



Outward from the Centre

Message from our Acting Executive Director

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Mavis Reimer, Acting Executive Director

In the June newsletter last year, outgoing Executive Director Terry Hidichuk outlined a number of the changes that were coming to the United Centre for Theological Studies, not least of which was his imminent retirement. Over the year since Terry took up the new projects outside the university that are engaging him now, we've had many conversations at UCTS and at other sites in the University of Winnipeg about what shape Theological Studies might take here in the future.

We know that the study of theology is changing as fewer people choose to train to become clergy. But these changes do not diminish the importance of theological inquiry in developing responses to the range of human, aesthetic, ethical, and environmental challenges facing the world. The University



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has made it clear that it recognizes the significance of theological studies at UWinnipeg not only because of its longstanding history on this campus but also as an urgent set of contemporary questions.

The first concrete expression of this commitment is the establishment of The United Church of Canada Research Chair in Contemporary Theology and the appointment in December of Dr. Arthur Walker-Jones to a three-year term as Chair. Arthur's work to date in the post is highlighted in other sections of this newsletter. One of the most notable results is his organization of an innovative conference and associated course on animals that will explore the resources developed by different religions to think through the question of the relation of humans and other species. For information on how to participate in either the conference or the course, please contact Arthur or Sandy Peterson in the UCTS office.

We know that other changes will be coming to UCTS. We cannot yet anticipate the final form that the Centre will assume – we are still seeing through a glass, darkly, to borrow some of Paul's words to the Corinthians – but we will work carefully and thoughtfully to understand what our new mission might be.

In the meantime, students continue to study theology at UWinnipeg. This spring we were proud to see eight students graduate from UWinnipeg Masters programs: Kristin Wood Burke, Colleen Matthews, Margaret Pratt, Joanna Hiebert Bergen, Bryan Neufeld, Barb Findlay, Josh Ward, and Samuel Goodridge. In addition, three students graduated from certificate programs: Ed Calnitsky, Bonny McIntosh, and Wen-en Lin. I offer my best wishes to each of them as they move out into various communities to practice what they have learned about doing theology from their instructors and from one another.

I hope that summer will provide them and all of you with many opportunities for recreation.
Mavis Reimer

Acting Executive Director, United Centre for Theological Studies
Dean of Graduate Studies



Convocation June 16, 2017



Back l-r: Bryan Neufeld, Chris Wells, Josh Ward, Dr. Arthur Walker-Jones, Dr. Jon Isaak, Dr. Terry Hidichuk, Dr. Ruth Ashafri and Kristin Wood Burke
Front l-r: Ed Calnitsky, Samuel Goodridge, Margaret Pratt, Barb Findlay, Colleen Matthews, Dr. Mavis Reimer, Sandy Peterson and Dr. Jane Barter.



Back l-r: Joanna Hiebert Bergen, Margaret Pratt, Kristin Wood Burke, Josh Ward and Arthur Walker-Jones
Front l-r: Glenn Moulaison, Dean of Arts, Dr. Jane Barter, Barb Findlay, Colleen Matthews and Samuel Goodridge.



Josh Ward and Margaret Pratt



2017 Graduating Students

Certificate in Theology:

*Ed Calnitsky, Bonny Mc Intosh
and Wen-en Lin (Oct 2016)*

Bachelor of Theology:

Kristin Wood Burke

Master of Divinity:

Colleen Matthews and Margaret Pratt

Master of Arts (Theology):

Joanna Hiebert Bergen and Bryan Neufeld

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices:

Barb Findlay and Josh Ward

Master of Sacred Theology:

Samuel Goodridge

Congratulations to our graduates!



Graduate Biographies

Certificate in Theology:

Ed Calnitsky - *“I wanted to create a place of silence, of prayer, of peace and of internal joy.”*
Le Corbusier, architect, on the chapel of Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamp, France, 1955

Born and educated in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ed Calnitsky holds a Master of Architecture Degree from the University of Manitoba. Prior to forming his own firm, his experience included working with architectural firms in London, England, and Caracas, Venezuela, as well as teaching design in London, Ontario. In 1986 he established Calnitsky Associates Architects Inc., an Architectural and Interior Design firm responsible for a wide range of projects, including a number of new church projects.

In association with PSA Studio Inc., Calnitsky Associates Architects Inc. was honored with the prestigious Canadian Architect Award of Merit 2013 for the new Gillam Town Centre project. The firm was also recognized as a finalist in the Manitoba Business Innovation Awards program and was a recipient of a Design Excellence Award in an international design competition sponsored by the City of Portland, Oregon for the design of infill housing.

