



Living Presence Ministry, Toronto

Courage: A Tragically Hip Liturgy was just one in series of Rock Liturgies hosted by Living Presence Ministry. Living Presence Ministry is a new and emergent ministry created by Living Waters Presbytery in the York Region of Toronto, an area currently going through an unprecedented population surge.

Bri-anne Swan lives in the community with her family. She is also the Community Minister with the Living Presence Ministry and a student at the Centre for Christian Studies. "I often tell people to think of me as a Community Chaplain," she says. "I'm here to make sure everybody is okay. I offer one-on-one pastoral support and referrals to Social Service agencies. I work with the local congregations as their "ear to the ground" on what's going on with their new neighbours. We host Community Potluck Dinners and a Harry Potter group for 10-14 year olds, using the book series as a common text for kids from varying (or no) faith backgrounds to explore issues related to justice, compassion and right living."

"There is a large segment of the new population who would consider themselves SBNR (Spiritual But Not Religious). This group, mostly made up of Millennials and Gen Xers, have a yearning for a space to explore the "deep questions" – Why am I here? What is my purpose? What am I called to do? Traditional hymns do not speak to these people in a post-biblical age. So we offer a worship experience that meets people in their present contexts. Any push back we received was easily alleviated by pointing out that Jesus himself used and built upon popularly understood stories of his time to make his words and message more palatable to his audience."

Your donation to the Centre for Christian Studies helps students like Bri-anne reach out to a world hungry for Good News. Thank you!



CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Imagine Church Differently

Alana inspires children and youth to create change through the Go Project. Kim shares listening and prayer with people going through shadow times in her congregation, and Don has a heart for people struggling with addictions. These students each have a calling to take Jesus' where it is most needed. **God's world needs leaders like this.**

Your church has made it possible for these students to learn at the Centre for Christian Studies.

With your support students are encouraged to lead inside the church and within the community; in personal reflection and active service; in spirituality, worship and academic study. They are invited to follow Jesus into the community and to the margins of our society, building bridges between the church and the world. They imagine church differently.

Congregations like you are essential to identifying, calling, funding, training, accompanying, and supporting the ministry of people who come to the Centre for Christian Studies. Thank you for all you do.