

THE FAILURE OF DISSENT AND NEW BEGINNINGS

(Follow-up of the July 14-17, 2011, ELCIC National Convention)

Many of you have expressed the need to revisit the decisions made at the recent national convention of the ELCIC regarding same-gender relationships. Those decisions have permanently and irreversibly changed the ELCIC, forcing us to consider appropriate courses of action for both ourselves and our congregations.

You may wish to visit www.wordalone.org and check out the pages accessed by clicking “leave now”, “start over” or Pr. Bryan Anderson’s essay under “Directions”. These articles were produced as a result of responses to similar actions taken in the ELCA in 2009.

We are therefore organizing a **one-day session in Calgary on September 21st, 2011**, for lay members and clergy of the ELCIC, 2011. Whether or not you were a delegate, we invite you to attend.

The venue will be at the **GREENWOOD INN & SUITES (3515-26th Street NE) near the Calgary airport.**

The **\$ 65 registration** includes the cost of the meeting room and equipment rental as well as lunch and refreshment breaks.

The first presentation will be by the **Rev. Tim Johnson**, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Dawson Creek, BC. His presentation will include:

- Brief critique of the convention decisions**
- Prerequisites for institutional church unity**
- A reaffirmation of the ultimate authority of the Scriptures for faith and life**
- A renewed emphasis on evangelism and world missions**

The second presentation will be by the **Rev. Daniel Haugen** from Saskatchewan. His overall theme is:

The failure of dissent and new beginnings

Following lunch a number of individuals will provide brief testimonials about the steps in their own decision making:

Maxine Hobden, member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toronto

The Rev. Samuel King-Kabu, pastor of St. Ansgar’s Lutheran Church, Montreal

The next presentation will be by the **Rev. Jaynan Clark**, formerly President of WordAlone Ministries and Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. She will update the group about the following:

The evolving larger Lutheran landscape in North America
Possibilities for confessional Lutheran theological education
Lutheran publications and materials
The Canadian Lutheran church bodies who steadfastly oppose the
recognition of same-gender relationships
Some statistics re ELCA since the 2009 motions were passed

Finally, there will be a presentation of a particular congregation's experience in the process of decision-making.

AGENDA

- 9:30 AM Welcome / Opening Devotions
- 10:00 AM Presentation by the Rev. Tim Johnson (and Q & A)
- 11:15 AM Refreshment Break
- 11:30 AM Presentation by the Rev. Daniel Haugen (and Q & A)
- 12:15 PM. Lunch
- 1:15 PM Personal Testimonials (and Q & A)
- 1:45 PM. Presentation by the Rev. Jaynan Clark (and Q & A)
- 2:45 PM Refreshment Break
- 3:00 PM. Congregational decision-making (and Q & A)
- 3:30 PM Questions submitted in advance / Questions as yet unanswered
- 4:00 PM Summation (Where do we go from here?)
- 4:30 PM Closing devotions
Adjournment

Our hope is that this event will not only be a source of inspiration, encouragement and support, but will also provide you with an opportunity to network with others similarly concerned as you chart your future course of action.

Individuals from specific regions, or with specific needs, may choose to use the time either before or after the debriefing session to discuss matters of mutual concern.

This session is a leap of faith by Solid Ground Ministry/Canada. It requires a **major financial outlay. Some, but by no means all of the anticipated costs will be borne by the \$ 65 registration fee.**

Whether or not you are able to attend, we invite you to consider making a **tax-deductible donation to “Solid Ground Ministry/Canada”**. Mail your registration form, fee and donation ASAP- **before September 7th** to:

**“Solid Ground Ministry/Canada”
194 Blackwell Dr, Kitchener, Ontario, N2N 2S2**

Please circulate this information among the members of your congregation and circle of friends and encourage them to attend.

In Christ,

“Solid Ground Ministry/Canada Executive”

P.S. For those arriving by air: Because of construction at the airport, the cab ride from the airport to Greenwood Inn & Suites will take about 20-25 minutes at a cost of \$ 25-27. Greenwood Inn has a **free shuttle service** for those who have room accommodations at the Inn. This service is shared with two other hotels.

Greenwood Inn & Suites has provided the following information regarding the booking of rooms:

- Guests will need to call the hotel directly to take advantage of these net non commissionable rates. They can do so by calling **(888) 233-6730** and asking for **Solid Ground Ministry**. The main guestroom blocks is set up for check in **September 20, 2011** and check out **September 22, 2011**

however guests will be able to book a day prior or a day after the vent dates for the rate offering. Guests will be required to provide a credit card at the time of booking however they will be able to cancel their reservations up until 4PM on the day of arrival without penalty.

- A selection of traditional rooms (3 rooms) containing one or two queen size beds have been set aside at a nightly rate of \$139+ applicable taxes.
- Rooms must be booked by guests no later than **September 13, 2011 (7 days from event)** to take advantage of the rate offering. Early bookings are the best to ensure the rate offering still exists and is not sold out.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Congregation _____

Arriving by: car _____ air _____

Registration Fee (\$ 65): Cheques made out to “Solid Ground Ministry/Canada”

Special Donation (tax deductible) _____

Please mail ASAP and before Sept. 7th to”:

**“Solid Ground Ministry/Canada”
194 Blackwell Dr, Kitchener, Ontario, N2N 2S2**

YOUR QUESTIONS AND CHIEF CONCERNS (use additional paper as necessary)