



Outward from the Centre

Message from our Executive Director

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I write these words, as the first warmth of summer is celebrated and many of us who are fortunate enough to have vacations, are preparing to leave the campus and head out to variety of places.

In scrolling through this newsletter you will discover many things have recently captured the imagination and energy of members of the faculty, staff and students of the United Centre for Theological Studies.

In June however, nothing is more important than convocation. The pictures that appear in this newsletter capture the joy and the sense of accomplishment that our students have earned. The degrees and diplomas that handed out signify for some; years of hard, dedication and sacrifice. Some will say they have learned much from the books they read and the professors they met but this particular teacher would have to say he learned much more from the experience of engaging with students than he ever offered them.

This June we celebrated the graduation of five students from the first cohort in the Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Program. As those students were walking across the stage to receive their diplomas, I was remembering the week I spent with them in the late winter of 2014. It was my joy and honour to facilitate and to teach the Integrated Seminar in that program.

I come from white privilege and for that reason I approached the course with some anxiety and much caution. I stumbled along careful not to



Terry Hidichuk, Executive Director

offend or to enter where I was not invited. At some point one the students, in the circle that began each day said, “stop with the white guilt already and teach us something.” It was then, that I started to learn what it was like to be invited into another culture, not to take it over, but to share what each of us know.

I think often of the week I spent with those in that course. The careful, testing moments in the first couple of days and the sweat that drew it altogether at the conclusion. It was gift and grace. It was opportunity not so much to teach or to help but to learn and experience respect for one another. With that I discovered hope in a world that is sometimes too cynical and too dark and too stuck in old tradition and behind old chalk lines.

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Graduation Banquet June 9, 2015 Charleswood United Church



Alexander Beardy opening Pipe Ceremony



Jingle Dress Dancers, Isabella and Sarah Thomas



l-r: Terry Hidichuk, Miriam Hughes, Chris Wells, Melody McKellar, Alex Beardy, Jennifer Rocchio, Adel Compton, Michael Thibert, Katherine Thomas, Tanis Kolisnyk, Don McCaugherty and Steve Robertson.

This year the graduating students of the United Centre for Theological Studies celebrated on June 9, 2015 at Charleswood United Church. The evening started with a pipe ceremony at 5:30 followed by a student lead worship service and dinner. Two daughters of graduate Katherine Thomas: Isabella and Sarah shared their talent and performed a Jingle Dress Dance as part of the service. While not all of the graduates were able to attend, Angela Clifton was able to fly into Winnipeg from Bridgewater, Nova Scotia to attend Convocation.

The UCTS is proud to announce that the first cohort of the Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care (ISPC) Diploma graduated.

The United Centre for Theological Studies has several prizes, bursaries and scholarships that are made possible by generous donors. This year we awarded four prizes at the Convocation ceremonies on June 12, 2015. Corinne Cameron & Marcia Gibson tied for first and will both receive the Gawthrop Prize for highest overall GPA in Theology. Adel Compton will receive the Nisbet Memorial & Winchester Prize for the second highest overall GPA in Theology. Tanis Kolisnyk will receive the Tait & Anderson Prize for third highest overall GPA in Theology. We would like to thank Charleswood United Church for providing space and to KT Katering for a wonderful meal.
- Sandy Peterson



Convocation June 12, 2015



2015 ISPC Diploma Graduates: l-r: Jennifer Rocchico, Katherine Thomas, Miriam Hughes & Michael Thibert.



l-r: Tanis Kolisnyk, Angela Clifton, Corinne Cameron & Steven Scribner



l-r: Miriam Hughes, Katherine Thomas & Jennifer Rocchico



l-r: Katherine Thomas, Terry Hidichuk & Miriam Hughes



Back Row (l-r) Steven Scribner, Tanis Kolisnyk, Don McCaugherty, Steve Robertson, Michael Thibert. Front Row (l-r) Dr. Annette Trimbee, President of the University of Winnipeg, Melody McKellar, Adel Compton, Angela Clifton, Mary Johannson and Chris Wells.

