

1st Announcement



REFLECTING LIGHT Tampere 2008

The 3rd Global Conference of
University and College Chaplains,
Campus Ministers and
Religious Professionals

Tampere, Finland
30 June–4 July 2008

www.tampere2008.fi



Welcome to Tampere in June 2008!

We cordially invite all of you who offer spiritual and pastoral care in university communities, colleges, universities of applied sciences/polytechnics, institutes of vocational education and other related educational environments to the 3rd Global Conference of University and College Chaplains, Campus Ministers and Religious Professionals at Tampere, Finland on 30 June – 4 July 2008.

We warmly welcome all religious professionals, religious advisers, directors and co-ordinators of religious life, campus ministers and university chaplains to the conference. It will be held in Finland, the country of tens of thousands of lakes, in Tampere, a city surrounded by two lakes.

Light is very precious to us in our country. We live in deprivation of light during several months of the year. However, in the summer when our conference takes place, we have light in the abundance, in the Northern parts of the country 24 hours a day. From this contrast we have drawn the theme of our conference:

Reflecting Light

Reflecting on Faith: celebrating diversity

Reflecting on Justice: sharing our stories

Reflecting on the Profession: searching for common ground

Together with you we will be reflecting on the theme and the different aspects of it.

Welcome to the conference!



Peter Gustavson

Chair of the Finnish Host Team



Risto Korhonen

Chair of the Local Host Team

Organisers

The Conference will be organised and hosted by the Association of University and College chaplains in Finland and supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland.

Peter Gustavson, Chair of the Finnish Host Committee,
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Risto Korhonen, Chair of the Local Host Committee,
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Cassandra Howes, Chair of the International Committee,
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Johan Kijne, Consultant,
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Conference Secretariat: Tampere Conference Service Ltd,
tampere2008@tampereconference.fi

The organising committees are displayed in full on the conference website.



Conference Aims

To enrich the profession by:

- refining our professional skills
- developing tools and resources appropriate to our profession
- exchanging ideas and experiences with one another
- forming an international chaplaincy association
- encouraging the development of such endeavours worldwide

To offer support through:

- gathering as a global community
- celebrating our common values and ideals
- sharing our stories
- acknowledging our differences

To extend our understanding of a challenging and changing world by:

- exploring the role of religion in higher and vocational education, universities, colleges and educational institutions
- further developing community and multifaith understanding
- increasing our commitment to spirituality which enables peace, justice, increased knowledge and acceptance of others



Conference Principles

This gathering aims to:

- be inclusive
- encourage and create a sense of sharing and community
- recognize our struggle to respect religious and cultural differences and celebrate diversity
- understand and engage with one another from the integrity of our own positions.

Conference Theme

Reflecting Light

Reflecting on Faith: celebrating diversity

Reflecting on Justice: sharing our stories

Reflecting on the Profession: searching for common ground



Keynote Speakers

Taneli Kukkonen

Taneli Kukkonen is currently holding the Canada Research Chair at the University of Victoria, BC. He specialises in Arabic philosophy and the Aristotelian tradition in Greek, Jewish, Arabic and Christian civilisations. He is the editor of a series of volumes on Islamic Philosophical cosmology, psychology and logic. He is widely recognised as an engaging and entertaining speaker.

Amy-Jill Levine

Amy-Jill Levine is currently Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, TN. She received her education in English and Religion at Smith College, and went on to gain her M.A. and PhD. in Religion from Duke University. She is the author of numerous books and articles addressing such topics as Second-Temple Judaism, Christian Origins, Jewish-Christian relations and Biblical Women. She is a widely sought-after speaker on Biblical topics to both academic and non-academic audiences.

Call for papers, presentations, and workshops

We invite proposals for papers, presentations, and workshops for the Global Conference - "Reflecting Light". Papers and workshops are part of the backbone of the conference and reflect the current academic research as well as practices within the chaplaincy community. The conference themes reflect issues affecting higher education and religious professionals around the world. The hope is to engage many rich perspectives, including religious, scholarly, and global, to interpret the theme as well as to understand and enhance spiritual and religious work in the world's universities. Further information regarding this call for papers can be found on the conference website www.tampere2008.fi.

Language

The language of the conference is English. No interpretation will be provided.

Preliminary Registration Information

Registration

The organisers have tried to keep the fees as low as possible. The earlier you register, the lower the fee will be. Registration information and forms will be available at our website as well as by mail or e-mail from the conference secretariat starting November 2007.

