
LUTHERANS CONCERNED IN CANADA

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

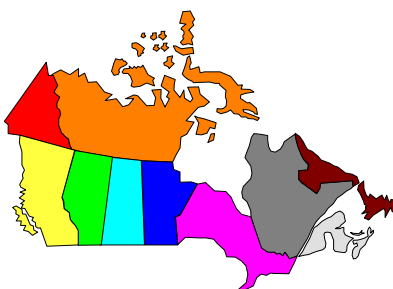
WINTER 2007

Note from the Editor



You will notice that the bulk of this issue is going to deal with the Together in Toronto (TinT) Conference. I think it is very important to keep the lessons and momentum moving from last summer into 2007.

In the first session of the conference we were challenged by Dr Irene Monroe to question "how white are you?" and "how are you white?" Those two questions have led to more conversations about taking 'white privilege' for granted and recognizing the universal fear of being judged. Those two questions have led to a new path in my personal journey of spiritual growth, evolution and living with intention. I have been greatly influenced in how I look and appreciate the world.
(Con't last page)



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.

A Tribute to Reinie

On July 7, 2007, over two dozen Lutherans Concerned and friends met to bid farewell and Godspeed to Reinie Heydemann as she opens a new chapter in her life. Our dear, dear friend has moved to British Columbia to be a grandma to the children of her children. Of course, we wish her well but she will be sorely missed. I am honoured to be asked to provide a few words about what Reinie's presence has meant to me, to Lutherans Concerned (LC) and to the GLBT communities.

Over the last dozen years or more, Reinie has been an indefatigable supporter of Lutherans Concerned and the GLBT communities. It was my privilege to be a part of this chapter of her life story.

Reinie's contributions to LC and the GLBT communities have received the recognition she so richly deserves. She

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | REFLECTIONS |
| 3 | THE "TOGETHER IN TORONTO" EXPERIENCE |
| 8 | LUTHERANS CONCERNED IN CANADA UPDATES |
| 11 | CHAPTER INFORMATION & RIC CONGREGATIONS |

was awarded the Jim Siefkes Award, which is presented at the Lutherans Concerned Assembly to straight allies for superior efforts on behalf of GLBT people of faith, in particular for advocating within the Lutheran church communities. Reinie was also a recipient of a Pride Award from the Edmonton Pride Committee for her work in Edmonton, both with Lutherans Concerned and with the Diversity Conferences of Alberta Society. Most recently, Lutherans Concerned Canada created the Heydemann award in her honour presenting it to her as the first recipient.

As a leading member of Lutherans Concerned Reinie was Canada's Treasurer and Edmonton Chapter's Convener. She worked tirelessly to bring together the Edmonton Chapter meetings and to help get the newsletter out on a regular basis. She maintained regular contact with Lutherans Concerned across the continent. She provided her own story to many formal dialogues in area churches on the "gay" question. She attended meetings, conferences and retreats across North America, bringing her very special presence to each event and touching countless lives with her gentleness and love.

When she wasn't working on behalf of Lutherans Concerned she was a driving

force for the Diversity Conferences of Alberta Society (DCAS), helping to plan the Society's conferences and giving her amazing energies to the Society's executive. (DCAS was created as an ecumenical and inter-faith society to help inform and educate faith communities in support of GLBTs, their families and friends. Reinie was one of the founding members).

I first met Reinie when I was the openly gay student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. It was time for my year practicum, my internship, and the Seminary wasn't quite sure what to do about my placement. After all, it was a dangerous move to place a gay boy in a parish (who knows what nefarious perversions I would bring to such a position). In came Reinie to the rescue! Reinie was the head of chaplain services with the Good Samaritan Society, a long-term care provider in Edmonton, and she had the budget and the Society's support to bring on an intern.

Our first meeting was at the Seminary to see if there was mutual compatibility. I was immediately at ease with her, and I believe she was with me. This was my first exposure to the incredible gift that is Reinie.

Reinie's special ability is to be present with people. She

does this through story. She patiently and gently learns about where someone is at in their spiritual and emotional life by getting them to tell her their story. She would then tell her story and the story of people she knew and loved, hoping that through this sharing there would be moments of transformation for both her and the person she was with. I would not hesitate to say that she finds her model in the parables of the four gospels. And if her stories fall on deaf ears, she is the eternal optimist who believes that if not today, then someday there will be that transformation.

