

## Study Conference Planning Ministry Team

### 2017 Report to Area Gatherings

The 2017 Study Conference, *Reformation 500*, celebrated the commemoration of 500 years of Reformation. Keynote Speaker was The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lange, Associate Dean of Graduate Theological Education, Fredrik A. Schiotz Chair of Mission, and Professor of Worship at Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN.

Rev. Lange assisted us in exploring the reasons for an ecumenical commemoration of the Reformation, what such a commemoration signifies today, and what it means for us and for Gospel witness going forward.

Guest Bishop, Sidney Haugen from the Saskatchewan Synod, also attended the conference and preached at the Thursday night service.

There were three new events during the conference in 2017:

1. Conversations regarding New Letter of Call / Employment Contract Documents with Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director from ELCIC Group Services,
2. a curling fun spiel; one of the afternoon options. (Thanks to Pastor Craig Wentland for organizing the event, and to Pastor George Friedrich for his curling tutorial.)
3. Thursday morning 'TED' (Theology Education Discipleship) talk in which rostered leaders who serve in a unique ministry or who have completed advanced degrees shared their thesis in a TED Talk 18-minute format. Through their evaluation comments, participants expressed their appreciation for this format.

The usual opportunities for worship and fellowship, rest and rejuvenation were also provided.

Pastor Tim Wray, Cathy Kochendorfer, and I, with guidance from Bishop Larry are actively planning the 2018 Study Conference February 5-8 in Canmore. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Allen Jorgenson from Waterloo Seminary, who will speak on interfaith relations, specifically with our Muslim neighbours.

Also in 2018, rather than inviting a guest Bishop to be with us, Bishop Larry has invited The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon. This provides an opportunity to hear from and to meet President Harrison.

The team is also still pursuing a speaker for 2019 conference that will run February 4-7. Bishop Larry, in consultation with members of the committee, as well as considering suggestions from clergy and other leaders, has suggested some possible names, of which the committee is following up. We will have a 2019 keynote speaker in place by this fall.

Submitted in Jesus' Name,

Rev. Kevin Powell, chair

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