



# Lower Pacific District

## Evangelical Free Church of Canada

*Unity, Charity, Jesus Christ*

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January 20, 2016

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 4, 5 at White Rock Community Church, 15280 Pacific Avenue in White Rock**. We are thankful for the hospitality of Pastor Steve Doerksen and the team, and we look forward to our time together with you, and with our co-workers from the National Office of EFCC and EFCCM.

Our conference theme this year is **“Stepping Up Our Walk,”** and for this we are investing in tools and resources for coaching and mentoring others in the Christian faith and as leaders.

At first glance, you might think that coaching and mentoring are not topics that are relevant to you. I would suggest that they are relevant to all of us, as parents, as leaders in our churches and as those who wish to assist others to grow in their Christian walk and as leaders, both now and for the future.

When the writer to the Hebrews exhorts us to, “... spur one another on toward love and good deeds,... and to encourage one another...” (Heb. 10:24, 25). While we may wish to do this, and also recognize our own need of being personally spurred on, we might find that we lack the practical tools to do so.

- How do we address difficult subjects in the lives of family members, brothers and sisters in Christ and those we are seeking to help grow in their loves and faith?
- How do we transform a casual conversation into a time of meaningful spiritual direction?
- How do we become better listeners – to others and to the voice of the Holy Spirit?

Coaching is defined as, “... *an on-going intentional conversation that empowers a person or group to fully live out God’s calling.*” (Keith E. Webb, founder of COACH). The coach’s role is not to have all the answers, but to encourage the coachee to reflect, and to direct them to the Holy Spirit, our ultimate counsellor, and to growth in the Body of Christ. As Webb writes, “*The key to effective coaching is for the coachee and coach to understand what God is doing and join in His work.*”

As your Lower Pacific District, and in cooperation with the EFCC LeadBeyond initiative, we would like to provide equipping for you to become a better encouragement to others in their growth and Christian walk. **As we believe that this COACH training is important for you and for our churches, we are including this training and participant workbook with your conference registration at no extra charge.**

Here are some highlights of our conference schedule:

- **Friday Learning Together - “COACH Workshop.”**  
All are welcome to attend this all day event with Dr. Daniel Buetler, so please bring your leadership team!
- **Friday Evening Banquet.”** Please join us for this time of fellowship together, and to also hearing stories of God’s work in and through His people and churches over the year. From church planting to church revitalization, there is much to give thanks for. We will also be giving you the opportunity to partner with us in supporting church planting and revitalization ministries.
- **Saturday Morning Session – “Four Skills of Coaching and Mentoring,”** with Dr. Randy Wollf.  
Please bring your leadership team to learn the basics of coaching and mentoring in your church.

*(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 the election of officers, setting a budget 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 prayer. *Your lunch is included in your conference registration.*

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, materials and online registration and payment are available at our district website <http://www.lpd-efcc.ca/>** You can register online and make payment through either PayPal or credit card. Just complete the registration, and click “Donate” to make payment.

**Please remember to register early!** We request that all registrations be received at the LPD Office by Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We really look forward to seeing you at conference and serving together in this New Year.

In Christ’s service,



Rob Stewart

district superintendent

**P.S. a special note to our Chinese-speaking brothers and sisters!** The COACH participant manual is available in Chinese, and we will be glad to provide these for you, should you wish, at no extra charge. Please contact us for more information!