

Synod-Wide Conversation Facilitation and Design



Charles Holmes is a cultural anthropologist by education. Over the past 25 years he has pursued projects where the need for understanding and shaping culture through dialogue and inclusion have been critical. With more than 25 years of experience, Charles has skillfully facilitated projects with clients from health care, educational institutions,

government and not-for-profit sectors. He has worked with organizations in many settings throughout North America, Mexico, Asia, Europe and Saudi Arabia.

Charles was a co-founder of the Learning Strategies Group in the Faculty of Business at Simon Fraser University. He helped in the founding of the Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education and led the creation of the Connecting for Change dialogues that brought together business and NGO leaders in a series of dialogues with the Dalai Lama. He co-created the [Connecting for Community](#) dialogues in Cincinnati, in collaboration with Peter Block. He is a co-founder of the [Academy for Systemic Change](#) where he also a faculty member working with cohorts of next generation leaders to address challenges in community development, marine ecosystem restoration, education, global food security, and reconciliation. He teaches in Executive Education at the University of British Columbia, was a founder of the [Cool North Shore](#) dialogues and worked with Reconciliation Canada to create a national leadership learning experience on reconciliation.

Charles has lived in North Vancouver, BC since 1994, along with his wife and two daughters.



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Synod-Wide Conversations

Building our Community



Dear Friends,

With our first conversation just around the corner on February 9th in Victoria here are a few more details. Registration deadline for Victoria: **9:00 am, Monday, Feb 4th**

Who is our design/facilitator?

On the other side of this bulletin, you will find a brief bio of Charles Holmes, our design/facilitator for these gatherings.

What 'work' will we be doing that day? Is this like convention?

In contrast to a synod convention, the work we will do together is to help clarify the priorities we will have as a synod as we move into the future. The format is designed to engage all attendees as we try to discern how God is leading us as congregations and as a synod.

Who should attend?

The gathering is for everyone in our synod. This includes those who are very new and those who have been here a lifetime. It is for all God's people called to mission together as the BC Synod.

What are some of the things we will be talking about that concern our congregation or ministry?

There will be a chance to talk with others about some of the challenges you are facing and to explore some of the opportunities for new ministry in your congregation and in our synod. This work, this conversation is collaborative.

Is there a limit on registration per congregation?

Congregations are welcome to send as many people as they wish to the capacity of the room. For those at a distance we have contacted your congregation to let them know that a \$600 bursary to assist the congregation with travel costs is available. This includes the following: Powell River, Barriere/Clearwater, Nelson, Tofino (rostered leader), Port Alberni, Courtenay. Please speak to your congregational leadership. After the event, we will forward \$600 bursary amount to the church/ministry of those attending.

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