



Unity, Charity, Jesus Christ

Lower Pacific District

Evangelical Free Church of Canada

9612 152nd Street,
Surrey, B.C. V3R 4G4
Phone: (604) 582-1925
Email: office@lpd-efcc.ca
www.lpd-efcc.ca

January 2, 2018,

Dear pastors and church chairs,

Greetings in Christ as we begin the New Year. May God bless you, and may this year be one of his blessings and fruitfulness in your life and ministry.

I write to inform you of our upcoming **LPD Conference, to be hosted by Grace Community Church in Pitt Meadows, on March 2, 3, 2018**. With this letter, we are sending you a copy of proposed changes to our LPD Bylaws. Our district bylaws require that we send this to you sixty days prior to our annual meeting. While many of the changes reflect changes as per the new Societies Act in BC, we have also updated position descriptions and other items to reflect changes in our district ministry.

Our conference theme is **“Such Were Some of Us.”** In an age in which the message heard from churches is often perceived to be a negative one, we believe that we are called to present a message of hope in Christ. The conference theme is taken from 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, one of my favourite pictures of the Church in Scripture. It reminds us of sin which separates mankind from God. It reminds us of where we have come from (such were some of us). It reminds us of God’s powerful work of transformation, and that we can be new creations with a new identity in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

One of the areas in which the message from churches is perceived to be negative or even confusing, is that of same sex attraction. Some suggest that evangelical Christians cannot be both biblical and loving on this issue. On the Friday session of conference this year, we are presenting the workshop, **“The Church and Same Sex Attraction.”** This will be facilitated by the husband and wife team of Toni and Mardi Dolfo-Smith. Toni is the Executive Director of Journey Canada, and Mardi is the Discipleship Pastor of North Shore Alliance Church. Together, they will present a biblical design for sexuality, an understanding of the current cultural landscape and a call for the church to be a healing community. With Toni and Mardi, will be Scott Neufeld, Fraser Valley Coordinator for Journey Canada. I have come to know Scott and the work of Journey Canada personally, and appreciate their integrity and transparency in ministering to those struggling with addictions and same sex attraction.

All are welcome to attend the Friday session, the Friday evening dinner, the Saturday morning time of worship, stories and learning, and our annual general meeting to follow. Please also remember the ladies fellowship luncheon on Saturday lunch, a time of encouragement for pastor’s wives and women and ministry.

Detailed information will be sent to you and your church in the weeks ahead, but please plan to join us for this time of fellowship, equipping and guiding the ministry of our Lower Pacific District.

(over)

Other highlights for conference will be two churches joining our Lower Pacific District. Hope City Church is now ready to move from being a church plant to a member church, and we can all celebrate this. Also, Grace Hanin Community Church, a large Korean church in Surrey has made application to join us as well. We are thankful for both of these works of God and look forward to partnering with them in the work of God in the LPD/EFCC.

Please mark your calendars for March 2, 3 at Grace Community Church in Pitt Meadows. We look forward to seeing you there and to serving together in this New Year.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stewart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Stewart

district superintendent

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Phil 1:3-6