



CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Imagine Church Differently



BEYOND IMAGINATION

For the Centre for Christian Studies, 2022 was a year full of preparation, anticipation, and adjustment. After several months of searching, CCS gained a new Program Staff member, Alcris Limongi, and a new Principal, myself. This transition has equipped the staff team and organization with a new set of lenses for exploration.

After three years of uncertainty (COVID, etc.), the school has arrived at the end of a tunnel and we must make up our minds which direction the school needs to embark on. Which expanded areas of learning, renewed mission, strategy, and marketing? The CCS tagline is: *Imagine Church Differently*. It is time to do more than imagine. It is time to put ideas into reality.

The Centre for Christian Studies needs to be bold enough to open new doors and enter unfamiliar territory. To prepare our students well, our programs need to address the realities of a diverse, multicultural, and secular world. Our pedagogical approach needs to be culturally responsive. Not only that, but we must be courageous in venturing out to make ourselves known in a chaotic, technological, and information-saturated world.

This is the context CCS faces: While we would like more people joining the diaconate, too many people still don't even know such a route of ministry exists. There are people who are interested in experiencing theological learning to help them navigate the world who have no desire to become a deacon or diaconal

Image: CCS students Pat Chabluk and Jennifer Prince doing a COVID rapid test before the fall learning circle of their final year of the Diaconal Ministries program.

minister. Explaining ourselves and promoting our passion more clearly to the larger church and to the world are not optional.

In order to be a hospitable, justice-led, and racism-free faith community we have the responsibility to engage the world in all aspects of its life: intercultural, interreligious, and inter-relational. While these may not be too difficult to accept in our minds, it takes significant mindset changes to turn imagining into practice.

- Alan Lai, Principal

FINANCIAL PICTURE

We often try to present CCS's financial picture *as a picture* - a visualization to help us better imagine what all the numbers mean. Of course, the question "What kind of picture?" always arises. Should the image focus on the money that *comes in*, in various ways, from the 327 generous donors who believe in the work of CCS and want to see it continue into the future, including those who donated \$8672 to the endowment fund or people like Jessie McLeod or Mary Naidu who remembered CCS in their wills? Or do we focus on *what we do* with that money, whether it be the costs of providing exceptional education, or the direct support of students through bursaries, or just the cost of keeping the lights on?

This year the image that struck us was the basket. The purpose of a basket is to hold things for a time. The purpose of CCS's finances is to gather up the goodwill and trust and faithful stewardship of all those who support us, and hold it safely until it can be used to nurture and support effective ministers and transformational leaders.



Aileen Urquhart, the 2022 Companion of the Centre, is a writer, educator, artist, and diaconal minister with a long-standing commitment to justice, relationship, and the Indigenous church. Check out the CCS website for more about Aileen.

Total **INCOME** for 2022
\$553,943

Bequests, Bursary Funds,
Candidate Aid,
Other Income **\$72,024**

Program (tuition) **\$91,096**

Operating (includes UCC grant) **\$105,091**

Donations **\$120,946**

Investment Income **\$164,786**

"People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

- Matthew 5:15

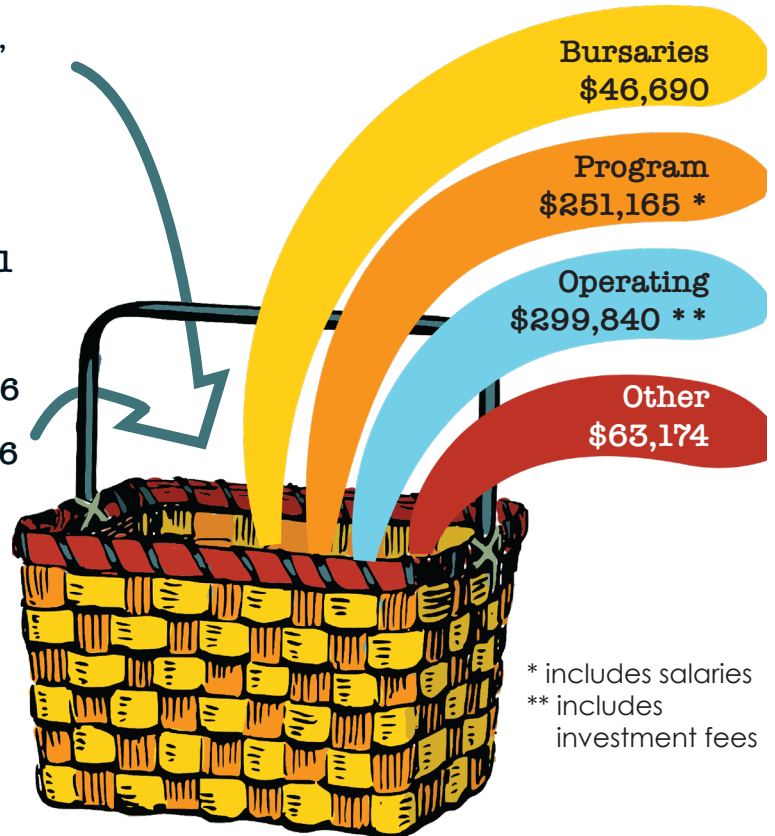
Total **EXPENSES** for 2022
\$660,869

Bursaries **\$46,690**

Program **\$251,165 ***

Operating **\$299,840 ****

Other **\$63,174**



* includes salaries
** includes investment fees

Bursaries and Scholarships

Amount: \$131,784
pay to: Bursaries

Amount: \$4229
pay to: Scholarships

The Bursary Fund supports students who might otherwise not be able to pursue their learning goals due to financial need. Candidate Aid from the United Church of Canada increases the amount available. Last year 17 students received bursaries, totalling \$131,784. One student received \$1000 to attend the Learning on Purpose course in London, ON from the Ted Dodd Fund for Leadership.