I first experienced this central part of her being as her intern at the nursing home. When a new resident came to the nursing home Reinie would meet with the resident and the family to learn their stories. Who is this person? What is and are this person's interests, dreams, concerns? Having learned their story, Reinie would use this knowledge to aid her ministry to the resident and family. She would engage them by getting them to share more, she would respond to their interests and experiences. Her sermons were always based on story.

She carried this over whenever a person would contact Lutherans Concerned Edmonton. She would often meet with them for coffee and to share stories. She is always

sensitive to a person's experiences and fears, never proselytizing or forcing her own agenda. She recognizes that not everyone is at the same spot in their story. She is always sensitive to the needs of others and strives to make everyone feel safe and cared for. In this way she touched the hearts and souls of countless people.

Yes, we wish Reinie the very best but my dear, dear love you will be sorely missed.

Lyle Millang

**Thinking Theologically,
Experientially and
Ethically about *Together in
Toronto***

Sometimes the Spirit speaks in a still small voice. In early July 2004 I was painting lawn chairs in my Toronto back yard, musing about the up-coming LC/NA assembly in Minneapolis and wondering how on earth LC/Toronto and LC/Canada could possibly host an assembly in 2006. Our human resources were limited, and I could not see the point of having what might turn out to be an essentially American gathering on Canadian soil. How could I personally commit the amount of volunteer time involved? As my lawn chairs slowly turned into beautiful alternating

bands of green and cream, a vision took shape. We could have a truly North American gathering in Toronto with Affirm United/S' Affirmer Ensemble – the LGBTQ caucus of the United Church of Canada – which had a large core membership in the Toronto region. I have been an AU/AE member for many years, and this seemed like a message from the heart of God. (Or was it the paint fumes going to my head?)

Apparently it was not the paint fumes, for as most LC/Canada members know, the rest is history....

LC/NA accepted the idea at *Gather Us In* in Minneapolis, and Emily Eastwood immediately suggested inviting the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interest to join as well, as she had a collegial relationship with BMC executive director Carol Wise, and BMC, like LC/NA has a broad North American membership, with a strong Canadian presence.

I made the invitation to AU/AE in person at its National Conference in Vancouver a week later, and a formal invitation was made to the BMC Annual Conference in the fall. AU/AE accepted immediately, and it took BMC a little longer.

At the first planning meeting, December 1, 2004, there were a dozen people representing all three groups: Torontonians and people from Minneapolis and Edmonton, at Bloor Street United Church, which became our home away from home on the second Saturday of the month for the next 18 months!

We came out of three traditions: Anabaptist, Lutheran and United: in some ways the three groups that came together in Toronto were almost too disparate. One question that kept coming up was why Anglicans were not included, since they have much in common with Lutherans, for example. And if Affirm United was going to have a joint event with another North American group, it would make more sense to gather with the Methodists or Presbyterians. The Anabaptists with a long tradition of adult baptism of believers, and a non-liturgical worship tradition were in some ways, unlikely partners. Nevertheless, we persevered.

I would like to reflect on some of my observations from working ecumenically with these three groups in the year and a half that culminated with the successful *Together in*

Toronto conference in July 2006.

Experientially, each of the three groups lives in dynamic tension with their denominational heritage. There is a deep loyalty *and* a hermeneutics of suspicion. Each group wants to (and has already had a greater or lesser degree of success) change and transform the churches out of which they arise. When these groups gather as queer caucuses on their own (AU/AE, BMC, LCNA), no matter how angry we are, no matter how much we want to have a revolution, we are still proud of our identities and traditions as [queer] Brethren, Mennonites, Lutherans, and United Church folk. We make fun of the idiosyncrasies of our traditions, and revel in them: the Mennonite tendency to break into four-part harmony at the strike of a chord, the Lutheran capacity to have Holy Communion at breakfast, lunch and supper, and United Church desire to sit at round tables for any meeting. Poking fun at ourselves was sometimes a way through the tensions in the planning meetings. At the same time we were all fiercely proud of our struggles for queer acceptance and erotic justice within our traditions. We shared similar stories of exclusion, rejection,

discrimination. Almost every one of us had been hurt by our traditions at some point in our lives: the covenant between the religious community, a covenant of mutual care had been betrayed. We had kept faith with our communities, but our churches had not kept faith with us. So we shared doubly intersecting identities: as Christians and Queers, and as people whose hearts had been *inter-sected* with the pain of rejection. We came together with a common longing for a just church.

