

## JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm CST

Friends and supporters of the Centre for Christian Studies are invited to attend our annual AGM. Come in person to the CCS offices at

Woodsworth House or take part by conference call.

The meeting will include worship, reports, acknowledgement of our volunteers, and discussion of CCS's strategic plan.

Call us to find out how you can phone in for the meeting (and to let us know you plan on taking part) .

The 2013 Annual Report will be on the website in February.

[www.ccsonline.ca](http://www.ccsonline.ca)

## TAPESTRY in your INBOX

If you'd prefer to receive occasional Tapestry newsletters by email rather than by mail, please contact us at [lstewart@ccsonline.ca](mailto:lstewart@ccsonline.ca)



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## Expressing CCS's Mission and Values.

The CCS Central Council has been busy planning for the future of the Centre, including new expressions of our mission and values...

***Our Mission:***  
Educating leaders for justice, compassion, and transformation.

***Our Core Values:***

**Acting in faith...**

- Approaching theology from a position of inquiry and struggle, striving to extend our boundaries outward in dialogue with other denominations, religious traditions, and spiritual expressions;
- Nurtured by the Anglican and United Church traditions;
- Centred in an understanding of the God of grace, love and reconciliation, for us and all of creation, as set out in Scripture;
- Finding liberation and life in Jesus' ministry of justice and healing;
- Empowered by the Spirit of the risen Christ and guided by Wisdom.

**Living a theology of justice...**

- Inspired by Jesus' reversal of power, his example of service in washing the feet of his disciples, and his rejection of the values of empire;
- Believing that justice includes economic, social, and ecological concerns;
- Founding our work and relationships in values of mutuality, equality, and respect;
- Acknowledging our churches' culpability in unjust practices and seeking to redress them;
- Responding to the prophetic and gospel call to share resources, to restore what was taken, to reconcile what was divided, to embrace those who have been excluded.

**Educating through action/reflection, integration, transformation...**

- Believing that education is most effective when it engages the whole person, when we are co-

learners and co-teachers, and when it is relevant and collaborative;

- Valuing education that is self-directed and relational, affirming and evaluative;
- Dedicated to forming learning communities as the foundation to our approach to education.

**Grounding ourselves in sacred community...**

- Fostering community-building that challenges individualism and egotism;
- Intentional about creating life-giving communities of learning as a context for growth, shared wisdom, hospitality, support, and accountability;
- Seeking to create communities that are inclusive, respectful, and diverse.

**Living out of a spirit of abundance and gratitude...**

- Our beginning was made possible by gifts from major donors who believed in the founding vision of our school;
- Our present and future is made possible by donations from graduates and Friends, and by grants from institutional supporters;
- We rely for our governance and program on a company of volunteers who give and give back to CCS as members of our Central Council, Committees, and working groups; as learning facilitators, mentors, and supporters for our students.

**Participating in a larger story...**

- Nurtured by a worldwide, ecumenical network of deacons and diaconal ministers from many traditions;
- Sharing values and vision of faith, justice, education, service and community with many movements, institutions, and communities;
- Learning through active involvement in movements for justice;
- Fostering partnerships of solidarity for common cause.

## Second Fridays

On the second Friday of each month we invite guest speakers to inspire us with brief reflections and deep conversation. Too far from CCS to attend? We've got you covered. Videos of the Second Fridays presentations are online at the CCS website, each 5-10 minutes long. Great for study groups.

[ccsonline.ca/second-fridays](http://ccsonline.ca/second-fridays)



## Making the ordinary strange.

Lori Stewart interviewed Kuriko Fujiyoshi from the Dohoku Christian Centre in Hokkaido, Japan.

Receiving international visitors is a longstanding tradition at CCS and its precursors. It's a chance to see what is ordinary to us with new eyes.

This year we were blessed by a visit from Kuriko Fujiyoshi who spent two months in Winnipeg as part of her sabbatical from Dohoku Christian Centre on the northern island of Hokkaido in Japan. Kuriko is a leader there offering educational events, working with youth, and supporting area churches which tend to be quite small. Her denomination is facing trends familiar to us: declining congregations and little youth involvement. The members worry about how the church will survive. Kuriko is convinced that they need to do ministry differently in order to sustain a Christian faith community in her region.

Kuriko came with a question, "What kind of minister is needed in rural Hokkaido?" During her year in Canada, with support from her

centre and the United Church of Canada, she is exploring various approaches to ministry, participating in lay ministry training, learning about specific ministries with youth, and examining the role of church learning centres in preparation for ministry. When she returns to Japan she hopes to visit churches to share what she's learned and ask the members what kind of lay training they need. From there she will work with a team to develop new opportunities for lay training.

Kuriko studied at a rural ministry seminary but was not ordained because she felt she was called to ministry outside of congregational ministry. Being at CCS, where she met Anglican deacons and United Church diaconal ministers, allowed her to claim her ministry as diaconal. She liked the adult education model we use and the way students work in placements, then come back to the circle to reflect and integrate. But most of all, she was impressed by the deacons and diaconal ministers

she met who work in what she called "a wide space", that enlarge the place in which ministry happens beyond the limitations of church walls.

At CCS she saw learning for ministry that was embodied. "It's kind of amazing. CCS is not so big but it has sent out many deacons and diaconal ministers into the world!" she observed. "It's like that rainbow quilt on the wall at CCS—there are different kinds of ministry and they all work together. It provides a rich, abundant diversity in response to the many ways to express faith."

Kuriko's insights and participation in community life while she was with us helped us see what we do here with new eyes.



