

Please take note...

- John Calvin CRC is fully wheelchair accessible.
- Concerns?** If you have any special concerns or dietary needs, please contact the Conference Administrator as soon as possible.
- Scent Reduced:** We would like the conference this year to be scent reduced. Please try to avoid wearing strong perfumes, colognes or deodorants.



Conference Administrator:

- If you have any questions or concerns contact the Conference Administrator: Ms. René Wall | wallrm@hotmail.ca



Accommodations:

There are several excellent hotels in the Truro area. A few of the closest include:

- <http://www.super8.com/hotels/nova-scotia/truro/super-8-truro-ns/>
- <http://www.bwglengarry.com/>
- <http://www.willowbendmotel.com/>
- <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/nova-scotia/hampton-inn-and-suites-by-hilton-truro-XLZTRHX/index.html>



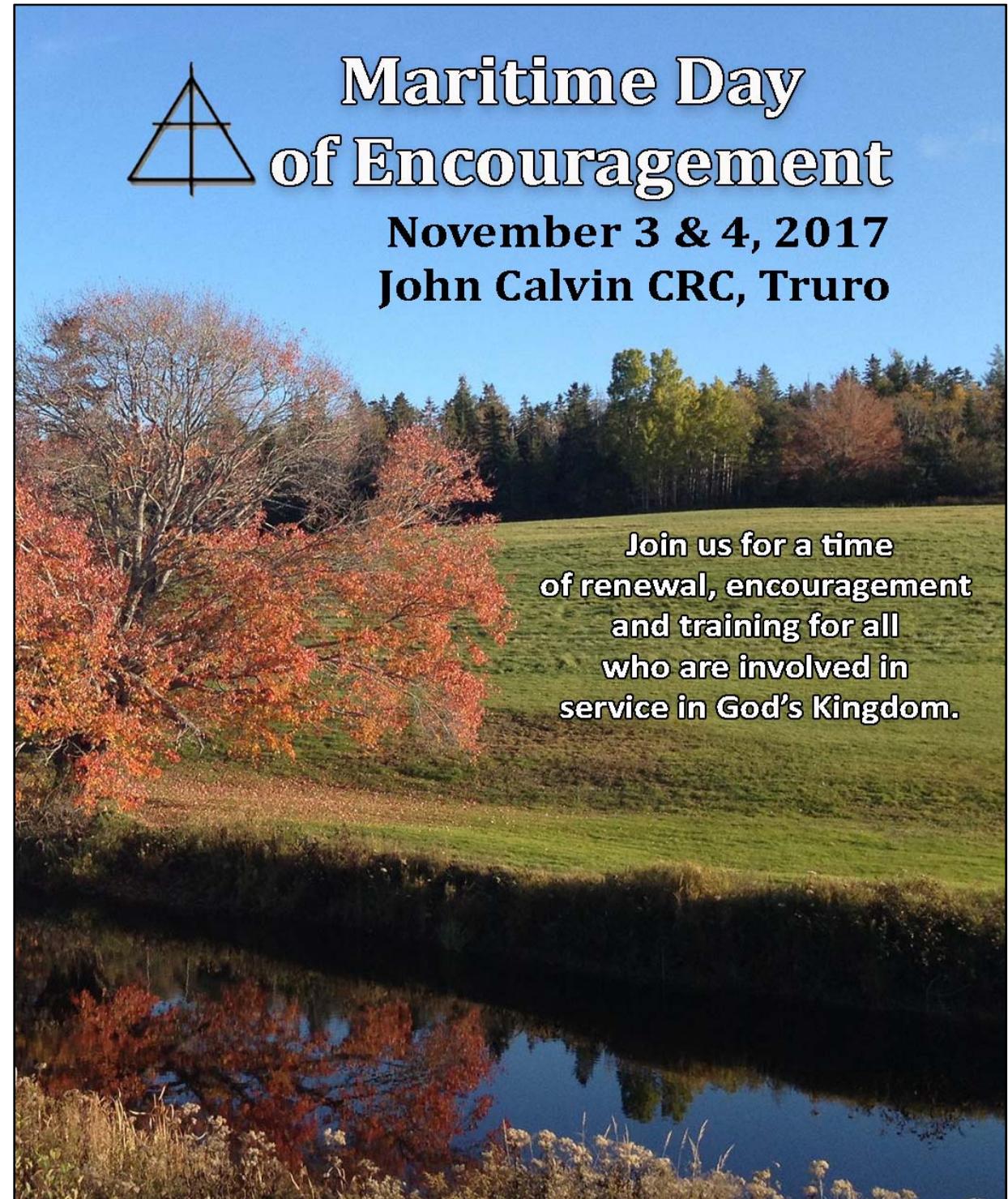
Billets:

- There will be a limited amount of billets available. If you would like to be considered, please contact the Conference Administrator ASAP



Keep in Touch on Facebook!

- For the latest information on the conference, or to ask questions, join our Facebook group at: www.facebook.com/groups/MaritimeDOE/



Welcome!

We are pleased to once again host the Maritime Day of Encouragement! This is a wonderful opportunity to be able to connect as a Christian community from across the Maritimes, as well as a chance for us to hear some excellent speakers and receive very valuable insights and training on topics that are relevant in our church communities today.

Our inspirations for this year's workshops came from you! We listened to Classis attendees as to what topics they'd like to build on. We talked to Maritime Councils to see what areas they were particularly interested in. And we looked at the survey results from the recent Our Journey 2020 Survey as to what areas it said people were interested in learning more.

Again, this year we are offering you multiple options for attendance. We'd love to have you come for the entire conference, but if that is not possible, then you are welcome to just come for Friday night or Saturday.

Reconnect – Be Renewed – Be Encouraged – Be Inspired!

2017 Registration Fees

Early Registration (Oct. 14, 2017):

- Friday Night Only: \$10
- Saturday Only: \$20
- Friday and Saturday: \$25

Final Registration (Oct. 29, 2017)

- Friday Night Only: \$10
- Saturday Only: \$25
- Friday and Saturday: \$35

Keep in Touch on Facebook!

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Conference Schedule:

Friday Evening:

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Registration & Coffee
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Opening Devotions & Worship led by Truro Praise Team
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Keynote Address / Workshop
9:00 pm	Reception

Saturday:

9:00 - 9:30 am	Registration/ Coffee
9:30 - 10:00 am	Opening Devotions & Worship led by All Nations CRC
10:00 – 10:15	Quick Break
10:15 - 12:15 pm	First Set of Workshops
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch & Information Displays
1:00 - 1:40 pm	Small Group Sessions
1:45 - 3:15 pm	Second Set of Workshops
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Closing Worship led by Truro Praise Team



Conference Registration:

This conference is open to everyone who is interested. To register please fill out the registration form found in this booklet or online at johncalvincrc.ca/MDOE/. The following registration options are available:

Early Registration (Oct. 14, 2017):

- Friday Night Only: \$10
- Saturday Only: \$20
- Friday and Saturday: \$25

Final Registration (Oct. 29, 2017)

- Friday Night Only: \$10
- Saturday Only: \$25
- Friday and Saturday: \$35

- Please make out your cheque to Maritime DOE, John Calvin CRC
- Mail your registration fee and completed form to:
René Wall
396 Debert Beach Rd,
Debert NS, B0M 1G0



Registration Form:

Your Name:	
Home Church:	
Phone #:	
Email:	
I plan to attend:	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Conference – Friday and Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Night Only <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday
Do you require a billet for Friday night?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>(note – there is limited # available)</i>
Special concerns? i.e. allergies, dietary restrictions?	
Which of the small group sessions (Saturday after lunch) would you like to attend?	<input type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Elder <input type="checkbox"/> GEMS/ Cadet Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (specify)

Your Workshop Choices			
Morning		Afternoon	
1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
<i>(enter the number of your 1st and 2nd workshop choice)</i>			

Friday Night Keynote Address:

We are excited to be able to offer a Friday evening program featuring a time of praise and worship, an inspiring keynote address, and wrapping up with reception and a chance to socialize. You are welcome to register for just Friday evening, and feel free to bring a friend!