We faced a challenge common in *ecumenical* projects: How can an ecumenical event, not merely be a reflection of the lowest common denominator among the – in this case three – groups, and make a genuinely fresh contribution? Can the common ground also be new ground? At one of our first meetings the notion was floated that there would be a plenary worship service on each of three days, representing the best from one of the three traditions per day: an Anabaptist service one day, a Lutheran service the next, and United the third: a kind of ecclesiastical show and tell. While this would have been the easier path, we chose a more difficult one of having multi-modal plenary sessions that would weave together the traditions but at

the same time give birth to something new. There would be Derrida-like traces, specters of the traditions to discern. In the end this path was successful: we sang a new song, and truly created something fresh and vibrant, that was a gift of the Spirit. We discovered the diversity of our traditions, in crossing the boundaries of those traditions.

Ethically, there was a principle of reciprocal hospitality at work. During the 18 months many, many discussions were characterized by the participants' desire to honour the traditions from which the other participants came, (so that each group would find some resonance, in the plenary sessions for example) and at the same time not impose something of their own tradition to such a degree that it would be wildly offensive to the other groups. A good example of this I think was the Holy Communion question: For the Lutherans it seems intuitive to have Holy Communion at the major points of any conference. For Anabaptists with a less frequent celebration of communion so many communions seemed liked overkill, and for United Church folk it seemed like a new question. The outcome was an identifiable

"A Christian ministry affirming God's love for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities"

communion at the opening service, and a shared festive meal, the Agape Feast at the closing plenary.

Pentecost is a good symbol for what happened in the process leading up to *Together in Toronto*. We spoke the languages of different religious traditions, and yet, responding to the deep call of the Spirit to hear, and be heard, we were able to understand one another, not always without hurt or misunderstanding. Ultimately a luminosity of Spirit, a commitment, a longing for a more just church, a longing for community and friendship, and tenacity, strengthened our covenant in a Spirit led process. We became a new community! Consecrated imaginations created a Spirit-filled gathering that inspired participants empowered them, and will have an impact in transforming lives, churches and communities in many places and ways that we cannot imagine.

Ralph Carl Wushke
Co-chair, *Together in Toronto*

Sharing With Maris

The flames took their time catching the fabric of Maris' cloths. We waited and watched the persistent but weak flame burn its way slowly through the pants. We waited

in prayer until finally Maris walked up and gave the flame some air so that the flames caught also the jacket; the important piece of clothing that needed to be cleansed in the fire.

This was the healing that Maris needed. The Rev. Maris Sants arrived at *Together in Toronto* after having participated in the second annual pride day in Riga, Latvia just the week before. A pride of fear, humiliation and threats.

During our second plenary session we heard the story that he had already told the press. A slide show depicted a pride delegation that was met with hostility. "Christians against Christians" as Maris emotionally told. He was hurt, hurt by the police who didn't provide protection, hurt by fellow citizens who held up defaced Latvian flags and by fellow members of his faith who did not recognize his own. And hurt by excrement and other objects thrown at them. During a workshop, Maris continued his story as he told of the mother and twelve year old child who protected him as he fled the crowd into an awaiting vehicle.

The polarised experiences of Pride in Riga and *Together in Toronto* manifested into shame and a need for help.

Together we gathered outside a welcoming United Church a short walk away, to pray, listen and sing for the healing that was needed. What we could only imagine, Maris could confirm. That this experience: leading his congregation into a pride event so humiliating had left scars. With his county's flag pinned to his back like a hero's cape and in new clothes he told us how he had become self conscious, thinking he still had the stench of that day on him. Together we lit the small bundle of clothes in the fire pit. Together we watched the healing and cleansing fire restore the pride in us all. Together we healed.

Maris has held tremendous courage and hope. His hope is that many more will see what can be. Through networks and friendships with people in places where pride means a celebration and where faith is included, GBLTQ people of Latvia can be encouraged and inspired. A quilt crafted by LCIC's Walter and conference participants was auctioned off to LCNA co-chair Jeannine who gave it to Maris. The final image I hold of Maris in my mind is him dancing with the many-coloured quilt wrapped around his shoulders.

