

**Synod Study Conference**  
Mar 27-30, 2011 – Charis Camp, Rosedale BC

## **ENGAGING THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE**

Presented by

**Rabbi Dr. Robert A. Daum**

Director, Iona Pacific Inter-Religious Centre, VST

### **Our Presenter**

#### **Robert A. Daum, Rabbi, PhD**



#### **Engaging the Biblical Narrative:**

In his three sessions with us, Robert will explore the richness of three of the biblical narratives and the “power, beauty, mystery and complexity that is there.” He will attend to the biblical narrative devices of plot, movement of story, tension, visual imagination and the “subtle and beguiling use of particular” aspects of the story.

ROBERT A. DAUM is Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature & Jewish Thought, as well as founding Director of Iona Pacific Inter-religious Centre at Vancouver School of Theology on the UBC Campus. At UBC he is an Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies, a Faculty Associate of the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies through the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, and a member of the Undergraduate Minor Law and Society Advisory Board. He held the Diamond Chair in Jewish Law & Ethics at UBC from 2002-2009, until leaving to head up the newly established Iona Pacific Inter-religious Centre. [www.ionapacific.ca](http://www.ionapacific.ca).

Robert completed his B.A. *magna cum laude* in Political Science at Tufts University and completed his Rabbinical Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Jerusalem and New York, where he also earned his M.A. in Hebrew Literature. Subsequently he earned a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was advanced to candidacy with distinction. For nine years he served in the congregational rabbinate in California, where he was active in inter-religious initiatives and educational admini-

stration. For three years he lectured in Roman Catholic high schools on Judaism in a program co-sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Francisco and the American Jewish Committee. In 2010 he completed a Certificate Program at SFU in Muslim cultures in a summer institute co-sponsored by Aga Khan University and SFU's Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures. In 2010 he accepted a one-year appointment to lecture as Visiting Rabbinic Scholar-in-Residence at Christ Church Cathedral (Anglican) in Vancouver. In 2010 he was the first rabbi in the 109-year history of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster to address the Synod in the capacity of “Synod Partner.” He has been a visiting scholar at Roman Catholic, Lutheran, United Church, Anglican, and Jewish institutions, and has presented his research at national and international scholarly conferences. In May of 2011 he will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* at the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In the fall of 2011 he will be a guest faculty member in the Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University.

Among his recent and forthcoming publications, he is a contributor to, and a co-editor (with M. Vessey, S. Betcher and H. Maier), of *The Calling of the Nations: Exegesis, Ethnography and Empire in a Biblical-Historic Present* (University of Toronto Press, 2010). His article on a talmudic poem is the lead article in the first issue of the second century of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* (101.1), published by the Katz Centre for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His publications include critical studies of Jewish culture, philosophy, rhetoric, and religious literature. For a comprehensive listing of Robert's publications and articles, visit the VST website at [www.vst.edu/main/people/faculty/daum](http://www.vst.edu/main/people/faculty/daum).

### **Book Suggestions**

Ilana Pardes, *The Biography of Ancient Israel*. University of California Press, 2002

*The Calling of the Nations: Exegesis, Ethnography, and Empire in a Biblical-Historic Present*. Edited by Mark Vessey, Sharon Betcher, Robert A. Daum, and Harry O. Maier, University of Toronto Press, 2010.

## Accommodations

Charis Camp is a retreat and camping facility owned by the Evangelical Missionary Church. It features a new and spacious Retreat Centre, dining hall, dormitory, cabins, and a gymnasium in a wooded setting just east of Chilliwack. Registrants can expect a clean, modern facility, hearty meals, and a co-operative staff. The phone number for the Camp is (604) 794-7790.

