

Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert

*MD, MDiv, CCFP, FCFP, GPA
Ordained Clergy in the Eastern Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*

Location: Waterloo, Ontario

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PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Medical Education

GPA – General Practitioner Anaesthetist

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Department of Anaesthesia, July 1992- June 1993
3rd Year of Family Medicine in Anaesthesia,

CCFP - Certification with the College of Family Physicians of Canada

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Department of Family Medicine, July 1990- June 1992
Family Medicine Residency, Misericordia Hospital site,

Doctor of Medicine

University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine, September 1986 - May 1990

Pre-Medical Studies

University of Alberta, Faculty of Science, September 1984 – April 1986

Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Ordination to the Office of Word and Sacrament, 2006
Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Professional Ministry Education

Master of Divinity

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo Ontario, 2005

ACHIEVEMENTS, HONOURS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Award of Excellence - Grand River Hospital
- 2017 Keynote Speaker - 42nd Annual Interfaith Mayor's Breakfast- Waterloo Region
- 2016 Exemplary Service to the Wider Community - Eastern Synod Leadership Award
- 2015 Person of Distinction Award - Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

- 2023 Commissioner, World Council of Churches Commission on Health and Healing, 8 Year Term
- 2018 Co-Chair, Canadian Council of Churches Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group
Representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- 2011 2011 Representative of the Eastern Synod to the Annual Convention of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, Georgetown, Guyana
- 2009 2009-2023 Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Department of Family Medicine, 2006,
McMaster University, Hamilton
- 2003 FCFP, Fellow of the College of Family Physicians, Canada

MEDICAL CAREER

Experienced family physician with 30 years clinical experience including eleven years working as a hospitalist/most responsible physician on a sub-acute adult psychiatry in-patient unit, nine years working as an inner- city community health centre physician in Kitchener, ON and seven years working as a family physician-anaesthetist in Inuvik, NWT. Some experience teaching medical students and Family Medicine residents in each clinical setting. Extensive experience working with First Nations, Inuit, immigrant and refugee Canadians.

Significant Family Practice–psychiatry experience including in-patient sub-acute severe persistent mental illness, in-patient geriatric assessment, and physician consultant to a counselling agency.

Special interests include cross-cultural communication, family practice psychiatric care, spirituality in healthcare, global health, and healthcare from a social determinants of health perspective.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) LEADERSHIP:

- 2014-2019 Founding member of the Department of Psychiatry’s annual “Day in Psychiatry” Continuing Professional Development Day.

- 2012-2020 Member of the Freeport Physicians Education Committee, organizers of annual “Day in Geriatrics” CME. Both events provided MAINPRO-accredited CME for 150 primary care clinicians.

- 2013-2023 Leader of the Practice-Based Small Group (PBSG) for Freeport Family Physicians. Facilitated small-group medical learning for groups of up to 10 physicians and nurse practitioners.

- 2015- Principal organizer of the 25th reunion of the Medical Class of 1990- University of Alberta Medical School

- 2013-2019 Co-founder of Canada-Guyana Mental Health Initiative. This volunteer initiative supported the growth and development of a fledgling psychiatric residency program at the Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana, South America.

CONTINUING MINISTRY LEADERSHIP:

- 2024 Co-Leader of a 13 day Joint Ministry Initiative between the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana in New Amsterdam, Berbice, Guyana..

- 2023 Visitor to the 13th General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, Krakow, Poland

- 2019 Co-founder of Canada-Guyana Mental Health Initiative. This volunteer initiative supported the growth and development of a fledgling psychiatric residency program at the Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana, South America.

- 2017-2018. Coordinated and led a four session “Reflection and Discussion” study group on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) for the Two Rivers, Grand River, and Nith Valley Ministry Areas of the Eastern Synod to provide feedback to the ELCiC MAID Task Force

- 2010 Volunteer at the 11th General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, Stuttgart, Germany.
- 2009 Eastern Synod delegate to the Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Author of a motion on illegitimate debt cancellation that called for the ELCiC to request further development work by the LWF in this area. Motion carried.
- 2007-2009 Co-chair, Global Economic Justice Program Committee, Kairos Ecumenical Justice Initiative, Canada
- 2005-2009- ELCiC representative to the Global Economic Justice Program Committee, Kairos Ecumenical Justice Initiative, Canada
- 2005-2013 KW Conference Clergy Representative on Lutheran Campus Ministry Committee, Waterloo
- 2004- 2011. Founder and Chair (2004-2010) of KW Sanctuary Committee.
- 2003- Village Group participant in the 2003 LWF General Assembly in Winnipeg, MB
- 1997-1999 Lutheran Vestry representative, Anglican Church of the Ascension, Inuvik NT

Medical Publications

2003 Fall 2003; 8(4): 275-6 *Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine*, Letter to the Editor: Impact of alternate payment plans http://prismadmin.cma.ca/index.php?ci_id=36633&la_id=1

2000 Winter 2000; 5(1):12 *Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine*, Northwest Territories Medical Association and Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association. *The provision of primary health care in the Northwest Territories: a joint statement on health care reform in the NWT*. Yellowknife: The Associations; 1998. http://prismadmin.cma.ca/index.php?ci_id=37131&la_id=1

Ministry Publications

2022 Masterton, J. and Kuhnert, P. August 22, 2022. “Deregulation of GMOs causes concern for Council of Churches”. *Christian Courier*. Accessed at <https://www.christiancourier.ca/deregulation-of-gmos-causes-concern-for-council-of-churches/>

2018 Kuhnert, P. April/May 2018. “Facing an uncertain future-faith or fear? The challenge of sorting our real from imagined threats.” *Canada Lutheran Magazine*. Vol. 33 No. 3. pp 10-14.

