

A Resources Profile

written by Dorothy Naylor, alumna, 1959

The Sponsoring Denominations

The Centre for Christian Studies is a Canadian theological school of the Anglican and United Churches, with history going back to 1892. Representatives of both denominations approve staff appointments, and any changes in the Constitution. Secretaries for theological education in both denominations receive minutes of meetings of Central Council and may attend meetings if they choose. The principal meets regularly with both national committees that have oversight for theological education.

www.ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/ccs-history

Governance

Central Council is the governing body of the Centre for Christian Studies. It meets monthly by conference call, with one face-to-face meeting in Winnipeg at the time of the Annual Service of Celebration. Members include joint chairpersons representing each denomination, the principal, treasurer, committee chairpersons, one staff representative, two student representatives, and members-at-large from both denominations.

www.ccsonline.ca/ccs-governance

Staff

Three program staff are responsible for providing leadership for planning and delivering the theological program offered by the Centre for Christian Studies. Program staff also carry some responsibilities beyond the core program, often in conjunction with other institutions such as Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre www.sandysaulteaux.ca and St. John's Convent, Toronto www.ssjd.ca/convent.html. Current program staff are David Lappano, Ann Naylor (on leave) and Janet Ross. The principal also serves as program staff for a percentage of her time. Other staff include: Cheryl Thiessen - Office Administrator; Scott Douglas - Information and Program Administrator; Lori Stewart – Development Coordinator. www.ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/staff

Relationships with other Theological Schools

The principal meets annually with colleagues from Anglican and United Church colleges. Partnership arrangements with Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, United Centre for Theological Studies (University of Winnipeg) and St. Stephen's College in Edmonton are active. Initiatives toward future partnership arrangements are ongoing. CCS has formal program agreements with St. Stephen's College and the United Centre for Theological Studies that allow students to earn degrees at the bachelor's or master's level.

www.ccsonline.ca/program/joint-degree-programs

Common Threads

This monthly online communication to alumni, volunteers and Friends of the Centre keeps the constituency informed of news, activities, opportunities and developments.

www.ccsonline.ca/blog/common-threads

Volunteers

It is the task of the Volunteer Recruitment and Support Working Group to invite people who value the vision and work of the Centre for Christian Studies to share their time and talents. The Centre is sustained by more than 100 volunteers from all across the country. They serve on Council, committees and working groups. They bring their expertise and experience to act as resource persons for learning circles or other programs. And the field placements, such an important part of the program, could not happen without the volunteer commitments of learning facilitators, mentors, and local committee members. www.ccsonline.ca/get-involved/volunteer

CCS Alumni

Alumni provide loyal support to the Centre in promotion, volunteer and financial support. The development coordinator maintains a database and works closely with the principal to keep in regular contact with the alumni. Graduates of the Western Field-based Diaconal program (1995, 1997) which was based at St. Stephen's College in Edmonton are included with CCS alumni.

The Building

The Centre for Christian Studies is housed in historic Woodsworth House, a three-storey building, a replica of the house where James S. Woodsworth lived. Some aspects of the program are held here. When a larger space is needed, space is arranged at a nearby church. www.ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/ccs-history/woodsworth-house

Diaconal Organizations

The Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada offers promotion and support for the diaconate and holds national meetings every three years www.anglicandeacons.ca. Diakonia, United Church of Canada (DUCC) an organization of diaconal ministers in the United Church of Canada holds biannual meetings and provides networking, support and advocacy www.ducc.ca. Both organizations are members of the ecumenical diaconal organizations: World Diakonia www.diakonia-world.org, and Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean www.dotac.diakonia-world.org.