

Pastor to Pastor Gatherings History  
Gustavus Adolphus College Office of Church Relations in  
partnership with the Southwestern Minnesota and Southeastern Minnesota Synods  
2003-2016

Initial Gathering: **Health in Body, Mind, and Soul**

Winter: February 6-7, 2003

Dr. Gwen Halaas, M. D. ELCA Board. of Pensions - "Ministerial Health:

Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock, GAC - "Growing in Excellence as Pastors"

Chaplain Rachel Larson, GAC - Spirituality - "Sabbath Moments"

(Morning prayer - Chaplain Rachel Larson)

2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering: **Rural Ministry**

Spring: April 29-30, 2003

Rev. Mark Yackel -Joleen - rural ministry

Mark Granquist - Religion Dept., GAC -

Chaplain Brian Johnson, GAC - Spirituality and Art

3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering: **Healthy Congregations**

Fall: November 6-7, 2004

Rev. Roger Schwarze - Family Systems - Healthy Congregations

Dr. Brad Holt - Religion Prof at Augsburg - Spiritual Direction

(Worship - Anne - Taize`)

4<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Leadership**

Winter: February 19-20, 2004

Steve Wilkinson, GAC Athletic Dept. - "Stories of Wholeness"

Professor June Kloubec, GAC Health and Exercise Science Dept. - "The  
Wisdom of the Body"

Bishop Jon Anderson and Rev. Joyce Piper

(Worship - Anne - Taize`)

Dr. Bruce Johnson, GAC Dept. of Economics and Management -

"Reflections on Leadership part 1"

Dr. James Peterson, GAC President - "Reflections on Leadership part 2"

5<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Responsibility**

Spring: April 29-30 2004

Jim Gilbert, Linnaeus Arboretum Director, GAC - "Caring for God's  
Creation"

Chaplain Bruce Benson, St. Olaf x 23 yrs. - Spirituality:

"The Point of spiritual life is 'delight' (not success); to receive life as a  
sacrament."

Rev. Catherine Malotky, ELCA Board of Pensions - "The Call to Ministry  
and Financial Realities"

(Worship - Brian Johnson - Taize`)

6<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Christian Vocation**

Fall: September 30-October 1, 2004

(Last minute rescheduling - Bill Weiser contracted Lyme disease and was too ill to travel.)

Dr. Chris Johnson, Center for Vocational Reflection @ GAC - "The Vocation of all God's People"

Rev. Jack Fortin, Luther Seminary's Life-long Learning Program and "Centered Life" - "Equipping the Laity for Ministry"

Dr. Casey Elledge and Dr. Deborah Goodwin on the DaVinci Code

Rev. Patricia Lull, Dean of Students at Luther Seminary - "The Call to Pastoral Ministry" - (2 sessions)

(Worship - Anne - Taize`, Chapel)

7<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Healers - Harmed and Harmful**

Winter: January 20-21, 2005

Dr. Bill Weiser - psychologist and administrator of systems therapy from Allentown, Pennsylvania (4 sessions)

Bishop Jon Anderson with us Thursday evening in the wake of the recommendations from the Sexuality Task Force January 13, 2005 (Worship - Rev. Brian Beckstrom & Rev. Jack Niemi, celebration of Ron Koch's ministry following his unexpected death November 12, 2004, Alumni Hall)

8<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Leadership in Light of Tough Decisions in Difficult Times**

Spring: April 28-29, 2005

Dr. Doug Huff, GAC professor of philosophy - "Theology, Ethics and Resistance" (2 Sessions)

Book: Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (new translation)

Dr. Chad Winterfeldt, GAC organist: old-fashioned hymn sing in the evening at the piano

Dr. Tricia Spitzmueller, spiritual director - "An Introduction to Soul-Directed Energy Healing: Healing the Heart of Humanity One Heart at a Time" (2 sessions)

(Worship Rev. Art Montgomery - on "Renewing Worship", Linner Lounge)

9<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Religion and Politics**

Fall: September 29-30, 2005

Dr. Chris Gilbert, GAC professor of political science (2 sessions)

Senator Dean Johnson, Lutheran pastor and military chaplain, discussing military chaplaincy and being in politics

Rev. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Shalom Hill Farm - Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy

(Worship - Chaplain Rachel Larson meditating in the Labyrinth, Alumni Hall)

10<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Rekindling the Flame**

Winter: January 26-27, 2006

Drew Brooks, The Rush Center of the Johnson Institute, Austin, TX

“The Diminished Flame, “Feeling the Heat, “Spreading the Light”

(3 sessions about addictions)

Book: Healing Places by Trish Merrill

Pastor Christopher Nelson, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis -

“Purpose-Driven Congregations”

(Worship – Rev. Joyce Capp and Rev. Joyce Piper, in Alumni Hall)

