

ACLE Workshop Proposal
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What's theology got to do with it?

Growing the culture of theological conversation in schools

Lutheran schools are quality educational operations, but it's the theological nuances which drive the lived education practice that make them Lutheran. The profile of teachers in Lutheran schools has changed over the last three decades. It can no longer be assumed that when teachers arrive in the school they bring with them a Lutheran theological understanding. So the theological conversations that take place in schools become paramount. According to estimates in numerous industry surveys, between 25 and 40 per cent of teachers leave the profession within five years of starting (The Age, March 7, 2011). In this transient environment, there is a growing danger that active conversations leading to theological understandings which underpin practice will go the same way as slide rules, chalk and school milk, once deemed important, now historical anachronisms.

In this workshop we will consider how to grow a culture of professional learning conversations which are theologically aware. But be warned, if you are looking for dusty theological speak, or a quiet corner to have a snooze, you won't find it here. Ruth and Merryn are lay educators. They share a core theological understanding: If it doesn't meaningfully and practically inform education praxis, we'll study it another day. There are engaging ways of creating a theologically aware staff team. This workshop will model and explore some of these.