



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications
Phone: 306-242-1500; Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry will hold first conference Oct. 15-17, 2009 in Lloydminster

The Center for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M) is hosting its first annual conference on Rural Ministry and Community Development. It's called "Rooted in Faith: Celebrating Rural Churches in Community" and will take place from Oct. 15-17, 2009 at the Best Western Wayside Inn in Lloydminster, Alberta.

ABOUT "CiRCLe M":

Formed in 2007 CiRCLe M operates in partnership with the seminaries of the Saskatoon Theological Union, Rural Alberta's Development Fund, the Canadian Rural Church Network and a variety of church denominations.

The Saskatoon Theological Union is comprised of: The College of Emmanuel and St. Chad (Anglican Church of Canada), St. Andrew's College (United Church of Canada) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada).

CiRCLe M is an inter-denominational non-profit registered charity. A variety of denominations are represented on its board and involved with its training programs and committees, including Lutheran, Salvation Army, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Anglican, United Church, Pentecostal and others.

CiRCLe M's central purpose is to support rural ministry in its various expressions. It exists to equip rural clergy and lay leaders to lead their churches in helping develop healthy rural communities in Canada. It offers inter-disciplinary instruction, research support, rural ministry mentoring, a resource centre, and conferences towards this purpose.

CiRCLe M works to build bridges between rural churches and other institutions/organizations concerned with the well-being of rural communities including: church structures of various denominations, rural community development programs (both academic and government-based), government rural health initiatives, First Nations reserves, the Canadian Rural Church Network, and other partners.

As the fruit of its work CiRCLe M imagines:

- A place where clergy and lay leaders can get training that is specifically geared to rural contexts
- Rural congregations well-equipped to work with businesses, schools, health care facilities and other churches to address the needs of their communities.
- Rural church leaders having useful tools to help change the "palliative care" "we're just hanging in there till we die" mindset of some congregations into a vital mission-oriented perspective

CONTINUED

- Solid research being done on the ways in which rural churches are already catalysts for hope and health in their communities
- A Centre that helps church governance structures to recognize and value rural churches and develop sustainable models for rural ministry.
- Remote aboriginal churches able to get training for their leadership in an accessible distance format
- Seminaries and Bible Schools having a resource they can draw on to give their students a solid theoretical and practical introduction to rural ministry.
- Clergy new to rural settings having a trained rural mentor to help them learn the possibilities and pitfalls of rural ministry and to understand key rural issues.
- A place where the best practices and resources for rural ministry that have been developed in all Christian denominations and parachurch organizations are gathered and shared.

CONFERENCE INFO:

Keynote Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Dittmar Muendel

Creator of the award-winning Prairies-Mexico Rural Development Exchange (U of A) and associate director of the Chester Ronning Center for the Study of Religion and Public Life. He has organized several conferences on rural community development and teaches spirituality and globalization. Dr. Muendel will explore the depth of the wounds inflicted on land and community and the crucial role churches have in strengthening and restoring relationships with the land and community.

Lecture 1: “You have healed the wounds of my people lightly...”

This lecture will explore how clergy and lay together have to examine the depth of the wounds inflicted on land and community, so that their ministry can generate genuine hope rather than false optimism, and provide genuine healing rather than surface band-aids.

Lecture 2: “Toward the healing of creation...”

Since “health is membership” (Wendell Berry), churches have a crucial role in strengthening and restoring membership with land and community. Before we can participate in the healing of creation, which is both nature and society, we must let creation heal us and free us from destructive “dreams of endless economic progress.”

Brother David Andrews CSC

Former Executive Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Senior advisor to the President of the UN National General Assembly on Food, Water and sustainable development. He is also a Senior Representative for the Food and Water Watch, a Washington DC based consumer organization. Brother Andrews will help us think about the spiritual forces that sustain and damage rural life.

Lecture 1: The Rural Church: Dynamics of Decline and Resilience

This will look at what forces have led to declining economic and community vitality in rural communities including the faith community and what forces church outreach and creativity can strengthen the forces of effective community development.

Lecture 2: Spirituality for Sustainability: Heart and Soul for the Long Haul

Exploring dimensions for deeper sustainability, beyond the push and pull of the moment with a focus on inherent and authenticity, the persona depth and conviction that is important for long term leadership and community building.

CONTINUED

Workshops:

- #1 Bringing Out the Leadership in Everyone: Judy Riou
- #2 The Church's Role in Community Crisis: Leigh Sinclair
- #3 Using Story Telling in Rural Ministry: Elaine Kowpak and Beth Robertson
- #4 Reaching Beyond the Walls of Your Church:
A Response of the Local Church to Community Needs: Mike Hoeft
- #5 Rural Congregations & Health: A Christian Perspective: Ali Tote
- #6 The Joys & Struggles of Shared Ecumenical Ministry: Jan Bigland-Pritchard

For More Information and Promotional PR Visit: <http://www.circle-m.ca/conferences-and-events/>

If you have a church or rural development conference for which you would like a poster(s) or pamphlets please let us know how many you need and we will mail them out to you.

