



# CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

*Imagine Church Differently*



# Annual Report 2019

## WHO ELSE NEEDS LEAVENING?

As mainline denominations become more marginalized in a secular society, we need transformational leaders at the threshold between the church and the world. The Centre for Christian Studies equips diaconal ministers and deacons to be leaven – small in number, and huge in impact.

At the spring 2019 Face-to-Face meeting of the CCS Central Council, we started wondering, - with help from consultant (and former CCS staff member) Kirsten Earl McCorrister - who else could use some diaconal leavening in their ministry? How do we serve the needs of lay leaders in churches without paid ministry staff? How do we welcome back alumni who long for community and engagement like they experienced at the Centre? How do we include ordained ministers who thirst

for meaningful and practical continuing education?

The strategic plan we developed circles back to our mission: *educating leaders for justice, compassion and transformation*. Our vision is to diversify the CCS community, and offer our transformative program to new types of students, lay and ordained. We are working towards increased student numbers, growing our networks and stabilizing our income through new supporters and grants.

“God calls us to diaconal ministry,” the Statement of Vision of the Diakonia of the United Church of Canada says. “The gospel of Jesus invites all to this ministry.” CCS is called to the diaconal ministry of education. And we invite all.

- Michelle Owens, principal

## 4 Strategic Priorities

1. Develop and enact a CCS recruitment and marketing strategy to attract new and diverse students to existing and expanded programs, including hiring a new staff position and/or contracts.
2. Continue to adapt to meet the needs of a changing church and world, implementing the recommendations of the 2017 program review.
3. Explore the market for and feasibility of offering consulting services.
4. Integrate the changes in recruitment and programming into the financial, communication and development strategies of CCS.

## BURSARIES

# THE COURAGE TO ASK



With a young family, and money already stretched, Jen Prince despaired of being able to follow her dream of attending *Learning on Purpose* in Winnipeg. She had to swallow a big lump of pride to be able to ask for financial help. But what else could she do? Jen found out that, while making the request was hard, getting a grant from the Ted Dodd Fund for Leadership was easy. And when she thought finances would force her to put off her ministry plans for decades, she found out about Centre for Christian Studies bursaries and United Church student aid, which she has received each year. All it took was the courage to ask.

**In 2019, a total of \$43,960 was given to assist CCS students with tuition and expenses. Individual bursaries ranged between \$300 and \$3375 per term.**

This year we celebrate increased concrete support for diaconal ministry students from the United Church of Canada. Based on a recommendation from the 2014 Task Group on Diaconal Ministry, the United Church has rebalanced its calculations for financial support. Recognizing that the diaconal diploma program at CCS does not have a component during which students are required to be in paid pastoral relationships (unlike other streams of ministry), diaconal students will be 'double-counted' in the formula for distributing financial aid. The flexibility to do unpaid field placements allows our students to learn in a variety of settings, and to prioritize finding the *right* learning opportunity that meets their learning goals. Thank you, United Church of Canada for continuing to support diaconal education!

## NOT REMOTELY DIFFICULT

There was a time when CCS students lived in residence and attended classes together daily. Now they live far from each other, meeting face to face in learning circles and keeping in touch by phone, email, social media, and videoconferencing. 2019 saw our first online learning circles – still face to face, but face to face through computer monitors.

In 2019 staff members Marcie Gibson and Kimiko Karpoff worked remotely from their homes in Hamilton and New Westminster, respectively. And since November 2019, David Lappano has been based in the United Kingdom.

What's it like having members of the staff team working offsite? For students it's not so different at all. With technology, London, England is no further away than Winnipeg. For other staff?

"When David was in the office next door, we were back and forth two or three times a day," says Janet Ross. "Now I am aware of the 6 hour time difference. So when I think of something, I send an email and we go over things when we talk on Zoom."



Cheryl Thiessen misses "jellybean conversations" with David in the afternoons when he used to visit her desk for a daily dose of candy. Staff now have to be intentional about building in opportunities for social conversation to make up for the catching up over lunch.

Our commitment to learning in community keeps us connected, even when the community is not in one place.