The Rev. Maris Sants was raised in a Latvian Communist family. Discovering his homosexuality at 11 he became

a Christian at 17 years because of the sense of acceptance he found from God. Ordained in the Latvian Lutheran Church in 1994, he was involved in Exodus Europe; an ex-gay movement lived in a heterosexual marriage and had two wonderful children. After graduate theological studies (1998-1999) at Middlesex University, London, he rejected the ex-gay movement. He returned to Latvia, came out to the Lutheran archbishop in 2002, and was excommunicated. He chose to make his excommunication a matter of public record rather than be silenced. Maris is the founder of a continuing Christian gay congregation in Latvia, and may be the only out gay Christian pastor in Eastern Europe. Maris is now a practising psychotherapist.

Mette Basboll

The Quilt Story at the Together in Toronto Assembly

The Brethren Mennonite group approached Bill Bartlett and I during the planning stages of TIT and asked us if we could prepare a quilt that could be quilted by the delegates during the assembly. They said it was customary for them to do that.

We prepared a quilt top of rainbow colours on a dark

background. We sandwiched it, partially machined quilted it and bound it. Thus it was ready to go to its new home except for the last hand quilting.

It was then put onto a quilt frame, taken to the assembly where delegates quilted on it during their spare time in a public area which drew a lot of attention. Some people just came and touched it and others really got into it.

While quilting, fellowships and many stories of diversity and healing were shared. Quilting blocks were not the only thing joined but faces and names from different faith communities were brought together.

On the Saturday evening the last stitch was put in, taken off the frame and the quilt was taken to the Gala that night to be auctioned off. It was exciting to see the colourful quilt named "Rainbow Galaxy" being strutted about as the bidding on it started.

It started at under a \$100 and next thing it was climbing and then all of a sudden it was \$1000. It ended with a final bid of \$1100. This flabbier gassed us that we got that much for it with Jeannine the successful bidder.

This isn't where the story ends. Jeanne took the quilt

over to the Rev. Maris Sants from Riga, Latvia and wrapped him in the quilt and gave it to him to take home. She said that no one needed it more than he did. Maris had shared his heart-wrenching story earlier in the day with us.

It was so healing to see him dance on the dance floor with the quilt as we clapped, laughed and cried letting him know that we as an Assembly were in solidarity with him and the GBLT community in Latvia. What an emotional day, tears of anger to tears of joy!

As a footnote:

We had rainbow fabric left over and were able to make another quilt for Jeanne to show our appreciation for her generosity to make this a better world. Quilts tell stories and bring warmth and comfort.

Submitted by Walter
Rothenburger

A First at our first!

Is it ever possible to say thank you enough?

Members of the Lutherans Concerned in Canada coordinating committee answered a resounding "NO!" to this question, as it established the Reinie Heydemann Justice-Seeker

Award to honour Reinie's many years of work, advocacy and commitment, and support for the work full inclusion of GLBTQ people in the life of the Lutheran churches.

On July 28, 2006, during the first Annual General Meeting of the Lutherans Concerned in Canada Society for Diversity Awareness, Reinie Heydemann received the first inaugural presentation of the Reinie Heydemann Justice-Seeker Award, on behalf of members of the Canadian coordinating committee. The presentation was a wonderful moment as we gathered for our first annual general meeting as a newly formed society.

Currently retired from her chaplaincy work in long term care settings, Reinie has devoted much of her time and energy to the work of Lutherans Concerned in Canada, and more recently has served for the past several years as a member of the Lutherans Concerned committee which advises Canada's coordinating and encourages Canadian



board members on the Lutherans Concerned/North America board, and which fulfills the role of regional coordination for Lutherans Concerned in Canada.

Reinie's passion for justice, her playful and courageous spirit, and her deep spirituality have been a tremendous gift to our wider Lutherans Concerned community in Canada. Individuals, organizations and ministries, allies and queers are all potential recipients of this award which seeks to foster and encourage a broad base of leadership and commitment to the work of full inclusion in our church.

We have been richly blessed by Reinie's friendship, courage and

commitment! Indeed, we can never say "Thank You!" enough!

Lionel Ketola

Reflections and Thank You

Together in Toronto was an amazing event, I think it was the best ever. Understanding that there is such a thing as an evolution and growth, I am wondering if it would have been as creative as it was without the other two denominations.

Well, I could go on and on, as I am saying good-bye to my active work with Lutherans Concerned. I will not let go of the wonderful memories I have from my involvement with so many fabulous friends I have made.

