



THE 8TH R. ALEX SIM
RURAL MINISTRY SYMPOSIUM

Therefore Choose Life!

Nurturing Rural Congregations
and Communities

October 25-27, 2010
at Crieff Hills Community
Puslinch, Ontario

WORKSHOPS

For more details, visit www.ruralsymposium.ca

A RURAL MINISTRY 101

Through story telling and reflection, explore the realities of ministry in a rural community with **Pat Milliken**, who is both a farmer and Minister of a two-point pastoral charge.

B GREENING OUR THEOLOGY AND WORSHIP

Christianity has much to offer people wrestling with the changes needed to address the ecological crises our planet faces. Explore creation-friendly views of redemption and salvation from Celtic theology with **Catherine Miller**, an Anglican priest, farmer and student of ecology and theology.

C CLERGY CARE

The health and well-being of clergy are essential to the health and strength of the church. Explore, with **Dr. Andrew Irvine**, Director of the Centre for Clergy Care & Congregational Health, how congregations and clergy can together create a caring community of Christ in which all are nurtured and sustained.

D CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION FROM FAMILY TO PASTORAL SIZED CONGREGATIONS

Family-to-Pastoral Size growth in one church of a multi-point parish presents major issues for clergy and lay leaders, but there is a little information on how to nourish a small growing church amidst the other demands of the parish. Explore the issues and share your stories with **Dave Robinson**, Congregational Development Consultant with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

E SHARED MINISTRY

Interdenominational shared ministry can be an effective way of serving small rural communities. **Richard Hryniw**, Minister of East Nissouri Union Church, a rural Shared Ministry since 1954, will lead you in an exploration of conditions and factors needed for success in a new shared ministry.

F CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR RURAL CONGREGATIONS

When we avoid dealing with conflict, increased conflict can be the result. How can we engage in authentic dialogue with those with whom we worship? How does our engagement of conflict reflect the Spirit of God among us? **Betty Pries**, of Associates Resourcing the Church, specializes in consultation, mediation and training for congregations and organizations.

G PASTORAL CARE IN MULTI-POINT PARISHES

Explore creative ways of accomplishing the difficult task of providing pastoral care in multi-point parishes, with special attention on how compassion fatigue affects the pastoral care provider. **Eugene Dufour** is Coordinator of the Share the Care campaign for South West Ontario and Executive Director of the Bereavement Ontario Network.

H FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH RENE VAN ACKER

Explore further the ideas discussed in Rene's presentation.

I CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY: "SMALL ADVANTAGE"

Take an appreciative look at ministry to children and youth in rural or small churches with **Sue Malpus**, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Huron. Learn how to keep things R.E.A.L. (Relational Experiential Applicable Learner-Based) and leave with lots of practical ideas.

J ENGAGING THE SINGER IN ALL OF US

Explore with **Kathy Underwood** the art of enabling people to sing even if they "can't carry a tune in a bucket". Practice and create strategies for enlivening the church that believes it has lost its singing voice. Discover the science behind singing in groups – how it affects us emotionally and physically and why it is integral to our worship experience.

K THE ONE-MILE DECORATOR

Learn to enhance the beauty of your sanctuary with materials that are right at hand, with **Jackie Durnford**, owner of the Creemore 100 Mile Store.

L INTERNET MINISTRY AND ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Learn how to add internet ministry to your congregation's toolbox, from the standard tools of email to the use of social networking technologies. **Steve Johnston** is a former computer network consultant who traded Geek for Greek as a displaced urbanite engineer turned rural pastor.

M HEART TO HEART MINISTRIES

Eight years ago, 4 women had a desire to see women in their rural community come together, in friendship and faith. Out of this came Heart to Heart Ministries. This exciting program gathers together women of all ages, walks of life and faiths for a nine week session, twice a year, to support one another and deepen their faith in Christ. Led by **Jenn** and **Lea-Anne Ramer**

N ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN RURAL FAMILIES

Rural families and communities face unique issues in dealing with violence and abuse. **Colleen Purdon**, of the Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee will help you learn to: recognize risk factors; make safety plans; support victims and perpetrators; and develop prevention strategies.

O COMMUNITY-BASED ENERGY PROJECTS

Learn about the opportunities provided by Ontario's Green Energy and Green Economy Act for citizens, co-operatives, First Nations, municipalities, and local utility companies to develop their own local renewable energy resources. **Nicole Risse**, Ontario Sustainable Energy Association

P SEEKING JUSTICE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

Explore how churches can help ensure dignity and security of income for farm families while enhancing the land for future generations. **Grant Robertson** farms near Paisley, ON, and has been Ontario co-ordinator for the National Farmers Union.

Q FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH DR. GIL WALDKOENIG

Explore further the ideas discussed in Gil's presentation

WORKSHOP PREFERENCES

You will be able to attend **FOUR** workshops
PLEASE LIST YOUR **TOP SIX** CHOICES
(Include **letter** and **title** of workshops)

1ST _____

2ND _____

3RD _____

4TH _____

5TH _____

6TH _____

ACCOMMODATION PREFERENCE

I will arrange accommodation off-site

I would like to stay at Crieff Hills

I am: Female Male

I would like to share a room with:

I need a wheelchair accessible room

Detach and mail this form to:

Annette Skillings
6635 Middle Line, RR 5
Merlin, ON N0P 1W0

519.689.7555
info@ruralsymposium.ca



www.ruralsymposium.ca
Sponsored by
Queen's School of Religion

REGISTRATION

Deadline for Registration: **October 15, 2010.**

Registration fees cover supper on Monday and Tuesday and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday. Lunch will be available on October 25, from 12 to 1 pm, at an additional cost of \$10.

