

# Leadership Development Ministry Team

## Report to 2017 Area Gatherings

The Leadership Development Committee is responsible to plan and provide opportunities to enhance skills in leadership for laypeople and rostered personnel in the ABT Synod. Accountable to the Bishop's Office, it helps to fulfill the Synod Mission Priorities for 2014-2016 of "Spirit-led Leadership," (equipping and empowering to practice the disciplines of Biblical engagement, prayer and spiritual direction), and "Hope-filled Discipleship" (encouraging, equipping, supporting, and inspiring ministries within the Synod).

The focus of the Leadership Development Committee's work in the past two years has been on organizing the annual Congregational Life Event, a one-day workshop—usually held in March or April—on a theme of contemporary relevance in the church. These events offer the opportunity for ABT Synod members to explore themes of interest in their church and spiritual lives, and a chance to showcase the incredible work that is being done in many fields by pastors and laypeople around the synod.

In 2016 the theme of the Congregational Life Event was "Mental Health Through Our Lifetime." Sharon Smith of Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries was the keynote speaker. Workshops were led by members of the Alberta Synod who have various kinds of expertise in the field of mental health; Rev. Prema Samuel, Rev. Doug Heine, Rev. Richard Reimer, Barbara Stolee, and Marilyn Bulger all led insightful breakout sessions. This workshop was organized in conjunction with the Synod CARE team (Congregational Action and Response for Mental Health).

The theme of the 2017 Congregational Life Event was "Worship: When Ruins Rejoice." Paul Vasile, executive director of Music that Makes Community was the keynote speaker who offered reflections on what it means to gather for worship in the 21st century, and led the assembly in song. ABT Synod members Rev. Dr. Laura Holck, Rev. Daranne Harris, Robyn Simpson-Mohr, and Rev. Kristian Wold offered breakout sessions that built on the workshop theme. This event was generously supported financially by the Triune Foundation and the SW Conference. Members of the Synod Worship and the Arts Committee collaborated as organizers.

In addition to the main theme, each year at the Congregational Life Event time is given for training on specific matters pertinent especially to church treasurers. In 2016 Stephen Wildfang, ABT Synod treasurer, offered training and guidance to congregational treasurers; and in 2017 Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director of ELCIC Group Services, provided information on proposed changes to ELCIC Letter of Call documents.

Submitted on behalf of the Leadership Development Committee,

Rev. Kristian Wold