2015 Graduating Students

Certificate in Theology: Meaghan Pauls.

Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma: Alexander Beardy, Miriam Hughes, Jennifer Rocchio, Michael Thibert and Katherine Thomas.

Master of Divinity: Mary Johannson, Don McCaugherty & Steven Scribner.

Master of Arts (Theology): Tanis Kolisnyk

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices: Corinne Cameron, Angela Clifton, Marcia Gibson & Steve Robertson.

Master of Sacred Theology: Adel Compton & Melody McKellar.

Congratulations to all our graduates!



For the past several years Theology graduates have been welcomed to the Alumni Association by the association's former president, Stefan Jonasson who happens to be a graduate of the Faculty of Theology. We wanted to share his message from this year's banquet.

Remarks to the Theology Graduates

The United Centre for Theological Studies

Graduation Banquet – Charleswood United Church

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Theology has long been described as the queen of the sciences and it was theology that was at the heart of the course of studies of those colleges that came together to form what is now The University of Winnipeg. Its first professors were all theologians and, in the days before naming rights became the fashion, its buildings and rooms were named for theologians. So, while the organization of theological studies has evolved over the years, and now finds its institutional expression as the United Centre for Theological Studies, theology is the historical foundation upon which our university is based and the abiding spirit that still animates its progressive and multidisciplinary approach to higher education.

It is my privilege this evening to congratulate each of you, along with your families, on your graduation – on behalf of the University of Winnipeg Alumni Association and, in particular, the great cloud of witnesses who preceded you in the discipline of theological studies. You join a growing procession of graduates who have successfully undertaken and completed a rigorous program of studies, recognized by the degree or diploma you have received, and you can be proud of your accomplishment. So whether you are graduating with a Certificate in Theology or an Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma, a Master of Arts in Theology or in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices, a Master of Divinity or a Master of Sacred Theology, know that you have completed a program that is second to none. The United Centre for Theological Studies is not only the oldest theological school on the Canadian prairies, it is as fine a school as any of the theological schools in the best universities. The wellsprings of knowledge and wisdom flow as surely in Winnipeg as anywhere else on earth.

As you go out into the world bearing those new degrees and diplomas, I hope you will consider the time you spent at the University of Winnipeg to have been not only preparation for life's adventure, but a vital part of the adventure itself. For your studies here have been not merely a means to an end, but an integral part of the richness of your life, which I trust you will look back upon with fondness and appreciation.

The United Centre for Theological Studies makes history this year in recognizing its first graduates with the Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma. Following so closely, as it does, on the release of the findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, let us hope that the theological community – and that of our university in particular – takes this convergence of events as a sign that we are called to provide the kind of spiritual leadership that shows the courage to name what is wrong, the conscience to demand justice, the compassion to nurture healing, and the commitment to ensure that religious institutions are never again party to nor apologists for oppression, discrimination, and cultural genocide. May we be part of the spiritual regeneration that brings wholeness in place of brokenness, reconciliation in place of division, and loving kindness in place of indifference.

If you trace the history of the United Centre for Theological Studies, and the Faculty of Theology before it, you will discover that theological education at The University of Winnipeg and its predecessor colleges have been profoundly influenced by the Social Gospel and its aspiration for a faith that is relevant in the world, which strives to bring love and justice to bear on the society in which we live and not only on the realm of which we dream.

“We need trail-makers,” wrote J.S. Woodsworth, one of the leaders of the Social Gospel here in Winnipeg. “In the realm of the spirit, in the search after truth, in the field of social relationships, in economics, in politics, in international affairs, we need trail-makers — men [and women] who will seek new paths; make the rough places smooth; bridge the chasms that now prevent human progress; point the way to higher levels and loftier achievements.”

