



## Your gift connects across borders!

**Y**oon Ok Shin, CCS graduate of 2000, knows what it is like to cross borders. Emigrating from Korea to Canada has meant traversing more than one.

*You support the work of border crossing with your donation.*

*You made it possible for her to learn to do what she does.*

It hasn't been easy moving to Canada. Yoon Ok has had to learn a new language, negotiate different church structures, and adapt to and accept things about Canadian culture that were not part of her upbringing.

These experiences have given her an empathetic heart for those who need support, love, understanding or empowerment. "I want to serve those without privilege or power. In the church, addressing the gifts that difference brings is



Yoon Ok Shin [in green] with volunteers at the Intercultural Children's Camp, Chinese United Church, Edmonton.

more important than attending to cultural differences," she says. Her training at the Centre for Christian Studies reinforced her understanding of the Christian obligation to challenge injustice and build up the marginalised. "Diaconal Ministry carries the values of Minjung, feminist and black theologies which I studied in Korea. It expresses what it means to bring justice and love as a Christian."

Yoon Ok is passionate about creating a safe, respectful, and communal space in faith communities, where all gifts are accepted and shared. To her, intercultural ministry is about challenging racism, inequity, and disrespect of differences in order to cross the borders to a diverse, community of belonging—the beloved community portrayed in Ephesians 2: 14.

Her appointment as Intercultural Ministry Facilitator in the Edmonton area is about helping people and churches build relationships of respect, where they can see the value of diversity and create a new understanding of who belongs. Yoon Ok believes, "We are all gifted with the gifts of God. Each one has a place and something to offer".

She has been developing many relational ministries that are also intercultural, for example, a clergy study group, children's summer program, educational events, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. These are places where newcomers, long-time residents, people of all races with various experiences, can bring their gifts. For Yoon Ok, "It creates a space for our own inner growth. We discover what it means to be fully human as

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# Your support takes the edge to the margins!

Elizabeth McAdam is a big proponent of the diaconal education she received at the Centre for Christian Studies. She is not a diaconal minister. Having completed the three theme years required at that time, she chose not to do the final year of integration and did not graduate. This was intentional, a faithful following of her call to stay outside of ordered ministry. Elizabeth sees herself as a diaconally trained lay person, important both because of the diaconal and the lay, an identity that felt more authentic to her.

Elizabeth first attended the Leadership Development Module (LDM - now called Learning on Purpose) as a stand-alone, believing it would be great foundational learning on leadership skills. Then she thought "It doesn't matter what work I do, pastoral care would always be helpful." So she took the Pastoral Care Year. During that time she volunteered at the youth detention centre and the Oak Table, a community ministry in Winnipeg, "just to see. I had never worked with groups of men. But if you're going to do this training, you should expand.

"As I started working with people and learning more through the

program about the social ministry work I thought, 'I might as well take Social Ministry Year.' At that point as I started looking for employment



Elizabeth McAdam at the Main Street Project.

opportunities, I could work in a congregation but they would want someone who knew something about worship and education so I took the Education Year."

Although those three years completed the core theme years of the diaconal diploma at CCS, Elizabeth did not feel called to

ordered ministry. She was fascinated by the Biblical story but didn't feel she could be "someone set apart. I knew people who were," she said,

"and they had something that I didn't feel I had."

Elizabeth now works as an Integrated Support Worker with the Main Street Project, a housing first, harm reduction, drop-in, shelter, and detox centre in Winnipeg. "Without this training I don't think I'd have the

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## Your gift, cont'd from page 1

Christians doing theology and acting in faith."

Yoon Ok is also working with the Intercultural Ministry Network in Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds Regional Councils to host a learning

day for United and Anglican clergy and members called "Continuing the Awkward Conversation to become an Intercultural and Sustainable Church." It is an opportunity for participants to learn tools for dismantling racism and crossing borders. "There is so much potential to grow this intercultural ministry but it's hard work that

depends on the grace of God to sustain it."

