

Ministry As Curiosity

A conference for ALL church workers & their spouses
(pastors, rostered & non-rostered parish workers, retirees, sem students)



Guelph Bible Conference Centre

485 Waterloo Ave. Guelph (guelphbiblecc.com)

Click here to fill out the online [registration form](#)

Day and Stay registrations are due no later than June 1

All accommodations include linens, 2 nights stay and 6 meals

The Inn \$183/person

2-4 persons per room, hotel like with 2 double beds

NB: Only 7 rooms available and are first come first serve.

Cabins \$147/person

2-4 persons per cabin, 1 double bed and a set of bunk beds

Live near by and want to come for the day?

All 3 days (6 meals) \$128/person

Tuesday \$40/person (lunch and supper included)

Wednesday \$48/person (all 3 meals included)

Thursday \$18/person (breakfast included)

Thursday \$10/person (no meals)

Presenter

Rev. Michael Nel is a Lutheran Pastor and a fellow member of the American Association of Pastoral Counsellors. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, a M. Div. and S.T.M. degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon and a Doctor of Theology degree from the University of South Africa. Rev. Michael Nel served parishes in Western Canada for 19 years. After leaving the parish ministry, he has continued his ministry as a pastoral counsellor on the staff of Living Systems (<http://www.livingsystems.ca>)



Location

Guelph Bible Conference Centre

485 Waterloo Ave. (*Click on the photo below for directions*)



Sponsored by the LCC Presidents' Care Committee for Church Workers & Their Families

Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, June 18

- 11:30am Registration
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Welcome/opening devotions
- 2:15pm Session 1: Curiosity About Self (Anxiety)
- 3:30pm Break
- 3:45pm Session 2: Curiosity About Self (Differentiation of Self)
- 5:30 pm Supper
- 7:30pm Evening session (movie)

WEDNESDAY, June 19

- 8:30am Breakfast
- 9:30am Devotions
- Session 3: Curiosity about Triangles
- 11:00am Break
- 11:15am Session 4: Case study
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Session 5: Curiosity about Family
- 3:30pm Break
- 3:45pm Session 6: Reinventing Leadership
- 5:30pm Supper
- 7:30pm Evening session (movie)

THURSDAY, June 20

- 8:30am Breakfast
- 9:30am Devotions
- Session 7: Family Of Origin
- 11:00am Break
- 11:15am Session 8: Case Study
- 12:30pm Closing prayers

An Introduction

Curiosity didn't kill the cat. Anxiety did. Technically, it was her reaction to her anxiety that killed her. She jumped from the frying pan into the fire. The rate of change in our world is rapidly accelerating. Traditions, values and even institutions that were the mainstays of life are shifting. This generates a lot of anxiety. How we respond to the anxiety affects our emotional well-being and our relationships with family, church... even our relationship with God. Developing curiosity about our dilemma helps us to clarify principles to live by and to discover better ways of responding.

The Apostle Paul understood very well how important it is for church leaders to manage their own emotional life and maintain thoughtful relationships.

In the "queen of the epistles", Ephesians, Paul lays out a grand vision of the church in the first three chapters. In the beginning of chapter 4, he implores the individual Christians to do their part... "As much as in you lies, treat one another with all humility, gentleness and patience."

When he names the qualities for church leaders (elders, deacons and bishops in I Timothy and Titus), the list overwhelmingly enumerates emotional qualities... self-controlled, hospitable, gentle, peaceful, a teacher, good family manger, humble, patient etc.

These emotional characteristics are not instinctual, defensive or reactive. These are the emotional responses generated by "sober second thought", informed by the Gospel and intent on building the kingdom of God through Christian families and congregations. These are the building blocks of Christian maturity.

This retreat is designed to coach church workers toward understanding and managing their own emotional functioning. It borrows heavily from Bowen Family Systems theory to articulate the dynamic emotional interplay between the individual and his/her primary groups of belonging.

Curiosity is about discovery. It's about replacing blaming with creativity and hope. It's about being constructive and optimistic about our future together. "Wait upon the Lord and be of good courage"... aren't you curious about what He will do next? What a good way for you and me to get a perspective on our ministry... individually and together. Let's do it.

Pastor David Hilderman, Trinity, Abbotsford, BC

Background Information:

Congregational Leadership In Anxious Times by Dr. Peter Steinke;

Extraordinary Relationships by Roberta Gilbert, M.D.

Creating a Healthier Church by Ronald Richardson

The Right Road by Gwen Halaas, M.D.

Canadian Lutheran Article written by Prof. Jonathon Kraemer, CLS Edmonton:

<http://www.canadianlutheran.ca/retreat-for-church-workers-and-spouses-raises-curiosity-in-b-c/>

Dr. Steinke speaking to a group of church workers:

<http://www.losranchos.org/2012/02/peter-steinke-videos-from-the-annual-pastors-retreat-2012/>

Please direct any questions to our registrar:

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