

Conference Program



In addition to keynote presentations, a range of electives will explore themes including: ethics, care, friendship, discrimination, love, justice, liberation.

The electives are within the streams:

- **Supports in faith communities/service providers**
- **Sacred texts/theological understandings of disability**
- **Personal stories**

In addition to spoken presentations and workshops, the program committee is giving encouragement to a wide range of expressions, including stories, poetry and song. Program details are being updated on the website.

An art exhibition, depicting the themes of exclusion and embrace, will be launched by Dr. Libby Byrne.

The Venue

The Jasper Hotel, in the centre of Melbourne, is attractive and comfortable, with excellent physical access, and also to public transport. We have negotiated special rates for our delegates. Refer to the Venue and Accommodation tab on our website.



Accommodation

(early bookings recommended)

Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation. A limited number of suites for people with disabilities have been reserved at the Jasper (+61) 3 8327 2777. Other accommodation options are listed on our website.

Further information also available at: www.visitvictoria.com/

Please register for the Conference via the TryBooking tab on the Conference website. Alternatively, you may complete details on the Registration Form, and return to Ann Byrne at the Conference Secretariat (be sure to keep a copy for yourself)

Exclusion and Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality



A multi-faith Conference
August 21-23, 2016
Melbourne Australia

www.exclusionandembrace.melbourne
(includes Easy English details)

www.facebook.com/EmbraceConf/

www.twitter.com/EmbraceConf

Conference Secretariat: Synod of
Victoria and Tasmania Uniting Church
in Australia

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About the Conference

This multi-faith Australasian Conference will be of interest to people with disabilities, parents, carers, academics, staff and volunteers. We will draw on personal stories and the wisdom and knowledge of all faiths, and will deepen our understanding of the many aspects of disability and spirituality.

The experience of exclusion, and of embrace, occurs at many levels...social, economic, political, personal and spiritual; within society, between individuals and in faith communities.

The name of the Conference is drawn from the title of Miroslav Volf's book, acknowledging the struggles and joys that are found in the experience of disability and faith. The Conference has the endorsement of a wide number of organisations including the Jewish Christian Muslim Association, the Faith Communities Council of Victoria, Spiritual Care Australia, Spiritual Health Victoria, the Victorian Council of Churches and the University of Divinity.

Sponsors of the Conference are: The Australian Catholic University, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Christian Blind Mission, Progressive Christian Network Victoria, Christian Heritage College and some private donors.

Immediately prior to this Conference the **International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability (IASSID)** World Congress is being held in Melbourne. Two esteemed speakers from the Congress will be keynoters at our Conference:



Prof Hans Reinders is Chair of Ethics at VU University, Holland, and editor of the *Journal of Religion and Disability*.

Rev Bill Gaventa is Director of the Summer Institute of Theology and Disability and President-elect of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).



Australian presenters include:

Prof David Tacey is an interdisciplinary scholar widely published for his knowledge of Australian spirituality.



Dr Lorna Hallahan will offer a perspective on the place of spirituality within the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Conference will also feature a tribute to **Rev Dr Christopher Newell AM**.

Christopher was a visionary social activist and disability advocate widely published across fields including ethics, telecommunications, pastoral care and spirituality.