Theological school is a little like being in camp – the kind of encampment that has gathered at The Forks for thousands of years, bringing humans together from far and wide. Gathered round the ceremonial fire, we share stories and learn from our elders, we explore ancient traditions and trade ideas, we nourish ourselves for the days ahead and practice our sacred rituals. Upon graduation, we leave camp as we embark upon our journeys. The world needs trail-makers, indeed, and it now falls upon you to “seek



new paths; make the rough places smooth; bridge the chasms” that divide humanity, and strive towards “the higher levels and loftier achievements.” May you be blessed as trail-makers and, in turn, may your service to the world bless all who meet you upon the path.

— *Rev. Stefan Jonasson*

Graduate Biographies

Certificate in Theology

Meaghan Pauls, Winnipeg I began studying in the Certificate of Theology program in 2010 after completing a Bachelor of Environmental Design at the University of Manitoba. I was intrigued by the courses led by Rev. Dr. Greg Glatz that asked current questions about who and what the church of the 21st century should be. The discussion was current and the students involved in the classes were well engaged. It was wonderful to see the series of courses with Greg develop through the exploration of the students, giving us opportunities to serve in the community together and share meals with one another. In one course we were asked to design a ministry sketch, asking the question, what should mission look like in the 21st century? This was the beginning of a series of many conversations with Greg Glatz about the transformative power and theology of the table and sharing a meal together in community that encouraged us to start the Bell Tower Community Cafe in partnership with Westminster Church and many other community organizations and local business in the Wolseley and West Broadway neighbourhoods. I am looking forward to continuing involvement in the certificate program by joining Greg as an instructor on his courses and continue working for the Bell Tower Community Cafe, while I complete my Masters of Landscape Architecture.

Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma

Welcome... my English name is **Alexander Beardy**, and my spiritual name is Yellow Wolf, a member of York Factory First Nation relocated to York Landing, MB. I presently live and work in Winnipeg and surrounding area. I am also a Sundancer and pipe carrier for our Two Moon Prayer Lodge family. The two year diploma program, "Indigenous Spiritual & Pastoral Care" was and is a continuous enjoyable experience where the Indigenous traditions and Christian traditions meet and grow to have respect for each other's perspectives. I would like to think that ours is not a better way, only another way to express and experience Love/Life/God/Creator/Great Spirit; When I pray, I give thanks for all the people, places and situations that I have and continue to experience. We are all one and thus there is no separation between Creator, minerals, plants, animals and humans. As somebody once reminded me "God sleeps in minerals, awakens in plants, walks in animals and thinks in man." I thank you for all that have my studies possible.

Peace

All My Relations

Wahcay Kahkithaw N'Totemak - Greetings All My Relations!!!!

I am Nikamo Ahcak which means Singing Spirit in the Cree language, the Mother tongue I'm honored to know and speak but I am better known as **Miriam Hughes**. On January 28, 1998 I arrived in Winnipeg MB from fleeing my violent home of Nelson House now known as Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) with my little four year old girl whom my sister blessed unto me through custom adoption, and who became the beacon of my hope to continue this peaceful yet chaotic and painful journey of healing and reconciliation. Now more than seventeen years later the threat to my life, a result of the colonial effect aka 'lateral violence', I completed the Two-Year Indigenous Spiritual & Pastoral Care Diploma Program (ISPC).

Shortly after I was diagnosed with a terminal lung illness, and my grand niece and nephew were removed from my home, I literally walked upon a brochure for the ISPC. I knew immediately it came from divine inspiration. Then I sought to study, trusting that only God would know how to do this for me which the Creator did through the institute representatives who amazingly believed in me. Even though I sought support from my community and family I did not receive it. I now know their acknowledgement is not forthcoming. I started the program in May of 2012 and completed it in January 2015. Thanks be to God for all the therapy received during this time. I initially started the program to learn to love and accept myself, to be a little more diplomatic and/or tame and to help my very many younger feral siblings heal within themselves and their children. I do not plan to seek employment just because I cannot afford legal fees nor do I have any energy to fight a 'high risk' criminal status record which NCN CFS has obtained. I find it ironic that even though I applied a for criminal records and child abuse registry check that allowed me to work with children and



vulnerable people during the practicum, I still have to fight a “high risk” criminal status record that NCN CFS has obtained. This remains frustrating because I do desire to go back home to continue to work with my own siblings as we begin to finally unite even if it is only three of out of sixteen at the moment. That would be an answer to prayer.

