

Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert

MD, MDiv, CCFP, FCFP

Location: Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

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CREDENTIALS

Medical Education and Qualifications

FCFP Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, 2003

CCFP Certificant of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Department of Family Medicine, 1990- 1992
Third year of Anaesthesia in Family Medicine, University of Alberta, 1992-1993

MD Doctor of Medicine - University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine, 1986 - 1990
Pre-Medical Studies- Faculty of Science, University of Alberta, 1984-1986

Ministry Education

Rev. Ordination to the Office of Word and Sacrament, Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in
Canada (ELCIC), 2006

MDiv. Master of Divinity - Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo Ontario, 2000-2005

Primary Volunteer Service

Since 2018, I have served as Co-Chair of the Canadian Council of Churches' Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group exploring the theological and ethical implications of advances in human gene editing, synthetic biology, AI and brain-computer interfaces. Since 2023, I have served as a Co-Chair of the newly constituted World Council of Churches' Faith and Science Working Group. The priorities of the Faith and Science Working Group include promoting just digital communication globally, exploring the implications of AI for humanity, and examining the potential consequences of human gene editing technology.

DISTINCTIONS

- 2025 Invited Presenter to the 6th International Conference of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Pastoral Health Care, Rhodes, "Digital Technology and New Pastoral Challenges in Health"
- 2025 Co-Creator and organizer of a ten week online international course on Faith and Genetics Health, co-facilitated with the Department of Bioethics at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India
- 2023-2025 Commissioner, World Council of Churches' Commission on Health and Healing (7 yrs)
Co-Chair, Faith and Science Working Group, Commission on Health and Healing, WCC
- 2018-2025 Co-Chair, Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group, Canadian Council of Churches
Member, CCC 80th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign Team 2024 (raised over \$700,000)
- 2024 Eastern Synod (ELCIC) Companion Church Representative to the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG), New Amsterdam, Guyana.
- 2008-2023 Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University.
- 2019 Award of Excellence - Grand River Hospital, Ontario, Canada
- 2017 Keynote Speaker, 42nd Annual Mayors Interfaith Breakfast- Waterloo Region, Ontario, Canada
- 2016 Eastern Synod Leadership Award- Exemplary Service to the Wider Community
- 2015 Person of Distinction Award- Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region, Canada

EXPERIENCED CROSS-DISCIPLINE ANIMATOR AND CROSS-CULTURAL ENABLER

Across 35 years of medical practice and 18 years of ordained ministry, I have worked collegially across disciplines with diverse practitioners (physicians, NP, SW, psychologists, psychotherapists, pastors, theologians, ethicists, and administrators). I am committed to cross-disciplinary collaboration, cross-cultural engagement, and multi-modal communication. In medicine, my work primarily involved family practice, hospitalist work and mental health care, all from a social determinants of health perspective. My continuing education learning, teaching, and facilitating is now centered in international online communities exploring Faith, Science, and Technology (the ethics, opportunities and threats of AI; the risks and benefits of human gene-editing and synthetic biology; and the just development of digital communication technology)

I have extensive employment and volunteer experience working in Canada with First Nations and Inuit communities in the western Canadian Arctic, with the local African Canadian Community in Kitchener-Waterloo, and with immigrant and refugee people in the Waterloo Region. My current volunteer priorities focus on leadership roles with the World Council of Churches (WCC) through the Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing and the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group. These efforts have led to seven webinars noted below. In both 2024 and 2025, I was a co-creator and co-leader of a 13 day joint ministry education initiative between the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC and the ELCG held in Guyana.

COMMITTED TO COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE

This commitment to collaborative excellence began with my medical practice of seven years as a family physician-anaesthetist serving Canada's Western Arctic from a base in Inuvik, NT. For five of these years, I was a co-owner of Canada's most northerly private medical practice. This community and hospital-based practice served 10,000 residents in 11 arctic and sub-arctic communities in a 50,000 square kilometer territory. My practice included a family practice; a full-service hospital practice including ER work, anaesthesia, and obstetrics; multi-day community visits to out-lying nursing stations; and flight medicine to medivac critically ill patients either from their home communities to our local hospital, or secondary care in Yellowknife, NWT or tertiary care in Edmonton, Alberta. Throughout this time I worked closely with Nurse Practitioners and with local Inuit and Dene healthcare providers.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM PLAYER AND LEADER

In 2000, after moving to Waterloo, Ontario to begin my MDiv studies, I worked part-time at an inner city community health centre working in a large multi-disciplinary team to provide care to new immigrants and refugees, to economically marginalized and transiently housed members of our community, and to patients with severe and persistent mental illness. From 2011-2023, I worked as a hospitalist on a chronic care adult psychiatry unit as well as on the geriatric assessment unit (2014-2023) at Freeport Hospital (the subacute hospital of the Grand River Hospital system). During this time, I was a leader and facilitator of the McMaster University Practice-Based Small Group learning program for the Freeport family physicians. I was a regular participant in Freeport Physicians Education Group that hosted an annual Day in Geriatrics (2012-2019). I was the creator of a highly successful Day in Psychiatry Education event (2013-2019) for the Department of Psychiatry of Grand River Hospital. This was a full-day conference bringing together community and hospital-based mental health care practitioners for an accredited continuing medical education event.

