

Centre for Christian Studies  
 Woodsworth House, 60 Maryland Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1K7  
 P: (204) 783 4490 F: (204) 786 3012 email: [info@ccsonline.ca](mailto:info@ccsonline.ca)

**Report to Conference for the year 2008 -2009  
 from the Centre for Christian Studies**

For over 110 years the Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) has been training women and men to seek justice for all through diakonia: the ministries of education, pastoral care and social justice. Our students, staff, friends and national volunteer network are committed to living a theology of justice and know that together we can transform the world!

**CCS Students**

CCS has a group of dedicated and passionate students. The program begins with an intensive course offered every June, followed by four years of study. Our program is a community-based model where students live and work in field placements in their home communities, gathering for learning circles throughout the year. A final component of our program is required external courses taken at another Anglican or United Church related theological college. CCS prepares ministers who are:

- Able to teach and proclaim the Gospel
- Trained to facilitate and empower the ministries of others
- Adept at doing critical analysis
- Ready to engage in life-long learning

Our Leadership Development Module is the introductory course for our program. Many people, from lay folks and LPMS to ordained ministers and MDiv students, also take this course as Continuing Education. Last year in 2008 there were 18 students in this module, 7 of whom carried on into the CCS Diploma Program. This year we will be holding two Leadership Development Modules one in Winnipeg and the other in Calgary.

Our current theme year is the Social Ministry year

Vicky Aldersley	Alice Hanson	Alice Watson	Deb Kigar
Michelle Creedy	Mark Laird	Beth Walker	M. Arlene Ruggles
Marcie Gibson	Ruth MacIntosh	Debbie Springer	Kim Roy
Barbara Hansen	Vicki McPhee	Jacqueline Samson	Tracy Robertson

One option for students in a part-time track is to take a Reflection Year, to integrate learning and concentrate on required external courses. This year there are 14 Reflection Year:

Mary Elliott	gwen McAllister	Kristin Wood	Jackie Van't Voort
Sharlene Gibson	Janet Nield	Kelley Warner	Debbie Siertsema
Lesley Graham Janke	Mary Elizabeth Piercey	Ellen Bayton-Walker	Ingrid Remkins
Kimiko Karpoff	Noreen Wren		

Our 6 final year or Integrating Year class spent the year honing their skills for ministry and integrating the various theories and themes of the previous three years. They are all candidates for diaconal ministry. We are confident that they will provide strong leadership in the church.

<b>Maureen Anderson</b>	• Parksville, BC	<b>Rob Reed</b>	• Carduff, SK
<b>Terrie Chedore</b>	• Hamilton, ON	<b>Helen Reed</b>	• Camrose, AB
<b>Catherine Gutjahr</b>	• Hanmer, ON	<b>Jody Maltby</b>	• Orilla, ON

### **CCS Staff**

Last year the staff report declared that “if it’s true that every year has a theme then 2008 may well go down in CCS history as ‘The Year of Transition.’” That was certainly true for 2008 and the trend continued into 2009.

As of the beginning of 2010, the staff learned that **Megan McKenzie**, Principal, is in the early weeks of pregnancy and is experiencing significant pregnancy related illness. She is under medical advisement not to come to work until her symptoms are less severe. We all extend our concern and best wishes to Megan and her family during this trying time.

A list of work that needs to be covered has been compiled. The rest of staff have met with the Human Resources Committee to sort tasks, and a plan is being put in place to ensure that the work of CCS continues with integrity and with minimal interruption.

**Charlotte Caron** has been appointed part time Acting Principal. Charlotte was on CCS Central Council from February 2004 until November 2009 so is current on the issues facing CCS. Having graduated from CCS in 1972, she has spent much of her career working in theological education. In 2003 she retired from St. Andrew’s Theological College in Saskatoon and has subsequently been involve with the United Church Lay Pastoral Minister in Training programs operating out of Untied Theological college in Montreal. She has been on the Future Planning, Re-Imagining and several Search Committees for CCS in the past few years. From November to January, she had a contract with CCS to bring policies up to date and work on governance patterns. She is a diaconal minister of the United Church.

Life in the CCS community continues to be full, challenging, inspiring, transforming and transformational. We give thanks for being part of an organisation that teaches and celebrates justice and compassion, action and reflection, formation and faith for all. We are indeed blessed! CCS currently has 3 full-time program staff: **Ted Dodd, Sherri McConnell, Ann Naylor** who develop a challenging and creative curriculum. **Glenda Knoll, Scott Douglas, Melanie Borondia** (two-month contract ) work on program and office administration.

### **Companions of the Centre**

The Central Council accepted the recommendation of the committee that these three outstanding women be named as Companions of the Centre for Christian Studies:

#### **The Rev. Dr. Cathy Campbell**

Cathy has been Rector of St. Matthew’s Anglican Church in Maryland, Winnipeg for the last several years. St. Matthew’s is a diverse inner-city faith community whose mission is to serve its neighbourhood and be a healing and transforming presence in the world.

### **Senator Nancy Ruth**

Nancy Ruth graduated from Covenant College in 1967. Her church-related work has included positions at Naramata Centre in British Columbia and Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. In her work for social justice, locally and nationally, she has long been an advocate for women of all classes and races, giving high profile to issues affecting women.

### **Kathy Toivanen**

Kathy is a diaconal minister at Erin Mills United Church in Mississauga, serving in this position for 20 years. She has an MRE degree from Emmanuel College.

### **CCS Volunteers**

CCS has over 400 volunteers across Canada including facilitators and mentors for our students and committee and Council members. The students are supported in their learning by many of these volunteers who offer direct support and mentoring. The students are able to ask questions and explore diaconal ministry through their frequent meetings with these folks.

### **CCS Model of Education for Ministry**

CCS uses a unique form of distance education where students live and work in their home communities and gather for intense learning circles through out the school year. A strength of this educational model is the focus on integration of knowledge with spirit, emotion and action, all of which is essential for social and personal transformation. In keeping with the priorities named by the church, students are prepared to be confident leaders in the midst of chaos, ambiguity and diversity. Our model develops skills in cooperation and teaming which are vital for facilitating and empowering the ministries of others.

### **Looking to the Future**

We are experiencing the impact of the reduction in financial support from the national United Church. While this is a concern for us, we are currently working towards meeting our development goals through ongoing development effort.

The programs we offer to our students are life-giving and life-changing, and the ministry we offer to the church is vibrant.

If you know of anyone who is seeking theological education in the areas of leadership, Christian education, pastoral care or social justice ministry, please encourage them to explore CCS as an option. Our website is [www.ccsonline.ca](http://www.ccsonline.ca).

***There is much to celebrate in our community – together we can transform the world!***