Jennifer Brenda Rocchio I reside in Winnipeg, MB and live with my two daughters. My journey began as I needed to make a career change because of a disability that developed while I was dealing with a life threatening health battle in 2012. I was really changed by the support of a Spiritual Care Provider at HSC his kind manner in taking care of me in recovery added a desire to learn. As a Scoop adoptee from the 60s and 70s I did not know my culture or language. It was like a missing piece of the puzzle being answered. I made appointment with Chris Wells then applied and couldn't have been more grateful to get such great support from Theology. I have met the most incredible people from many different backgrounds and religions. Being exposed to such diversity gives me an opportunity to become the best care provider I can be. Our family is now following a more natural way of living like our people did many years ago. I plan on working in Spiritual care either in Justice or health field. I am currently volunteering with the WHRA for a three year term in addition to taking courses at University and attending ceremonies throughout Manitoba.

Michael Thibert The Journey continues... My life long journey began many moons ago on the steps of my Roman Catholic Parish in St. Francois Xavier. Being an historic Metis parish, that bridges of two cultures and faiths resulting in the birth of a new nation, inspired me to begin this academic and spiritual journey in order to better understand who I am.

I started my studies with a goal to open myself to who God was/is and in the process had more questions about who I was and who I could be. Having completed the necessary formation training to receive ordination into the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, as a Permanent Deacon, I felt a call to explore both the Indigenous and European world by seeking a Bachelor of Theology degree (BTh) and a Diploma in Pastoral and Indigenous Spiritual Care.

The journey has taken me from a career as a baker with Safeway, for 23 years, to pastoral ministry in the parish of St. John Brebeuf and to a Chaplain at St. Boniface Hospital where I am today.

In hearing the drums, I believe my Indigenous ancestors spoke to me and guided me to put my BTh studies on hold while I pursued the Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care Diploma program. I needed to know more of who I was before I could continue the journey towards who I will be. Today, the journey has given me a better appreciation of the truth of life and how our own perceptions contribute to this truth, making up that life we find ourselves living today.

My plan is to finish my BTh studies, be open to where Creator may call me to be of service to all my relations, continue to grow in love with my wife (Holly) and my family as we continue to multiply in numbers with many grandchildren, in-laws, growing old together as long as Creator provides for us. Two Sons – Wolf Clan Rev. Mr. Michael Thibert

Katherine Thomas When I saw the ad for the Indigenous Spiritual & Pastoral Care diploma I felt this is what I needed to do to embrace both my Christian and Aboriginal culture. Miriam Hughes and I decided to apply to the program.

Taking the course I met a lot of people with different faiths and religions and it made me more grounded in my own faith which is the teachings of Jesus Christ. It made me understand more where people were at instead of me judging them. That is all we can do is share our faith and not force others to conform to our beliefs.

Master of Divinity

Mary Ward Johansson, Winnipeg I began working on my MDiv in September of 1999... Wow, that was quite a while ago! From the start to finish of this degree I have become a grandmother of five, to put things in perspective! Finishing this degree has been a very exciting and interesting journey for me over the past years. I have very much appreciated meeting and working with a variety of professors and students and the courses have always been stretching and growing experiences! My favorite courses were the ones at Health Sciences in Spiritual Diversity – doing practica at HSC were actually life changing. Currently I work in at our family business so I'm not totally sure where I will go with this degree now that it is completed, but we will see!

