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Holyrood Mennonite Church
Attn: Werner De Jong
9505 79 St NW,
Edmonton, AB T6C 2S1

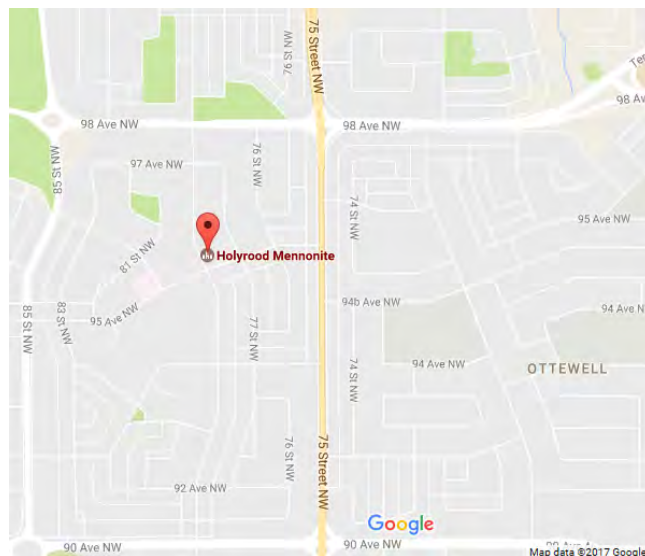
Questions:

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Area Minister
780-994-1021
tim@mennonitechurch.ab.ca

Planning Committee:

Paul Bergen, CLC Chair
First Mennonite Church Edmonton
Doug Klassen
Foothills Mennonite Church
Doug Wiebe
Lethbridge Mennonite Church

Holyrood Mennonite Church
9505 79 St NW,
Edmonton, AB T6C 2S1
(780) 466-3277
office@holyrood.mennonitechurch.ab.ca

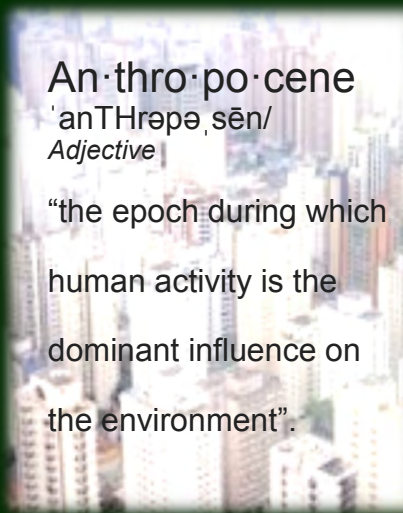


CHRISTIAN FAITH STUDIES

**CALLED TO
PEACEMAKING
WITH ALL
CREATION**
Living Faithfully in the
Age of the Anthropocene

with Randolph
Haluza-DeLay
Associate Professor
The King's University
Edmonton, AB

May 15-17, 2017
Edmonton, AB



Sponsored by
Mennonite Church Alberta
Congregational Leadership Committee

Called to peacemaking with all creation

Schedule

Monday Afternoon 2:00-4:00

- Registration
- Session 1: Why Creation Care is Crucial to Faithful Discipleship

Monday Evening 7:00-9:00

- **Public Lecture.** Session 2: When Christianity seems to be the Problem: Is harming Creation rooted in the Christian Faith?

Tuesday Morning 9:00-12:00

- Session 3: Reading the Bible with Ecological Eyes

(Tuesday Lunch will be provided)

Tuesday Afternoon 1:30-4:00

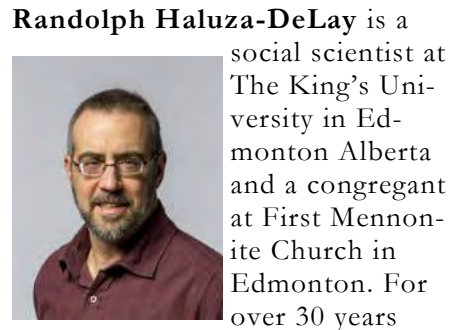
- Session 4: What does Shalom mean? Comparing Mennonite and Indigenous Perspectives

Tuesday Evening 7:00-9:00

- **Public Lecture.** Session 5: When things get polarized: A fossil-fuel economy when the climate is changing

