

Resource People

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tim Wray – Rev. Dr. Tim Wray works as a bi-vocational minister, pastoring Lutheran Church of the Master in Airdrie and ranching with his family in Irricana, AB. Tim studied agriculture at the UofA (BSc) and went on to seminary in Saskatoon (MDiv and DMin). In 2023 Wray Ranch received The Environmental Stewardship Award for their commitment to stewarding grasslands, regenerative grazing, mixed species cropping and grass roots learning. Tim has been involved as a board member with CiRCLe M for a number of years.

Catherine Christie – a retired United Church Minister, living in Abbey, Sask., Catherine is also Chair of CiRCLe M and the United Church Rural Ministry Network. She has been part of many rural ministry conferences, among them a gathering of rural ministers at the World Council of Churches General Assembly in Korea in 2013, and the International Rural Churches Association quadrennial gatherings in India, Canada, Germany, Malawi, New Zealand and Iowa.

Peter Chynoweth – Peter took a degree in computer science from the University of Waterloo, then moved to Calgary for work in the Information Technology field for nine years. Increasing responsibility as a lay volunteer in the church and the advent of computers that you could take home led to a switch as Peter answered the call to be, as he says "a system analyst in God's operating system". With an Honours M. Div. from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon he was settled in Bonnyville, Alberta in 1990, eventually being called to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories for thirteen years of ministry plus another two years post retirement. Peter characterizes his time in ministry, besides all the regular responsibilities of pastoral ministry, as a time of exploring the intersection between technology and theology. After a retirement move to Cochrane Alberta, he continues to contribute significant volunteer time to various Church committees and groups, including local, regional, national and academic institutions.

He is pleased to help out at this conference as a local volunteer to help with some logistics and help people to enjoy this scenic and historic part of the world.

DAY TRIP RESOURCE PEOPLE

Tony Snow – member of Stoney Nakoda First Nation and grew up on Treaty No. 7 land at Morley, AB (Mini Thni), where his father Dr. Rev. Chief John Snow Sr. attended the Morley Indian Residential School. Tony is a Day School Survivor who works as the Indigenous Minister of the United Church of Canada's Chinook Winds Region, receiving M. Div from VST and ordained in 2022 by Chinook Winds and the National Indigenous Council.

As a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, minister and consultant, Tony has worked for decades in communications, public engagement and government relations. His ministry focuses on bridging

non-Indigenous community reconciliation programs with Indigenous neighbours to promote cultural resiliency, advocacy and healing.



Dr. Kevin Driver - Kevin pastors a small church in the resort town of Banff, Alberta, Canada. He deals with seasonal workers, transient influx during high tourist seasons, and an intercultural mix of congregants.

“Banff Full Gospel Church is a small church in a rural resort town and is what I would call intercultural or international. Our town is made up of 90 different nationalities. We have about 14 different nationalities represented in the church.”

“It’s really frustrating, I think, for small churches to use a definition of churches as noses and nickels. We’re growing but we never grown. The budget never gets bigger. And the attendance never gets larger. And yet the completing of the mission that we’re called to keeps on going and we can look at the fruit of our labor.

“I did my doctorate looking at our church in our context and how small churches can be welcoming communities for rural immigration. We’re also very multi ethnic as a town – because of the temporary foreign worker and people in the immigration process. . . You can come back in six months and 50% of my church might be new people. It’s always saying hello to visitors, finding out who’s actually visiting for the weekend compared to who’s here for six weeks, six months, six years.”