To register, complete this form (both sides) and send it, with a cheque, payable to **Queen's School of Religion**, for fees, accommodation and lunch on October 25 (if desired) to the address on the back of this form.

REGISTRATION FEES (Canadian Funds)

	By September 30	After September 30
Registration Fee	\$130	\$150
Theological Students	\$ 75	\$ 85

Space at the Symposium is limited and registrations will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Fees for registrations by telephone or email must be received within one week to confirm registration.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

CONCERNS (diet, accessibility, mobility, etc)

Note: The buildings we will be using for our sessions at Crieff are spread over a large area

Registration Fee	\$
Accommodation (\$105 pp)	\$
Lunch, October 25 (\$10 pp)	\$
Total	\$

(payable to **Queen's School of Religion**)



R. Alex Sim was a rural sociologist and educator whose life epitomized concern for, and a commitment to, rural Canada and its people. In recognition of his interests and support of rural communities and the rural church, **Queen's School of Religion** has established the **R. Alex Sim Rural Ministry Fund** and named the Rural Ministry Symposium in his honour.

THEME SPEAKERS

Gil Waldkoenig is Professor of Church in Society at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA, and director of the Town and Country Church Institute. Gil has served ELCA congregations in small town and rural places and is the author of several books on rural churches and social change. Gil will examine how the local church's witness in environmental concerns can be an important resource for community building, sustainable living, and proclamation of the Gospel in fresh and clear tones.

Rene Van Acker is Associate Dean, External Relations for the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph and Professor in the Department of Plant Agriculture. Previously, while at the University of Manitoba, he co-founded the Agriculture Renewal Alliance which hosted events across rural Manitoba to promote ideas for rural community renewal. Rene will explore the role of the community in supporting farmers in their move toward sustainability and the fundamental role in sustainable farming for institutions that help to build community, including churches.

MUSIC LEADER

Kathy Underwood is first and foremost, a member of a small rural pastoral charge in northern Grey County where she finds great joy in facilitating the experience of worship through music, a passion that she has pursued through most of her adult life.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sherry Lawson (nee Douglas), a storyteller, is the middle daughter of an Ojibway father and Algonkian mother. Raised on the Mnjikaning (Rama) First Nation near Orillia in the very lean 1950's and 60's, Sherry continues to live her life by the teachings of her father, paternal grandmother, and ancient community. A sought-after public speaker and now a grandmother of three, Sherry believes it important to leave behind a record of the stories of her people, the great Ojibway. She will be sharing her stories with us on the second evening of the Symposium.

ACCOMMODATION

Limited overnight accommodation is available at Crieff Hills, on a first-come first-served basis, at a cost of \$105 per person. (Two nights; double occupancy; includes meals)

Crieff Hills offers accommodation in a variety of building styles and settings. Details can be found on the website for Crieff Hills www.crieffhills.com

Some rooms can accommodate up to four people at a lower cost per person.

To inquire, contact Ann at 705.739.6685, or email: accommodation@ruralsymposium.ca

Motel accommodations are available in Cambridge or Guelph. There are also a number of bed and breakfasts in the Crieff area.

If you wish to stay at Crieff symposium, before or after the symposium, please contact Crieff Hills directly at: 1.800.884.1525 or info@crieffhills.com

THINGS TO BRING

- A mug; umbrella and/or rain gear; flashlight.
- Musical instruments – to assist in leading the music at the Symposium, as part of an ad hoc informal orchestra.
- Comfortable walking shoes, for moving between the buildings at Crieff Hills and for hiking its trails.

GENERAL INFORMATION

"Therefore Choose Life" is for anyone with an interest in sustaining and renewing rural and small churches or rural communities: clergy or lay; leader or member; student or educator. Through the theme presentations and workshops we will examine how we have come to be where we are and explore options for re-invigorating rural churches and communities.

The 2010 Symposium will be held at the Crieff Hills Community, on Leslie Road, 6 km west of Highway 6, (3 km south of Hwy 401), near Guelph. The Centre is on 250 acres of rolling farmland and woodlots (with hiking trails) in Puslinch Twp. The facilities consist of several buildings, 10 – 15 minute walk apart. There will be workshops in all of these buildings. Come prepared to move from building to building.

Registration at Crieff will begin at 11 am on October 25. The program will begin at 2 pm. People staying at Crieff Hills overnight should plan to arrive by 1:30 pm. The Symposium will conclude with lunch on the 27th.

CANCELLATION POLICY

A full refund is available for cancellations prior to October 1, 2010. October 1, refunds will be issued only if a replacement registrant is found.

For more information, visit our website or contact:

Annette Skillings
519.689.7555 or info@ruralsymposium.ca