# CONNECT-THE-DOTS

## We connect in so many ways

Diyaconal Ministries student, Charmaine(1), had a mid-year video chat with her primary Program Staff person, David(2), who staffed the online *Ministry as Listening* learning circle(3), which included a student-led session by John(4), who got together throughout the year with his diaconal mentor Yoon Ok(5), who graduated from CCS the same year as Kathy(6), who, with Ansley, co-chairs Central Council(7), which met online through the year and in Winnipeg at their yearly Face-to-Face meeting(8), which overlapped with the Annual Service of Celebration(9), at which the Companion of the Centre award was given to Anglican deacon, Nancy(10), who sat with students the day before at the *Power and Privilege*

learning circle(11), which was attended by Continuing Studies student, David(12), who wrote about the circle in the Common Threads e-newsletter(13), which was sent to hundreds of people, including Jim(14), who recommended CCS to Kathleen(15), who flew to Winnipeg to attend the *Learning on Purpose* course(16), where she met Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre student, Murray(17), who a few months later spoke to final year diaconal students about Indigenous leadership in the church at the fall *Integration* circle(18), which was attended by Christina(19), who took an external course at St. Stephen's college with other CCS students, including Kim(20), who requested some books to be mailed to her in BC from the CCS library(21), which is occasionally used as a quiet place to work by local minister Ha Na(22), who organized an event called "Queer and Faithful" with help from CCS program staff Janet(23), who dressed as a bible while leading the *Ministry as Storytelling* learning circle(24), at which the volunteer chaplain was Ken(25),

who attended a DUCC lunch hosted by Ted(26), who collected money to make donations to CCS(27), for which thank-you calls were made and notes sent by Lori(28), who facilitated some of the weekly CCS staff meetings(29), which were attended, by video from Hamilton, by Marcie(30), who represented CCS at a Field Orientation for Dyanne(31), who received good feedback from her local committee and Learning Facilitator, Leslie(32), who signed the Field Covenant form that was sent for filing to Scott(33), who responded to an inquiry email from potential student, Hyerim(34), who had a phone conversation about bursaries with CCS Principal, Michelle(35), who represented CCS in Vancouver at the Diakonia of the Americans and Caribbean gathering(36) ...where she ran into Charmaine.

Rev. Canon Nancy Ford, the 2019 Companion of the Centre, cares for the "hidden ones" affected by the opioid crisis in Victoria.



Check out the CCS website for more information about Nancy's ministry and what she's been up to lately.



# 2019 DIACONAL MINISTRY GRADS

- **Tammy Bleue** is in ministry at Stonewall Pastoral Charge, Stonewall, MB
- **Keith Hall** is in team ministry at St. Martin's United Church in Saskatoon, SK
- **Marion Martin** serves two rural churches, St. Paul's United Church in Milk River and Raymond United Church in Raymond, AB
- **Lynn McGrath** was called to Agassiz Pastoral Charge in the lower mainland of BC


"I was so relieved to be graduated... but after a few months I was having withdrawal. Withdrawal from learning and exploring. CCS had instilled in me the desire to be a life long learner. I have found I am the happiest when I am both serving and learning."


- **Marion Martin**


"The skills and tools CCS has given me have prepared me well for ministry and each day I am thankful for my journey with God."

- **Tammy Bleue**

## OUR REVENUE comes from people like you

 \$126,465 Tuition income

 \$126,142 Donations

 \$120,340 UCC Grants

 \$229,289 Endowment

## FINANCIAL PICTURE

We are grateful for the generous donors who established our Endowment and Bursary Funds and continue to support CCS through donations. This year we ran a matching gift campaign for the first time, which was a resounding success. Thank you!

Our revenue comes from our investments, tuition, donations and an annual operating grant from the United Church of Canada.

We continue to keep our expenses low – in fact, looking at comparable data published by the Association of Theological Schools – our yearly general expenditures per student are only \$28,000 per year contrasted to an average of \$70,000! Our modest building expenses and inclusion of academic courses taken at other schools are ways of being good stewards of our resources, and model partnership across institutions.

Full [audited Financial Statements](http://ccsonline.ca) are available at [ccsonline.ca](http://ccsonline.ca)  
Look in the Annual Meeting 2020 page of the Events section.



## OUR EXPENDITURES go towards building faithful leaders

Program \$220,672

Bursary \$43,960

Operations \$336,578

Other\* \$48,927

\* "Other" includes management fees, amortization, governance, insurance, etc.



## The Centre for Christian Studies

60 Maryland Street  
Winnipeg, MB, R3G 1K7  
204.783.4490  
[info@ccsonline.ca](mailto:info@ccsonline.ca)  
[www.ccsonline.ca](http://www.ccsonline.ca)