

VCP West – Speaker/Leader Bios



The Rev. Canon Phil Potter

Key Note Speaker, Workshop Leader

Director of Pioneer Ministry for the Diocese of Liverpool, Phil has been a leading figure in developing Cell Church and Fresh Expressions of church in the UK, and the church he led for twenty years has developed several exciting pioneer projects, including 'Riverbank' cafe church and 'Riverforce' church in the workplace. He is author of two books, "The Challenge of Cell Church" and his latest book, "The Challenge of Change--Shaping Change and Changing the Shape of Church."

Key Note 1, 3, 4 Church | Culture | Hope

Three key note speeches exploring our conference theme, and encouraging members towards mission shaping our ministries and being the Church in fresh ways in our communities.

Workshop 1 *General Stream*

Starting Fresh: Are you interested in engaging your community through fresh forms of mission and ministry, but don't know where to start? In this workshop, Phil will give you some tools and ideas on how to begin thinking and working towards your fresh goal.

Workshop 2 *Leaders Stream*

How to shape your region/diocese for mission: With Bishop Jane Alexander, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, Phil will offer advice and examples on how a diocese or denominational region might begin to work towards becoming mission shaped.

Workshop 3 *Leaders Stream*

How to pay for Fresh Expressions: One of the great concerns about doing new-fangled ministries is how to pay for them. Phil will share with us some funding strategies undertaken in the Diocese of Liverpool, and the Church of England.



Harold Roscher

Key Note Speaker, Workshop Leader

Harold Roscher is the chaplain and director for the Edmonton Native Healing Centre. Harold started full time work in 2002 after the Creator challenged him to go back to school and prepare his heart to work with aboriginal people. Harold says of himself "At age thirty-five I became a registered Indian with the government - talk about a transition from being a little dark haired Dutch boy. In recognizing myself as a Cree man, God launched me on this fantastic journey of discovery about self, culture and the Gospel".

About The Edmonton Native Healing Centre society (ENHC): The vision is to develop an urban aboriginal community where, through a relationship with the Creator, hearts can be healed, and a network of life-giving relationships can be fostered. Using the value of respect, create a healthy community with the capacity to live in harmony and peace building towards a stronger future.

Key Note 2 Church | Culture | Hope

Harold will offer us the second key note speech, addressing our theme to ministry among aboriginal people.

Workshop 1 Leaders Stream

Fresh Ministry among Aboriginal people: Harold will share the story of his ministry at ENHC and discuss issues and approaches around fresh ministries among Aboriginal people in western Canada.

Workshop 2&3 General Stream

Fresh Ministry among Aboriginal people: Harold will share the story of his ministry at ENHC and discuss issues and approaches around fresh ministries among Aboriginal people in western Canada.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Jane Alexander

Conference Host, Workshop Leader

Jane Alexander was born in England and began her professional life in 1981 as a music teacher in Newcastle Upon Tyne. She was ordained to the priesthood in 2001, served in several parishes in the Diocese of Edmonton and became Dean in 2006. Jane was consecrated and installed as Bishop of Edmonton on May 11th, 2008. Since her consecration, Bishop Jane has proven herself a key missional leader in the Anglican Church of Canada, and has made mission shaping her diocese a key ministry priority.

Workshop 1 *General Stream*

Who is your community? Looking beyond the pew: Bishop Jane will lead this workshop exploring ways of knowing who your community is in the local neighbourhood or parish. The community beyond the pew.

If we are to be a truly missional church we need to have a better understanding of the communities in which we live and work. We read time and time again of this being a time of great spiritual hunger, so how can the church reach into the world and share a message of good news? Only if we are prepared to speak a new language and go where the people are. Flexibility, collegiality and, perhaps, 'street smarts' are needed to proclaim the good news of Christ in 2010.

Workshop 2 *Leaders Stream*

How to shape your region/diocese for mission: With Phil Potter, Bishop Jane will offer advice and examples on how a diocese or denominational region might begin to work towards becoming mission shaped.



Rev. Jamie Howison

Workshop Leader

A priest of the Anglican Church of Canada and the founding pastor of saint benedict's table and a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and of Trinity College, Toronto, Jamie has worked in ordained ministry since 1987, serving in parish ministry, as pastoral care coordinator at Marymount – a treatment centre for adolescent girls – and as chaplain and dean of residence at St John's College, Winnipeg. Jamie has ministered full-time within saint benedict's table since the autumn of 2004.