SUCCESSFUL IN CO-OPERATIVE LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHANGE EFFORTS

For a decade (2005-2015) I served a Caribbean Lutheran Mission congregation in Waterloo, Ontario as a non-stipendiary part-time pastor. This ministry led to my representing the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in companion church advocacy and education with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG). This also led to the development of a multi-year collaborative initiative to create a psychiatric residency training program for Guyanese physicians at the Georgetown Public Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana. From 2007-2009, I served for two years as a Co-Chair of the Global Economic Justice Committee for Kairos Canada. In 2009, I authored an ELCiC resolution advocating for the cancellation of illegitimate international debt which supported the 2010 Stuttgart Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in furthering this international economic justice initiative.

WEBINAR SERIES: AI AND OUR INFORMATION SOCIETY,

AI and Our Information Society: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly,

WCC

Webinar 1. *Panelist Presentations and Dialogue*

October 15, 2025. To be posted

Moderated by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert (MD) with presentations by panelists Valter Muniz, WCC

Communication Officer; Dr. Erin Green, author of *The Joyful Bot* and producer of the *Digital Justice* study guide for both the World Association of Christian Communication and WCC; Caroline Vuillemin, director of Fondation Hirondelle, supporting local independent journalists in sub-Saharan Africa, Ukraine, & Myanmar.

Webinar:

Theology and Artificial Intelligence: Systematic and Denominational Perspectives,

WCC and CCC

Panelist Presentations and Plenary Discussion

October 1, 2024. Posted October 25, 2024, 324 Views.

Moderated by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert with panelists Bishop Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, WCC

Moderator; Very Reverend Dr. Aristarchos Gkrekas, (MD) Archmandrite of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens;

Prof. Dr. Cory Labrecque of Université Laval; Prof. Rev. Dr. Tracy Trothen of Queen's University; Prof. Dr.

Gayle Woloschak of Northwestern University.

Webinar: Is Intelligence Enough? Exploring Human and Artificial Intelligence

CCC

Plenary Presentation and Panel

May 31, 2023. Posted June 8, 2023, 288 Views.

Plenary Presentation by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert (MD) followed by responses and discussion with Dr. Mark

Boulos (MD) (Coptic Orthodox Church of Canada), Dr. Cory Labrecque (Canadian Conference of Catholic

Bishops), Dr. Tracy Trothen (United Church of Canada).

Webinar: Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group - Biotech Guidelines & Case Studies

CCC

Case Studies and Community Engagement

October 26, 2022. Posted November 1, 2022, 129 Views.

Moderated by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert (MD) with presentations by ethicists Dr. Cory Labrecque (Laval University) and Dr. Aimee Patterson (Salvation Army Ethics Center, Winnipeg).

Webinar: CRISPR-Cas9 and the Theo-Ethics of Gene Editing:

CCC

A Panel-Guided Dialogue

November 3, 2021. Posted November 8, 2021, 309 Views.

Moderated by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert (MD) with panelists Prof. Dr. Francoise Baylis (bioethics), University

Research Professor, NTE Impact Ethics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University; Dr. Moira McQueen,

Executive Director, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute; Rev. Dr. Tracy Trothen, Professor of Ethics,

Queen's University; Michael Buttrey, Doctoral Candidate in Christian Ethics, St. Michael's College, Toronto.

WEBINAR SERIES: "CRISPR-CAS9: FROM ANTI-VIRAL TO GOING VIRAL"

CCC

What could CRISPR-Cas9 mean for human flourishing?

Webinar 1. *Detailed Teaching with Q&A*

March 31, 2021. Posted May 10, 2021, 179 Views.

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert (MD), presentation by Prof. Dr. James Rusthoven (MD, PhD), Professor Emeritus, Department of Oncology, McMaster University.

Who will determine the course of human genome editing?

CCC

Webinar 2. *Introductory Teaching and Engagement*

April 28, 2021. Posted May 6, 2021, 90 Views

Moderated by Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert (MD) with presentations by Prof. Dr. James Rusthoven (MD, PhD), Professor Emeritus, Department of Oncology, McMaster University.

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*, pp 10-14.