

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Social justice conference to examine changing community

Waterloo, Ont. (Nov. 2) - Challenge for Change: Recreating Work, Community and Meaning, is the title of a three-day conference for theologians, social planners, union representatives, medical researchers and economists that will be held at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary at Wilfrid Laurier University from Nov. 9 to 11.

"Community is more than just economic fundamentals," says David Pfrimmer, Director of the Institute for Christian Ethics at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, which is one of the conference sponsors. "If we want to re-define community, we have to look at families and social institutions and the changing nature of work. We are looking at society as more than economic determinism."

The conference features two presentations from Hazel Henderson, an internationally-renowned futurist, syndicated columnist and consultant on sustainable development, who makes her home in Florida.

Other participants are: labor organizer and negotiator Laurel Ritchie; Armine Yalnizyan, program director at the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto; Erich Weingartner, who has worked with the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, the International Documentation Centre in Rome, and the World Council of Churches in Geneva; and John W. Frank, the director of research at the Institute for Work and Health in Toronto.

The conference is "both ecumenical and aimed at the community," says Pfrimmer, and should be of interest to anyone interested in social questions. "It's a social justice institute with a Christian flavor."

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The Challenge for Change conference is open to the public. The registration fee for the entire conference is \$60, or \$20 for students, and includes lunches on Friday and Saturday. The price to attend single sessions is \$6, or \$3 for students.

The sponsors are: The Eastern Synod Committee for Church and Society - The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; The Institute of Christian Ethics - Waterloo Lutheran Seminary; Hamilton Conference - United Church of Canada; The Presbyterian Church in Canada; Global Community Centre; and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton.

The speaking times for the major speakers are:

Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. Hazel Henderson, "Values for Recreating Work and Community."

Friday, Nov. 10, at 9:15 a.m. Laurel Ritchie, "Assessing the Changing Global Realities - The Changing Face of Work" and John Frank, "Human Development and Population Health".

Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Hazel Henderson, "Defining the Common Good in the New Global Reality".

Saturday, Nov. 11, 9:15 a.m. Armine Yalnizyan, "Recreating Work", and Erich Weingartner, "Recreating Community."

All sessions take place in the seminary. For more information or to register, call David Pfrimmer at (519) 884-0710, Ext. 3907 or Ext. 3234 .