Fabulous friends; during those years, I don't remember how many of them, have opened up my mind to experience life with an embracing spirit, even beyond the GLBT community. It has been a great gift to me, which I will treasure for ever. All I can say is "thank you, thank you to all of you. You have enriched my life for ever"!

Reinie Heydemann

New LC Society Status for Canada

Canadian members of LC/NA have been in transition this past biennium. The Northern Lights Region has taken on the mantle of the Lutherans Concerned in Canada Society for Diversity Awareness. At the Together in Toronto 2006 LC/NA Caucus meeting July 28, we held the first Annual General Meeting of LCIC.

In the biennium previous to the 2004 LC/NA Gather Us in Assembly, the Canada Region had 5 co-regional directors from across our broad geography sharing support roles. At the energetic 2004 Canada Caucus, the gathering enthusiastically formed the LC/Canada Consultative Council, a decision-making body to advise and encourage the Canada Representative to the LC/NA Board and fulfill the Regional Coordinator job description. This council would have representation of the treasurer, newsletter editor, Canadian LC/NA Board members, and chapter and RIC team leaders.

Since 2004, the LC/CCC has conferenced regularly via telephone to coordinate activities and

meet our goals to establish ecumenical relations and host the LC/NA 2006 Gathering, to establish non-profit status for LC/Canada with an aim to seek tax-deductible donations in Canada, to implement strategic plans to be truly coast-to-coast, push ELCIC on blessings and ordinations issues, and increase awareness for chapter formations and RIC process within church organizations.

This past year in Toronto, at our first AGM coincident with the Canada Caucus meeting, we announced our achieving incorporation as a non-profit society in Province of Alberta, and our intent to move on to the next step with an application to Canada Federal Government for Charitable Society status. The Board of Directors who established our new By-Laws, Objects and Naming of the Society, and who will act on the direction from this AGM into the next biennium are:

Sharon Ellingsen Chair
Lionel Ketola Vice-Chair
Peter Skaliks Treasurer
Christina Martensson Secretary
Ralph Wushke Director at Large

With *Vaughn Roste* and *Lee Morden* agreeing to act as Consultants/Advisors to the Board.

The emotional highlight in our celebration at the AGM was the presentation of the inaugural Heydemann Justice-Seeker Award to Reinie Heydemann by Lionel Ketola. The creation and presentation of this award is to joyfully acknowledge Reinie Heydemann's many years of commitment in the struggle of queer justice in Lutheran churches. This award will go on to be given to an individual person/group in the LGBTQA community who embody these attributes.

LC/NA, in the person of Emily Eastwood, congratulated LC in Canada on our new status and pledged to be as or more supportive at Conventions and Assemblies as our organization grows in new ways. This reaffirms, and expands on, LC/NA support for the 2004 ELCIC Resolution that, through LC/Canada, LC/NA offers its theological, experiential, and ecclesial resources to support the ELCIC NCC in completing studies and recommendations on blessings and ordinations

"A Christian ministry affirming God's love for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities"

for partnered
homosexuals.

The next biennium promises to be as rich as the last one for Canada enriched further by direction and involvement of creation by many new voices. 15 years ago there was one person present for a LC Canada caucus meeting at Assembly – this meeting had 23 members present. The new directions for the new biennium from this AGM Caucus are ambitious, necessary, attainable and fun. We want to nurture a broader basis of support across different regions, building more RiC congregations and working towards inter-connectedness with/between RiC congregations, developing materials out of our own tradition for Equal Marriage and developing an ECP Candidate Roster for Canada. We want to meet face to face, gaining from this experience of the biggest gathering of LC in Canada members. We want networking within other ally traditions. Support groups can be built and it is important to network and plan for Conventions and build a trust network between Synods. We have a desire to be more

cohesive across the country, working on coordination of all mailing lists, email and paper mail, to support networking cross-country on issues. We want to change our use of language from “same-sex” blessings to marriage for “all the baptized”.

We propose that our next AGM will be held this year in the week of the ELCIC National Convention in Winnipeg, June 20-24, 2007. We propose to continue that tradition thereafter for larger cross-country member turnout and to promote visibility with allies in the larger church. This event next year will be notable for us, since the ELCIC Convention will be held in conjunction with the Anglican Church of Canada Convention who will be dealing with blessing of ‘all the baptized’, and the ELCIC will be dealing with this year’s Eastern Synod resolutions on the same. I am looking forward to this event with all the joy I experienced from the whole excellent good of this Together in Toronto 2006 Conference.