A sacred space can be simple or complex, it can be dynamic and powerful, and can influence the way we experience religion and engage in that space. What elements contribute to making a space “feel” sacred? Can a space be created to allow one to palpably discern the presence of God? What is it that creates a spiritual space that elevates the spirit and transcends one from the secular?

Building on the knowledge gained through the Certificate of Theology program, I would like to utilize my abilities as an architect to explore the idea of theological expression in architecture to create meaningful sacred spaces. Of particular interest to me is the challenge of expressing both theology and spirituality materially and concretely in architecture.

Bonny McIntosh

I am presently working at Seven Oaks General Hospital as a Spiritual Health Practitioner. I completed my Certificate of Theology and I am currently looking into further Theology studies. I have had a great learning experience that I have applied to my work. I have also had two wonderful experiences at Health Sciences Centre and Bethania Nursing home in respect to Practicums. This once again, gave me experience that I have applied to my working at SOGH. With the many courses and experiences, I have been empowered and encouraged to pursue a calling that I love and consider a gift.

With the other disciplines, I have gathered, shared and learnt from their experiences, it’s truly a family here. People are encouraged and applauded as they achieve their goals. I am so happy to be a part of this family.

Bachelor of Theology:

Kristin Wood Burke

I began my educational journey at the U of W in 2009. At the time, I was just finishing up my period of discernment for ministry in the United Church of Canada, which affirmed a call to diaconal ministry. I decided to wait until the next fall to start the full time program at the Centre for Christian Studies, but was eager to start working on a joint degree with U of W. I’ve appreciated the breadth and depth of the learning I’ve experienced here. My first year, I took a few introductory courses which helped me feel more prepared to jump into my first field placement. I continued to take courses at U of W while I studied at CCS. In 2014, I graduated from CCS with a Diploma in Diaconal Ministries,



and was commissioned as a diaconal minister in May of that year. I was called by, and continue to serve, the people of the Neepawa and Area Pastoral Charge. Since my commissioning I have finished the last few courses required for my degree through distance education, in intensive courses, and even over Skype, and I am thankful for the flexibility offered which made this possible.

At the United College for Theological Studies, I have taken courses which helped me look at scripture and theology in new ways, I have been challenged and inspired by the faculty members, and I have learned alongside students from many different Christian denominations. All of this has helped shape my faith and my growth as a minister, for which I am deeply grateful.

Master of Divinity :

Colleen Matthews

My studies at the University of Winnipeg began in 2000 with the Certificate of Theology. Upon completion of this certificate in 2005, I was approached by Paul Campbell, Registrar of the Theology Department at the time, to consider continuing my education by applying to the Master of Divinity program. I will never forget that day as long as I live! I still get chills when I think back as to how I felt that day...the spirit was working within...I had been a Parish Administrator for my church for almost ten years, so I had seen a lot of politics going on behind the scenes, and I immediately said to Paul, "I do not want to be a Minister!" Paul quickly explained that there was another venue which this degree can be taken, meaning a Pastoral Care track. This was the answer I needed to hear...pastoral care was my calling. So, in the spring of 2006 I began taking courses part time, but I soon realized this was going to take too long, so after 10 years of serving my church, I quit my job and began my studies full time. I did so, not taking into account that I was in Graduate Studies, which is a whole different type of study than my undergraduate work was, and I did not also not take into account my many health issues. I began studying a full course load, basically 5 courses a term, and was enjoying every minute of it. Well, there were challenges that is for sure, but the professors and my fellow students were interesting to listen to, and there always was this underlying rule of acceptance. I always felt free to express my opinion in class on any subject with an opportunity to defend if needed. But in 2010 I had to make the hardest decision of my life. With the support of my Faculty Advisor Arthur Walker-Jones and Terry Hidichuk, the Dean at the time, I left my studies due to health reasons, never knowing if I would return. After four years of slow healing I found myself reading a newsletter from the Faculty about courses available and asking myself, do I dare? Things sure had changed since I left, different building, Sandy was still there, Thank goodness! All kidding aside, the Faculty of Theology as I knew it, was no longer. But the two most important people to me were still there, Arthur and Terry. I was able to finish my degree with Arthur's guidance as my Advisor and professor. Terry Hidichuk taught me how to deliver a sermon and never give up. Seven years ago, I really did not think my dream would come to reality. But with the love of God, the people within this faculty, my family and friends, I found the support I needed to get the work done, and for that I am truly grateful. What plans do I have now that I have completed the Master of Divinity? God only knows...