Building Blocks of Faith – Lesli van Milligen, Faith Formation Ministries

This interactive workshop provides new lenses for examining how faith is being formed in your church's context, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for growth. You'll look at four key building blocks of faith that contribute to spiritual growth and can help you shape your church's faith formation efforts at every age.



A few of us experienced a similar workshop at Classis last winter. Lesli introduced many fun and practical ways to look at Faith Formation, and we're excited that she can come and share those ideas with you.



Saturday Workshop Choices:

All workshops are open to **everyone**. Please pick your first and second choice from the list of workshops. Mark these on the registration form. Every effort will be made to accommodate people's first choice, but space in some workshops is limited.

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Saturday Morning Workshops:

1. *Practices to Strengthen the Intergenerational Church* - Lesli van Milligen

Does your church find itself operating out of ministry silos or feeling stretched to maintain various age-based faith formation programs? How do we process the current wisdom congregations flourish when the generations worship, learn and serve side by side? Join us as we explore practical and engaging ways for congregations to become places where people of all generations can find their spiritual homes and grow in Christ-likeness together.

2. *Understanding Financial Hardship* - Anja Attema

Through real-life case studies, deacons/leaders learn to recognize the impact of anxiety, depression, and addiction which cause barriers to getting financial help. Participants will be empowered with practical solutions and next steps to help transform individual lives.

3. *Church Life Cycles* - Sheila Murphy

All living beings have a life cycle. There is birth, growth, maturation and eventually an end. Churches also have a life cycle. This workshop will look at the various components of the church life cycle and steps to take to reverse a decline. Where is your church on the life cycle?

4. *Generous Space: Cultivating Dialogue on LGBTQ+ Matters*

- Dr. Wendy VanderWal Gritter

Debate and polarity in the LGBTQ+ conversation wounds people and hurts the church. There must be a better way! Generous space is a posture that encourages Christians to find common ground, focus on unity, and be equipped for effective ministry – even in the midst of differences.

5. *Churches as Good Neighbours: Listen. Discern. Act. Repeat.*

- Tammy Heidbuurt

Let's recapture an imagination for what living out the Great Commandment to "love our neighbour" looks like. What habits and practices can we explore doing that will help lead us into genuine relationships with our neighbours? This isn't about adding more programs at church, or more activities for your family to do. Rather, it's about being intentionally, and faithfully present in the spaces where God has placed you.

Filling out your Registration Form:

Please pick your first and second choice from the list of workshops and mark these on the registration form.



For Example, if:

- In the morning: I want to attend a workshop on *Understanding Financial Hardship (#2)* as my first choice, and *Generous Space (#4)* as my second choice.
- In the afternoon: I want to attend a workshop on *Prayer and Mission (#3)* as my first choice and *Leading Off the Map (#5)* as my second choice.
- I would mark the form as follows:

Your Workshop Choices			
Morning		Afternoon	
1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
2	4	3	5

Please mail your registration fee and completed form to:
René Wall, 396 Debert Beach Rd, Debert NS, B0M 1G0

Early Registration Rate!

To help with planning it's helpful to have registrations in as soon as possible. To qualify for the early registration rate of **\$25 per person** you need to have your registration form in to your local contact person/ mailed by **October 14, 2017**. Any registration received after this date will be \$35 (for both days).

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Sheila Murphy, Outreach Ministry Developer, Classis Eastern Canada



Sheila is a member of Living Hope Community CRC in Metcalfe, ON. She is married to Peter Sturru and has four adult children and three grandchildren. Her work as Outreach Ministry Developer involves working with churches to become more mission focused in their communities and in beginning new ministries.

Tammy Heidbuurt, Regional Ministry Developer, Diaconal Ministries Canada

Tammy Heidbuurt lives in Hamilton Ontario where, together with her New Hope Church Family, she has committed to being faithfully present in their neighbourhood. Tammy also works with Diaconal Ministries Canada where she gets the opportunity to encourage and coach churches across Canada to strive to be good neighbours.