Sharon Ellingsen
Chair LCIC

The Rainbow Intern

It’s hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by since I began my internship ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket Ontario. And from the moment the wonderful installation celebration was over we hit the ground running with holy week services to plan, a Palm Sunday sermon for me to preach, and a whole array of parish committees, activities and ministries to become familiar with and to support their work. I’ve got to say that I have never felt so blessed by the level of good-will and support that the people of Holy Cross have shown toward my presence among them. And we at Holy Cross also owe a great debt of gratitude to the fundraising & advocacy ministry of Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries (www.LLGM.org), who provided the core funding to make this internship possible, along with other mission partners such as the St. Francis Foundation, Lutherans Concerned in Canada, Lutherans Concerned/North America, and other generous donors.

My involvements in parish life have spanned worship and preaching, pastoral care, co-teaching Holy Cross's the Sunday morning children's school and an adult bible study series this January 2007.

I've also been working closely with the Global Justice Committee to support them in a discernment process regarding new directions for outreach ministry in the community. I've also enjoyed working with Holy Cross's Lutheran Outreach Volunteers (LOV's) who are involved in a ministry of providing food boxes and other types of tangible support for low income adults and families needing this assistance. It's amazing what a small congregation can do!

Beyond the scope of the immediate parish, I've also had opportunities to participate in a wide range of conference, seminary and synod events. Through these opportunities - which have included invitations to preach in other churches - I've been able to share the witness of ministries such as Holy Cross Lutheran

Church, the Extraordinary Candidacy Project and LLGM. I've come to see the great value of this ministry of presence in our wider synod. With each new conversation with a seminary student, a pastor, or a member of a congregation, the witness to these vital ministries grows. And I'm very proud to be a part of that.

This fall we've also had another reason to give thanks at Holy Cross. We invited our supporters to gather with us on September 29th, at the Church of the Holy Trinity (Anglican) in downtown Toronto, for a Gala fundraiser event which featured the amazing musical talent of Evalyn Parry for a fun night of entertainment and a silent auction. We were thrilled with the strong signal of support which we received both from those who attended and also those who sent their words and offerings of support to Holy Cross from across the country, and beyond.

All of this is a reminder to us at Holy Cross that we don't walk this road alone

but rather we walk it surrounded by an amazing cloud of supporters and witnesses who are urging the church forward towards a wider embrace of ALL God's people! And in the midst of this I've been very blessed by the love and support of my husband Steve who has been also very warmly welcomed by the Holy Cross community.

I look forward to the remaining months of internship at Holy Cross - it's hard to believe that my internship will conclude March 31, 2007!



With many thanks for your support and prayers

Lionel Ketola,
Intern, Holy Cross
Lutheran Church

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| MEMBERSHIP | AND |
| CHAPTER INFORMATION | |

Visit our new website for Membership Details

www.lutheransconcerned.ca

Membership in Lutherans Concerned in Canada supports our ministry of affirming God's love for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. LCIC is supported completely by membership fees and special contributions. We need you to be a part of our organization so we can continue this ministry.

Membership Categories

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Individual | \$50 suggested |
| Household | \$75 suggested |
| Contributing | \$100 |
| Sustaining | \$200 |
| Minimum | \$20 |

Lifetime membership is also available at a one time cost:
 Lifetime Individual \$1,000
 Lifetime Family \$1,500

Please send cheque or money order to Lutherans Concerned to:

LCIC Membership Office
 9749 Highway 9
 Caledon, Ontario
 L7E 0G3

Chapters

LCIC is a membership based organization. Our members include people of all sexual orientations and gender identities throughout Canada. Chapters have formed in several Canadian cities and can be contacted by using our new website.

www.lutheransconcerned.ca

RECONCILING IN CHRIST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

RIC Synods

[Eastern Synod ELCIC](#), 74
 Weber St W, Kitchener, ON
 N2H 3Z3

RIC Congregations and Ministries

British Columbia

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

Alberta

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

Bethel Lutheran Church, 4102 –
 73 St, Camrose AB, T4V 4G4

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

Lutheran Campus Ministry –
 Univ. of Alberta, 169E HUB
 International, Edmonton AB,
 T6G 2E1

