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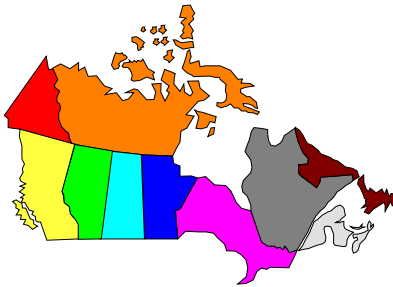
ELCIC Parish Calls First ECP Intern

Dear Friends: in an overwhelming show of support, the congregation of Holy Cross voted today (Feb 12, 2006) to call Lionel Ketola as our Intern under the Extraordinary Candidacy Program (making Lionel the first in Canada) The vote surprised everyone: just one person voted against the motion..

Pastor Dawn Hutchings

A Newmarket Ontario parish has become the first ELCIC congregation to call an openly queer-identified Intern from the roster of the Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP). In an overwhelming show of support, Holy Cross Lutheran church in Newmarket Ontario voted to call ECP candidate Lionel Ketola as its Intern. This marks the first time a Canadian congregation has taken such a step and represents a significant development for the Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP).

The ECP was founded in 1993 as a movement of "ecclesial disobedience" to the unjust policies of the



Lutherans Concerned Canada -

Statement of Sanctuary

The ministry of Lutherans Concerned, its meetings and its mailing list are protected by our understanding of sanctuary. No participants need fear exposure or abuse in subscribing, joining or attending Lutherans Concerned events.

All information which individuals may reveal about themselves is to be honoured by others with total confidentiality. Mutual trust and respect, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, is offered to all who may elsewhere experience alienation, distrust or rejection. For the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to this sanctuary.



Walter Rothenburger, LC/Toronto convener, presents Lionel's husband, Steven Loweth, with a rainbow stole to be kept in trust.

Lutheran churches which require lifelong celibacy of openly queer candidates serving Lutheran congregations. The ECP certifies and rosters openly-identified queer pastors and seminarians who refuse to be in compliance with ELCIC and ELCA policies which require that they hide their sexual orientation, marriages and families from their congregations and church

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Insert Volunteer Form for Together In Toronto

officials. Almost 40 ECP pastors and seminarians are rostered with the ECP, many of whom are currently serving at various ministries in the ELCA. Lionel is the first Canadian seminarian to have requested inclusion on the ECP roster. Holy Cross is the first Lutheran congregation in Canada to have called an ECP candidate as an intern.



Ralph Wushke, member of the LC/Canadian Region leadership, with Lionel Ketola, at the reception following the service

Lionel, (43), married to Steven Loweth, a 41 year old music publisher, began his ELCIC candidacy process in 1985 and graduated (M Div) from the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon in 1990. Due to Lionel's openness regarding his sexual orientation his endorsement for ordination was removed in 1988.



Rev Ruth Bosch Becker is the convenor of the North Eastern Panel of the ECP. Rev Jon Fogleman preached at the installation.

Following seminary, Lionel worked for the next fourteen years in the non-profit sector through a variety of social service and church-related organizations, and later retrained as an arts therapist. In April 2004 Lionel was endorsed with the ECP as a candidate for ordained ministry. Having already completed his seminary education all that remained was completion of an internship in order to advance to the approval phase of the ECP candidacy process. Finding a placement became a two-year project for Lionel, who spoke with many congregations in an effort to find one that would welcome an intern from the ECP roster.

"This is a huge break-through for our Canadian sisters and brothers," said the Rev. Jeff R. Johnson, President of the ECP Board of Directors. "We are pleased that Holy Cross has taken this important step and that the ECP is able to expand its witness in this way."

Pastor Dawn Hutchings, serving Holy Cross Lutheran Church, is excited about this new direction in ministry for her congregation.