CCS also offers scholarships, drawing on generous donations from individuals committed to the ongoing studies of CCS students and alumni. A Gertrude Rutherford Scholarship of \$3240 was awarded to a CCS grad to continue her studies, two AJW Myer Scholarships of \$400 and \$589 were awarded to CCS students. In total, \$4229 in scholarships were awarded in 2022.



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2022 Gratitude Report

*Thank
You*

2022 Program Numbers

10

LEARNING CIRCLES

Spiritual Practice, Relationships,
Power & Privilege, Integration 3,
Ages & Stages, Learning on Purpose,
Integration 1, Integration 2,
Health, Pain & Trauma,
Ministry as Community-building

26

DIACONAL MINISTRY students

3

CERTIFICATE students

7

CONTINUING STUDIES students

20

FIELD PLACEMENTS

BRIDGING CHURCH AND WORLD

About a quarter of the student
field placements in 2022 were
in congregations. The rest were
in correctional institutions,
healing centres, anti-poverty
programs, shelters, universities,
regional councils, retirement homes,
and community engagement programs.



FACE TO FACE AGAIN

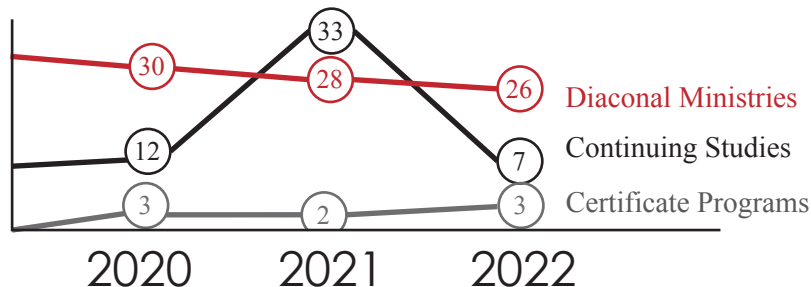
We returned to in-person
learning circles in 2022,
starting with the June
Learning on Purpose
in London, ON.
Three fall circles were
held in Winnipeg
once again, after
two years online.



NO ONE GOT SICK

Rapid tests, an air purifier,
and some commonsense
precautions meant no one
picked up the coronavirus,
or even a cold,
when CCS students met
face-to-face last fall!

ENROLMENT (active students/year)



2022 was a year of inflation and
rising costs for everyone,
and yet...

49% of
our donors
renewed or
increased the
size of their
gift.
8 donors
made a gift
for the first
time!

Thank God for our Volunteers

CCS relies on volunteers

Volunteers in 2022

Learning Circle Resource	12
CCS Friday guests	5
Search Task Group	13
Central Council	13
Committee members	43
Diaconal Mentors	42
Field Learning Facilitators	40
Total	168



Generosity you can count on

27% of our donors give monthly,
through pre-authorized remittance,
CanadaHelps, or payroll deduction.
Monthly donations are reliable, and
account for 40% of our donor income.



Our most constant donor
has given every year for 29 years!



2022 DIACONAL MINISTRY GRADS

- **John Helps** is a program manager with the Island Crisis Care Society in Nanaimo, BC
- **Charmain Bailey** is in ministry at Mount Zion United Church in London, ON
- **Rachel Nadon** is in ministry at Knox United Church in Drumheller, AB



"Seek and ye shall find"

CCS has searched for new Program Staff before. It has searched for a new Principal before. It's not very often that it searches for both at the same time.



The first task was to set up a search team – make that *two* search teams, with members representing the diversity of the CCS community: Anglicans, United, students, staff, alumni, etc. The next step was to draft job descriptions and advertisements that would tell potential applicants who CCS is and what we need. As a school that orients itself on justice, compassion, and transformation, it was important that our hiring processes mirror our values as much as possible. Conversations with equity consultant Gitanjali Lena helped the teams think about how to cast their nets as widely as possible, and how to compensate for unconscious bias.

There were an extraordinary number of qualified applicants, with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Some were grounded in church and practical ministry, others had a wealth of academic knowledge and skills. Some were creative teachers, others were active in transformative community work. It was humbling to see so many fascinating people who wanted to be

part of CCS. In the end, a number of criteria were used to create a shortlist.

The world was still *pre-post-covid* stage, so interviews were held by Zoom. Despite this, candidates were able to somehow reach through the screen and engage with the search teams on a personal level.

Because the two search teams were working separately, the final decision in July was a nail-biter. "Would the other team find someone *they* like as much as we like the person *we* found? And wait, what if both teams pick the same person? (It could happen; we don't know who the other team interviewed.) How do we decide who gets their first pick? Rock-paper-scissors??"

Luckily everyone got their first pick. Alan Lai was announced as the new Principal. Alcris Limongi would be the new member of Program Staff. Alan is an ordained United Church minister who has served both Chinese-speaking and English-speaking congregations; a former teacher of pastoral theology at VST with a keen interest in interfaith dialogue and global citizenship. Alcris, originally from Venezuela, is also an ordained minister and racial justice educator with a heart for pastoral care, contextual theology, and intentional community.

Alan and Alcris both started at CCS in October. After so many months of waiting, it was a joy to finally have them, to start dreaming CCS's future together.



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