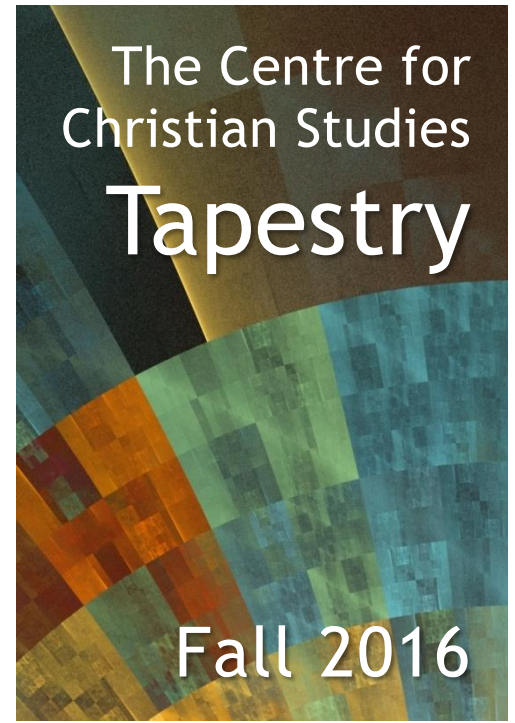




Integrating Year Students Ian McLean and Josh Ward



EDUCATING LEADERS FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION

NEWS

“It’s a Heart Thing Now...”

The Global Perspective Experience, or GPE, is a way for students to step out of their comfort zones to expand their understanding of what is “normal” in the lives of people in other places. They meet and live with people in a completely different context and reflect on the juxtapositions with their own situations, the injustices that are revealed, the gifts the other culture brings, and how faith sustains.

This year Joshua Ward went to Asubpeechoseewagong First Nation (called Grassy Narrows in English) as part of an Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Team through Christian Peacemakers.



“I feel a different weight now when I hear about some of the struggles...”

- Josh Ward

On arriving in the community, the delegation learned that a youth had attempted suicide the day before. The team members joined people from the community gathering around a sacred fire. Some of those present told Josh they came because it was a place where they could be together and process their grief. Others felt the tradition of the sacred fire demonstrated that there is strength in the community and inspired the youth to have pride in themselves.

The delegation participated in a sharing circle where there was teaching and emotional, honest sharing about the situations people face in the community.

Reflecting on his GPE, Josh says, “These issues weren’t new to me. But I have never heard them addressed with such raw emotion. I feel a deeper weight now when I hear about some of the struggles that First Nations people face in Canada. It’s a heart thing now, and not just a head thing.”

(Continued on Page 2...)



Gathering at Kelley Warner’s in Calgary

Alberta Tour

Maylanne and Lori visited grads, students, and friends of CCS in Alberta this September. Lori says it was “a chance to learn more about what’s important to you, what gives you life, and the concerns you face.”

Ann on Medical Leave

As of September 2016 Program Staff member Ann Naylor is on leave. She has been dealing with Parkinson’s Disease for some time, and now has to stop working. We miss her presence and her wisdom.

Field Orientations

This fall CCS hosted some of the student field placement orientations by Skype, allowing Winnipeg staff to connect virtually with students, local committees, learning facilitators and mentors in different parts of the country. The feedback suggests this way of gathering works amazingly well.

It's a Heart Thing Now (cont'd)

For his GPE, Ian went to a fishing village called Patungan, with a group sponsored by Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines (ECUVOICE), a United Church of Canada partner. The village has been there for more than 150 years and yet a developer has somehow "purchased" the land and wants the people out so he can build an eco-tourism resort.

To this end private guards and military police are using intimidation tactics including arrest, assault (including sexual assault), limiting food access, limiting fishing, and prohibiting farming. They are attempting to push the villagers into submission so they will willingly relocate.

Ian says, "The trip fundamentally changed how I now look at the struggle of the poor and marginalized. It was enough of a culture shock to be in an environment of such poverty; it was quite something else to experience firsthand how people can be treated with such cruelty and disrespect."

"At the same time I left with an incredible



"I left with an incredible appreciation of the indomitable spirit of these people."

- Ian McLean

appreciation of the 'indomitable spirit' of these people who, despite the hardships and threats, carry on daily life with hope for a better tomorrow."

"It was an incredible learning from a social justice perspective that made me realize my white privilege."

Over the course of their last year at CCS, these experiences of having one foot in another place, will help to inform and deepen Ian and Josh's reflection, theologizing, and preparation for ministry.

Making Room for "And"

Lisa Byer-de Wever was in a learning circle at CCS when Ted Dodd introduced an exercise called "Exploring Characteristics of Dominant Culture".

Students were divided into groups of three to visit learning centres where they examined a characteristic that is unconsciously assumed to be normal by white culture.

As her group went to the stations, Lisa was aware of a feeling of discomfort. She recognized she had a foot in a dominant and non-dominant place. As a resident of Montreal and working in the Kahnawake First Nation she felt

especially challenged by "either/or thinking". She decided to explore how she could make room for "and" in her ministry.

It led to hosting an event that adapted the exercise she'd done at CCS. This time an indigenous community member was part of each threesome. Sharing their experiences of the characteristic from a non-dominant viewpoint deepened the group learning about cultural assumptions.

As a donor, you give the gift of learning that keeps on giving, as students like Lisa pass it on.



"I recognized I had a foot in a dominant *and* a non-dominant place."

