

ROS CONFERENCE



MEL
2016

Recapturing Our Soul

Congregations, agencies and state relations

LAUNCH INVITATION



CENTRE FOR
THEOLOGY & MINISTRY



INTRODUCTION

Many institutions within the community service sector have a religious background and motivation. This service grows out of belief. However, with the professionalisation of health provision in an increasingly plural society, some gap has developed between believing communities and the associated agencies. *Recapturing Our Soul* examines this gap and considers various ways of uniting communities, church



Recapturing our Soul will examine the complex theological positions, social issues and regulatory requirements governing the relationship between faith communities, their agencies and the Australian state today

congregations, community service delivery and the state sector. It will stimulate a clearer understanding of the added value of the church's core values to community service provision and explore the future connections between the church and agency/ third sector community work.

In partnership with the Diaconal Research Institute of Heidelberg University, *Recapturing Our Soul* addresses the particular

Australian context by facilitating a dialogue between German and Australian voices. The evident differences of church context and governmental relationships set the similar issues of relationship into clear relief.

This conference brings together theorists, high-level agency and church administrators, along with practitioners from both the religious and the service provision contexts.

The *Recapturing Our Soul* conference will map the key issues, and present constructive proposals for the complex variety of challenges and opportunities facing the church, its agencies and the state today.

We hope you will join us in this important conversation and look forward to welcoming you to diverse metropolitan Melbourne in September, 2016.

RECAPTURING OUR SOUL

[M E L / A U S]
2-4 SEPT 2016



Congregations, agencies & state relations
Uniting Church – UnitingCare Conference



Rev Dr John G Flett
BMin, MTheol, PhD, DTheol Habil
Conference Convener

#ROSConf16
rosconference.org.au

Congregations, agencies and state relations



INTRODUCTION | Three parallel streams will examine:

1. Theologies of agencies:

This stream examines the range of theological supports for agency work as a clear outworking of Christian faith and witness. It concentrates on existing theological themes, the integration of insights from service provision into complex agendas about theology and the nature of the church and the creation of bridges between agency administrators and theologians.

2. Economics of funding:

Funding is not neutral. It directs the economies or forms of service provision, and this in ways that might conflict with congregational agendas. This stream considers the benefits and constraints of popular funding models and the potential of alternative models (e.g. social impact bonds), especially as these inform the relationship between agencies and churches.

3. Advocacy:

To what extent can agencies that receive public funding also advocate for policy change, and what different forms might such advocacy take? This stream examines the range of available options, the different levels of advocacy, the potential limits funding imposes, and the freedoms agencies, churches and theological voices have due to the formal incorporation of agencies as service providers.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS | Visit rosconference.org.au for complete speaker biographies



Prof Dr Johannes Eurich
Professor for practical theology and diaconal science at Heidelberg University, Germany

Johannes Eurich has been a Director of the Institute for Diaconal Science and the Study of Christian Social Service since 2009 and served as Dean of the Theological Faculty at

Heidelberg University. His doctorate and Habilitation were both awarded by Heidelberg University. He has conducted extensive research on the transformation of the welfare state and on innovative social services, for example, the European Commission's research project *Innoserv*.

He serves on the board of the International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice and is board member of the German Network on Research of Diaconia. He is a member of the editorial board of the international journal "Diaconia."

Prof Dr Annette Noller
Professor for theology and ethics in social areas of work / diaconal studies at the university of applied sciences in Ludwigsburg, Germany

For several years Annette Noller worked in the Federal Association of Diaconal Ministry in Germany, and was responsible for ethical

positions within the agency sector. Her doctorate was awarded by Humboldt University of Berlin and Habilitation from Heidelberg University. She is member of several diaconal and church commissions and vice chair of the board of a local diaconal agency (Evangelische

Gesellschaft Stuttgart - eva) with about 1500 employees. She is a pastor and has served for many years in parish ministry in the Evangelische Kirche Deutschland. Since 2002 she has served as professor in Ludwigsburg, where she is Dean of diaconal studies.



Dr Hanns-Stephan Haas
CEO of the Evangelische Stiftung Alsterdorf, the largest social foundation in northern Germany

Since 2009, Hanns-Stephan Haas has served as CEO of the Evangelische Stiftung Alsterdorf, which employs 6000 staff across 180 sites.

He studied theology, philosophy and economics in Germany, Sweden (University of Lund) and Switzerland (St Gallen). He wrote his PhD in Systematic Theology (University Bonn) and Habilitation on the relationship of theology and economics.

He was pastor in Rheinbach, professor for theology and diaconia in Hannover and Rector of the University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld, before he became the CEO of the "Diakonische Akademie Deutschland".



REGISTRATIONS | Visit rosconference.org.au to register

Agency, professional, synod delegates	\$450 full, \$400 early bird*
Ministers, church representatives	\$200 full, \$150 early bird
Church members, student delegates	\$100 full, \$70 early bird

(*Early bird registrations close 30 March, 2016)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference program and full list of speakers will be released early in 2016 so please bookmark the conference website.

THE CONFERENCE LOGO

The conference logo is based on Aimé Morot's painting *Good Samaritan*, and represents three quotation marks, being symbolic of the intent of the conference; to come together and discuss issues with others. Each of the marks represents one of the parallel streams of the conference: Theologies of agencies, Economics of funding, and Advocacy. Learn more at rosconference.org.au



Co-hosted by	Pilgrim Theological College/University of Divinity, Australia Centre for Theology & Ministry Melbourne, Australia The Diaconal Research Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany UnitingCare Victoria Tasmania
Venue	Centre for Theology & Ministry, Parkville, Melbourne
Date	2-4 September 2016
Early Bird Booking	Available to 30 March 2016
Register at	rosconference.org.au from mid December 2015

CONTACT AND HOST ORGANISATIONS

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