Donald McCaugherty, Winnipeg After finishing a BTh (St. John's College) and a BA (UM) sometime ago, I began the MDiv program in 2011. Doing the MDiv has been challenging with reading, writing, study and learning, but also rewarding. The fellowship, theological learning, biblical study, and personal development have been gifts for me. Family commitments have often meant re-scheduling time and energy through in-class, online, and intensive work. Most importantly, the MDiv has been about the connection



with the instructors who not only brought study and growth, but who brought their own ministry experience to their teaching. During my studies I became personally aware of a connection between Christian tradition and the Christian Church today. During the course on Animal Theology I became aware of how important the comforting presence, spirit and friendship of my border collie has been throughout the program. My future involves the path towards ordained ministry and further study.

Steven Glenn Scribner, Winnipeg, Manitoba My formal theological studies commenced following my recent move to Winnipeg in 2006 when I enrolled in the program offered at St. John's College, University of Manitoba. During this time I was introduced to the Masters of Divinity program at University of Winnipeg as I studied with a number of U of W students as a result of the alignment that existed between the theological Universities in Winnipeg. Upon my completion at St. John's College, I enrolled into the MDiv degree at U of W and continued to be supported by the theological alignment aforementioned which provided the selection of required courses to fulfill the MDiv degree.

I am a cradle Anglican, born in Saint John N.B. and recognized a more formal call to Ordained Ministry during my time at U of W. I was Ordained in the Anglican Church, Deacon October 10, 2013 and Priest June 15, 2014 at which time was appointed incumbent for the Parish of St. Mark's Anglican Church – St. Vital Wpg., my home church from my arrival here in Wpg in 2006. I am married for thirty four years to my grade school sweetheart, Heather and we have two adult boys, Patrick and David.

There have been a number of courses that have stood, especially those in the area of Parish Ministry. Early on in my studies there were courses that spoke about supporting the community during our times of great struggles both personally and socially (local and more global). What has resonated loudly for me was the grace and sincere interest all my professors showed in assisting me to achieve my journey which has really just begun. Completing the MDiv degree while working full time in the secular world along with providing spiritual leadership to my home congregation has been no small task which from time to time required considerable consideration by my various professors, all of whom were most generous in their accommodations to which I will be forever grateful. The opportunity to study while maintaining full time employment which U of W and their aligned partners of education offer is a great gift is to be treasured. Without this opportunity my journey would have been very different.

The future rests in God's hands, however the current plans have me finishing my secular commitment to my employer over the next 2 yrs. which involves my relocation back to N.B. July of 2015. During this time I will be open to ministry both in my N.B. community as well as my Northern M.B. location.

Master of Arts (Theology)

Rev. Deacon Tanis Kolisnyk is a University of Winnipeg MA Theology student who works full-time as a UW Academic Advisor. Her thesis paper topic "Indigenous Anglicans in Canada: A New Agape and the Path to Self-determination" was completed this winter term. She has been involved in church ministry, serving as a Church Music Director/Organist for 36 years. As a newly ordained deacon in the Anglican Church of Canada, her diaconal work occurs in community at St. Philip's Anglican Church, on Metis boards, Open Circle at the Women's Correction Centre, and Chaplain for the Wpg. Centre of RCCO. Tanis holds a BA in Music, a CMS Certificate in Management Studies and will receive her MA in Theology in June 2015. Tanis and Lorne Kolisnyk have raised 4 children who are now grown adults, all whom live here in Winnipeg and have blessed them with 4 wonderful grandchildren ages 4 yrs., 2 yrs., 8 months and brand new addition in May. Pastimes include time with family at the cottage in Sandy Hook MB, quilting, riding her scooter and gardening. Her MA course work included studies with professors mostly at the University of Winnipeg, but also time with professors and instructors at St. John's College at the UM, Canadian Mennonite University, Selkirk Mental Health Centre, Victoria General Hospital and Centre for Christian Studies. The richness of partnerships between these institutions has enriched her learning about God, the Church and herself.