- Lisa Byer De Wever

Grad Update



Hubert Den Draak has been helping the congregation of Pinegrove United to develop “Café del Soul”, which brings together socially isolated folks in the rural area for lunch and community, with a program offered by local artisans. He’s also received a grant from the United Church’s EDGE for a new ministry in the Thunder Bay area focusing on Generation X (those born between 1964 and 1980) and their children.

Jackie Van’t Voort is moving from Omemee, Ontario, back to Alameda and Oxbow pastoral charges in Saskatchewan, where she filled an appointment as a student. “My life is in boxes,” she says, “but I think I’m on the right track.” She’s looking forward to heading out west once again where she feels God is calling her.

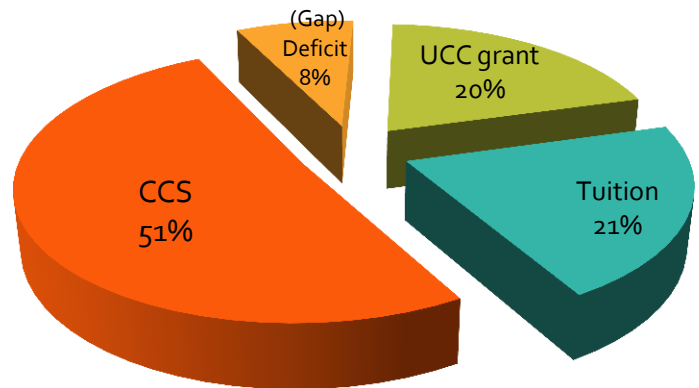
Lynn Smith is in ministry with Bethany-Pontypool pastoral charge three days a week, gathering weekly with a small group for a Supervised Pastoral Education (SPE) unit geared to pastoral ministry, and continuing to develop Bedford House Community Ministry in Peterborough, along with her partner Allan. Lynn’s son and his family have moved to Wooler, ON, which is where Lynn’s SPE is offered. “More grandma time!”

For more information on these 2016 graduates and their work, visit the CCS website.

What it Costs to Educate a CCS Student in 2016

The CCS portion (51%) is made up of gifts from the Endowment Fund, Bequests, and Annual Donations.

Thank you!



“LoP Withdrawal”

Aisha Tahir is a first-year CCS student. She writes about popping into Woodsworth House a month after the August Learning on Purpose (LoP) course this summer:

Janet Ross asked me how I was doing. My response was “I have LoP withdrawal”. I miss starting my day with worship, doing the learning part, then reflecting, listening, and eating together. I miss the family that forms in the learning circles, the gifts I get to share and most of all the

proof that I’m not the only one that experiences the re-emerging of Christ in my life.

Exactly this time two months ago I was getting ready to say goodbye to the LoP circle. I was leaving with quite a big basketload of tools, knowledge, love, light, grace and who knows what other gifts, which will be revealed with time’s unfolding.

I appreciate the doors it opened for me academically and in my “on purpose” life.



“I’m not the only one that experiences this re-emerging of Christ in my life.”

All About You - an interview with Walter Deller, CCS Volunteer

When did you first hear about CCS?

It was in 1985 as a volunteer with the Logos Institute Program of the Diocese of Toronto where the educational model was influenced by CCS. Then I was a resource person for a session on the Hebrew Bible at CCS. This was an interesting experience because most students study the Bible second hand (by going to commentaries etc.) but it seemed more experiential to actually read it aloud and interpret it directly.

PASSAGES

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

Nancy Fraser : UCC grad 1965

Ruth McPhee : UCC grad 1954

Marjorie Powles : UCC grad 1943,
Companion of the Centre 2003

Doug Smith : UCC grad 1964

SING FOR JUSTICE

Watch the CCS website for upcoming fundraising/community-building events near you. And check out "Micah's Song" on YouTube -

<https://youtu.be/hWS-gtmgeow>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Centre for Christian Studies

60 Maryland Street
Winnipeg, MB, R3G 1K7
204.783.4490
info@ccsonline.ca
www.ccsonline.ca

What inspired you to volunteer?

I was a volunteer on the Awards Committee in the late 90's. Jim Boyles asked if I would be on the Program Committee in 2010 and I had no hesitation because, to me, CCS is still the premier place among theological schools using Adult Education methodology. It's one of the underused treasures of the Anglican Church of Canada.

What is your most significant contribution to CCS in the time you've been a volunteer?

Being on the two search committees – one for the Principal when we hired Maylanne and the other for the two newest program staff, Janet Ross and David Lappano. The idea that we should bring all of the candidates together to be interviewed at the same time was something I brought to the table and CCS was open to it.

Is there a particular moment or memory that stands out for you?

Every year at the banquet I am moved to hear what diverse and fascinating people the CCS students are, and the wealth of life experience they bring. A significant moment was the day in the spring of 2015 when I took part in a Central Council visit to the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. It was a rewarding cross-cultural institutional contact which was rich for relationship building. You take away things that are expected and unexpected.

How has volunteering at CCS changed you?

I had cause to think about institutional governance. I had

to learn to be patient with the importance of "process" in the Council at CCS and wondered if it overloaded the organization; on the other hand, I found here the most effective governance in any church structure I have experienced.

What would readers be surprised to know about you?

I spent High School at St. John's Cathedral Boys School in Selkirk where I was on the winning team in the 50 mile snowshoe race! My Christian formation was influenced by a liberal, feminist, United Church mother and school life was Anglican, conservative, and intellectual. I have continued to live with that theological tension.

What do you think other people should know about CCS?

Everyone ordained in the Anglican Church should be required to do the Learning on Purpose course.



"CCS is still the premier place among theological schools using Adult Education methodology."