Saskatchewan

King of Glory Lutheran Church,
 143 Wedge Road, Saskatoon
 SK, S7L 6P9

Lutheran Campus Ministry –
 Saskatoon, 1302 College Drive,
 Saskatoon SK S7N 0W5

Ontario

[Augsburg Lutheran Church](#), 224
 Mill St S, Brampton, ON
 L6Y 1T8

[St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 210 Silvercreek
 Pkwy N, Guelph, ON M1H 7P8

[St Peter's Lutheran Church](#), 49
 Queen St N, Kitchener, ON
 N2H 2G9

[Trinity Lutheran Church](#), 23
 Church St, PO Box 419, New
 Hamburg, ON N3A 1J1

[Holy Cross Lutheran Church](#),
 1035 Wayne Dr, Newmarket,
 ON L3Y 2W9

[Advent Lutheran Church](#), 2800
 Don Mills Rd, North York, ON
 M2J 3B6

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

Community Information

Lambda Christian Community Church

Currently services are held
 on the first Sunday of each
 month.

Services held in the
 Ashbourne Chapel at
 11148-84 Avenue
 Edmonton

Potluck at 6pm,
 Worship Service at 7pm
 Please phone or email the
 church for more information

lambdachurch@yahoo.ca

Phone: (780) 887-8611
 Mailing Address: Box 67
 Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

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

Services at 4pm

Hillhurst United Church

1227 Kensington Close NW

*Please contact Ron Eberly at
 283-8815 or by email to*

roneberly@shaw.ca

Cont from front page

Note from the Editor

During the last plenary Dr Martin Broken Leg shared with us several stories from his life. I was deeply moved by all, but share one in particular.

He began by sharing that growing up as a Lakota Aboriginal person he spent every night with his family. He was never away from home over night. When he turned 17 he wanted to go to military school. You can imagine what an experience leaving his family for the very first time in his life was like.

On the trip to get him to the school, his father was driving him to the airport when a big snow storm enveloped them. His father dropped him off at a hotel to catch a bus to the airport for the next morning.

Martin woke up very early the next morning, around 5.00 AM. He got up and went down to the front desk to see if the shuttle to the airport was running and if his flight was still going. The snow had not let up.

While waiting in the lobby he saw under the street lamps a huddled figure walking towards the hotel in the snow. As he watched the figure it became clear that the person was going to the hotel. A few moments later the person walked in to the lobby

and shook off the blanket that had wrapped her in warmth from the storm, it was Martin's Aunt. She had walked three miles in the storm to tell him a special message; "Go to school! Go and learn, learn as much as you can!" Then she wrapped herself back up in the blanket and walked back in the storm the three miles to her home. Dr. Broken Leg told us this is the 'Lesson of Belonging', one you must experience in order to understand.

I reflect on the differences in my feelings leaving Toronto in the heat of summer (+32 C/ +52 C humidex at midnight!!) and the feeling of leaving the 'What's At Stake' conference held in Edmonton two winters ago (-25 C / -40 C wind chill).

The 'What's At Stake' conference being one where I felt what it might have been like to be in Latvia during their marking of Pride. I left feeling frozen and brittle inside and the weather certainly echoed those feeling. Upon leaving Toronto, I felt embraced and warmed from the inside out and the outside in. I was given a true sense of belonging.

Re-affirmed and strengthened in the diversity of faith and spirituality, sexuality, culture, ethnicity and the human experience. I was privileged to

meet and spend time with Dr Irene Monroe, Dr Broken Leg and his husband sharing stories of the amazing resiliency of the human spirit. What an honour to be part of the healing ritual for Maris and to watch him heal in the acceptance and welcome that was TinT. From the plenary sessions, worship, workshops of learning and discovery, sharing of meals and sharing in song. It was a time of learning and growth with friends known and loved for years, together with new friends freshly made. It was also a time to wish dear friend Reinie; go and move on to the new path awaiting her with her family in BC. I have to add that being a musician, it was a real delight to be in Dr Moon Joyce's workshop and share in the writing of a blues gospel piece for the closing plenary session.

I can't help feeling that the participants of this conference left with a momentum of understanding that will see the Lutheran Church grow and evolve in ways that will only make the Creator's face to shine and smile upon us.

Christina Martensson
Newsletter Editor
editor@lutheransconcerned.ca