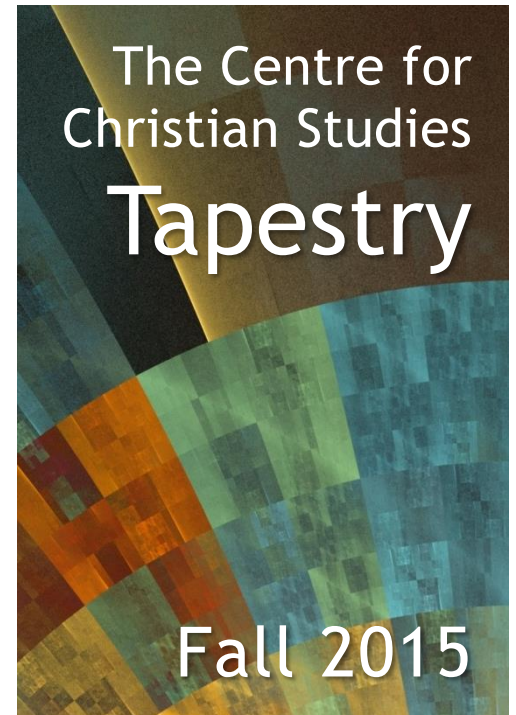




August LDM students Leslie Fairley and Karlene Kimber



EDUCATING LEADERS FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION

NEWS

## Becoming Part of the Story

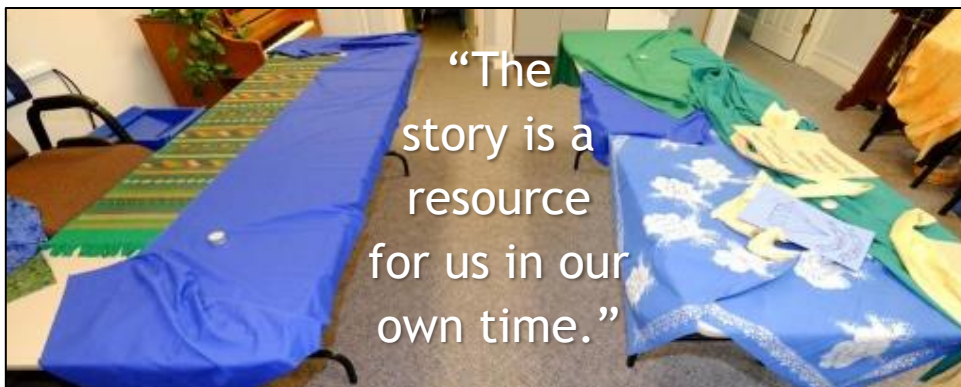
"No one was allowed into the Kay Pearson Room until it was time." Kendra, one of the students attending the CCS's Leadership Development Module this August in Winnipeg, remembers not knowing what to expect. "There was an air of mystery."

Then Gwen McAllister, one of the LDM facilitators, appeared scarf over her head and carrying a flashlight. She welcomed all the students at the door and identified herself as part of the "people of the story." She invited the students to follow her on a journey.

"Students in the Leadership Development Module learn about major themes in the Bible," Gwen explained later, "but I noticed last year when I was co-leading that students seemed to have a disjointed understanding of the *narrative* of Scripture."

So she created an immersive "walk through the Bible," using signs, symbols, images and colourful draped cloth to show the relationships and patterns connecting different stories.

*(Continued on Page 2...)*



"The story is a resource for us in our own time."

### Integrating Year

Bedford House in Peterborough welcomed Ann Naylor and the three students in their final year of studies at CCS for their fall learning circle in September.



Program Staff Ann Naylor with IY students Jackie van't Voort, Lynn Smith, and Hubert Den Draak

### 2016 LDM Dates

Check your calendar. Next year's Leadership Development Modules will be held:

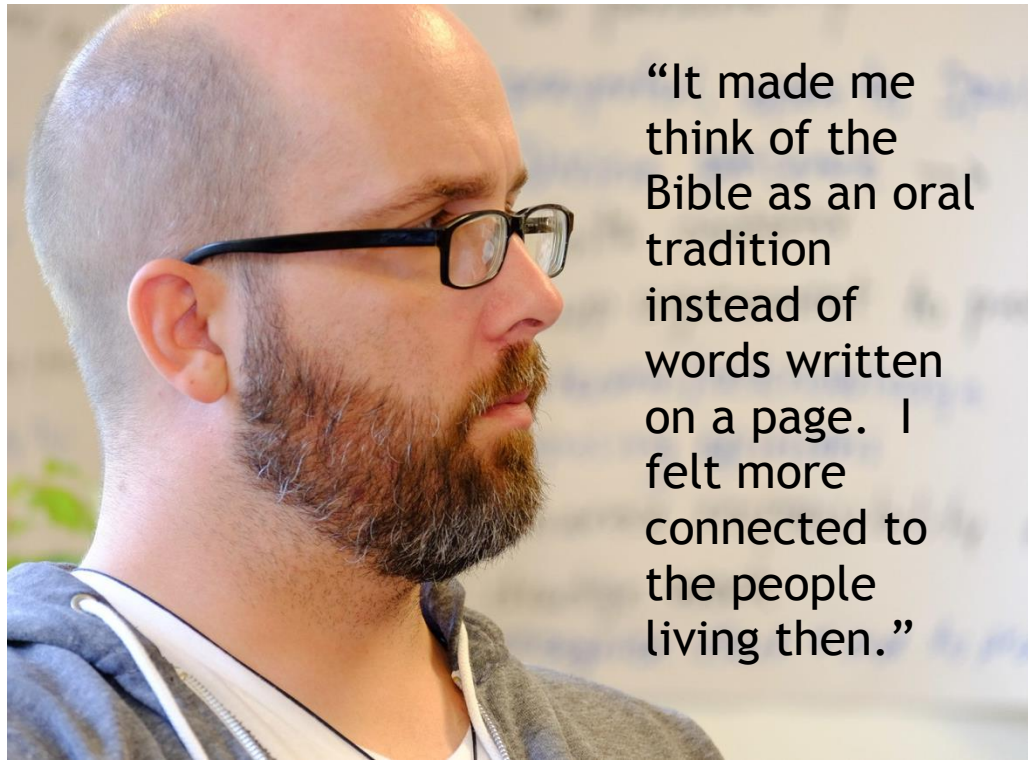
- 🕒 June 13-25, 2016 in Toronto
- 🕒 August 15-27, 2016 in Winnipeg

## Becoming Part of the Story (cont'd)

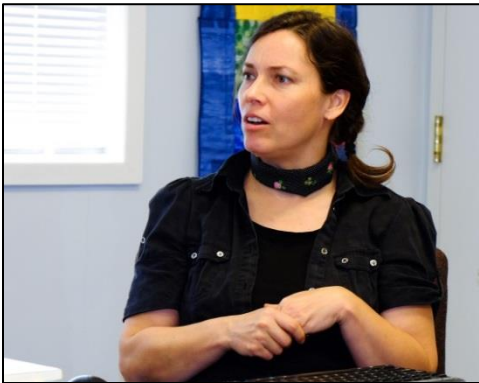
LDM participant John was immersed in the experience as he hurried between two long tables representing the parted waters of the Red Sea. "It made me think of the Bible as an oral tradition instead of words written on a page. I felt more connected to the people living then."

Kendra noticed not only the chronological telling of the stories but also the cyclical path that brought their journey back to the same themes in new stories.

Karlene was struck by the way Gwen contrasted the Kin-dom of God with the oppressive forces of Empire that led Jesus to the cross.



"It made me think of the Bible as an oral tradition instead of words written on a page. I felt more connected to the people living then."



LDM facilitator Gwen McAllister

Gwen's leadership has been a blessing to CCS in this interim time between Ted Dodd's departure and the arrival of our new staff members. We are pleased to see Gwen using her gifts – gifts that were nurtured when she was a student at CCS herself – to invite others on a journey, to help them to integrate their learning, and to inspire them to think about their own social location as a lens through which to interpret Scripture.

Gwen plans to develop her "walk-through the Bible" idea further to make it even more participatory for future LDMs and the WYLD young adult program on which CCS will be partnering with the Sorrento Centre in BC. "I wanted students to know how we are all part of the story, and how the story is a resource for us in our own time," Gwen observed. "It gave me hope."

I'd like more information about remembering CCS in my will ...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Lori will be in touch!

## Where there's a WILL, there's a way...

To make something happen that you care about

- ☉ To give the larger amount you've been hoping to give
- ☉ To help students like Kendra, John, and Karlene turn learning into ministry
- ☉ To give back what God has entrusted you with

By including the Centre for Christian Studies in your will, you share your **values, vision, and hope for the future**, through your gift of money.

