



Dear Members of ELFEC,

Thank you for allowing the National Worship Conference Planning team an opportunity to share with you some of the wonderful things that happened this past summer and the NWC in Waterloo.

This year we welcomed about 150 Anglicans, Lutherans, and other denomination members to experience Formation and Reformation: Worship, Justice, and God's Mission. Our participants joined us from across Canada, from the United States of America, from Brazil, and one of our keynote speakers joined us from Cape Town, South Africa.

Gathered together, we explored the richness of what it means to do liturgy (the work of the people), both within our congregational structure but also within our communities, around shared concerns of injustice in the world and where God is calling us to participate in bringing about compassion and justice for all people throughout the world.

Our mornings were filled with captivating key note speaker discussion from The Very Reverend Bruce Jenneker and Reverend Stephen Larson. Rev. Jenneker brought to our shared conversation stories and perspectives on worship and justice from his Diocese in Cape Town, South Africa. Rev. Larson, brought to us a wealth of knowledge from his experiences with the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland.



The key note addresses were a jumping off point for all conversations at the event, and participants were invited to participate in afternoon workshops, of their choosing, that would help them explore deeper into their areas of interest around worship, justice and God's mission. Such workshops included:

- The importance of global music in our understanding of justice and mission in the world, as well as the importance of songs of Lament;
- Conversation with engaging in right relationships with our indigenous brothers and sisters, facilitated in relationship with people from Six Nations in Brantford;
- Liturgies of justice, facilitated in relationship with Kairos;
- And many more which can be found on the website nationalworshipconference.org.

As part of our ongoing relationship with Six Nations, the planning team for NWC designated the closing worship offerings to be sent to the Save the Evidence Campaign at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford. This campaign is working hard to raise the necessary funds for repairs and renovations to ensure the physical evidence of the dark history of Residential Schools in Canada is never forgotten.

The National Worship Conference has been in existence for over 20 years in the Lutheran Church and more recently in the Anglican Church. The biggest outcome and benefit of this event, is that it provides an opportunity for ongoing dialogue between our churches in the areas of how we worship and live out justice in our world. It provides an opportunity for rostered leaders, musicians, lay people and outreach organizations to come together and share information and resources with one another.

The grant money that you were so generous in providing for us, helped us to offset travel bursaries and extra honorariums for special guests who joined us from Six Nations in Brantford, who shared with us their experiences of music camp and the important work of building right relationships between our Lutheran/Anglican Churches and our brothers and sisters at Six Nations. These guests led us in an afternoon workshop on the healing powers of music which help us to be present to each other in challenging circumstances. Using an Indigenous Talking Circle approach, this interactive music session, with singing and guitars, lived out the value of walking together on the path toward justice and harmony. These same people prepared and led worship for us on Monday evening.

The grant money also allowed us to invite some special guests to attend the Banquet dinner, wherein the tradition is to honour two companions of the worship arts in both the Anglican and Lutheran Churches. These two candidates, throughout their ministries, have provided invaluable resources in areas of worship and justice. And with your generosity, we could invite some of the important colleagues to join them in this celebration.



On behalf of the whole planning team for NWC, and the National Churches we serve, we wish to thank you again for your support and partnership in these important events, that not only bring us together from all over the country, but provide us opportunities for enriched learning and conversation that helps us to serve our communities.

Yours in Christ,

Tanya Ramer

Lutheran Co-chair of NWC

Special thanks to Rev. Andre Lavergne for the photography.