



# Outward from the Centre

## Message from our Executive Director

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Friday, February 20

It is a snow day in Bethlehem. Yes, you read it right. It has been snowing and everything is basically shut down affording me the opportunity to offer something for the newsletter. As I write this, our first week in Israel and Palestine is coming to an end. The days have been full and when evening comes I think it is safe to say that as a group we are tired physically and emotionally.

Up to this point we have had the opportunity to hear several voices speaking to the issues from various vantage points. The presentations have been insightful and in most cases very powerful but because the issues here are so complex, I think there have been very few moments of absolute clarity. In fact I think it might be safe to say that for some of us there is more confusion which probably is not the worst of things that can happen.

At Al-Quds University on the West Bank, we met a young Palestinian man who works at the University. As he was telling his story and story of the school, he said *“truth comes from different vantage points. One person’s truth is not the same as someone else’s.”* Then the next day at Hebrew University we met a young Israeli law student who also works at Hebrew University’s Minerva Centre for Human Rights. She said, *“If you asked eight people you would get sixteen versions of the truth.”* Those are not profound statements but rather reflective of the reality that touches lives on a daily basis.

We are currently staying with our Palestinian families. We are warm, well fed and being nurtured



**Terry Hidichuk, Executive Director**

by wonderful hospitality. Later today we are planning to have a Shabbat meal with Jewish families in Jerusalem. This of course is pending at this point because of the weather.

As Lent begins for Christians, it strikes me that these days in Israel and the West Bank offer a very unique vantage point for theological reflection. A year ago when I was here, I was somewhat surprised by the depth to which I was moved by being in the Holy Land. This year that feeling has returned but nuanced by the nature of this trip and the opportunities to meet so many who are actually living out their lives in these Holy places.

I look forward to many conversations upon my return.

Peace, Shalom, Salaam

June 2015 Convocation  
Do you qualify for graduation?  
Please contact Sandy Peterson  
ASAP!

[s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca)

**We're on the web**  
[theology.uwinnipeg.ca](http://theology.uwinnipeg.ca)



News and notes:

**Project Ploughshares appoints new Chair**

Dr. James Christie of Winnipeg became the Chair of Project Ploughshares on January 1, 2015.

“It’s a privilege for me to join Project Ploughshares as Chair at this time,” said Christie. “Ploughshares is highly regarded as a leading Canadian civil society voice working for sustainable peace and disarmament. Changes are afoot. Our first task in 2015 is to initiate a search for a new Executive Director. John Siebert, who has been Executive Director of Ploughshares since 2005, is moving on to new challenges.”

Siebert, who will remain with Ploughshares until his successor is in place, welcomed the appointment of Christie as Chair. “Jim is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in the pursuit of peace. He brings a wealth of public policy experience and insight to current Ploughshares priorities, such as the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the humanitarian initiative to ban nuclear weapons.”

Project Ploughshares, founded in 1976, is an operating agency of The Canadian Council of Churches. It conducts research and provides policy advice and strategies to prevent war, build sustainable peace, and control and reduce expenditures on weapons, directing those resources toward sustainable economic and social development. Turning swords into ploughshares.

Jim is Director of the Ridd Institute for Religion and Global Policy at the University of Winnipeg and a well-known ecumenist and pioneer of interfaith dialogue. He is a Past President of The Canadian Council of Churches and was the Secretary General of the 2010 Religious Leaders’ Summit—one of a series of gatherings of world religious leaders that parallel and complement the G8/G20 summits.

Christie has worked extensively on global democracy, United Nations reform and human rights. He is a past chair of the council of the World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy, headquartered in New York and The Hague. The WFM-IGP coordinates more than 2,500 civil society organizations that make up the Coalition for an International Criminal Court.

In Manitoba, Jim serves as the founding convener of The Advisory Committee for the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding. He is also on the Board of the Manitoba Multifaith Council.

The Ploughshares’ national office moved in June 2014 to the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement at Conrad Grebel University College, part of the University of Waterloo.