Accommodation

The organisers have reserved rooms in various hotels and hostels in Tampere. A wide range of accommodation from a 4-star hotel to a hostel is available. The room rates are expected to vary from EUR 30-150 in a single room and EUR 40-170 in a double room per night per room. Most hotels are within a walking distance of the conference venue. Bookings can be made on the registration form which will be available on the conference website in November 2007.

Social and evening programme

All participants and their partners are welcome to take part in the social events hosted by the local organising committee. The City of Tampere invites us all to a City Reception on Monday evening.

Excursions

A half-day excursion day will take place on Wednesday. A large range of activities for you to choose from will be offered. These include, for example, a city sightseeing tour, a lake cruise, a high-tech tour, a Finnish history and design tour, hiking in the wilderness etc.



Partners' programme

The Organising Committee welcomes you to attend the conference together with your partner and children. While you are attending the sessions, they are welcome to attend the programme for accompanying persons. The aim is to give a comprehensive picture of Tampere and Finland, its way of life, past and present, introducing partners and families to Finnish culture, architecture, design etc. An English-speaking tour guide will lead all tours.

Pre and post conference tours

A Pre Conference Tour to Finland's Lapland, above the Arctic Circle, will depart from Helsinki on Thursday 26 June and will arrive in Tampere on Monday morning 30 June. A Post Conference Tour to St. Petersburg, Russia, will depart from Tampere immediately after the closing of the conference and will end in Helsinki on Monday evening 7 July.

Details about all pre and post conference tours will be on the conference website later.



Tampere – easy to reach

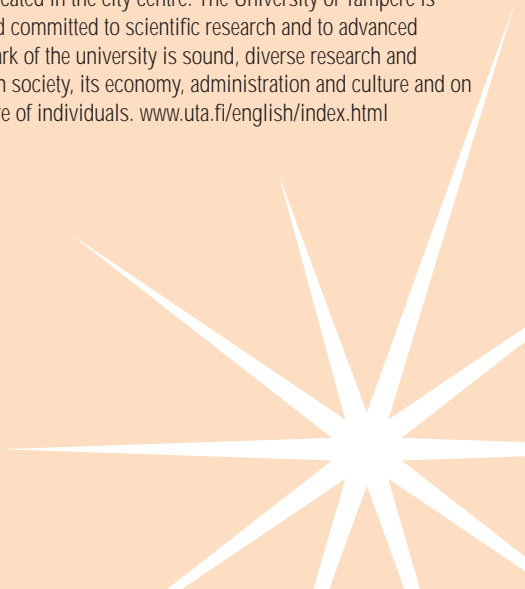
Tampere is easily accessible. There is a direct international air connection to Tampere from many European destinations by Finnair, SAS, Blue1 and Ryanair. By air Tampere is only 30 minutes from Helsinki (170 km) from where there are several flights daily. If you are travelling to Finland by sea, you can reach Tampere from Helsinki or Turku harbour by fast coach and train services.

Tampere – a big town with a small-town atmosphere

Tampere is large enough to provide all the services that a major conference may require; yet small enough to make delegates and their families feel at home during their stay. Hotels, shops and restaurants are all within a walking distance from the conference venue. Tampere is the 2nd largest regional centre in Finland after the Greater Helsinki Area, and the thriving centre of an economic region with about 510,000 people. Located between two large lakes on the banks of the Tammerkoski rapids, Tampere is a beautiful town 170 km north of Helsinki with a population of 206,000. High technology has replaced heavy industry. Buildings that once housed factories on the banks of the rapids are now busy centres of commerce, culture, arts and science. The University of Tampere, the University Hospital, the Tampere University of Technology, the Tampere Centre of Technology, the Technical Research Centre of Finland, among other institutions, make Tampere one of the leading centres of higher education and research in the country. Tampere is a pleasant place for the whole family – the Särkänniemi area with its famous theme park offers plenty to do. The Moomin Valley Museum interests both adults and small children. More information in the Internet: www.tampere.fi

Conference venue

The conference will be held at the main campus area of the University of Tampere, which is located in the city centre. The University of Tampere is multidisciplinary and committed to scientific research and to advanced teaching. The hallmark of the university is sound, diverse research and teaching focussed on society, its economy, administration and culture and on the health and welfare of individuals. www.uta.fi/english/index.html



CONTACT ADDRESS

Conference Secretariat



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SERVICE

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Conference website

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Fill in your contact details on the website and you will receive updated information as the arrangements proceed.