workshop?**

- \*a realization that almost everything depends on your judicatory and the permission it either gives or withholds
- \*realizing similarities



**Written comments to the question: What did you take away from this workshop?**

- \*the feeling that problems can be solved
- \*clear, organized, open to questions
- \*another useful model; strategies for a wide parish model

**10. Aboriginal Ministries in a Rural Context**

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of evaluators	9										
Number of Ratings (per category)						1		2	1	3	2
Average Rating	8.2										

**Written comments to the question: What did you take away from this workshop?**

- \*excellent
- \*I need to learn more about my Canadian history
- \*it is in the story and sharing of stories - listen to others, own your own
- \*we need more of this

**OPEN SPACE DISCUSSIONS:**

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of evaluators (6 recorded numerical evaluation, 8 recorded comments)	6										
Number of Ratings (per category)						1		3	1		1
Average Rating	6.5										

**Wheat Board**

- \*Very charged
- \*as confused as I was before going
- \*helpful

**Pastoral Care**

- \*Lots of wonderful sharing
- \* need to encourage interdenominational trust for support and sounding boards
- \*Better training for clergy needed in self-care and personal mental health
- \*good, but 'facilitator' ought to have been the one to lead

**Keystone Pipeline****Aboriginal People and Resources Sharing**

- \*it was wide ranging

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS:**

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of evaluators	19										
Number of Ratings (per category)						1			5	9	4
Average Rating	8.7										

**Written comments to the question: What was helpful to you?**

- \*focus on what is important to inner resources of the people in your community
- \*useful suggestions
- \*updates and personal touches to national stories
- \*both presenters were excellent
- \*good story sharing (1); story telling prompting imagination (1)
- \*learning about innovative initiatives

**VENUE:****Accommodations**

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of evaluators	16										
Number of Ratings (per category)									2	7	7
Average Rating	9.3										
<b>Written recommendations:</b> *just a touch chilly *don't think it could be improved											
<b>Meeting Facilities</b>											

**Meeting Facilities**

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of evaluators	19										
Number of Ratings (per category)									3	7	9
Average Rating	9.3										
<b>Written recommendations:</b> *just a touch chilly *don't think it could be improved											

**Meals**

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of evaluators	19										
Number of Ratings (per category)									3	4	12
Average Rating	9.5										
<b>Written recommendations:</b> *don't think it could be improved											

**FUTURE PLANNING:****a) What follow-up would you like to see?**

- \* Let us know when Jung's book comes out
- \* More workshops on self-care
- \* Very comfortable setting - keep us the quality
- \* Power Point presentations available on CiRCLe M website and links to it on the CRCN website
- \* Continue to hold events to increase awareness. Many who need to come didn't - we have to expand the base.

**b) Do you have any suggestions for future conferences? ( comments)****Topics:**

- \*virtual community as rural community/Changing church in rural community Fresh Expressions
- \* more on small groups in small places
- \* forging ecumenical/inter-faith partnerships
- \* including people with disabilities

**Location:**

- \* Calling Lakes Fort Qu'Appelle
- \* Strawberry Creek by Edmonton
- \* Shekinah by Saskatoon

**Activities:**

- \* could we bake bread together?
- \* using the arts in worship (as per Lois Seimens)

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?**

- \*Cam Harder Presentation, MNO Synod Prof Leaders 2011
- \*St. Andrews College Learning CiRCLe
- \*CiRCLe M Newsletter
- \*Rural Ministry Symposium
- \*Email
- \*CiRCLe M Board - Western Conference
- \*Through our Minister

**OTHER COMMENTS:**

- \*very good job/excellent conference (2)
- \*loved the free time available
- \*both main presenters were excellent
- \*sorry to be able to catch only 1 day of conference
- \*thank you for great variety in workshops (2)
- \*excellent venue
- \*music and worship were outstanding - varied source, superbly fitted to conference theme, participatory, instruments, booklets
- \*good mix of free time, breaks, spacing, length
- \*time of year - good
- \*book and other displays - good
- \*cards and photos by Lois - great
- \*audiovisual/teach support - good