For further information contact:

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*Project Ploughshares is the ecumenical peace centre of The Canadian Council of Churches and associated with the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo.*

**Employment opportunity:**  
Ploughshares Executive Director  
Application deadline—March 2, 2015

<http://ploughshares.ca/about-us/employment-internships/project-ploughshares-executive-director/>



# 2nd Annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast For the Sake of the City 2015



Calgary Rabbi

## Shaul Osadchey Wisdom and The City

Tickets \$25/ Doors open at 7:00

Thursday, February 26 7:30–9:00 a.m.

**Convocation Hall** 2W16 Wesley Hall  
The University of Winnipeg 515 Portage Avenue

For tickets & details go to [www.manitobamultifaithcouncil.ca](http://www.manitobamultifaithcouncil.ca)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

Global College



MANITOBA  
MULTIFAITH  
COUNCIL

Free Press article: Interfaith lessons

Long-term visits from other faiths help break down walls of ignorance

By: Brenda Suderman

[http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/interfaith-lessons-293161301.html?cx\\_navSource=d-top-story](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/interfaith-lessons-293161301.html?cx_navSource=d-top-story)



# Across the Israeli-Palestinian Divide

Mira Sucharov



Relations between Palestinians and Israelis appear more polarized than at any time since the peace process began two decades ago. And discourse on many North American campuses has hardened into opposing camps with more shouting than listening. How can we reach across the divide to envision political solutions that take into account the material and identity needs of both peoples? Drawing on history, memory and public opinion, Prof. Sucharov will suggest some ways of transcending the hardened approaches that seem to have become the language of the day.

**Monday, March 2**  
**12:30–1:20 Convocation Hall**



# The Future of Graduate Education in the Humanities

## A University of Winnipeg Town Hall Discussion

**Friday, February 27th**  
**12:30 - 2:00 pm**  
**Room 1L12**

### Moderators:

**Dr. Carlos Colorado, Graduate Chair**  
**Joint Masters Program in Religion**

**Heather Patrick, BA (Hons)**  
**MA Student, UW/UM**



## Join us for a cross-Canada conversation on the future of graduate education in the humanities

As part of a McGill University SSHRC funded initiative, the University of Winnipeg will be hosting a series of **town hall discussions** on the current state of graduate education and training in the humanities and on visions for the future. These open conversations will form part of the crucial groundwork for producing local, provincial, and national vision statements.

**Who should attend:** faculty, students, staff, administrators, and the general public interested and invested in Canada's graduate programs in the humanities and keen to contribute to these discussions.





**Spring /Summer Registration Starts March 2, 2015**

**CHECK OUT THE [NEW TIMETABLE](#)**

**Next Bursary Deadline is June 1, 2015**

### **Spring Conference and Course on Human Rights and Global Ethics**

Want to theologize with theological students from across Canada right here at the University of Winnipeg this Spring?

Want to attend a student conference as a portion of the credit for a Graduate intensive course in theology?

Want to check out the Canadian Museum for Human Rights?

The Canadian Theological Students' Association presents "Mine, Yours, Ours: Exploring Christian Perspectives on Human Rights,"

**April 30-May 3, 2015.**

For more info, check out their website: <http://ctsa.councilofchurches.ca/>

Register for the conference only, or the conference and the course, "GTHEO 7242 052 Topics in Dialogue Theology: Global Ethics" (<http://uwinnipeg.ca/theology/2015-courses.html>)

For more info on the course please contact Professor: Dr. James Christie at [j.christie@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.christie@uwinnipeg.ca)

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#### THE DR. ANDREW MOORE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDY

The fellowship was established in 1981 at the University of Winnipeg, by the late Dr. Annie Moore, in memory of her husband Dr. Andrew Moore to be used outside of Canada, for an academic year or otherwise defined term of study.

Any member of the order of ministry or, candidate for the United Church of Canada, is eligible to apply. Candidates for the fellowship, must indicate in writing their willingness, following their return from the period of study, or following completion of their education, to serve in the United Church of Canada.

Deadline for application(s): June 1, 2015

Application forms and further information may be obtained from:

Sandy Peterson

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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.*