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices

My name is **Corinne Lesley Cameron** and I am from Winnipeg, MB. I have just completed my Master of Arts – Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices. I had always wanted to work on a master's degree that would empower me in ministry. When my youngest child started Grade One, and was in school full-time, I thought 'now is the time.' I have been working on this degree for three years, although I had taken a few courses for a number of years as an occasional student. Currently, as I still have three children at home, I am not planning any major changes in my work and I will be remaining in ministry as a pastor with The Salvation Army. I really enjoyed all of my courses, but the area of study that impacted me the most was the Prairie Jubilee program. I enjoyed everything from the location at Calling Lakes, the cohort, the teaching and the reading. All of the courses that I have taken



have impacted me and I believe I view life differently from these courses. I have become more aware of opportunities for dialogue and learning, and I have been enriched by the many different students and professors who were a part of this journey. I have also learned to appreciate my family much more who fully supported me in this journey.

Angela Clifton, BN, RN, Med. I started this degree in 2003, while I lived in Winnipeg and was employed as a Parish Nurse at Sturgeon Creek United Church. I am a registered Nurse, but felt that I needed to have a stronger background in theology to continue to journey spiritually with members of the congregation. I was also very interested in combining my scientific nursing background with aspects of health, healing and wholeness for sense of the integration of body, mind and spirit for holistic health. I subsequently moved to Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, a small town about 100 kilometers south west of Halifax, along the beautiful South Shore. I am active in the local United Church, where I am a Licensed Lay Worship Leader doing lay supply for all the small churches in the area (sometimes doing Sunday services for as many as six people!)

My theological studies have been a source of great joy as I learned about ancient history and all different types of literature in the Bible. A whole new world has opened up for me, as I never really quite understood the Bible – I could never see in the Scriptures what others saw. I don't really have a favorite course, but I appreciated the value of each to the whole of my understanding. Pursuing this degree has been part of my life for a few years now, and I know I will miss studying and learning, and my connection to the University of Winnipeg. I want to thank all of you who have contributed to my learning – fellow students, professors and others.

Marcie Gibson, Montreal, Quebec I began my degree in 2008, as part of the joint master's program between the University of Winnipeg and the Centre for Christian Studies' Diploma in Diaconal Ministries, and completed my last course in summer of 2014. During my degree, I took courses from five theological schools, worked in four ministries, lived in three cities, parented two toddlers, and a partridge...oh, wait...had one commissioning to diaconal ministry in the United Church of Canada. It has been a holy juggling act, but certainly worth it! Now that I am done my studies, I plan to work in ministry with the United Church near Hamilton Ontario, follow my passions for art and outdoors, and deepen right relations with local aboriginal communities. Someday, I may yet return to academia, but for now, I'm content to remember the amazing teachings in person, online, and as the 'talking head from the East' on Skype.

Steven Robertson Greetings from a happy graduate of the United Center for Theological Studies! I was fortunate to be able to arrive in Winnipeg in 2009 and begin graduate studies. I soon found that I was not here to challenge anyone but myself and my own theology and understanding of God and who God might actually be. I don't claim to know that even yet but this has been a great place to do so. The combination of Clinical Pastoral Education's ability to challenge me into having advanced status and the Faculty's ability to lead unbiased discussions have offered my future residents, patient's and clients are more experienced and adept spiritual practitioner. I will be working in counselling and chaplaincy as soon as possible. UCTS offers good sound theology study; sign up today!

Master of Sacred Theology

Rev. Adel Compton, BScN, MDiv lives in Winnipeg and is currently employed with Winnipeg Regional Health Authority as Regional Director, Spiritual Health Services. She convokes with her Masters of Sacred Theology (STM) following completion of course requirements including her Prairie Jubilee Spiritual Direction program, and her Thesis titled: "Renewed Spirit in Winnipeg's North End: An Aboriginal Young Adult Co-Creative Leadership Model". You can read it at University of Winnipeg Graduate Electronic Theses and Dissertations: <http://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/handle/10680/740>.

