

Riding the Waves of Change

Adelaide West Uniting Church

312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park

29 June 2022

Cost \$75, including lunch & coffee

A full day program featuring scholars, practitioners and church leaders from around the world. They will be in Adelaide for the annual gathering of the *International Research Consortium* (IRC).

8.30am Registration

9.00 Welcome and Dwelling in the Word—Revd Nathan Hedt, New & Renewing Churches dept, Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)

9.30 Session 1 — Learning from Riders of Waves in the Past

Revd Dr Ian Robinson, Emeritus Scholar in Mission and Leadership, United Theological College in Sydney, presents our Introduction to the Open Day, on **how the churches have attempted to ride the waves of change since WWII**. Three kinds of response are needed. He observes a large number of approaches that appear to be effective today. He uses interdisciplinary studies to canvas how 'nuanced leaders can teach others to be nuanced'. Thirdly, we need to move beyond our anxieties and cultural defaults to build shared authentic spiritual practices.

10.30 Morning Coffee

11.00 Session 2 — Riding the Waves against the Prevailing Wind

Dominee Danie Mouton, Executive Officer of the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Eastern Cape in South Africa, on their experience of **moving congregations that are struggling with social change and the stress of being in decline, into an effective missional mode**. They have had positive results in redirecting the energy involved in existing conflicts, and focusing it on mission, rather than destructive practices within congregational life. Huge challenges remain.

12.00 Reflection / Discussion Time / Panel—Dr Tania Nelson, LCA Executive Officer for Local Mission.

12.30 Lunch

1.30 Session 3 — Effective Approaches to Riding the Waves

Prof Patrick Keifert, Church Innovations USA, presenting research from the UK, Europe, South Africa and the US, and engagement in Australia, on **how to assess a congregation's willingness and the likelihood of successful missional change**. This builds on the book Pat recently published with Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, *How Change Comes to your Church* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, August 2019).

2.30 Afternoon Coffee

3.00 Session 4 — Riding the Waves by creating a Liminal Haven

Revd Canon Dr Nigel Rooms, Partnership for Missional Church, Church Mission Society, the Church of England, presents **Riding the Waves of Change by holding Liminal Space**. In this workshop we will be introduced to a modified version of Otto's Scharmer's "Theory U" as a way of understanding how we experience change and discover God's presence and activity within it. Key to riding the waves of change is how leaders create a 'holding space' through liminal movement in a safe enough fashion.

4.00 Reflection / Discussion Time / Panel—Dr Tania Nelson, LCA Executive Officer for Local Mission.

4.30 Close

The Program is subject to change.



The IRC has about forty members, of whom about twenty are usually able to attend each annual gathering. They come from the US, UK, Europe, South Africa and Australia and are mostly from Anglican, Reformed, Lutheran and Presbyterian churches. The IRC studies, reflects on and researches 'missional' local churches, fostering a mutually critical conversation between theology and the social scientific study of Christian congregations and the systems that support them in innovating their life and mission.

For more information about the program, please contact Revd Dr Steen Olsen,
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For more information about registration, please contact
localmission@lca.org.au