Passionate about cultivating a critical thoughtfulness around issues of faith and theology, since 2001 he has taught yearly in the "Outtatown" program of the Canadian Mennonite University, and has also been called upon to teach in the Faculty of Theology at St John's College Winnipeg and at various conferences and events. He is currently in the middle of a seven year appointment as a member of the Primate's Theological Commission of the Anglican Church of Canada. Jamie has contributed to a variety of publications including *Sojourners*, *The Anglican Journal*, *Esprit* and *Canada Lutheran*, as well as to the collection *Get Up Off Your Knees: preaching the U2 catalogue* published by Cowley Publications. His short book, *Come to the Table*, a reflection on the practice of communion at saint benedict's table, will soon be published by saint benedict's table's own church press.

Workshops 2&3 *General Stream*

Sharing the Table: Jamie will share with us the story of St. Benedict's table as one approach to fresh ministry in community, and will lead a discussion around how the St. Benedict's table experience might be of benefit to other congregations and communities.



Dr. John Bowen

Conference MC, Workshop Leader

The driving force behind the Vital Church Planting Conferences, Professor John Bowen has been associated with the Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism since 1997, and has been the Director since 1999. For twenty-five years he worked for Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, most recently as a campus speaker, debater, and evangelist. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree from McMaster University.

John is the author of the award-winning *Evangelism for 'Normal' People: Good News for those Looking for a Better Way* (2002), *The Spirituality of Narnia: The Deeper Magic of C.S. Lewis* (2007) and *Growing Up Christian: Why Young People Stay in Church, Leave Church, and (Sometimes) Come Back to Church* (2010). He is author of several of the Dare Booklets and the Wycliffe Booklets on Evangelism.

John is also coordinator of the Mission Shaped Ministry course for Fresh Expressions Canada.

Workshop 1 *General Stream*

Introduction to Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church

If you are new to this conference, it can be overwhelming. Terms like church planting, fresh expressions, missional, Vision Days, dechurched and unchurched, Messy Church, demographic research, MSI, and post-Christendom are thrown around casually and frequently, and without much explanation. So if this is your first time at the conference, and you are feeling a bit confused, this workshop is meant as an orientation session for you. We will look at questions such as: Where did this movement begin? What are the basic ideas behind it? How is a church plant different from a fresh expression? And what am I supposed to do about it? Hopefully you can then relax and enter into the rest of the conference with confidence--and a whole new vocabulary!



Karen Wilk

Workshop Leader

As pastor of Community Life and Discipleship at The River Community Church (Christian Reformed Church), and a member of the Christian Reformed Church Home Missions Ministries Leadership Team for Western Canada, Karen is a leader in mission and fresh ministries in her denomination. With extensive experience in church planting, and neighbourhood mission and ministries, Karen joins the conference with exceptional skills and passion for fresh ministry in neighbourhoods and communities across Canada's western provinces.

Workshop 3 *General Stream*

Fresh in the Neighbourhood – urban, suburban, rural, and rural : We all live in and interact with neighbourhoods, no matter how you define it. What happens if all the Christians in a neighbourhood were to get together to work, pray and worship for the good of their community? Karen has extensive experience in neighbourhood based ministries, and will tell some stories of what has been happening in Edmonton. She will lead discussions around what can be done in your neighbourhood, too.



Rev. Dr. Cameron Harder

Workshop Leader

Executive Director of CiRCLe M, Cam is also Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of Contextual Education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. In his doctoral work, Cam studied the effect of churches and religious belief on the “shame” experience of farm bankruptcy. He also visited and studied rural institutes around the world during his 2003-2004 sabbatical year. Currently, he is writing a book on the church’s role in community development and contributing to the *Western Producer*.

Cam brings expertise in rural ministry and life in western Canada, and around the world, and is uniquely qualified to discuss fresh ministries in Canada’s rural communities.

Workshops 2&3 *General Stream*

Country Fresh: Fresh ministry in rural contexts: What would happen if all the ‘professional’ pastors, church buildings, and parish bank accounts were to vanish overnight? Would the Church still exist? Could ministry continue? Small churches often think that they are poor. But that’s just because they only track and value a very few of their gifts. This workshop will help them discover how rich they are in resources for new forms of ministry

Cam will lead a discussion around what the rural church has to offer at its core, regardless of its possession of a building, money or full time clergy leadership. Fresh ministry in rural communities starts with the people.