



EDUCATING LEADERS FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION, AND TRANSFORMATION

Your Support Fosters Bravery



A learning circle at CCS provides a Brave Space to learn, thanks to you.

You encourage students to engage in justice and equity by first being aware of their own privilege. Here, Caitlin shares her reflections on how she is doing that, using a framework called Brave Space.

As a white person I benefit from white privilege in safe spaces, and am more likely to not push myself in a classroom setting. In brave spaces, I feel like there is a certain amount of vulnerability in stepping outside of our comfort zones together in order to foster a space of growth and learning in community.

There, the onus is on me to recognise and acknowledge the privilege and power I have.

I am currently wrestling with my role in white privilege, how it benefits me, and the intricate ways in which it is woven into society.

- What does it say about me as a Christian person who believes in offering something more counter cultural, in challenging the status quo?
- How do I operate within a system that is just so broken?
- Can I operate outside of it?
- Is there a balance of both, and ways to push it, even as only one person?

“Sometimes the guilt, shame, and hopelessness paralyze me and I cannot find my way.”

I hope, through this Brave Space framework, that I can encourage and foster some bravery within myself to do the hard things, like wrestling with these questions.

I love that bravery is a reminder that I am worth that work, as are my relationships with others, including God. This world and the people in it are worth the work too. It is important to me

that I continue to learn how to bring about justice and equity for all of creation, even if just a little bit at a time.

The framework of Brave Space is a crucial tool for ministry. Our call as Christians is not to do what is safe or easy, but to take risks and not be afraid of some of the dangers that come with being counter cultural, being brave.

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Your gift: shifting students from safe space to brave space

Learning about social justice is a priority that you support at CCS. Here is what students are learning because of you.

In an assigned reading, “From Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces”, Brian Arao and Kristi Clemens say

There is no such thing as a “safe space”

—

We exist in the real world.

We all carry scars and have caused wounds.

This space

seeks to turn down the volume of the world outside, and amplify voices that have to fight to be heard elsewhere,

This space will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be

But

It will be our space together, and we will work on it side by side.

Beth Strano, "Untitled," posted to Facebook June 25, 2021.

that providing a “safe space” for their students when introducing difficult conversations didn’t work. As soon as there was risk of conflict or a challenge to their privilege, students felt uncomfortable and refused to engage.

The authors knew that when students move out of their comfort zones the best learning happens. They tried “shifting away from the concept of safety, and emphasizing the importance of bravery instead, to help students better...rise to the challenges of genuine dialogue on diversity and social justice issues.”

They started by encouraging group members to dialogue about what “Brave Space” means and set ground rules that move from safe space to brave space. In this way they created ownership and set the stage for challenging conversations. The guidelines, below, might be useful to you as you explore brave space in your context.

You might be interested in joining the Alumni Reading Circle this fall where you’ll be able to delve into the same readings our students are exploring and find a forum for discussion. Contact Scott at info@cconline.ca to sign up.

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

SAFE SPACE

BRAVE SPACE

Agree to Disagree

Controversy with Civility

No Personal Attacks

Distinguish Between Ideas and People

Don’t Take Things Personally

Take Care of Yourself

Assume the Positive Intent

Own Your Intentions AND Your Impact

Respect Others

Controversy with Civility

Your Generosity Encourages Spaciousness

You've contributed to the learning of Deborah Laforet, a CCS grad and volunteer, and Min-Goo Kang, an ordained minister and CCS continuing education student. They have both reflected on brave space in their sermons.

Min-Goo writes:

Angel Kyodo Williams defines love as space, "Love is developing our own capacity for spaciousness within ourselves to allow others to be as they are."

Without this spaciousness, we want others to behave like we do. By creating it, those around us can find room to breathe.

In that way, Brave Space is a movement from being secure to vulnerable, from armored to open, from guarded to curious. It intentionally creates space for people from marginalized groups – LGBTQ communities, Indigenous people, racialized folks, and people with disabilities.



With your help, Pat and Jen were able to take their COVID tests at the beginning and end of the time at CCS.



Dyanne puts on her mask as she arrives. Thanks to you, there were lots available.

Deb writes:

In the church, we work hard to create safe spaces, but a space will never be completely safe for everyone. Sometimes we need spaces where people can be brave; brave to be who they are, to speak their truth, and to share the fire in their bones.

Creating Brave Spaces can be risky; you never know who will step forward or with what you will be confronted.

Therefore, Brave Spaces can be uncomfortable, but they can also be filled with the movement and energy of the Spirit, creating new possibilities, making room for the gifts we all have to offer.

They are back! Thanks to you!

Through this spring's Matching Gift Campaign, you made sure students could get back to meeting in community safely.

This fall there were hand sanitizer stations at CCS entrances. There was fresh air provided by an air purifier indoors and opportunities to meet outdoors. Social Distancing, masks, and COVID tests were all used to welcome students into a safe environment at the June and September learning circles. The same will apply in the October circles.

Help Maggie follow her Call

When Maggie called to find out about the Ministering by Word and Example course at the Centre for Christian Studies, she was full of enthusiasm. She got more excited as we talked about the possibility of doing the Anglican certificate program. But her voice fell when I told her the cost.

Maggie sadly said, "I can't afford that."

Will you help? Potential students like Maggie should not be prevented from studying because of the cost of the program.

Right now, there is a serious gap between what tuition covers and what it actually costs to educate a student. Increasing tuition is NOT the answer. We need to reduce the barrier of entry, not increase it!

That's why I am asking for your help. You have the amazing opportunity to help a student like Maggie follow God's call into ministry.

I hope you can make a donation today. Now is the time for you to help a student with a gift.

YES! I will help make a minister.

Please use my gift to send a person to CCS to become a capable minister.

My donation is in the amount of \$25 \$50 \$100 other _____

Cheque (payable to Centre for Christian Studies)

Credit Card VISA or Mastercard

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Expiry Date _____

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