- Because Charis Camp is geared to a camping clientele, its supply of bedding and linens is limited. Therefore registrants must bring their **own bedding, pillows, and towels**. Because of a limited supply of bedding at \$10/set the committee will provide these items only for those individuals who simply cannot bring such supplies with them due to air travel.
- Please bring **separate footwear** for outdoors and indoors.
- **Accommodations** will normally be 3 to 4 per room. If a personal need dictates a private room, it will be available at a nearby motel at an additional charge.
- Our event will begin on Sunday, Mar 27 with dinner at 6pm. You may arrive at the camp anytime after 4pm in order to check-in and unpack. The event will end on Wednesday after lunch.

## To get to Charis Camp

Take the Annis Road exit, #129, off the Trans-Canada Highway, and then watch for the sign to Hack Brown Road. The access to Hack Brown Road is located on the eastbound freeway entrance ramp. Head east on Hack Brown Road for about 3 kilometres and watch for signs to the Camp. Please park in the upper lot.

## Registration

The Study Conference is an educational event for all rostered ministers, interns, parish workers, and professional lay workers in the BC Synod. As stated in the bylaws of the Synod, all rostered ministers "serving under call, shall attend all conventions of the Synod, the annual study conference and the meetings of the conferences to which they belong." Those who will not be in attendance are to contact Bishop Greg Mohr.

The fees:

- **First registrant** from a parish – \$360\*;
  - **Additional registrant** – \$260\*;
  - **Students registered with BC CTEL** – \$85\*.
- (\*See notes on registration form)

Please fill out the registration form and mail it to the Synod Office. Registrations must be received at the Synod office by March 4<sup>th</sup> 2011. Registrations received after that date will be assessed an additional late registration fee of \$25. Fees may be submitted with the registration form but are due upon arrival at Camp Charis.

If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Bishop Mohr.

Day Use for commuters: Camp Charis has requested that we charge \$12/day surcharge for those who are staying off site and commuting.

For those who are not able to attend the whole event but wish to attend one day the fee will be \$100/day.

## Travel

All registrants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. The Study Conference operates on an equalisation basis, and will reimburse travel expenses according to the schedule below. For arrangements falling outside these parameters, the committee will defer its decision until it has had opportunity to consult fully.

- (a) Cheapest airline rates;
- (b) Vehicle allowance: \$0.37 per kilometre (the first 200 km are excluded, there is no premium for carrying extra passengers);
- (c) Full reimbursement for ferry passage and other surface travel costs for all Island, Sunshine Coast, and Powell River registrants.

Please carpool wherever possible. Registrants who need transportation between ferry terminals/airports and Charis Camp are asked to contact colleagues in ministry to help them. The Committee is not able to make such arrangements.

Study Conference  
March 27-30, 2011  
**Registration Form**

IDENTIFICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Employing Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRANT STATUS AND FEES

Please check the appropriate category and submit the pertinent fee. It is the expectation of the Synod that congregations will budget for and pay these fees. **Make cheques payable to "BC Synod," further designating to "Study Conference."** (The Bishop has limited access to discretionary funds which can be used to assist those in dire need.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$360 for the First Registrant** (normally Pastor or Senior Pastor of the congregation)  
\$385 after March 4, 2011  
\_\_\_\_\_ **\$260 for each Additional Registrant OR Intern, Chaplain, Retired, Parish Worker/ Lay Professional, etc.**  
\$285 after March 4, 2011  
\_\_\_\_\_ **\$85 Theological students** special rate for Theological Students registered with BC Synod CTEL  
\$110 after March 4, 2011

Who is paying the fee?     the congregation     employing agency  
                                   continuing ed. fund     self

ACCOMMODATION

I consider myself:     a late night person     an early riser     somewhere in between  
Preferred room-mates:    1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve single accommodation in a nearby motel. I acknowledge that I will be responsible for the difference in cost.  
(Please initial here) \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to bring along bedding and towels. \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical/dietary requirements:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and send it together with payment to:

**BC Synod Office**  
**80 East 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**New Westminster BC V3L 4R5**

Make cheques payable to "BC Synod," further designating to "Study Conference."  
Be sure to make a photocopy of the completed form for your records.