



The Church of Scotland

RELATIONAL MINISTRY RE-IMAGINED



CONFERENCE GUIDE

Saturday October 6th

10.00 – 4.00pm

With Professor Andy Root

Live streamed to various locations



The Church of Scotland
Mission and Discipleship Council



SUPPORTING

year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

Welcome!

Welcome to this live streamed conference. Some people will be hearing our speaker directly and others will be gathered in groups in different locations across the country to watch and have discussion nearer where they come from. This is a great opportunity to come together, reflect theologically and be challenged with new understandings and thinking that we can relate to our lives and ministries.

Today, we will be exploring theology and practice around developing and deepening relationships. We will reflect on the importance of and challenges around relationships and ways to develop relational and incarnational ministry. Our hope is that together, our understanding will grow and we'll be challenged to have a fresh view of the importance of relationships as we explore the concept and practice of 'place sharing'.

We are relatively new to running a streamed conference and are hoping that you find it helpful as we seek to make our conferences more accessible to more people. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

We hope this **Conference Guide** will help you journey and journal through this event. It includes details of the sessions, questions for consideration, as well as recommendations for further reading and other resources.

Our Speaker

Professor Andy Root

Andy Root is Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in the States. He is a sought-after speaker at conferences, colleges, and churches and is known for an engaging style that laces together stories, theological depth, and humour. Andy has been involved in speaking and training in many parts of the world and with a number of reformed traditions. His books are used widely in training.

Andy has written a number of books that explore the theological and ministerial importance of children and youth. You may be interested to follow up this day and read some more.

Books by Andy Root

Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker:

A Theological Vision for Discipleship and Life

Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry:

From a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation

Faith Formation in a Secular Age:

Responding to the Church's Obsession with Youthfulness

Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs and

Zombies: Youth Ministry in the Age of Science



Programme

Your Host will welcome each local group, do introductions and share housekeeping information.

We will start our day with a short time of worship conducted by the Host in each location. Then Andy will speak 3 times for 40 minutes. The key points of each talk are in the Guide and there is also a box for your own notes. Each talk will be followed by group discussion.

9.30	Arrival, Registration, Coffee	
10.00	Welcome and Introductions	Local Host
10.10	Worship	Local Host
10.25	Regroup	
10.30	Introduction to the day and the	Isobel and Andy
10.40	Talk 1	Andy Root (streamed)
11.20	Group Discussion	Local Groups
11.55	Regroup	
12.00	Talk 2	Andy Root (streamed)
12.40	Group Discussion	Local Groups
13.10	LUNCH	
13.55	Regroup	
14.00	Talk 3	Andy Root (streamed)
14.40	Group Discussion	Local Groups
15.15	Regroup	
15.20	Questions and Conclusion	Isobel, Suzi and Andy (streamed)
15.50	Closing Prayer and Evaluation	Local Host

Worship

Opening Responses:

We gather together in praise and worship

In God's House, as a new community of young people

We have come from many places, for a little while

All are welcome in God's house

We have come with all our differences, seeking common ground

All are welcome in God's house

We have come on journeys of our own, to a place where journeys meet

Bible Reading: Mark 9 36 - 36

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

In pairs discuss the following question:

- ◆ How have you felt welcomed and included in the life of your church?
- ◆ What helps or hinders this?

Song: As We Are Gathered

As we are gathered, Jesus is here;

One with each other, Jesus is here;

Joined by the Spirit, washed in the blood,

Part of the body, the Church of God.

As we are gathered, Jesus is here;

One with each other, Jesus is here.

Prayer:

We thank you for gathering us here today. We invite you Lord into our midst, as we explore the area of Relational Ministry together. Guide and bless our speaker and our thinking. Amen

Talks and Discussion Questions

Talk 1: The Church, Young People and the Relational Crisis

Key Points:

Why have relationships been so important to in the church?

Draw the diagram of Spheres of Cultural Change”

What is a young person?

Circle one: alien/barbarian/technology savant/person

What year was the concept of ‘adolescence’ constructed?

Before WWII ____% after WII ____%

The West has experienced some major cultural changes, they are:

New Risk and Trust

Technical _____. What’s that?