"Throughout this process, the leadership of the congregation has presented this ministry opportunity not only as a call to Lionel but as a call to the entire congregation to this exceptional ministry," she pointed out. "The overwhelming vote (only one dissenter) represents the congregation's determination to engage in this powerful witness to the LGBT community, the ELCIC at large and the suburban community in which we serve." "This opportunity would not have been possible," she explains, "without the ongoing support of advocates and friends across Canada and in the United States. We are delighted to be upheld by such a crowd of witnesses!"

"Without the support of Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries (LLGM) this internship would not have become a reality" Lionel offered. At it's January meeting in San Francisco the Board of Directors for Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries voted to approve funding for the landmark internship. Lionel offered that "Holy Cross has taken a courageous step modeling a vision of Gospel which could have a powerful impact on the wider community and especially for all who have been hurt by the church".

Lionel was installed as Vicar at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket ON on Sunday April 2nd, at 4:00 pm.

Congratulations to Lionel

Congratulations to Lionel Ketola and Holy Cross Lutheran Church on this candidacy call. The first time I met Lionel, he referred me to a book, ***Liminal Reality and Transformational Power***. Today I gladly refer back into the foreword of that book, as Lionel, with "the call to parish ministry" he could only read about, now experiences with his church "the parish (as) a rich context for the praxis of action and reflection."

The ELCIC has put outside of this Lutheran Church centred on Canadian soil too many of our most promising pastors - out into our Mission Fields, out into the United Church, out into government jobs. The irony is that being this Church "in Mission for Others", we should all, like Holy Cross Lutheran Church, be going out onto the peripherals

trusting that it is God who will hold the Centre.

The last time I talked about Lionel was in a conversation with my favourite retired bishop about how much the two of us had changed in the last 20 years in our knowings, in our speaking and listening, in our action and reflection. Today as I write up this note and my girlfriend reads through Bonhoeffer's thoughts on the "I" and the "Thou" and that which is between us, I project my hopes into her future call to a parish within this one Body. There are many of us, Lionel, who are glad with you and with your Church on this day.

-Sharon Lee Ellingsen
Chair, Lutherans
Concerned in Canada

LC/NA Executive Director Visits Folks in BC & AB

In the last 6 months, as the E.D. of LC/NA, I've visited three Canadian synods, two of those for the first time. Through my visits in the field and the efforts of our growing list of volunteers and trainees, LC/NA is continuing to develop valuable relationships throughout the

ELCIC. We are clearly making an impact in Lutheran and ecumenical circles. I'm not sure any of us really imagined the kind of difference we would be able to make for our organization or for the Lutheran and allied movements in North America for full participation. I am indeed proud of what we have done and will do as we head into our Biennial Assembly in Toronto in July.

As we look toward Toronto I think it only appropriate to lift up my recent excursion into British Columbia and Alberta. Through the hard work of Pastor Hergy at First Lutheran, our RIC congregation in Vancouver, I had a full schedule for meetings over only three days in British Columbia. It would appear that my work in the Eastern Synod and at the ELCIC convention this last summer preceded me. I had meetings with Bishop Preibisch of the Vancouver Synod, members of his synod council, and the Faith and Society Committee, also of the synod. While in BC I also met with members and friends of First Lutheran regarding a variety of issues. We had about 25 folks for that meeting. On my second day in BC I traveled to Victoria to meet with folks at Church of the Cross. Again, we had about 25 folks for that meeting. On the third day I visited the Vancouver School of Theology, met the Rev. Dr. Canon Martin Brokenleg, who will be one of

our keynote speakers for Together in Toronto 2006, and spoke to the Aqua student group. The faculty and students at VST were most welcoming and invited me to be in conversation with them about future engagements and RIC trainings.