H. Margaret Pratt

I started my Master of Divinity program in 2012 after taking several courses in the Certificate of Theology program. My initial idea was to take one course a semester as a way to augment my retirement years and to challenge myself intellectually. I quickly found out that even being a part-time student was going to take up much more time than I had planned. Also, at times the challenges seemed beyond my capabilities but I endured, imagining what it would be like to walk across the stage at graduation to receive my degree. That time has finally come! I don't know what I am going to do now that I have finished my formal studies. My courses opened me up to a world full of new ideas and people and I want to continue to challenge myself and fill my world with adventures and exciting possibilities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the professors and my fellow students for all the encouragement and friendship you have shown me in the past five years. Blessings to you all.

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices :

Barbara Findlay

Good evening, my name is Barbara Findlay. I entered the Theology program in 2010 after having retired from a career spanning close to forty years as a Social Worker. My goals differed from my co-students in that as a practicing Jew I wanted to participate in a scholarly milieu to examine Jewish theology and spiritual practice. Because of the Christian focus of the faculty I was aware that this would require considerable comparative research on my side and the support and flexibility of academic instructors. I have been richly rewarded in this process and in ways I hadn't foreseen. The faculty and administrative staff have to a person been welcoming, accommodating and genuinely interested in the addition of a Jewish perspective to the conversation. I leave more grounded in the histories of Judaism and Christianity and their developmental interplay. I was a diverse voice in my initial years of study but with the advantage of a large study window had the good fortune of experiencing the addition of more Jewish voices as well as that of a Muslim perspective to the ongoing rich mix of Christian religious practices. Together we worked with respect and humor at identifying common theological ground as well as acknowledging and celebrating unique differences in focus and belief. As students we broadened our views and deepened our understanding of the Canadian context by exploring Indigenous spirituality as well as a variety of spiritual practices now represented in the Winnipeg multifaith community. An unanticipated addition to my studies was the opportunity to train and qualify as a Spiritual Health Practitioner. I found it a fit with my previous clinical work and present spiritual quest. It has ironically led me back to the working world, which I am finding very rewarding.

Having arrived at this time of graduation I wish to thank the faculty and fellow students for their critical parts in this journey. My family and friends have offered love and support and tolerated my hours of self-absorption in study. I feel blessed to continue my life within Judaism with more insight and meaningful practice, to continue to hone my skills in Spiritual Health and to actively seek out opportunities for interfaith collaboration around shared concerns of *Tikun Olam* -social justice.

Joshua Ward

I began my studies here in 2012, as part of a joint-degree program between the University of Winnipeg and the Centre for Christian Studies. All my work at both of those schools has been in service of fulfilling the educational requirements of my call to ministry; specifically, diaconal ministry in the United Church of Canada (a ministry of service, education, and pastoral care). I am happy to say that I was officially commissioned just two weeks ago, on May 28. I have reached my goal!

My call came out of my experience growing up in Winnipeg and spending a lot of time in the downtown core where the poverty is extremely evident. I've long had a sense that I wanted to do something about that, to make a positive change in this city; and it was during my high school years that I was called to see that ministry could be my vehicle to make that change. I am proud to say that my experiences at both the University of Winnipeg and at the Centre for Christian Studies have helped me to understand the place of poverty in the wider web of oppressions, and how to formulate and live out a Christian response to the issue.

I am now living out my call through my work as the Community Minister at St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry, a joint outreach ministry of the Anglican and United Churches where we work to create a welcoming community for vulnerable people living in the West End. I am grateful to the University of Winnipeg for helping to prepare me for this work.

Master of Arts (Theology):

Joanna Hiebert Bergen

I began an MA in Theology: Peace and Justice, in 2001 after being sponsored for a year of studies by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). I completed this degree in Dec. 2016 after two significant service assignments with MCC in Nigeria and most recently in Palestine. In between these years of service I worked with MCC as HIV/AIDS Interna-



tional Program Coordinator from the Winnipeg office. Studying part-time has enabled me to continue to work for justice while learning about varied forms of oppression, and strategies for advocating and working committedly to change the landscape to one of hope, mutuality and sustainable healthy living for ALL on beleaguered mother earth. I feel privileged to have studied with some of the most brilliant committed people, those who envision a world of peace and just living for all within a theological framework that enhances peace and peacebuilding. I currently continue to utilize all I have learned along this journey of 16 years of course work, in peacebuilding and advocacy work with MCC here in Manitoba.