If you would like to receive more information on how to leave a gift in your will, please fill out this form and mail it to CCS.

Or email Lori at [lstewart@ccsonline.ca](mailto:lstewart@ccsonline.ca)



# Beginning an Awesome New Season at CCS

David Lappano and Janet Ross stood side by side, shoulders back, feet apart, fists on hips. Then together they shifted their weight, dropped a shoulder, bent one knee, tilted their heads. They were physically demonstrating the way certain poses “read” as more masculine or feminine, exploring the idea of gender as performance and the intriguing notion that “all gender is drag.”

The interview process for finding two new theological educators to join the CCS program staff was intensive. Short-listed candidates were invited for three days of interviews at the beginning of September, including an opportunity to team with another candidate in presenting a sample learning session.

As it happened, David and Janet, who had not met prior, were teamed up, and chose to lead a session on gender justice.

In evaluating the session afterward, invited guests who were playing the

**“I’m excited about working within a learning environment where questioning is a priority.”**

*Janet Ross begins as CCS Program Staff in January 2016.*



the learning circle and leading some sessions.

The students are looking forward to meeting them. “They sound great,” says third-year student Ian McLean. “The e-mail traffic and notices on facebook are building excitement!”

been lost through translations and cultural lenses.”

“Hang on, we’re about to begin an awesome new season in the life of CCS!”

For his part, David is excited about the opportunity to interact with people for whom Christianity is something we *do* and *discover* together. “I am exhilarated by the prospect of learning from people of faith from such a broad range of experiences and expertise from across Canada. And I am also excited to be part of a place of learning that is also a place of spiritual development,” he says. “How did these ever get separated?”

David recently completed his PhD in Theology at Oxford University in England, where he specialized in the works of Soren Kierkegaard (who, according to David, offers timely insights on living out a post-Christendom Christianity).

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## “The email traffic and notices on Facebook are building excitement!”

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part of students noted that the content was deep, the process was engaging, and the way that Janet and David shared leadership was impressive. The search committee agreed.

CCS students get their first chance to see their new Program Staff members in action at this October’s Social Ministry learning circle in Winnipeg. Though David and Janet don’t formally start work at CCS until January, they will both be attending

“They are both very gifted individuals, with strong backgrounds in theological training,” says final-year student Lynn Smith, who also served on the search committee. “And they both seem personable and kind – very knowledgeable and yet still open to learning! David can teach us about Kierkegaard’s sense of humour – Who knew? And Janet can expand our understanding of what lies within the Hebrew texts – including gender dynamics that have

*(Continued on Page 4...)*

## PASSAGES

We remember those grads (CCS, AWTC and UCTS) who have recently passed away...

**Betty Ann Caldwell** : UCC grad 1960

**Marjorie Hannah** : UCC grad 1955

**Enid Horning** : UCC grad 1954

TED DODD FUND  
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The Ted Dodd Fund will make it possible for future generations to explore their leadership potential. You can donate online by going to [www.ccsonline.ca](http://www.ccsonline.ca) and clicking on the big purple "Donate Now" button, or by sending a cheque with "Ted Dodd fund" in the memo line.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Awesome New Season (cont'd)

He also taught high school, worked in an alternative program with truant students, was involved in United Church camps, and has worshipped in Anglican congregations for the past number of years.

Janet will be coming to CCS from Emmanuel College and McMaster University, where she has been a sessional lecturer and interim director of a mentoring program to help doctoral students become effective theology teachers. She holds a PhD in biblical studies from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and is an active Quaker.

Janet is looking forward to working with students on the development their own "practical wisdom, considering with them how to

to help create more just and livable social and ecological environments."

Janet is excited about CCS's focus on contemplation and reflection, and to "working within a learning environment where questioning is a priority--of our assumptions, social structures, power and privilege, and what it means to live faithfully (moment by moment)."

What really impresses Ian McLean about David and Janet is their "enthusiasm for students' learning."

"As a mature student with workplace experience, I find that the way that CCS carries us along – moves together with us – is unique."

CCS's decision to "dig into the future" and hire two fabulous new

"I am excited to be part of a place of learning that is also a place of spiritual development."

*David Lappano begins as CCS Program Staff in January 2016.*

practice discernment and learn to be prepared for the unknown."

"I hope to wrestle with students on how we are contributing to that which needs change in the world, and how we can personally change

educators is a sign of its faith in you, our donors and your ongoing support for theological education that nourishes, challenges, accompanies, and inspires to action.