11<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Sabbath: Rootedness and Rhythm in Life**

Spring: May 4 - 5, 2006

Dr. Jenifer Ward and Callista Isabele, GAC - “On the Meaning of Sabbath”

Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock, GAC - Lutheran/Jewish relations and recent visit to Israel

Dr. Dorothy Bass, Valparaiso University: “Fostering Faithful Patterns of Daily Living: Challenge & Hope,” and “Putting Down Roots: The Congregation in an Age of Mobility and Cyberspace”

(Worship – Rev. David Nelson, Christ Chapel)

12<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Preaching: The Word in Our Midst**

Fall: September 21-22, 2006

Dr. David Mesner: “Let It Be with Me According to Your Word”

(Worship - Dave Mesner, with an altar in our meeting room throughout the gathering)

Dr. Rick Bliese: “What’s New at Luther Seminary

Rev. Dr. David Lose: Modernism

13<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Reviving Body and Soul: Care of Others, Care of Self**

Winter: February 1-2, 2007

John Martinson: “Small Group Participation & Leadership:

Responsibilities, Interpersonal Skills and Self-Management

Issues”. Part 1: Content. Part 2: Process.

Greg Nelson - Clinical Director, LSS: “Care of Others, Care of Self”

(Worship – Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp’s team, Linner Lounge)

14<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Salvation**

Spring: May 3, 2007 (single day)

Dr. Gary Stansell - St. Olaf college religion professor: “The Biblical concept of Salvation”

Rabbi Barry D. Cytron - Jay Phillips Center for Jewish-Christian Learning, and Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock - GAC, Lutheran studies professor:

Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World”

Dr. Mary Solberg GAC professor of religion & ethics: “Just Peace”

(Worship in daily chapel)

15<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Reflections on Leadership and a Changing Church**

Fall: September 20-21, 2007

Dr. Kathleen Cahalan - professor, St. John's University School of  
Theology & Divinity: "Identifying the Gifts of God's People:  
Discipleship and Ministry" (2 sessions)

Plain Talk with 20-somethings"- a panel discussion with 6 GAC  
students about what the church needs to be and how they have  
seen the church change

Rev. William C. Nelson: "A Bifocal View of Leadership in the changing  
Church" (2 sessions)

(Worship: Rev. Anne Anderst's team - taize`, Christ Chapel)

16<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Coaching 101/Mentoring**

Winter: January 24-25, 2008

Rev. Richard Mork and Rev. Keith Zeh - Mission Directors ELCA Region 3  
Coaching 101 Book, handbook, and DISC

(Worship – Rev. David Aaker meditation, Linner Lounge)

17<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Pastoral Excellence in Crisis**

Spring: April 10-11, 2008

Rev. Kristi Schiroo and Rev. Brigit Stevens, "Psychological First Aid"

Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at  
Luther Seminary: "Theological and Personal Dimensions of Working  
Through Crisis"

Panel: "Pastoral Ministry in the Midst & Aftermath of Crisis", 3 pastors  
serving through tornado and flood disasters & relief

PowerPoint from Dr. Harold Koenig: "Stages of Crisis" (and discussion in  
colleague teams)

Student Readers and String Ensemble, after dinner entertainment

(Worship – Rev. Eileen Mehl and Rev. Marcia Hegna)

18<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Use of the Scriptures in the Church**

Fall: September 18-19, 2008

Diane Jacobson, Associate in Ministry, Lutheran Seminary, 2 sessions:  
"Introduction to the Book of Faith Initiative, and Lutheran Approaches to  
Scripture"; "A Bible Study with Lutheran Ways of Opening the Bible  
Together"

Rev. Nathan Frambach: "The Use of Scriptures in  
Congregational Life"; Evangelical Listening and Evangelical  
Living" (2 sessions)

(Worship - Chaplain Rachel Larson, meditation & Labyrinth)

19<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Closing the Generation Gap: The Church Helping the Elderly**

Winter: February 12-13, 2009

Senior Citizen Panel: "Who We Are and What We Have to Offer the Church" (facilitated by Dr. Janet Ramsey)

Dr. Janet Ramsey, Luther Seminary: "Meeting the Future: Ministry with, by and for Older Adults"

Becky Ottreness, Caregiver: "From Grief to Resilience, A Caregiver's Perspective: Who We are and What Are Our Needs & Gifts"

Deb Robinson, Associate in Ministry: "Where Do We Go from Here" Resources & Planning"

(Worship: Deb Robinson, AiM)

20<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Context Matters: Recalling & Connecting with the Story of Our Region**

Spring May 7-8, 2009

Dr. Robert Douglas, Geography Department, GAC: "The Old and New Immigrants of Southern Minnesota"

Dr. Bill Lass, History, University of Minnesota at Mankato: "The Dakota War of 1862"

Dr. Garrett Paul, Religion Department, GAC: "Making Tracks to Minnesota's Colonies: Immigration & the Railroads"

Dr. Sarah Johnson, Religion Department, GAC: "Minnesota's Immigrant Churches: Practicing the Faith in a New Place"

Movie: *Sweet Land* - after-dinner entertainment on Thurs.

