

Westminster Leadership Conference 2007

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Start 2007 with inspiring leaders and learning opportunities

First-time event brings together eclectic speakers, authors and opinion leaders

January 3, 2007

WHITBY, ON – Grey Cup champion and Canadian Football League Hall of Fame member, Terry Evanshen; renowned author and Governor General’s Award winner, Thomas Homer-Dixon and speaker and television host, Denise Marek are among the presenters at the first-ever Westminster Leadership Conference 2007.

Titled *Leading Through Service to our Communities*, the conference is hosted by Westminster United Church in Whitby and will be held at the church January 26 and 27, 2007.

“One of the main reasons we organized this conference is we sensed that people crave genuine leadership to inspire them but this quality seems to be missing in today’s society,” explains Christopher White, minister at Westminster, who is also a conference presenter. “We asked ourselves: how do we face the rapid changes and tremendous challenges in our lives and provide leadership to those around us? We want to offer people some answers to these important questions.”

“We’ve brought together some of the best leaders in their fields to share their experiences with us and help us learn and reflect on the challenges we face as leaders and potential leaders in our day-to-day lives. We want people to leave with practical answers they can apply in their own communities, workplaces and organizations,” says Kerry Delaney, conference coordinator.

The full lineup of keynote speakers features:

- Thomas Homer-Dixon, Director of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto, author of the recently-published book, *The Upside of Down, Catastrophe, Creativity and the Renewal of Civilization* and recipient of the Governor General’s Award for his non-fiction work, *The Ingenuity Gap*;

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- Terry Evanshen, two-time Grey Cup champion, recipient of the Outstanding Canadian Player Award, member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and motivational speaker;
- Jane Armstrong, Senior Vice-President with Environics Research Group;
- Kim Derry, Deputy Chief of Police for Toronto Police Services and Deputy National Commissioner for Scouts Canada;
- Denise Marek, author, speaker and host of Life by Design with Denise Marek;
- Christopher White, minister of Westminster United Church, speaker and author of *Seismic Shifts: Leading in Times of Change*; and
- Dick O'Brien, a leadership trainer and speaker, wellness counsellor and human resources consultant.

Topics to be covered include identifying your leadership style; essential risks for success; leading in times of change; a look at Canadian social trends and how we are changing as a society; balancing responsibilities and priorities and learning how to say 'no'.

Ms. Delaney encourages leaders and potential leaders from all walks of life to attend – business, non-profit and charitable, students and educators, public sector and faith-based organizations.

WHAT: Westminster Leadership Conference 2007 – Theme: 'Leading through Service to our Communities'

WHEN: Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2007

WHERE: Westminster United Church, 1850 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON

WHY: Participants will learn and reflect on the challenges they face in their day-to-day lives through the experiences of our compelling speakers and seek practical answers they can apply in their own communities, workplaces and organizations.

WEBSITE, for conference info and registration form: www.westminster-uc.ca or call 905-668-2104

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For more information, contact:

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or

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