



Lower Pacific District

Evangelical Free Church of Canada

...with a heart to serve

January 15, 2014,

Dear pastors and church chairs,

Greetings in Christ! May God bless you, and may this New Year be one of his blessings and fruitfulness.

Our annual **LPD Conference** is coming up on **March 7,8 at Langley Evangelical Free Church, City Park Campus, 20719 – 48 Avenue in Langley**. We are thankful for the hospitality of Langley EFC, and we look forward to our time together in their recently renovated church facility. The motto of Langley EFC is “*Jesus is Bigger,*” and they are trusting God to impact the communities of Langley, Clayton in East Surrey – *and beyond*, with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our conference theme this year is “**Living the Story,**” and this follows up on last year’s theme, “*Tell the Story.*” How can we, as church leaders, as congregations and as a family of churches more effectively live out the gospel in our lives, churches and communities? We trust that our time together will be informative, encouraging and beneficial to your life and ministry. Several pastors and church leaders have been asked to share with us, and we look forward to learning from one another and supporting one another in our various callings.

We also anticipate welcoming two churches into the district family. **The Rock Christian Fellowship** is a district church plant in Ladysmith, led by church planters Steve and Gillian Sharpe. **Grace Evangelical Free Church** is a district Mandarin-speaking church plant in Richmond, led by church planter Stephen Leung. God is at work in both ministries, and we are thankful for their partnership in the gospel.

Here are some highlights of our conference schedule:

- **Friday Afternoon Ministerial Time - “Relating to our Times.”**
We look forward to addressing the ministry challenges that we face as church leaders as we both serve churches and seek to live out the gospel. Several pastors will be sharing of their experiences, there will be a time of teaching and we look forward to both learning together and praying together. *All are welcome to attend!*
- **Friday Evening Dinner – “Reaching our Times.”** Our district ministry is supporting the ministry of five district missionaries, four church plants and twenty-seven churches that span eight different languages. We look forward to our time of fellowship together, and to hearing stories of God’s work in and through his people and churches over the year. We will also be giving you the opportunity to partner with us in supporting these ministries.
- **Saturday Morning Session – “Adjusting to our Times.”** After worship together, we look forward to a time of learning on the subject of navigating our congregational churches in making adjustments and changes necessary for making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ, both now and in the future. Rick Warren claims that, “There is no growth without change and no change without loss.” How can we guide our congregations through the process of necessary change?

(please see over)

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- **Saturday District Business Meeting.** We will gather to prayerfully make decisions as a district family or “congregation” of churches. These include elections of officers, setting a budget, welcoming new churches into membership and reporting on God’s work in our midst.
- **Saturday Lunch and Fellowship.** Plan to join us for an informal fellowship lunch before heading home. During this time, Karen Stewart and Christine Unruh will be hosting a special time of ministry for spouses of pastors and women in ministry. Ladies, please plan to join together for this time of fellowship, encouragement and learning together.

Our district is here to serve you and our Lord. Our purpose is, “... *to encourage and resource our growing family of churches to reflect Jesus Christ.*” While we recognize that in the end, only Christ can build the local church, it is our heart to align ourselves with his purposes and to be of service to you in living out the gospel in your church. Our district is increasingly diverse, and while we represent a variety of cultures, languages and structures, we are all called to share and to live out the gospel.

Please look over the enclosed materials. We encourage you to register early for conference, and to bring with you several delegates and members from your leadership team. Conference information and materials are also downloadable from our district website at <http://www.lpd-efcc.ca/>

Please remember to register early! We request that all registrations be received at the LPD Office by Friday, February 28th. We really look forward to seeing you at conference and to serving together in this New Year.

In Christ’s service,



Rob Stewart
district superintendent