I began my studies in 2010 when I was in team cross cultural community ministry with North End Stella Community Ministry where both traditional Aboriginal and Christian teachings were respected in our "Two Paths One Journey" program. I began STM studies to increase my skills in understanding and bridging gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. My Thesis on North End Aboriginal youth leaders reclaiming sacred teachings and rallying diverse allies to confront 21st Century violence inspires me to keep empowering the voice and energy of Aboriginal youth leaders in new partnership possibilities going forward.

Melody A. McKellar, Beausejour, Manitoba Bozhoo, Tansi, Greetings! I graduated from the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre and completed my BTh through University of Winnipeg in 1997. I was Commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in the United Church of Canada and was Program staff and then Principal of DJSRC. I began the next period of studies in 2000 but never did I think it would take me 14 years to complete the STM program! I had to take a considerable period of time away from studies as I completed chemo and radiation treatments for cancer and needed some rest time to recuperate. During this course of study, I



enrolled in my first online class which posed some challenges when I submitted a creative piece of work that was too large to send to my classmates and professor! Through the years I have had so many amazing mentors, Elders, professors, classmates and family members to support me in the work. As an indigenous woman, I understand the value of community. This degree may have my name written on it, but a piece of it goes to every person who offered their varied support on this journey. I am employed as 'Aboriginal Elder' with the Spiritual Health Team at Selkirk Mental Health Centre and am so grateful for all the knowledge and opportunities that this education has given me. Miigwetch, Ekosi, Thank you. Blessings always. . . .

Message from our Executive Director con't from page 1

Dorothee Solle has written:

*I believe in God
Who did not create an immutable world
a thing incapable of change
who does not govern according
to eternal laws that remain
inviolate
or according to a natural order
of rich and poor
of the expert and the ignorant
of rulers and subjects.*

I thank the Creator for the possibility of change. It is what gives me hope that the world can be a different place where there is truly restorative justice in all the broken places. I conclude with the words of Andy Dufresne in the Shawshank Redemption: "Remember, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."

Friends, I hope that all the joys and blessings are yours this summer.

Shalom, Salam, Peace
Thank you, Miigwetch.

Terry

Did you miss Convocation?
The 2015 Convocation Ceremonies are available for viewing on the Convocation Video Archive page:
<http://vod.uwinnipeg.ca/uw/convocation.html>

UWSA Health Plan

Did you know that UCTS Graduate Students who do not have health insurance or just want to supplement the plan they already have can opt into the UWSA health plan. For more information please contact the UWSA office.

UWSA Health Plan Coordinator | T: 204-786-9992 | F: 204-779-4115 | E: health@theuwsa.ca

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) Health Plan provides extended health, dental and vision benefits.

Students may choose to opt in to the UWSA health plan by filling out an [opt-change form](#). You can also extend your coverage to a spouse and/or dependents by completing using the same [opt-change form](#).

For forms, deadlines and more information, see [Student Health Plan](#).



A - Somewhat - New Thing Under the Sun

Last week, the National Forum on Bilateral Dialogues was convened in Saskatoon, at Queen's House of Retreats.

It was a trip down memory lane. In December 1973, I was a delegate from The United Theological College/Seminaire Unis in Montreal, to the annual conference of the Canadian Theological Students Association, convened at Queen's House by the Association and with support from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon.

Douglas John Hall was a key note speaker, and, aside from the sheer brilliance of his work as a still young theologian, those few days began a friendship which has extended close to a lifetime - or as close to as makes no difference.

The CTSA Conference in Saskatoon all those years ago was formative for me; imagine my delight at UCTS' renewed - and new - relationship to the Students' Association and Conference. . .

Now, triangles - the most stable of building constructs - are as important to architects as the Trinity is to Christian theologians, and UCTS is one third of a new tripartite structure for for the Canadian Theological Students Conference, in partnership with the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and the Canadian Theological Students Association (CTSA).

