

Listening, Reflecting and Responding

Throughout this year we are continuing our search to understand and experience Christ's peace. One thing that is clear to me is that it is not a placid state of endless bliss where a disciple can be unconcerned about those things which cause distress to other people and Earth.

Rather, **Christ's peace is about authentic, intentional, compassionate interaction with our world.** It emerges out of a deep inner state of being that is grounded in the knowledge and experience of God's grace within our lives. This understanding may come in a moment of blinding insight, it may take a life-time to cultivate, or to some it is only understood as they see it lived out by people they know and trust. However it comes, it is the power which drives us into service on behalf of others and Earth.

To understand this peace which dwells within us we are called to cultivate the art of *listening* to the inner voice of the Spirit, to the often discordant voices of others and the silent plea of nature.

Our listening is refined further by *reflection*, the intentional turning over and over that which we hear in the context of all that we know and are, in order to arrive at the place where we can sense what the "other" experiences.

Listening and reflection are not complete however, if we do not form an appropriate *response*. Empathy and compassion must be lived out in order to

restore and extend life, ours as well as that of our neighbour.

This conference is a time of listening, reflecting, and responding.

- To those accepting calls to specific priesthood offices, today is a time for a new response.
- To those serving in the congregations, today is a time of reflection on God's calling in our lives as disciples.
- To all of us, today is the time to listen with a discerning spirit and to formulate responses that are generous, compassionate and faithful to the One in whose name we all serve.

Ken Barrows
CEM President

Further Preparation for Conference

Please read and reflect on the following passages of scripture:

John 14: 27
Psalm 139
Proverbs 8
Acts 15



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:15	Registration* Refreshments and Display Tables (lower auditorium)
9:15 – 9:45	Gathering & Opening Worship (Children's Program**)
9:45 – 11:30	Pre-Legislative Session (Children's Program**)
11:30 – 1:00	Lunch in lower auditorium (\$7 per person)
1:00 – 3:00	CEM Conference Business meeting (an offering to cover the cost of the conference will be received. Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more) (Children's Program**)
3:00 – 4:30	Service of Ordination (Children's Program**)
4:30	Conference ends

*** All delegates, guests & children must register and wear a name badge.**

**** Parents with children, ages 2 to 12 that want to participate in the Children's Program must pre-register and check in at the registration table prior to dropping off their child. Registration forms are available from your pastor or call the CEM office (888) 411-7537 #21. There is no fee for this program.**



Directions to Trinity United Church 400 Stevenson St. N. Guelph

From the East – 401 west to exit #299 (Hwy #6), north to Speedvale Ave., right (east) on Speedvale to Stevenson St. (before CEM office) - right (south) on Stevenson, church is on the right just before Balsam Dr. Ample parking at the church as well as along Balsam Dr., across the street at Edward Johnson School and at the Stevenson St. Plaza.*

From the West – 401 east to exit #295 (Hanlon Expressway), north to Speedvale Ave. then continue as noted above.

From Hwy#6 south of Fergus - take Cty. Rd. #38 (Victoria Rd. cut-off) and travel south to Speedvale Ave. – right (west) on Speedvale to Stevenson St. – Left (south) on Stevenson, then continue as noted above.

From Hwy #7 east from Kitchener (turns into Woodlawn Rd.) go east to Woolwich (Hwy#6) – right (south) on Woolwich to Speedvale Ave. – left (east) on Speedvale Ave. and continue as noted in the first directions.

* **Do not park along the back entrance driveway off Balsam Dr. (reserved parking)**

See you there!

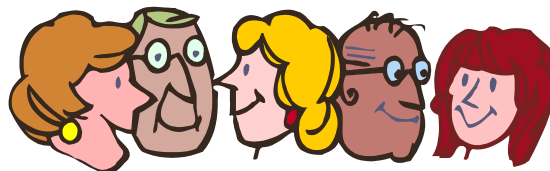
For More Information

Further details on the CEM conference will be posted on the Canada East website:

www.communityofchrist.ca/east/missioncentre/events/missionconfest.htm

Special Needs

- A nursery room for parents with infants & toddlers under 2 yrs of age is available when needed, equipped with couch and a sound system from the sanctuary.
- A Children's Program for ages 2-12 will be available. All activities will be held within the church property. All children must be pre-registered.
- Please refrain from using perfume, cologne, or other personal items with fragrances for the benefit of those who are allergic to these scents. There are some people who become very ill when exposed to such products.
- There is also a handicap elevator and exterior wheel chair ramps at the church.
- We want all to be able to participate in the day with us.



Community of Christ

Passionate for Peace



CANADA EAST MISSION CONFERENCE 2008

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**Saturday October 18, 2008
Trinity United Church
400 Stevenson St. N. Guelph**