(Worship - Chaplain Brian Johnson - Meditations & old-fashioned hymn sing)

21<sup>st</sup> Gathering: **Christian Theology in Response to Judaism & Islam: Living in a Pluralistic Society**

Fall: September 17-18, 2009

Dr. Marilyn Salmon Professor of New Testament Theology, United Theological Seminary,

Presentation #1: "God IN Relationship"

Presentation #2: "Jesus WithIN Judaism"

Dr. Steve Haggmark, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian Mission and World Religions, Luther Seminary.

Presentation #3: "What are We Called Upon to Be as Creatures of God?"

Presentation #4: "What Issues Confront Human Society, and How Are They Engaged?"

(Worship - Rev. Grady St. Dennis and Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock)

22<sup>nd</sup> Gathering: **Communication Strategies: Ringing the Church Bell Today**

Winter: February 11-12, 2010

Joyce Aarsvold, GAC Technology Services: "Technology 10: Resources Today" and Practical Uses"

Student Panel "Experiencing Community in the Technology World Today" (students share perspectives on use of technology to make connections)

Dr. Leila Brammer, Communication Studies, GAC: "Cautions and Boundaries"

Allan Johnson: "Using Technology in the Congregation"

(Opening Devotions by Rev. Grady St. Dennis)

(Worship - Proclaim Worship Service, 9 p.m. Thursday - student led worship)

23<sup>rd</sup> Gathering: **The Vocation of the Church in a Divided Society**

Spring: May 6-7, 2010

Dr. Mark Bjelland, Geography Department, GAC: "Growing Apart in Minnesota"

Dr. arah Johnson, Religion Department, GAC: "Background to the Cultural Wars: Civil Rights, Feminism, and the Rise of the Religious Right"

Dinner: Student panel discussion facilitated by Lee Brammer, Communication Studies, GAC

Rev. Dr. Darrel Jodock, Religion Department, GAC: "Culture Wars and the Vocation of the Church" (2 sessions)

(Worship – Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp)

24<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Theology of Laughter and Play**

Fall: October 14-15, 2010

Dick Hardel: "The Healing Power of Laughter and Play" (2 sessions)

Dick Hardel: "Theological Connection of Play, Laughter and Wellness"

"Performance of Life in Christ Circus"- Clown Troupe

(Worship – Rev. Dr. Mary Gaebler, Religion Dept., GAC)

25<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Science & Theology 1: Creation and Our Evolving World**

Winter: February 10-11, 2011

Rv. Dr. Darrell Jodock: "Introduction and Polkinghorne video"

Dr. Chuck Niederriter, Physics Department, GAC: "The Universe: A Physicist's View"

Dr. Jon Grinnel, Biology Department, GAC: "Evolution: A Biologist's View"

Closing Panel Discussion

26<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Science & Theology 2: Human Limits & Genetic Control**

Spring: April 28-29, 2011

Dr. Robert Lebel: "Introduction, and Cases/Conundrums: (2 sessions)

Dr. Robert Lebel: "Pastoral Perspectives"

Dr. Pam Kittelson, Biology Department, GAC with Justin Anderson:  
"Science on the Farm and in Grocery Stores"

Open discussion with Lebel, Kittelson, Anderson & Linden Olson, Farmer  
(Worship – rev. Keith Ainsley's team)

27<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Confirmation: Changing Landscape**

Fall September 22-23, 2011

Dr. Hans Wiersma, Augsburg College: "Monkey Business: 200 Years of  
Confirmation"

Rev. David W. Anderson, Vibrant Faith: "Living the Catechism"

Dr. Daniel Moos, Education, GAC: "A Changing Landscape"

Developmentally, Where Are the Students?"

Discussion, Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock, GAC (Facilitator),

Idea Session: So What Does This Mean? Next Steps?"