A year or so ago, the future of the Conference looked fragile, if not actually bleak. Attendance was down, and the Churches Council of Theological education had been disbanded, with the funds designated for the annual students' conference transferred in trust to the CCC.

The Mandarin character for crisis is composed of two elements: danger and opportunity.

The three sides of this emerging triangle, UCTS, CCC, and CTSA chose to opt for opportunity.

In mid-2014, we agreed that the CCC would adopt the role of institutional partner; CTSA, the student planners; and UCTS as the "academic partner."

The CCC would hold the funds and ensure administrative support; CTSA would survey student needs, interests and passions to develop programming for the Conference; and UCTS would ensure, either directly or through negotiation with other academics, that a three credit graduate course would comprise one element of the annual conference.

In April of 2015, the new triangle was put to the test - and passed with flying colours. A new iteration emerged.

From April 30th to May 3rd, over 30 participants from coast to coast to coast gathered at UCTS in the heart of the city which is the heart of the continent around the theme "Mine, Yours and Ours? Exploring Christian Perspectives on Human Rights."

Incorporated into the overall conference was the UCTS course "Select Themes in Global Ethics" with nine students registered, from a variety of schools across Canada.

The conference, and the course, were designed with something for the head and something for the heart. Participating professors and lecturers included The Very Rev., the Honourable Dr. Lois Wilson; the Rev. Dr., the Hon. Bill Blake; the Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of the CCC; Assistant Prof. Chris Wells; the Rev. Prof. Dr. Peter Denton; Professor Dr. Michael Gilmour; and me as Instructor of Note.

Student papers were a valuable and central element of the Conference, and details of those may be found on the websites of the three partners.

In addition, "field trips" took participants to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, with a tour hosted by Dr. Clint Curle, Director of Stakeholder Services; a visit to the Inuit Art and Culture exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery; a guided introduction to the "Art of Resistance" through the medium of Posters from Poland in the collection of the Polish Ogniwo Museum; and mass at St. Boniface



Cathedral, with a guided tour of the cathedral’s sacred spaces including the cemetery and the grave site of Louis Riel, considered by most today to be the Father of Manitoba, and even by many a true Father of Confederation and Canadian democracy.

As reboots go, not bad; and the evaluations received and the energy of the student planning committee demonstrated, promise to make next year’s conference, in Montreal, an even more stirring and stimulating event.

We are doing some cutting edge theological reflection at UCTS, and our new and renewed partnerships are making good things happen every semester!

- (The Rev. Prof. Dr.) James Christie



Nine students attended the Topics in Dialogue Theology : Global Ethics course in conjunction with the conference.



Nice crowd at the CTSA conference on Human Rights, reading the declaration of rights together.



Fall/Winter Registration Starts July 2, 2015

CHECK OUT THE [NEW TIMETABLE](#)

Next Bursary Deadline is August 15, 2015

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEW POLICY FOR BURSARY DISBURSMENT:

We have changed our practice for disbursing bursaries. We will be disbursing bursaries by term, this means that applications received by June 1 will only be accepted for the Spring/Summer term. To qualify for a bursary you **MUST** be registered for courses in the term you are applying in.

Retro-active bursaries will no longer be awarded.

Please be sure that your registration is submitted early enough to be processed before the bursary deadline.

Spring/Summer - June 1

Fall - August 15

Winter - November 15



One of the most attended events of the year at the University of Winnipeg was a lecture from a theologian!

Check out a video recording of Union Theological Seminary's Dr. Cornel West at the Inaugural 2015 Axworthy Lecture:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/class/institutes-events/2015-axworthy-lecturer-cornel-west.html>

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The United Centre for Theological Studies is committed to excellence in theological education within a liberal arts University. We welcome all those who wish to study theology and we seek to empower leaders for religious and social service by providing a safe and respectful environment for critical reflection that is contextual and global in scope and values social and ecological justice. We are shaped by the historic contributions of the United Church of Canada and its commitment to the social gospel movement, liberation theology, and whole world ecumenism.