



CCS Resources Profile

Sponsoring Denominations

The Centre for Christian Studies is a Canadian theological school whose history dates back to 1892. Currently the sponsoring denominations of the school are The Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada. Both denominations acknowledge the harms done through their role in the colonization of Turtle Island and have a strong ongoing commitment to reconciliation. The CCS curriculum intentionally addresses and discusses the church's role in the residential school system. At CCS, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls form part of an ongoing commitment to learning just as a continued interest in feminism and LGBT2SQ+ issues has long been part of the fabric of justice-seeking and awareness-raising at the Centre.

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 the Central Council and may attend meetings if they choose. The principal meets regularly with both national committees that have oversight for theological education. <http://ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/ccs-history/>

Social Justice

The mission of the Centre for Christian Studies is to educate leaders for justice, compassion, and transformation. We believe that justice includes economic, social, and ecological concerns. Our work and relationships are grounded in mutuality, equality, and respect. <https://ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/mission-and-values/>

Governance

The Central Council is the governing body of the Centre for Christian Studies. Typically, it meets monthly by conference call, with one face-to-face meeting in Winnipeg at the time of the Annual Service of Celebration (*health restrictions permitting*). Central Council members include two co-chairs, the principal, treasurer, committee chairpersons, one staff representative, two student representatives, and members-at-large from both denominations. <http://ccsonline.ca/ccs-governance/>

Staff

Three program staff are responsible for providing leadership for the planning and delivery of the theological program offered by the Centre for Christian Studies. Program staff also carry responsibilities beyond the core program, often in conjunction with other institutions such as the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. <https://sandysaulteaux.ca> Current program staff are David Lappano, Marcie Gibson, and Janet Ross. The principal also serves as program staff for a percentage of their time. Other staff include: Cheryl

Thiessen - Office Administrator; Scott Douglas - Program Coordinator, Registrar, Library; Lori Stewart – Development Coordinator. <http://ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/staff/>

Relationships with other Theological Schools

The principal meets annually with colleagues from Anglican and United Church colleges. A partnership arrangement with the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre enables students from both the Centre for Christian Studies and Sandy-Saulteaux to attend shared learning circles. This partnership is an essential component of strengthening and nurturing right relations as we live and work more fully into reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Partnership arrangements also exist with the St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon and St. Stephen's College in Edmonton. These partnerships include formal program agreements that allow students to earn degrees at the bachelor's or master's level. www.ccsonline.ca/program/joint-degree-programs Initiatives toward future partnership arrangements are ongoing and are undertaken with our commitment to anti-racism, equality, diversity, and respect.

Student Forum

The current student body meets regularly as a Forum via zoom or in person as a means of support and networking among students. There is a Forum representative on the Central Council. The Principal is encouraged to communicate with the students via the use of the Forum to build on and strengthen relationships.

<http://ccsonline.ca/resources/student-resources/student-to-student-handbook/>.

Common Threads

Common Threads is a monthly online communication to alumni, volunteers and Friends of the Centre keeping them informed of news, activities, opportunities, and developments. The principal is expected to contribute regularly to this.

<http://ccsonline.ca/blog/common-threads/>

Volunteers

The Volunteer Recruitment and Support Working Group invites people who value the vision and work of the Centre for Christian Studies to share their time and diverse gifts. More than 100 volunteers from all across the country provide essential support by serving on Council, committees and working groups and bringing their expertise and experience to act as resource persons for learning circles or other programs. Field placements, which are an important part of the program, could not happen without the volunteer commitments of learning facilitators, mentors, and local committee members. <http://ccsonline.ca/get-involved/volunteer/>

CCS Alumni

Alumni provide ongoing support to the Centre through promotion, volunteer and financial support. CCS 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. Some aspects of the CCS program are held in this building. When a larger space is needed, arrangements are made with a nearby church. CCS is now sharing space with the Prairie to Pine Region offices of the United Church.

J. S. Woodsworth was an early proponent of democratic socialism, however, his racist record on matters of immigration and cultural diversity in Canada are abhorrent. <https://ccsonline.ca/2019/05/remembering-1919-from-woodsworth-house/> Carrying a dual legacy of democratic socialism and xenophobic hostility means recognizing the messiness and complexities of traditions, which are also part of the histories of the church in Canada and the history of Canadian society generally. CCS holds these histories honestly, seeking to honour and build on the threads of equity and reject and redress the threads of oppression, hate, and injustice.

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 active 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. The current president of DOTAC is a graduate and former staff member of the Centre for Christian Studies.