--

Sarah Kesler
Center for Rural Community Leadership & Ministry
114 Seminary Cr.
Saskatoon SK S7N 0X3

306. 966. 7864
circle.m.ministries@gmail.com
www.circle-m.ca

If you have any questions about us, or about the conference please call Cam Harder (CiRCLe M director) at 306-966-7867 or email crharder@sasktel.net, or contact Sarah Kesler, our CiRCLe M summer assistant at 306-966-7864, email circle.m.ministries@gmail.com.

poster and registration form on next pages

The Centre for Rural Community Leadership & Ministry
in Partnership with
Rural Alberta's Development Fund
Presents:

ROOTED IN FAITH: CELEBRATING RURAL CHURCHES IN COMMUNITY 2009



October 15-17
Lloydminster
Alberta

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rev. Dr. Dittmar Muendel

Creator of the award-winning Prairies-Mexico Rural Development Exchange (U of A). He will explore the depth of the wounds inflicted on land & community & the crucial role churches have in strengthening & restoring relationships with the land & community.

Brother David Andrews CSC

Former Executive Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Senior advisor to the President of the UN National General Assembly on food water and sustainable development. He will help us think about the spiritual forces that sustain & damage rural life.

WORKSHOPS

- Bringing Out the Leadership in Everyone
Judy Riou
- Reaching Beyond the Walls of Your Church
Mike Hoelt
- Rural Congregations & Health: A Christian Perspective
Ali Tote
- The Joys & Struggles of Shared Ecumenical Ministry
Jan Bigland-Pritchard
- The Church in Community Crises
Leigh Sinclair
- Using Storytelling in Rural Ministry
Elaine Kowpak & Beth Robertson

To Register Contact
PAT @ (306) 825-3116
lloydanglicanchurch@sasktel.net

Register Before
Sept 15 \$99
After \$125



CIRCLE M



Rural Alberta's
Development
Fund

REGISTRATION FORM

Please remove & send in with cheque by October 5 to:

Pat Skinner Registrar
4709 49th Avenue, Lloydminster,
SK S9V 0T3

Questions:

Telephone: 306-825-3116
Email: lloydanglicanchurch@sasktel.net

Please make your cheque payable to
'Circle M Rural Church Conference'

Registration Fee
By Sept. 15 \$99
After Sept. 15 \$125

Fee Includes:

Thursday evening Wine & Cheese Social
Friday Lunch & Supper Banquet
Saturday Lunch

Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. A full refund will be given for cancellations prior to Sept. 30. After that date, refunds will be issued if the registrant can find a replacement. Childcare will be arranged only if requested. (see 'Concerns' space on registration form) Please indicate number and ages of children.

*Travel Notes *

If you are flying into Saskatoon or Edmonton, contact the Registrar if you want to arrange transportation to Lloydminster through the conference organizers.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Starts: **Thurs. Oct. 15th @ 6.00 pm**
Conference Starts: **Thurs. Oct. 15th @ 7.30 pm**

Location:
Best Western Wayside Inn
1-800-658-4404 (5411-44th St.)

Personal Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Concerns: (dietary, mobility, childcare, etc.) _____

For Statistical Use Only: Clergy _____ Lay _____

Denomination: _____

Workshop Choices

You will be able to attend **3** workshops.
Using the numbers, please list your top **4** choices:

First Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____ Fourth Choice: _____

CIRCLE M is an organization whose mission is to equip clergy and lay leaders in rural and remote places to help their churches and communities.
For more information please visit
www.circle-m.ca

SCHEDULE

Thursday October 15th	
6:00 PM	Registration
7:00 PM	Meet and Greet
8:00 PM	Theme Speaker: David Andrews
9:30 PM	Wine & Cheese Social
Friday October 16th	
8:30 AM	Devotions
9:00 AM	Theme Speaker: Dittmar Muendel
10:00 AM	Open Space Preparation
10:15 AM	Refreshment Break
10:30 AM	Workshop 1
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Canadian Rural Church Network Annual Meeting
1:30 PM	Open Space: Small Group Discussions on participants' key issues
3:30 PM	Panel Discussion: Stories of Rural Churches Engaging Their Communities
6:00 PM	Banquet with Donna Caruso
Saturday October 17th	
8:30 AM	Devotions
9:00 AM	Theme Speaker: Dittmar Muendel
10:00 AM	Refreshment Break
10:20 AM	Workshop 2
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Workshop 3
3:00 PM	Refreshment Break
3:30 PM	Theme Speaker: David Andrews
5:00 PM	Homeward Bound