

Please forward to any in your networks who may be interested. This meeting is open to both lay and clergy members of the community.

Hamilton-Paris-K/W area friends,

There will be an exploratory meeting toward offering the Canadian Council of Churches ecumenical program, “Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry” program in the Hamilton-Paris-K/W area.

**Friday November 25, 10 am - Noon**

**Attend in-person: Trinity Lutheran Church Hamilton - 104 Hughson St N, Hamilton ON, L8R 1G6**

- <https://goo.gl/maps/DP51diY3PxJ5qVrk6>

**Attend by**

**Zoom: <https://councilofchurches.zoom.us/j/94360222009?pwd=UHhNeStUWDVFeDINTHF6V1Jwa2J1QT09>** (full zoom coordinates below)

We need your wisdom and help in discerning whether there is need for and interest in the program, and to help describe the context toward shaping the program if it is offered there. There is no commitment beyond this first meeting. However, if the decision is to offer the program, there will be opportunity to help shape, host, and promote the program.

**Please pass along this invitation to others who may be interested**

The agenda will be conversational, and include:

- An opportunity to hear about your context, what is happening around relationships across cultural and other diversity, and what the issues are there.
- An opportunity to hear about the 5-day program, and to have you identify whether there might be interest or need to host the program in your area.
- Naming local networks and people who might resource or help offer the program.

The Engage Difference! program is only offered in a local context at the invitation of local communities and if offered it is intentionally done so in a way that it is shaped by that context and helps build resources for ministry locally. There has already been a great deal of interest in the Hamilton area.

## **About the Program**

<https://www.interculturalleadership.ca/duim/>

“Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry” is a 5-day interactive and engaging ecumenical program with practical ideas for implementation in your own context. Engage Difference! is for ministry leaders and community members nurturing cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness in their communities.

The program is offered as a way to resource Canadian Churches as they respond to the changing Canadian context:

- How do churches engage their increasingly diverse communities?
- How do churches live into their own diversity in ways that allow all to be fully themselves as church members?
- How can churches be better at engagements across cultures such as:
  - living faithfully in contexts shaped by power and privilege related to race, class, gender, citizenship, education, migration, sexuality, ability, economics, ethnicity and many other ways
  - refugee hosting or providing resources for newcomers to Canada & welcoming migrants into church communities
  - engaging diverse communities in and around a congregation or parish

- international travel
- healthy pastoral relationships when the leadership and congregation are of different cultures
- cultural differences that shape reconciliation and relationships with Canada's indigenous peoples
- congregations, and their unique cultures, merging or collaborating

Learn more at: <https://www.interculturalleadership.ca/duim> Please also find attached a brochure for the program and a handout outlining the role of a local host group and sample program content.

Canadian denominations offer this program through [The Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning](#) a reference group of [The Canadian Council of Churches](#).

Questions, and rsvp, can be directed to: Jonathan Schmidt [schmidt@councilofchurches.ca](mailto:schmidt@councilofchurches.ca) 416-972-9494 x207

## Jonathan Schmidt is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Hamilton-Paris-K/W Engage Difference! exploratory meeting  
Time: Nov 25, 2022 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://councilofchurches.zoom.us/j/94360222009?pwd=UHhNeStUWDVEeDINTHF6V1Jwa2J1QT09>

Meeting ID: 943 6022 2009

Passcode: 986962

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 780 666 0144 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 943 6022 2009

Find your local number: <https://councilofchurches.zoom.us/u/atkgm9Cfm>

**Rev. Dr. Jonathan Schmidt**

**Associate Secretary: Intercultural Leadership; Justice and Peace**



**Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning**  
**Canadian Council of Churches / Conseil canadien des Églises**

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[www.InterculturalLeadership.ca](http://www.InterculturalLeadership.ca)

[www.councilofchurches.ca](http://www.councilofchurches.ca)

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