Wednesday Morning 9:00-11:30

- Session 6: Creation-Care and Discipleship in the Anthropocene



Randy has studied the interaction of Christian faith and the environment, and edited the book “How the World’s Religions are Responding to Climate Change.” He has published over 50 research papers on social justice and environmental sustainability. He also writes occasional items for magazines and newspapers (for which he recently won an award from the Canadian Church Press). Randy is a father of two university-aged children, a birdwatcher and cycle commuter, and spent 15 years as a wilderness guide and ski patroller before arthritic knees forced him to university teaching. As a citizen, he is active in peace and anti-racism initiatives and interfaith dialogue. Randy also served as an Observer with the World Council of Churches to the United Nations-sponsored climate negotiations in Morocco in Fall 2016, and was a visiting scholar associated with Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, UK for the past two summers.

Called to peacemaking with all creation

The world is changing. Environmental degradation is spreading, increasing conflict, violence, and global inequality. Faithfulness to Christ takes on new meanings in response to ecological degradation and its consequences. Humanity’s impact on the planet has become so large that some now identify it as a new era – the Anthropocene. Humanity has become a geological force, changing the very planet itself! In a sense, humanity is remaking God’s creation in our own image. This series will examine how creation-care is pivotal to the Christian faith. Creation-care connects with our idea of God, how we view the incarnation, and how we live. It undergirds our love for neighbour, whether across the street or around the world. And it guides how we engage and interact with the rest of this creation that God called “very good.”

Session 1 Why Creation-care is Crucial to Faithful Discipleship

That the Creator of the universe took material form means all creation matters. This understanding has consequences for our theology. Creation-care is crucial in the context of global injustice. Some of the scientific evidence for why this time period has been renamed “The Anthropocene” will be presented.

MONDAY EVENING PUBLIC LECTURE: Session 2 When Christianity seems to be the Problem: Is harming creation rooted in the Christian Faith?

Many Christians now believe creation care is an important part of faith. Still, critics argue that the worldview associated with Christianity is a root cause of present ecological degradation. Many Christians also see human needs or salvation as more pressing concerns. Looking at climate change, creation-care, stewardship, and eco-justice will help unpack better ways of living faithfully in the Anthropocene.

Session 3 Reading the Bible with Ecological Eyes

We read the Bible through the lens of our culture., which tends to segregate humans and the rest of creation. What happens when we include ALL creation when we read the Bible? What does John 3:16 really say? Can we get even more out of the biblical text?

Session 4 What does Shalom mean? Comparing Mennonite and Indigenous perspectives

Perry Yoder calls shalom “the Bible’s word for salvation, justice and peace.” Some Indigenous scholars suggest we extend “shalom” beyond the realm of humanity to include the entire “community of creation”. Their perspectives may help us come to broader notions of discipleship, faith, and peacemaking. How do we think critically about our affluent North American culture, and become more open to the voices of global Christianity?

TUESDAY EVENING PUBLIC LECTURE: Session 5 When things get Polarized: A fossil-fuel Economy when the Climate is Changing

Climate change has been studied extensively by both physical and social scientists, yet skepticism remains high. The changing climate has growing impacts around the world, undermining development work. Is divestment from fossil-fuels a faith-full response? Yet in Alberta, we depend on resource extraction to support families and our well-being. How on earth and in the Spirit do we talk about a faithful response?

Session 6 Moving Forward: Creation-care and Discipleship in the Anthropocene

If the world is changing, how do we integrate creation care into our Christian faith? This session will focus on practical and impactful actions by congregations. We will discuss research on obstacles and opportunities for creation-care. The church is not an environmental organization, but creation-care can and should be part of an effective Christian witness.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Attending

Full Studies _____

One day: _____

Day Attending: _____

Please include payment:

Full Studies \$110 \$ _____

One Day \$70 \$ _____

Make cheques payable to Mennonite Church Alberta and mail with registration form to Holyrood Mennonite Church (see address on back).

Tuesday lunch is provided. Please list any special dietary needs :

If you require billeting please email office@holyrood.mennonitechurch.ab.ca. Deadline for billet requests is May 6.