Kevin DeRaaf, Eastern Canada Regional Mission Leader, Resonate Global Mission



Kevin is married to Jacquie, an elementary school teacher, and they have three kids, two of whom are married. He has served as a CRC pastor for 24 years in two churches in Ontario. In May, he joined Resonate Global Mission as the Regional Mission Leader for Eastern Canada. He has been involved with the Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network, Dunamis Fellowship Canada and Ridder Church Renewal.

Saturday Afternoon Workshops:

- 1. Faith Commitments in a Youth World Full of FOMO* - Lesli van Milligen**
Whether it is a firm RSVP to a party or the inclination to marry or joining a church community, we live in a culture where both young and old put off commitments for *Fear of Missing Out on something that might be better. Join us as we explore ways to strengthening Faith Formation by becoming more invitational and covenanting communities through the celebration of a variety of life long faith commitments. We will look at the commitments made in Baptism, Coming to the Lord's Table, Membership and other Faith Milestones and spend time re-imagining how to make Profession of Faith relevant to the commitment shy in our congregations
- 2. Financial Assessments - Interactive and Hands-On - Anja Attema**
A financial assessment is a valuable tool to understand an individual's situation. Participants will learn specific questions to ask, how to do a basic assessment, and what to do with the results. This is a continuation of the "Understanding Financial Hardship" workshop. Although attending both presentations is suggested, participants will benefit from either workshop on its own.
- 3. Prayer and Mission - Sheila Murphy**
Prayer open doors to relationships and prepares hearts to be open to hearing the gospel. God uses our prayers to bring individuals to faith in Christ and to transform our communities. Come and discover the power of prayer in mission.
- 4. Transgender/Gender Identity Realities – Dr. Wendy VanderWal Gritter**
Transgender lives are more visible than ever. What does that mean for the church? In this workshop, we'll learn from transgender Christians about how God has walked with them in their journey. And we'll reflect together on the implications for ministry.

Saturday Afternoon Workshops (continued next page)

Saturday Afternoon Workshops (continued)

5. **Leading Off the Map** – Kevin DeRaaf

We are living in a time of great change--both in our churches and in our culture. Leadership in a time like this can be both intimidating and exciting. This workshop will identify some of the skills that are helpful for church leaders who want to be faithful to God and who sense that the Holy Spirit is moving us into new terrain.

Small Group Sessions

This is something new that we'd like to try this year. The idea is that people who are in the same area of ministry (elder, deacon, worship leader) would get together and share ideas/ thoughts. There will be a group leader with some conversation starters.

Please indicate on your registration form which session you'd like to attend.

Our Sponsors:

This event is sponsored in part by the following agencies and organizations of the Christian Reformed Church:

- *Christian Reformed Church of North America*
- *Diaconal Ministries Canada*
- *Classis Eastern Canada*
- *Resonate Global Mission*

Many thanks also to the volunteers and church councils in the Maritimes who helped make this day possible, and to our host church: John Calvin CRC.

*Thank
You*

Our Workshop Leaders:

Lesli van Milligen, Regional Catalyzer, Faith Formation Ministries

Lesli currently works for Faith Formation Ministries coming alongside congregations as a resource while supporting them in their discipleship and faith formative practices. Before joining this new denominational ministry, she co-pastored 4 congregations with her husband, Tom. Lesli is also involved in youth and young adult leadership initiatives within the CRCNA.



Anja Attema, Diaconal Ministries



Anja is passionate about helping the vulnerable, both locally and globally. Since retiring from 20 years in her financial planning practice, Anja has been serving near her Smithville home in Ontario as well others through Sea to Sea and International Justice Mission. As a knowledgeable, experienced financial service professional, Anja has been delighted to use her knowledge and expertise to serve others. She specializes in consulting and coaching leaders how to walk alongside those with financial hardship, those who have lost their spouses and anyone trying to improve their financial situation.

Dr. Wendy VanderWal Gritter, Executive Director, Generous Space

Dr. Wendy VanderWal Gritter has served as Executive Director of Generous Space Ministries since 2002. During that time, she has become an internationally recognized contributor to the conversations at the intersection of gender, sexuality, and faith. Wendy is the author of "Generous Spaciousness: Responding to Gay Christians in the Church" (Brazos 2014). She is a member of Meadowvale CRC in Mississauga, Ontario.