Self-Chosen Relationships. How does that work?

Notes:

Talk 1: Discussion Questions

1. Do you feel there has been a relational crisis or change ?
2. Do you see a relational crisis in churches and with our young people?
3. Do we retreat or ignore this crisis in our churches?
4. What do parents want to see church doing for their kids? How does church compete with other family activities?

Talk 2: Reimagining Relational Ministry

Key Points:

What do we mean by relationship?

Relationships are they used for influence or something to avoid ?

Relational ministry of influence is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What is Place-Sharing?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Notes:

Talk 2: Discussion Questions

1. Which story resonated the most for you?
2. What point most connects with what you are doing at your church?
3. What practices, events, etc. create spaces for such times?
4. Tell of a time you experienced 'place-sharing' in your own life.
5. Tell of a time you experienced 'place-sharing' at your church.

Talk 3: The Shape of Faithful 'Place-Sharing'

Key Points:

What does 'place sharing' look like?

A Face-off:

Influence vs. 'Place-sharing'

The How vs the Who

The Form vs the Event

The Programmer vs the Theologian

Cultural conflict vs the story of incarnation, crucified, and resurrected

To be a faithful 'place-sharer' means.....

Being both _____ and _____

Confrontation and Judgment - why are these good for ministry?

When are they bad?

Notes:

Talk 3: Discussion Questions

1. Where would you say Jesus Christ is concretely present in your life and ministry? How do your practices seek to be faithful to seeking the presence of Christ?
2. The theology of the cross is a theological experience of sharing in the depth of people's lives, particularly their sufferings and temptations. What is risky about this?
3. How can we work with others in our church to develop a ministry of 'place-sharing'?

Further Notes:

Next Steps:

Use this space to jot down anything that has stood out for you and particularly what you plan to do as a result of what you have learnt today.

'Ministry is about connection, one to another, about sharing in suffering and joy, about persons meeting persons with no pretense or secret motives. It is about shared life, confessing Christ not outside the relationship but within it. This is living the gospel.' Andy Root

Closing Prayer

Place a cross on a place mat in the middle of the group.

Ask people to write on a post it note - something that has challenged them / something that they want to go back and do to make 'place sharing' a reality.

Put these onto the cross

Then read out this prayer together

We Go – and know the Lord in our lives

We Go – and build and deepen relationships

We Go – and reflect His love in the world

We Go – and keep our eyes fixed on what is important

We Go – knowing that God's Spirit is with us, today and always

Amen.



How did you find the day?

We hope you've found today to be a thought-provoking and valuable time as we have considered a renewed focus on relationship in our lives, ministries and church. How do today's discussions encourage and grow our shared faith and discipleship in your church and context?

We would love to hear how you found attending a live-streamed event and what you learned from the day. We would invite you to share a few comments with your host. We will then send you an e mail with a link to fill in a short questionnaire and would be very grateful if you could complete it.

***'Relational youth ministry or incarnational ministry, can feel like a vicious cycle of guilt. It may be that the reason relationships have become burdensome is that they have become something youth workers do, rather than something that we enter into. Can relational ministry be an opportunity not to influence the influencers but to stand with and for those in need. True relational youth ministry shaped by the incarnation is a commitment to enter into the suffering of all, to offer all young people the solidarity of the church.'* Andy Root**

If you would like to watch Andy Root's talks again, or refer them to others, they can be found on the Church of Scotland website

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/relational-ministry

Mission & Discipleship

Connect | Resource | Inspire

Do keep in touch with us in the following ways:

- ◆ **The Children and Youth webpages**
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/childrenandyouth
- ◆ **The Children and Youth Newsletter** shares conferences, training events, resources and ideas. You can subscribe on the Connect section of the above webpages.
- ◆ **The 'Now You're Talking' Facebook Group**
www.facebook.com/groups/588801184539545/
- ◆ **Learn: Children and Young People.** This collection of articles equips readers with new ideas and understanding exploring *being church together, working together and forming together*. www.standrewpress.hymnsam.co.uk
- ◆ **Learn: How Will Our Children Have Faith.** This short discussion guide can help congregations explore a vision for ministry with children and young people. www.standrewpress.hymnsam.co.uk

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