

The Western Diocesan & Eparchial Coordinators of Ecumenism (WDECE) is an association of Roman and Ukrainian Catholic personnel and commissions responsible for ecumenical and interreligious affairs within their respective Western Canadian dioceses and eparchies. Our association is constituted for the purpose of mutual co-operation between our local churches. The WDECE's primary task is to assist the member officers and commissions to further the cause of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue within their respective communities. We are related to the Western Catholic Conference through our own local bishops and through Archbishop Thomas Collins, the liaison appointed by the bishops.

The WDECE was established in 1992 under the leadership of Fr. Bernard de Margerie, then director of the Saskatoon Centre for Ecumenism. The association continued to meet in annual conference until 1999. In February 2004, the association was reconstituted at a small gathering in Edmonton, and held a further meeting in conjunction with the May 2004 Ecumenical Institute in Winnipeg. At that time, Fr. Luis Melo, s.m. (Archdiocese of St. Boniface), Virginia Sharek (Eparchy of Edmonton), and Nicholas Jesson (Saskatoon) were elected to the executive. The association invited the Western Catholic Conference to appoint a new liaison bishop. A decision was also taken at the Winnipeg meeting to hold a conference independently of the Ecumenical Institute to provide a basic formational experience for a new generation of ecumenical coordinators. The conference described in this brochure is the result.

WDECE

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Agenda

Sunday, February 13

- 5:00 pm Arrival & registration
- 7:00 pm Introductions
 - *Ecumenical Directory*, §§ 37-54
- 9:00 pm Social

Monday, February 14

- 9:00 am Roman Catholic Mass
- 9:45 am Diocesan & Eparchial reports
 - Sharing of resources
- 1:30 pm Evangelical / Catholic relations
 - George Vandervelde: *Historical overview of Evangelicalism*
 - Discussion: *Our experience of Evangelicals*
- 7:30 pm Public Session at King's College
 - Ecumenical Evening Prayer
 - George Vandervelde: *Catholics & Evangelicals: New Ecumenical Partners*
 - Panel response

Tuesday, February 15

- 9:00 am Morning Prayer
- 9:15 am Updates on Ecumenical dialogues
 - Follow-up to evening session
 - Update on Canadian dialogues
 - Update on international dialogues
- 1:00 pm WDECE Business Meeting
 - Date and place of next meeting
 - Theme of next meeting
 - Selection of executive/officers
 - Comments from bishop liaison
 - Report from CCCB ecumenical commission
 - Reporting to the Western Catholic Conference
- 7:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, February 16

- 9:00 am Panel: *Anglican Unity*
– *Lessons from Ecumenical Dialogue*
- 11:00 am Closing Prayer
- 12:30 pm Lunch & Departure

Western Diocesan & Eparchial
Coordinators of Ecumenism

New beginnings New ecumenical partners



WDECE 2005

**Feb 13 to 16
Edmonton**

New beginnings New ecumenical partners

In 2004, Christians of all persuasions celebrated the 40th anniversary of Vatican II's *Decree on Ecumenism*. As the charter of Catholic ecumenism, the *Decree* encouraged the opening of dialogue between the Catholic Church and other Christian communities of both East and West.

The intervening years have seen a dramatic growth in ecumenical relationships between local parishes, dioceses, and churches. Ecumenical dialogue, carried on by theologians and bishops, has contributed



Sr. Jean Goulet with Archbishop Collins and Fr. Don Bolen at our February 2004 gathering

to an increase in consensus on numerous issues that were once considered church-dividing. The churches that have committed themselves to ecumenical dialogue have been enriched by the experience, and have discovered deeper expressions of Christian identity, mission, and proclamation through their relationships with other churches.

Since the late 1990's we have entered a new stage of ecumenism. New partners in ecumenical dialogue have emerged with new questions and new concerns. At this conference we will explore one of the new Catholic dialogue partners: the Evangelical movement.

Catholics & Evangelicals

Evangelical churches have not generally engaged in the ecumenical movement to the same extent as mainline Protestant churches. Recently Evangelicals have developed an interest in bilateral relationships, and have opened a new relationship with the Catholic Church. From a Catholic perspective, one of the most important forums for Evangelical – Catholic dialogue is the international conversation between the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU).

Our keynote speaker at this year's conference will be Dr. George Vandervelde, the WEA's chair of the international conversations. He is a lay theologian, a member of the Christian Reformed Church, and a member of the U.S. Catholic – Reformed dialogue. He and his wife Bea live in Toronto where he teaches theology at the Institute for Christian Studies.

Dr. Vandervelde will lead the conference participants in a study of the recent document from the WEA/PCPCU conversations, and will give a public lecture at King's College, Edmonton. We also hope to have an opportunity to discuss Catholic experiences of Evangelical para-church ministries and programmes, such as ALPHA and the Graham Crusades.

National & international dialogues

The conference will provide an opportunity for participants to share their own experiences of ecumenical engagement with their neighbouring churches. As well, updates on theological dialogues will give conference participants the tools to connect their own experience to the broader ecumenical mission of the church.

Diocesan & Eparchial Reports

One of the central purposes for the WDECE conference is to facilitate co-operation between dioceses and eparchies, not only in the development of resources but also in the offering of programmes. To facilitate this part of the conference agenda, each diocese and eparchy is asked to present an informal oral report on recent ecumenical and interreligious projects.

Registration deadline: January 13, 2005

Register for:	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Full conference (with room & board)	\$ 225
<input type="checkbox"/> Commuter registration	\$ 125
<input type="checkbox"/> extra Bed & Breakfast (per day)	\$ 35

Indicate dates requiring Bed & Breakfast service (only if available)
Accommodations and conference facilities provided by
Star of the North Retreat Centre, St. Albert (Edmonton)

Total: _____

Transportation to & from Edmonton International airport

Arrival time & flight number _____

Departure time _____

Personal information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dietary needs, additional comments _____

Please make cheques payable to "Eparchy of Edmonton (WDECE 2005)"

- ☐ Cheque enclosed for total fees
☐ Deposit enclosed (\$50)
☐ Payment will be sent by diocesan treasurer

Please send registration form to:

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