My visit to Alberta was similarly action packed though not quite as compressed. Siefkes Award winner Reinie Heydemann was my host and grand organizer. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Edmonton hosted an evening educational event. We had about 30 folks for that event including the Bishop Kristenson. Earlier in the day, Sharon Ellingsen and I had visited with the bishop for about 2 ½ hours—a record length of time. On Saturday of my visit, Holy Spirit hosted a full day RIC workshop. Again we had about 25 people for the day. By the end of the day it was clear that there were a good number of folks who would be interested in a full up RIC training in their area. Sunday was in Camrose with Bethel Lutheran. I preached on the Transfiguration and met with the adult education group after church. Also present were representatives from two of our RIC campus ministries in the synod.

I spent 8 days on this trip to BC and Alberta. I could have spent much longer and hope for return engagements in

2006 after the synod assembly season is over. While relationship building begins on the first trip, return trips to the same areas cement those relationships for the long haul.

Blessings to you all,
Emily Eastwood, Executive Director LC/NA

Upcoming Events

Sunday May 14th, 7pm,
LGBTQA Lutheran Communion Service at St Stephens (1121 – 14 Ave SW)
Calgary in Ecumenical Worship with the Anglican Integrity Group. All family, friends and allies are invited to equally feel welcomed and fully sharing at our table with common cup and bread, in liturgy and hymnal, in Word and Blessing, with GBLT folk.

PRIDE Events

Calgary June 11-17 will once again see a GBLT service on the Sunday of the Parade. Check www.pridecalgary.ca for time and place when confirmed.

Edmonton June 17 parade with a dance/concert that evening
June 18 Pride Service.

Toronto Parade
June 25 @ 2.00
www.pridetoronto.com

Vancouver Parade
Aug 06 @ 12.00
www.vanpride.bc.ca

World Pride Jerusalem
Aug 08 Multi-faith Convocation
Aug 10 March and Rally
www.worldpride.net

The Rainbow Community Church of Calgary hosts a weekly service on Sunday.

*Services at 4pm
Hillhurst United Church
1227 Kensington Close NW
Calgary, AB*

Please contact Ron Eberly at 283-8815 or by email to roneberly@shaw.ca for additional information about the Rainbow Community Church of Calgary.



Together in Toronto 2006: Claiming an Open Spirit is jointly hosted by Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble (AU/AE), the Brethren Mennonite Council (BMC) for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Interests, and Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA). The four day conference will gather upwards of 400 people on the beautiful campus of the University of

Toronto. Participants will be drawn primarily from the Lutheran communion in North America, the Mennonite and Brethren streams of the Anabaptist tradition, and the United Church of Canada tradition, and will span a variety of gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, and ethno-cultural diversities.

The wide range of participants, crossing many borders will make this truly a North American first! The spirit in this event emerges from the long standing work of the 3 organizing groups to challenge homophobia and other forms of oppression, and to offer supportive places for healing and empowerment. The mission to build and support this conference resonates with our strong commitment to diversity and inclusivity, an expansive embrace including, but not limited to gender identity, ethno-cultural identity, race, sexual orientation, ability, political leanings, age, and class. We are seeking to remove barriers to participation which includes a commitment to avid outreach, and to support for those who would not normally be able to participate due to economic or accessibility issues.

*African American and Canadian
Aboriginal Theologians - Key-*

*Note Speakers for Ecumenical
Queer Conference*

*:I am extremely excited by the
key note speakers, the Rev.
Irene Monroe and Dr. Martin
Brokenleg, who will bring a truly
North American theological and
spiritual perspective to our
conference” says **Ralph
Wushke**, Co-Chair, “ They are
both prolific writers and as
speakers they will enrich us.”*

*“ The size of this conference,
as well as the diversity and
creativity of the planning group,
offers everyone the chance to
find the type of connection,
involvement, fun, and
rejuvenation that they crave,”
says **Shannon Neufeldt**, Co-
Chair, “ From workshops that
challenge to hanging out with
new friends, from watching a
great movie or dancing the night
away to reflective times of
worship, it will all be held
together with the spirit of
mutuality and receptivity for
which the event is named.”*

As partners in a larger community, we invite participation from anyone committed to the work of justice. Our intent is to give voice and visibility to the characteristics and cultures of

the three organizing groups while striving to weave together distinct threads into a united event. The three welcoming movements, Reconciling In Christ, Supportive Congregations Network, Affirming Ministries, and lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender persons, queers and friends from other faith traditions are invited to share in our vision.

