

Overview June 17 - 19, 2008

Planning is important in church life. A primary responsibility of church leaders is to help the congregation understand where it is going, why such a direction is important, and how to get there. Leaders need to help people find worthy goals, and they need to build agreement in the congregation so that people are willing to move together toward those goals. Planning is needed to structure the work and maximize the resources of the congregation.

But too often congregations themselves are not engaged in this process; they expect their leaders to come up with a perfect plan that will meet all needs, or to discover a perfect solution for the congregation's future.

Popular church leadership consultant and author, **Gil Rendle, casts planning, instead, as a holy conversation, a congregation-wide spiritual discernment process** about three critical questions: Who are we? What has God called us to do or be? Who is our neighbor?

Drawing on the book of the same title by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, this seminar is designed to equip congregational leaders with a broad and creative range of ideas, pathways, processes, and tools for planning from which they can choose the resources that best suit their needs and context.

Few congregations need an extended and exhaustive planning process, but **all congregations need structured ways to talk about their identity, purpose and future as a community of faith, and they need a path to develop consensus and a commitment to act.**

This seminar will not only provide you with a full array of tools to meet these needs, but also with strategies to help you discern which conversations your people need to have now, which parts of the planning process are most important and appropriate for them at this time, how to best structure open and positive involvement, and what tools or information the congregation needs.

During this seminar we will explore various methods of discerning Gods will in Christian community, accessing the rich resources of our faith as we plan for our future together. We will also consider insights from the field of organizational development. Together we will learn how to design planning strategies that draw on the best of both.

Facilitator **Gil Rendle**

Before joining the staff of the Alban Institute, an interfaith resource for congregational vitality, Gil Rendle served as senior pastor of two urban congregations in Pennsylvania for sixteen years and as a denominational consultant for the United Methodist Church for nine years. Gil has an extensive background in organizational development, group and systems theory, and leadership development. He recently retired from full-time work as a Senior Consultant at Alban and is now working half time with the Clergy Leadership Initiative of the Texas Methodist Foundation. Gil is the author of several books including *Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders* (1998), *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: a Handbook for Honoring Differences* (1999), *The Multigenerational Congregation: Meeting the Leadership Challenge* (2002), and *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations* (2003).

Yes! Please register me for "Holy Conversations". Enclosed is my payment (make cheques payable to Conciliation Services Canada). Clip and mail to: Conciliation Services Canada, R.R.# 1, Desbarats, ON, P0R 1E0. (Payment for accommodation should be made to Conrad Grebel University College in June.)

Name _____ Address _____ Postal Code _____ Church/Organization _____ Phone _____

Please register me for _____ nights at Conrad Grebel (single _____ shared _____ apartment _____) with _____ or _____ without _____ breakfast, beginning the night of June _____.

Please register me for supper at Conrad Grebel University College (\$12.77 incl.) on June _____.

Please send me _____ more copies of this flyer for distribution to others _____

Please send me info. about conflict resolution skills workshops that can be held in my church or _____ community.

REGISTRATION FORM

Location

Conrad Grebel University College

140 Westmount Rd. N.

Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6 519-885-0220

www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca

Conrad Grebel University College is on the campus of the University of Waterloo, in Waterloo, Ontario. Directions and a map will be sent to you upon registration.

Schedule **June 17 - 19, 2008**

The institute will run daily from 9:00 to 5:00. Lunch is included every day.

Tuition

The tuition fee is \$420 for early registration, by May 17, '08, after which the fee is \$450. Lunches, study materials, refreshments at the breaks, parking, and taxes are all included in the fee.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, for \$22.50 plus \$7.50 postage and handling, contact The Bookshop at Pandora Press, 1-866-696-1678 or bookshop@pandorapress.com. Gil Rendle has said that he does not often refer directly to the book while teaching. It is fine to have, to follow up with and to get more detail, but it is not necessary. Pandora Press will have multiple copies available at their book table at the event, as well as by individual advance order.

Meals and Accommodations

Accommodation in the residence at Conrad Grebel University College is available with or without breakfast. A single room with breakfast is \$45.10 per night, or \$38.50 without breakfast. A shared room with breakfast is \$38.50 each, and without breakfast, \$31.90 each. There are also several four-bedroom, air-conditioned

apartments available. One bedroom in an apartment is \$49.50 a night, or if you'd like to get a group together, the whole apartment is \$123.20 per night. Breakfast in the dining room can be purchased separately for \$6.60. All prices include taxes. Camping facilities are also available nearby, as well as several motels and bed and breakfasts. A list of accommodation options is available upon request.

Lunch will be provided to all participants.

A buffet supper can be purchased at Conrad Grebel University College for \$12.77, tax included. Many interesting and inexpensive restaurants are also within walking distance of the college. If you wish to stay at Conrad Grebel University College, or have supper there, please note this on your registration form, but pay the college directly during the training week.

Other Available Workshops

Conciliation Services Canada is available to present workshops in your church or community on a variety of Christian conflict resolution topics.

For Further Information Contact:

Nan Cressman, Director, Conciliation Services Canada, 767 Lakeshore Drive, R.R.# 1, Desbarats, ON P0R1E0 cressman@soonet.ca
1-866- 782-0287 (toll free)

Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations

With the Rev. GIL RENDLE,

Senior Consultant and Alban Institute Author

Waterloo, Ontario, June 17 - 19, 2008

The 16th Annual Summer Training Institute for Church Leaders
Sponsored by Conciliation Services Canada