Centre for Christian Studies students are immersed in leadership training for purposeful ministry. They learn to risk crossing borders towards justice and compassion, thanks to you.

~ Lori Stewart

*Edge to the margins, cont'd from page 2*

attitude that I am here to serve you," she said. "It would be more 'I am the employee and you are the person I'm supposed to do things for.'" She credits the CCS training for her skills in effective listening and "learning that I did not need to provide the answer. I needed to be able to ask questions that would help people find their own answers. I am more able to ask 'What do you need?' rather than say 'This is what you're supposed to do.' I am able to see very small progress as progress and acknowledge that as pretty impressive.

"But if someone wants to pray or someone wants to talk about what their idea of God wants them to do, I have the language to be supportive and to work with the person, incorporating their understanding of God, even in their mental illness, and help them find their way through this current crisis."

She highlights learning and working with students at the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre (now the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre), along with the background and theory of readings and course work as growing her awareness of cultural differences and how to work within that.

As someone who chose not to get commissioned, Elizabeth finds herself "on the edge of the edge." For her it is a place of integrity and a place from which she can be most effective. Your support of the Centre for Christian Studies helps people like Elizabeth take the edge to the margins.

~ Kimiko Karpoff

## IN MEMORIAM



autumn is a good time  
when leaves blanket our  
paths  
soften our steps and  
quiet the earth as it prepares  
for winter

autumn is a good time  
as we pull our blankets from  
closets  
to wrap ourselves  
in quiet contemplation of  
anticipated frosts

autumn is a good time  
if any time must be good for  
the sorrow  
of the empty chair  
of the bare branch  
even as you drift away  
we will gather the red and  
gold memories  
and prepare for the winter  
of your absence

and anticipate spring when we  
will greet you  
once again  
with the budding of the  
trees and  
return of the songbirds

Margarete Emminghaus UCC 1952

Dorothy Landells UCC 1961

Joan Lum UCC 1960

Margaret Anderson UCC 1957

Gloria Nettle UCC 1955

Trevor Appleby  
spouse of Lynda UCC

Fletcher Stewart, friend of CCS

Barbara Copp, UCC 1963



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~kk

# A legacy of learning Thank you Kent Presbytery!

Transitions have taken up a lot of time, energy and attention in the United Church of Canada over the past couple of years; particularly the transition from a church with four courts to one with three councils. For many people who had faithfully served and led in presbyteries, the transition was compounded by a sense that something valuable was being lost: local connection between communities and individuals, as well as the ability to collectively name and fund local mission and ministry priorities.

In Southwestern Ontario, education for ministry had long been a priority for Kent Presbytery, who maintained a fund from which it supported theology students, with annual individual grants of \$1000. Looking



**A**t CCS I have learned and practiced a ministry of mutuality, encouragement and collaboration which has helped me in building and supporting relationships in the rural, two-point charge I am serving in. This scholarship made that possible.

~scholarship recipient Karlene Kimber  
to the church in a variety of ways".  
Valuing many different expressions

to the future, the Kent presbyters wanted to continue to support students, without a lot of strings attached.



**T**raining in spiritual care and advocacy has really influenced the way I walk with people in my ministry. Thanks to Kent Presbytery's scholarship, I continue to move forward toward my goal of completing the diaconal ministry program, and becoming Commissioned next May.

~scholarship recipient Christina Crawford

of ministry, the presbytery decided to divide their gift between the Centre for Christian Studies and Emmanuel College, to support both diaconal and

ordained candidates for ordered ministry, with a first preference for students

from rural areas or small towns.

Kent's generosity will continue their tradition of supporting education with gifts that make a difference in the lives of people who are deeply called into ministry. The support is concrete and it is spiritual, as Judith describes the will of the presbyters: "We want students to know that people are encouraging them."

Contributions to the Kent Scholarship vision and legacy of encouragement for education can be made through the Centre for Christian Studies.  
~Michelle Owens

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