

The Record (Sherbrooke)

Four churches assemble for worship

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Illustrations: Photo: Chris Hornibrook, The Record / Guest speaker Reverend Bob Shank will be addressing the members of four Lennoxville churches for the first combined worship service at Centennial theater this weekend.

This Sunday the seats in four local churches will be empty, devoid of parishioners and pastors. Instead, the congregations will merge for an interdenominational meeting between the various Christian branches.

Oasis Christian Fellowship, Green Ridge Baptist, Church at the Elm, and Huntingville Community Church have agreed to shut their doors for their regular service in order to share a special collaborative worship at Centennial theater.

"It really is a dream and desire of some core churches in Lennoxville who have been getting together for years and supporting each other in their work," explained Lennoxville's Chris Hornibrook. "It is building on what the pastors have been doing and meets their growing vision to work together."

Although only the four churches will be closing up for the day, others have shown their support. Hornibrook says that while other churches may not close completely they have shared the service information with their member's making it likely other congregations will join.

Some of the attendees will include the first eight graduates from Hornibrook's three-year The Master's Program (TMP), a leadership-mentoring program described as "an executive MBA in kingdom leadership".

"I started it with my wife Karen three years ago and it's a Christian leadership program for businessmen and women to help them combine their career and their ministry," said the former ETFS vice president. "Sherbrooke is the first Canadian City to graduate TMP leaders."

The simple service will include a welcome from local pastors and a local French worship band that will provide musical devotion and an address by TMP founder Reverend Bob Shank.

"The pastors have taken the primary responsibility of inviting their congregations and arranging to close their regular service," said Hornibrook. "I've been thrilled to work along side them to help organize the event and arrange for Bob Shank to speak."

Hornibrook, who attends Green Ridge, notes the event seems to be a first in the area.

"I'd say it's quite unique to have the mutual support between pastors manifest in this way," he said. "I've only been in Sherbrooke for about ten years but Ed

Anderson whose in his 80s says it's the first time the churches have closed their Sunday service to worship together."

While the service will be Christian based, Hornibrook says all members of the community are welcome regardless of "where they are in their faith."

The Celebration Service takes place this Sunday, January 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the Centennial theatre on Bishop's University campus.

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