2016 Kuhnert, P. and Lund, K. April/May 2016. “Living well. A congregational perspective on mental wellness and illness.” *Canada Lutheran Magazine*. pp10-14.

Most Recent Employment

Concurrent:

Position: Family Physician – Hospitalist, Grand River Hospital Freeport

Family Physician, Department of Psychiatry

November 2011 - July 2023 - Specialized Mental Health (SMH), Freeport Hospital - Kitchener,

- MRP (Most Responsible Person) for up to 4 sub-acute psychiatric in-patient beds
- Work with Nurse Practitioners to assess and treat the needs of 50 adult in-patient psychiatry patients
- Participated in program planning for the SMH program including Program Enhancement Committee, Spiritual Care Advisory Committee, and Groups committee.

Family Physician, Complex Continuing Care

December 2011- July 2023 - Freeport Hospital - Kitchener, ON

- MRP for 5 Geriatric Assessment Unit beds

Position: Non-Stipendiary Part-time Ministry Call - Delton Glebe Counselling Centre

Eastern Synod of the ELCiC

The Glebe Centre is owned and operated by Martin Luther University College (MLUC) and by extension, the Eastern Synod of the ELCiC. Master Level students at MLUC in the Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Program receive training at the Glebe Centre.

June 2018 – July 2023

- Advance the quality of care for patients, and excellence in learning and praxis for the students and staff team working at the Glebe Centre.

Previous Employment

Position: Pastor, Non-Stipendiary Part-time Congregational Ministry

Maranatha Congregation met from 2006-2012 in the Chapel of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary at Wilfrid Laurier University Campus. The congregation was comprised of 25 families primarily of Guyanese, Jamaican, and Trinidadian origin.

September 2005 – February 2015 – Maranatha Caribbean Lutheran Congregation – Kitchener, ON

- Ministry included worship leadership, administration, teaching, and community development for a Caribbean mission congregation founded by the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in 1996.
- Ministry development included outreach to the local Black and Caribbean Communities and through Campus Ministry to the Students and Staff of the Universities.
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This followed the completion of a Master of Divinity Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, September, 2000- June, 2005. The four-year MDIV Professional Degree program includes two years of Biblical Language study, a twelve-week Clinical Pastoral Education Intensive program (CPE-Intensive St. Mary's Hospital Supervision, Valley Institution for Women Placement) and a year-long Internship (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cambridge).

Position: Locum Family Physician, Lang's Farm Community Health Centre

September 2011- November 2011 - Ayr Satellite Clinic

Position: Family Physician, Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre

August 2002- August 2011, Permanent part-time capacity, 27.5 hours/week

A CHC multi-disciplinary practice that focused on complex internal medicine care, severe persistent mental illness with concomitant addiction care, cross-cultural care for new Canadian immigrants and refugees, and care for marginalized inner-city residents of Kitchener.

Contributions included:

- Direct patient care and advocacy.
- Support for Nurse Practitioners both on-site and while working at a variety of outreach sites (Anselma House, Mary's Place, St. John's Kitchen, ROOF).
- Coordination of care within a multi-disciplinary team including dietitians, counselors, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses, chiropractors, diabetic nurse educators, and community development workers.
- Intermittent teaching of medical students and family medicine residents through ROMP and the McMaster Faculty of Medicine. Occasional preceptor to international medical graduates.
- Envisioning, creating, and staffing a multi-agency non-government assisted refugee outreach clinic that operated off-site one day weekly from November, 2008- August, 2010. This successful pilot project was enthusiastically evaluated by patients, staff, and agency partners

Position: Family Physician-Anaesthetist - Inuvik Regional Health Board

- Locum - Inuvik Regional Hospital Board, June-August 2001
- Co-owner - Arctic Family Medical House January 1995- March 2000
- Locum - Inuvik Medical Clinic July ,1993- December 1994

Initially hired as a long-term locum for the Inuvik Medical Clinic, then became co-owner of this most northerly private medical practice in Canada, renamed Arctic Family Medical House.

Duties included office practice, in-patient care at the Inuvik Regional Hospital, emergency room care, obstetrics, anaesthesia (general, regional, epidural), community visitation, palliative care, and flight medicine (both from remote settlements to Inuvik, and from Inuvik to either Yellowknife or Edmonton). Represented the Inuvik medical staff at the NWTMA for two years, 1997-1999. Co-authored a report on expanding nurse practitioner education and practice in the NWT.