In July 2006, we will be Together in Toronto: Claiming an Open Spirit and sharing our vision, **“Living out of the resources of our spiritual traditions, the dreams of justice-based civil and human rights movements, and the integrity of our lives as diverse people spanning a variety of gender identities and sexual orientations: we gather for inspiration, community, empowerment and life, in the co-creative Spirit-led act of crossing boundaries and opening doors to imagination and love in order to claim a more humane church and society.”**

For more information on this unique event, visit our website www.openspirit.ca

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ONLINE REGISTRATION

TOGETHER IN TORONTO: CLAIMING AN OPEN SPIRIT 2006, our ecumenical conference that includes the Biennial Assembly Of Lutherans Concerned/North America And RIC Gathering, being held Thursday, July 27 -

Sunday, July 30, 2006 at New College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

We want you to save the dates, register, and come to this unique event. We are pleased to let you know that Online registration is officially open.

Of course, you can still register by mailing the registration form in the brochure you received. NOTE that a registration form is required for each individual attending with you - partners, spouses, and children. If you require additional registration forms, you can download the form from the Registration Page at www.openspirit.ca today. We encourage you to register early: it's cheaper before May 1st and spaces at the conference are absolutely limited to 500 persons. There are day rates available as well.

Questions about registration can be answered by calling 416-833-1795 or by email to register@openspirit.ca.

Together in Toronto will be a first-of-its-kind ecumenical conference, drawing participants of all sexual orientations and gender identities primarily from four Christian traditions: Lutheran, Brethren, Mennonite, and United Church of Canada. The biennial assembly and Reconciling in Christ gathering of Lutherans Concerned/North America will occur during Together in Toronto.

Chapter Information

Membership Opportunities

If you do not receive the Concord, becoming a member of Lutherans Concerned/Canada can rectify this. To make this easy, yet life-fulfilling change, you may send your payment to:

Lutherans Concerned/Canada
#302, 9505 – 77 Av
Edmonton, AB
T6C 0M3 Canada

Email:

LCEDMONTON@LCNA.ORG

Website:

<http://www.lcna.org>

Fees are:

Household	\$75.00
Individual	\$50.00
Limited Income	\$20.00

Membership dues and special contributions solely support Lutheran's Concerned. We thank you for your support.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of sharing, support, togetherness and community.

LC – Calgary Chapter

Snail Mail in Care Of
Lutherans Concerned Canada:

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T6C 0M3 Canada

The telephone number (with answering machine) is (403) 220-3899.

<http://members.shaw.ca/lccalgary>

The email address is lccalgary@lcna.org

RIC Congregations

It is our pleasure to announce three new RIC congregations in our Canadian midst.

St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 210 Silvercreek Pkwy N, Guelph ON M1H 7P8

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church 270 Crichton St, Ottawa ON K1M 1W4

First Lutheran Church, ELCiC 5745 Wales Street, Vancouver BC V5R 3N3

Alberta

Lutheran Campus Ministry, Augustana University College, 4901 Forty-Sixth Ave, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3

Lutheran Campus Ministry, U of C, 318 MacEwan Hall, 2500 University Dr NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

Saskatchewan

King of Glory Lutheran Church, 209 Fairmont Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7M 5B8

Lutheran Student Centre, 1302 College Dr, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W5

Ontario

Augsburg Lutheran Church, 224 Mill St South, Brampton, ON L6Y 1T8

Advent Lutheran Church, 2800 Don Mills Rd, North York, ON M2J 3B6

Toronto Council of Lutheran Campus Ministry, 21 Sussex Ave, Room 611, Toronto, ON M5S 1J6

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