28<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Kindling the Fires for Servant Leadership**

Winter: February 9-10, 2012

Chaplain Rod Anderson, GAC: "Biblical Foundations for Servant  
Leadership"

Grady St. Dennis, Center for Servant Leadership & Chaplain, "Skills  
At the Heart of Great Leaders"

Grady St Dennis, "Skills that Multiply Efforts"

Grady St. Dennis, "Skills Great Leaders Have but Seldom Talk About"

29<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Rediscovering the Joy of Call**

Spring: April 12-13, 2012

Devotions and prayers: Rev. Scott Olson and Rev. Jay Dahlvang

Bishops Jon Anderson and Harold "Huck" Usgaard: "Conversations with  
The Bishops about Today's Church Part 1

Bishops Anderson and Usgaard: "Conversations continue with the  
Bishops about ministry in today's church"

Blessing service for the Bishops, led by Rv. Carl Bruihler, Rev. Roger Haug  
and Rev. Dave Aaker

Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, Luther Seminary: Reflecting on the Meaning of  
Call: The Spiritual, Theological, Biblical-and Experiential-  
Aspects of Call"

(Worship - Service of Recommissioning for all Pastor-2-Pastor  
participants, led by Chaplain Rachel Larson)

30<sup>th</sup> Gathering

- Fall: Oct. 2012
- 31<sup>st</sup> Gathering: **Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice (Part 1)**  
Winter: February 7-8, 2013  
A Conversation About Social Statements:  
“Framing the Question of Justice as a Theological Concept”  
“Proposals for Reform, Action and Ministry”
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Gathering: **Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice in Southern Minnesota, (Part2)**  
Spring: April 11-12, 2013  
A Conversation with: Law Enforcement Officials, The judicial System, and Probation/Social Services & Affected Families.
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Gathering: **Theology of Pastoral Leadership**  
Fall: “Oct 24-25, 2013  
A Conversation on: Models for Leadership, A Theology of Leadership, A Practical Applications/Tool, and Broader Vocation-Wellness.
- 34<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **The Growth of World Christianity: Inspirations for Congregational Ministry”**  
Winter: February 20-21, 2014  
Conversations with:  
Dr. Marcia Bunge; Rev. Brian Konkol and Bishop Steven Delzer
- 35<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Renewing the Church Through Music and Worship**  
Spring: April 10-11, 2014  
Speakers were: Rev. Jeff Linman and Joseph Aenlle
- 36<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Lessons from a Season as Presiding Bishop**  
Fall: October 23-25, 2014  
A Conversation: “Where the Church Has Been, Presently Is, and How It May Evolve into the Future”  
Speaker: Rev. Mark Hanson, former Presiding Bishop ELCA
- 37<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Christian Prayer and Meditation Practices and the Medical Sciences: Powerful Healing Resources in our Midst**  
Winter: February 19-20, 2015  
Rev. Mari Torkelson: “Heritage of Christian Prayer & Meditation Practices - Part 1”  
Dr. Will and Dr. Patricia Freiart: Heritage of Christian Prayer and Meditation and Meditation Practices - Part 2”  
Dinner: Conversation with GAC Wellbeing Center Director Meghan Krause and Student panel.  
William Shores: “Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Research”  
Tammy Olson Devine: “Guided Meditation Experience”



38<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Hosting Conversations that Matter**

Spring: April 9-10, 2015

“Uncovering Challenges and Calling conversations” (Session 1)

Peter Block: “The Art of Powerful Questions” “Questions Are More Transforming Than Answers”

“Leading Conversations That Matter” Knowing How to Create a Space for Conversations is Paramount to Leading Complex Conversations.

“Harvesting Key Learning”

Facilitators: Dave Newell and Katie Boone

39<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age**

Fall: October 22-23, 2015

“Where Are We” Spiritual Life in a Fluid and Insecure Age”

“Who Are We?” The Triune God’s Mission of Forming and Reforming Community”

“Where Do We Go from Here” Becoming a Learning Church”

“Where Do We Go from Here” Embracing Agility”

40<sup>th</sup> Gathering: **Celebrating a Whole Life of Worship: Loving God with Heart, Mind, and Strength**

February 18-19, 2016

Rev. Rev. Grady St. Dennis: “Loving God with all our Heart”

Siri Erickson: “Loving God with all our Mind”

Dinner: Rev. Peter Rogness (Former bishop Saint Paul Area and Greater Milwaukee Synods)

Rev. Katherine Rood: “Loving God with all our Strength”

Rev. Scott Olson: “Celebrating a Whole Life of Worship”

41<sup>st</sup> Gathering: “The Divides that Bind Us: Addressing the Factors that Hinder Our Witness to the Gospel in the Word and Deed”

Spring: April 7-8, 2016

Dr. Kristian Braekkan and Rev. Dr. Brian Konkol: “The Exorcism of Economics: Addressing Issues of Humanity and Dignity of Life” - (2 sessions)

Dinner: Conversation with President Rebecca Bergman

Dr. Winston Persaud: “The Gospel: Being and Doing”

42<sup>nd</sup> Gathering: “Faith, Sexism, Justice: A Conversation toward a Social Statement”

Fall: October 13-14, 2016

Rev. Bruce Berg

Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfield

Dr. Mary Streufert

