



Hamilton Conference

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Date: May 9, 2017

To: **Delegates to the 92nd Meeting of Hamilton Conference**

From: Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary

Subject: **The 92nd Meeting of Hamilton Conference**

Dear Friends in Christ:

The 92nd meeting of Hamilton Conference will soon be upon us. Our President, Gord Dunbar, and the folks who serve as your Agenda and Business Committee have been working diligently to plan and arrange a worshipful and inspiring time. We look forward to greeting you and working with you during the three days of the Conference Meeting, May 26–28, 2017, at the UNIFOR Family Education Centre, 115 Shipley Avenue, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0.

This year our President, Gord Dunbar, has chosen as his theme **“Holy Shift.”** Many of you have had the opportunity to hear Gord offer his thoughts and reflections on the theme during the past two years as he has attended meetings in each of six presbyteries.

You will find enclosed the following material:

- 1) A map with driving directions to the UNIFOR Family Education Centre.
- 2) A proposed Agenda

What follows is some important information to help make your time at the Conference Meeting an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Directions: Please consult the enclosed map. The UNIFOR Family Education Centre is located at 115 Shipley Avenue, Port Elgin, ON

Parking + Accessible Parking: There is ample onsite parking. Our friends in Bruce Presbytery have arranged for valet parking for those of you who have mobility challenges. If you require this service please arrive at the main entrance no later than 10:45 AM **prior to the start of the meeting** and they will assist you with parking.

Room Check- in: Room check in will not be available until 3 PM on Friday afternoon. PLEASE leave your luggage in your vehicles. If you need assistance with your luggage volunteers will be available at supper time on Friday evening to help you.

What to Bring: Please bring the agenda and anything you need to make your time at this meeting a good experience for you. In keeping with our care for creation, all worship services, including hymns, will be projected on screens around the meeting room. If you have difficulty reading hymns from the screens you may wish to bring copies of Voices United and More Voices. We would also encourage you to **bring your own mug** for beverages.

Colouring pages and crayons will be available at your tables. If you wish to colour with pencil crayons or markers you need to bring them.

All year-end reports and a Proposal are posted on the Hamilton Conference website at <http://hamconf.org/administration/annual-reports/>. You may wish to print and bring some of these reports with you or download them onto your computer.

Business, Discerning God's Will Together: Table Groups will be an integral part of addressing the business at this Conference Meeting. Each delegate will be assigned to a Table Group.

- 1) **Year-End Reports:** As previously mentioned, they are posted on the Hamilton Conference website at <http://hamconf.org/annual-meeting-reports/>. Please review these reports prior to the Conference Meeting. The Hamilton Conference Executive has reviewed the reports and will be recommending them to you in the form of an omnibus motion that the reports be received. If, in your review of the reports, you find that there is a report or several reports that you wish the Conference Meeting to discuss, you can make a simple request at the time that the omnibus motion is presented, by going to a microphone and saying, **"I request that the report entitled ' _____ ' be withdrawn from the omnibus motion."** The Agenda and Business Committee will then attempt to find time in the agenda for this report(s) to be considered.
- 2) **2018 Hamilton Conference Budget:** The proposed budget for 2018 will be before the Conference Meeting. In keeping with Hamilton Conference policy, the Conference Meeting will be asked to approve a maximum assessment with the final budget and assessment to be established by the Conference Executive in the fall once we have accurate statistics for 2016.
- 3) **Election of President-Designate:** Please give prayerful consideration to offering leadership to Hamilton Conference in this way. Nomination forms for President-Designate will be available from the scrutineers. The President Designate will be a commissioner to the 43rd General Council by virtue of their office.
- 4) **Candidates for Ordination/Admission:** This year there are four individuals coming before the Conference Meeting as Candidates for Ordination and two Candidates for Admission. They will be addressing the Court at 2:40 p.m. on Friday afternoon. The Chairperson of the Hamilton Conference Education and Students Committee and I will be presenting the appropriate motions to the Conference Meeting following the candidates' addresses.

- 5) **Reports of the Hamilton Conference Settlement Committee and the Nominations Committee:** The Settlement Committee report will be received at approximately 3:30 on Friday afternoon and the Nominations Committee report will be received at approximately 7:20 p.m. on Friday evening.

Food: Please read the following carefully. If you have requested accommodation at the UNIFOR Centre, your meal package for the weekend includes breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning. If you requested a billet, your billet will provide breakfast for you. If you have chosen one of the meal package options and are not staying at the UNIFOR Centre or a billet you are responsible for your own breakfast. Those who did not request either of the above forms of accommodation and did not purchase a meal package are obviously responsible for their own meals.

For those who did request a meal package you will receive meal tickets in your registration package. You must have a meal ticket to eat at the UNIFOR Centre.

A Word about Snacks during the Meeting: There are coffee, tea, and beverage stations throughout the Centre and you are welcome to partake but you are asked to please bring your own mug. Snacks will not be provided during the meeting. If you have purchased a meal package you are invited to take a muffin or cookie at meal times for a snack during the day. The UNIFOR Centre requests that those who have not purchased a meal package not bring outside food into the Centre.

Allergies: We are aware that some delegates and other participants at the Conference Meeting have severe allergies to nuts, seeds, and scents. **Please do not bring nuts and seeds or products containing them, and avoid the use of cosmetics, aftershaves, and other products that contain scents or perfumes.** Thank you for your co-operation in helping us to create a safe and inclusive community. UNIFOR tries to be a nut free facility.

Retirees and Jubilands: There will be a banquet for our Retirees and Jubilands and invited guests at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2017 in the Sisterhood room designated dining area. These faithful servants of the church will be recognized in the court before the banquet.

Celebration of Ministries Service: The Rev Étienne LeSage will be the preacher for the Celebration of Ministries Service, which will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at Port Elgin United Church. The service will be followed by a reception for the Candidates in the church hall. We encourage delegates to carpool to the church as parking is limited.

Book Display: Thank-you to the Grand River Bookstore (and support groups) for providing a book display at the Conference Meeting. You will see the displays as soon as you enter the UNIFOR Centre. The book room will be located beside the main meeting hall in the Robert Dean room.

Accessibility: The meeting space, the dining room, and washrooms are fully accessible.

Registration: The Registration Desk opens at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017. You will receive your name tag/meal tickets and an additional package of information at registration.

Choir: There will be three choir rehearsals for the Celebration of Ministries Service—12:30 p.m. on Friday, 6:00 p.m. on Friday (in the bar), and 1:00 p.m. at Port Elgin United Church on Saturday. Conference delegates are invited to participate in the choir if they wish.

Emergency Number: The phone number for Hamilton Conference during the Conference meeting is (519) 389-3200; or email sduliban@hamconf.org .

We look forward to our time together. May God bless you as you continue your faithful discipleship.