## Ministering by word and example: exploring diakonia in the Anglican tradition

This year Maylanne Maybee and Louise Cornell have been leading a monthly course for Anglicans interested in the diaconate.

## Common Threads

Keep up with CCS through our bi-weekly e-newsletter. Visit the website and find the "Subscribe to Common Threads" button.



# What! There's more to learn?!

Students sometimes struggle with written reflections, or chafe about self directed learning, or would prefer to not be responsible for others' learning in community. But they also find that learning at CCS breaches their comfort zones and brings openness to learning more.

Terrie Chedore and Tracy Fairfield found that once they completed their CCS diplomas, they wanted to keep learning. Each decided to put her CCS credits towards an academic degree; Tracy at the University of Winnipeg and Terrie at St. Stephen's College. CCS has a joint program agreement with both these institutions.



Tracy needed only four more courses to complete the Master of Arts in Applied Theology. But more than just fulfilling requirements, she found she was able to move to practical application immediately in her pastoral charge. The course that had the most influence was a course in Evangelicalism. Tracy found that although she often disagreed with the prof, this course helped her confirm

what she believed and convinced her that the United Church where she is in ministry doesn't take evangelism seriously enough. The U of W course provided depth, vocabulary, and a comfortable way into discussing how our faith is passed on. She has been able to engage her members in conversations and sermons about their beliefs and how they can share with others what they value about their faith. This degree, combined with her formation at CCS, gave her tools to dialogue with her congregations about evangelism, ecumenism, world religions, and First Nations relations. Doing this degree has had lasting effects on every aspect of pastoral ministry from sermons to one on one conversation. Tracy will receive her Masters at graduation in June.

Terrie decided to pursue a Bachelor of Theological Studies which required her to write a Work of Art Integrative Study. She names being an artist as her diaconal work so it isn't a surprise that she chose to combine these passions in her topic *Colouring outside the lines: parallels in the history of diaconal ministry and religious art*. She examined six periods of diaconal history when the church supported or suppressed diaconal ministry and religious art. Together with her written work, Terrie created six pieces of art relating to each time in history when change was occurring. She discovered that

any time either diakonia or art began to evolve in response to the needs of the day, the movement away from expected standards scared the church.

Terrie isn't the only one to benefit from this unique project. Using the art she created, she prepared a PowerPoint presentation in which the characters tell the story of diaconal ministry. Her mom, who's 80 years old, commented "I never heard of diaconal ministry until you began your studies; seeing this visual narrative helped me understand why it's not well known". Ted Dodd is using the PowerPoint for relating diaconal history in learning circles. It's left its mark on the CCS students who've seen it. Terrie says she deliberately used broken sea shells in her creative process because they remind her of the broken people who come together to do the work of the church; fragile yet strong. She notes, "Despite the pressure to conform, religious artists and the diakonia remain vital components of the church". Terrie has just submitted her work.

We are proud of Tracy, Terrie, and others who have completed degrees through their work at CCS. The joint program agreements with the University of Winnipeg and St. Stephen's College offer our students the best of both learning worlds, bringing together adult and academic styles of education in ways that can only benefit our students' congregations and the larger church.



"Phoebe, the Deacon"  
by Terrie Chedore

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT 2014 modules

- 2 weeks of intensive learning
- supportive, nurturing community
- award-winning instructors
- topics include pastoral care, social justice, education and theology
- skill development in leading worship, facilitation, group dynamics and conflict

June 9-21, 2014  
London, ON

August 18-30, 2014  
Winnipeg, MB

For more information or to register online, visit

[www.cconline.ca/program/leadership-development/](http://www.cconline.ca/program/leadership-development/)

## PLAN AHEAD 2015 dates

Can't make the LDM in 2014?

We'll be in Quebec City in January 2015, Montreal in June 2015, and Winnipeg in August 2015!





## Celebrating our donors!

The figures are in for donations in 2013 and they are an outstanding **\$86,710!**

This amount includes the **\$33,331** you sent in response to our Annual Campaign, **\$35,448** in monthly gifts through Pre-Authorized Remittance, and other donations throughout the year. **THANK YOU.**

*Your generous donations  
educate leaders  
at the cutting edge*

## We want to hear from you! A survey for our friends and graduates

1. **Would you be interested in participating in CCS events in your area?**

Yes  No

2. **Which of the following events would you attend?**

a gathering of donors  CCS Annual General Meeting (in person)  
 a gathering of alumni and students  CCS Annual General Meeting (by conference call)  
 a gathering of CCS friends  Second Friday lunch hour presentation and conversation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
please describe

3. **Would you prefer a gathering to be held at**

a church  a home  a hotel  other \_\_\_\_\_

4. **What time of day would you like to attend?**

breakfast  morning  lunch  afternoon  evening

5. **Would you be interested in hosting an event in your area?**

Yes  No

6. **Do you have ideas or feedback you'd like to give CCS?**

Mail, fax, scan and email, or fill out the survey online at <http://tinyurl.com/kncrayf>

**Name:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**



## The CENTRE for CHRISTIAN STUDIES

**Woodsworth House  
60 Maryland St  
Winnipeg, MB, R3G 1K7  
Phone: 204.783-4490  
Fax: 204.786.3012  
info@ccsonline.ca  
www.ccsonline.ca**

## Yes! I want to help students prepare for ministry at the cutting edge

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$300  \$250  \$150  \$100  \$75  Other

Make cheques payable to **Centre for Christian Studies** or  
Charge my credit card  Visa  Mastercard  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sign up for monthly withdrawals and  
have enclosed a void cheque or credit card number

I would like to know more about legacy giving  
I would like to make donation in  celebration or

memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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