Bryan Neufeld

I first started to study theology in high school on my own for personal interest. After picking up a diploma from Red River in Computer Analyst and Programming, an undergrad degree in Business Administration from the U of W, and getting a real job, I figured I would have some fun and see if I could do academic theology at the graduate level in my spare time. My being here today proves that I can, mission accomplished.

I had fun with my master's degree, arguing with my instructors and classmates (Thanks for putting up with me), and eventually completing my thesis with the help of much wine. Although I have no intention of making any kind of career out of this degree, I hope to find some moonlight work as a theologian so I can keep having fun.

Master of Sacred Theology:

Samuel Goodridge

My name is Samuel Nelson A Goodridge. I live in Winnipeg, MB.

In my youth, I was exposed to preaching by my interaction with my uncle who was a pastor. I accompanied him on his preaching engagements on many occasions. Those experiences helped to create in me a desire to study Theology. Approximately in 1999, I started taking courses relating to Theology, at the University of Winnipeg, on a part-time basis. In 2011 when I graduated, I received a Master of Divinity degree.

I continued taking courses at the University of Winnipeg, and on June 16, 2017 I will be graduating and will be receiving a Master of Sacred Theology degree.

During those years of studies, and continuing even now, I minister on a regular basis, as a volunteer to the inmates of 2 Manitoba prisons (first, at Milner Ridge, and in the last 3 years, at Winnipeg Remand Center), conducting their chapel services.

Sometimes I also preach at one of our Seventh Day Adventist Churches.

May God's blessing continue on the University of Winnipeg and its Theology Department. My greatest thanks to the lecturers, office administrators, and bursary contributors, who helped me to this point. I am very happy for the skills I have learned in these courses, and I intend to continue to use them in the above volunteer positions as opportunities arise.

News and Notes

Do you have a special accomplishment or celebration you would like to share with us?

Please email to [Sandy Peterson](mailto:Sandy.Peterson).

All submissions are subject to editing and space.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Polar Bears, Ponies and Pets: Human-Animal Ethics in Religious Discourses

The University of Winnipeg
October 13-14, 2017.

What resources do religions have for reflecting on the ethics of human relationships with other animals? The United Centre for Theological Studies at the University of Winnipeg invites paper proposals for a two-day conference on the topic of animal studies and religion. Confirmed speakers include Susan McHugh, Celia Deane-Drummond, Gabe Desrosiers, Dawne McCance, and Timothy Sandoval.



Topics could include but are by no means limited to:

- The responsibility of humans to species, like the polar bear, that are threatened or endangered in the Anthropocene; like horses or cattle that are working animals or sources of food; or like dogs and cats that have become pets and are the objects of laboratory research
- Other-than-human animals as subjects with language, intelligence, emotions, a sense of justice, or a relationship to the divine
- Alternatives to anthropocentric, human-rights centered ethical discourses
- The role of capitalism (and perhaps the prosperity Gospel) in the Anthropocene
- The differences between modern and traditional attitudes toward animals, as in the differences between traditional Inuit seal hunting and modern Euro-Canadian seal hunting
- Areas of conflict between animal rights and religious rights, as in animal sacrifice
- The use of animals, like the beaver or eagle, in religious and national discourses
- The literal or metaphorical use of other-than-human animals to patrol or subvert the boundaries that structure oppressions

We welcome proposals from faculty and graduate students that engage in interdisciplinary, intersectional, and interreligious analysis of religion and animals. Travel assistance is available for graduate students whose proposals are accepted. Proposals should be sent by email to s.peterson@uwinnipeg.c and include the following: a) paper title, b) abstract of up to 300 words, and c) a curriculum vitae.

Submission deadline: July 15th, 2017.

We look forward to hearing from you.



CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

TOPICS IN THEOLOGY: ANIMALS

Does Christian theology have resources to develop better human relations with other species? What can theology learn from other religions? This course is an engagement between Theology and Animal Studies, the interdisciplinary and intersectional study of animals, often with a view to the ethics of human relations with other species. It is a seminar style course organized around attendance at two conferences September 16th and October 13-14th. Among the many speakers at the conferences are Carol Adams on animal rights, Susan McHugh on animal studies, Celia Deanne-Drummond on Christian multispecies ethics, and Gabe Desrosiers on Anishinaabe lifeways.

Four Wednesday evening seminars, Sept 6th, 20th, Oct 18th, and Nov 29th 6:00-9:00 pm and attendance at the two conferences.

BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

The historical criticism taught in most theological schools is based on nineteenth-century literary hermeneutics, which has been criticized by both liberals and conservatives within the church, and by literary critics and philosophers outside the church. What new methods of biblical interpretation should, or will, be taught in theological schools? This course provides an overview of the history and theories of biblical hermeneutics while participants develop and share their own learning projects.

Tuesdays 9:00-12:00 am, Sept 5 to Nov 29

JESUS IN FILM

Who do people say Jesus is? In the contemporary world, people's answers are often informed by movies about Jesus. The filmmakers try to address many of the same interpretive questions as biblical scholars and preachers. Their answers tell us as much about contemporary society and issues of sexism, racism, antisemitism, and imperialism, as they do about the historical Jesus. This course involves watching and discussing a number of contemporary Jesus films.

One week intensive. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Feb 19th to 23rd

For more information on these courses contact Arthur Walker-Jones a.walker-jones@uwinnipeg.ca or to register contact Sandy Peterson s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca.



As the United Church of Canada Research Chair in Contemporary Theology, Arthur Walker-Jones has sponsored two Saturday morning talks : Trump and the Bible and Philippians and the politics of the Philippines. He also sponsored a book launch for David Lappano's book "*Kierkegaard's Theology of Encounter*".

On October 13 & 14, 2017 the United Church of Canada Research Chair in Contemporary Theology will be hosting a conference "Polar Bears, Ponies and Pets - Human-Animal Ethics in Religious Discourses. You will see on the following page that we are offering a course around this conference.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Topics in Religion/Themes in Theology

Animals

REL-3/4940-002
GTHEO-7262-001



Animal Studies is the interdisciplinary and intersectional study of animals, often with a view to the ethics of human relations with other species. This course examines whether religions have resources to help develop better human relations with other species. It is a seminar style course organized around attendance at two conferences September 16th and October 13-14th. Among the many speakers at the conferences are Carol Adams on animal rights, Susan McHugh on animal studies, Celia Deanne-Drummond on Christian multispecies ethics, and Gabe Desrosiers on Anishinaabe lifeways.

CLASSES
Sep 06
Sep 20
Oct 18
Nov 29

6:00-9:00

"VegFest" (Sep 16) **CONFERENCES**
"Polar Bears, Ponies and Pets: Human-Animal Ethics in Religious Discourses" (Oct 13-14)

Contact Dr. Arthur Walker-Jones for further information or to request permission to register (a.walker-jones@uwinnipeg.ca).

Department of Religion & Culture



WINNIPEG
VegFest



**SEPT
16**

University of Winnipeg
Axworthy Health & RecPlex
Doors Open at 9:00 AM
FREE ADMISSION

CELEBRATE COMPASSION

Panels, Workshops, Yoga, Meditation,
Art, Music, Vendors, Exhibitors, Food

SPEAKERS

Carol J. Adams Renowned Feminist Author
Krista Hiddema Director, Mercy for Animals
Mimi Kirk Raw Food Chef, Author, Speaker
Camille Labchuk Director, Animal Justice
Leilani Münter American Racecar Driver
Dave Nickarz VP, Sea Shepherd Canada

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MA (THEOLOGY) BIBLE AND CULTURE

Society is becoming more secular, but the Bible continues to play a significant role in culture and politics. This graduate program allows students to study the Bible with leading biblical scholars and cultural critics.

To enrol contact: Arthur Walker-Jones | a.walker-jones@uwinnipeg.ca or Sandy Peterson | s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca

UWINNIPEG.CA/THEOLOGY



Fall 2017/2018 Registration starts July 1/17

2017 - 2018 courses

The Fall & Fall/Winter Bursary Deadline is August 15, 2017

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.

Bursary application

Did you know that The UCTS has Scholarships you may qualify for? Scholarships are awarded in September of the current academic year.

Cragg Scholarship in Theology: This scholarship will be awarded to a worthy student entering First year Theology.

Louis J. Raycraft Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to a student who has achieved a high standing in an undergraduate degree from the University of Winnipeg and are entering their first year in Theology.

W.A. Hendry Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to students registered in Theology who are preparing for/or are currently in the Ministry of the United Church of Canada and who have achieved excellence in their studies.

King, Watt and Black Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to the Theology student with the highest GPA (grade point average) after the completion of 30 credit hours.

Harstone Award: This award will be granted to a student in Theology based on their academic excellence and financial need. Preference will be given to those doing courses in Homiletics. If there are no students taking Homiletics this can be awarded to anyone based on achievement and financial need.

For more information please contact Sandy Peterson s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca.

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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.