



Outward from the Centre

Message from our Executive Director

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Terry Hidichuk, Executive Director

As I write these words, I can imagine Sandy Peterson's sigh of relief since this will be the last time that she has to push, prod and remind me, to write something for the newsletter. As I move into retirement, officially at the end of July I will miss working with Sandy. During my time first as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Theology and then as Executive Director of the United Centre for Theological Studies Sandy has been the backbone behind of our program. Pushing and prodding yes, but more importantly skill and knowledge to get the job done. Thank you, Sandy.

I will beg for a moment of self-indulgence as I include at another place in this newsletter

remarks I made at the event honouring retirees from University.

For the rest of this space I will review the changes that are taking place at the United Centre. The position of Executive Director will not be replaced. The theological program will become fully integrated into the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Dr. Mavis Reimer, Dean of Graduate Studies will be the Dean for the program.

In addition Chris Wells' contract as Director of Studies has ended and was not renewed. Dr. Arthur Walker-Jones will continue to chair the Graduate Studies Committee for the MA (Theology) Bible and Culture. Dr. James Christie will continue his work in Dialogue Theology and chair the M.Div. Committee. Dr. Christie also remains as Director of the Ridd Institute. Sandy Peterson will remain as an Administrative Officer.

Because of decreasing enrollments and academic resources, the decision was made to suspend enrollments in the Master of Divinity program. A "teach-out" plan has been adopted and students currently in the program have an opportunity complete the program or if eligible enter the MA (Theology) Bible and Culture. Students are being contacted and advised of their options.

I leave the University and enter this new chapter of my life grateful for the opportunities afforded here, for the support of the University's Administration, for the Volunteers who sat on various committees over the years, for my faculty colleagues both in the Centre and in the wider university and especially for the students. All of it was a gift.

Blessings to all and travel well.

Terry Hidichuk, D.Min.
Executive Director, The United Centre for Theological Studies.



Convocation June 10, 2016



l-r: Timothy Nyhof, Doug Koop, Marvin Dyck, Paul Peters Derry



l-r: Dr. Mavis Remer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Doug Koop, Timothy Nyhof, Paul Peters Derry, Colin Russell, Registrar, Dr. Jane Barter, Marvin Dyck



Dr. Jane Barter and Timothy Nyhof

The United Centre for Theological Studies celebrated with the graduates and their guests on June 7, 2016. The dinner was at The University Club in Wesley Hall. It was a time to share stories and learn more about fellow graduates.

The United Centre for Theological Studies has several prizes, bursaries and scholarships that are made possible by generous donors. This year we awarded three prizes at the Convocation ceremonies on June 10, 2016. Doug Koop received the Gawthrop Prize for highest overall GPA in Theology and the Graduate Student of Highest Distinction Award, Paul Peters Derry received the Nisbet Memorial & Winchester Prize for the second highest overall GPA in Theology and Marvin Dyck received the Tait & Anderson Prize for third highest overall GPA in Theology. We would like to thank Tracey and her staff at the University Club for a wonderful meal.

- Sandy Peterson



Convocation June 10, 2016



l-r: Timothy Nyhof, Doug Koop, Paul Peters Derry, Marvin Dyck, Dr. Terry Hidichuk



Marvin Dyck and his wife Edith



Doug Koop

2016 Graduating Students

Master of Divinity: *Marvin Dyck*

Master of Arts (Theology): *Timothy Nyhof*

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices: *Doug Koop*

Master of Sacred Theology: *Paul Peters Derry*

Congratulations to our graduates!



Graduate Biographies

Master of Divinity: Marvin Dyck

I'm married 35 years to Edith. We have four married children (which makes eight children). We enjoy as well our grandchildren.

After thirteen years as a trial lawyer, I left that practice to pursue a sense of call Edith and I shared to pastoral ministry. Crossroads Mennonite Brethren Church, a Winnipeg congregation, has graciously allowed us to serve them for over 19 years. This remains for me a fulfilling vocation.

I am grateful to the University of Winnipeg Faculty of Theology for the learning throughout my pursuit of this degree, and for the gracious way in which they accommodated my schedule and limitations as a husband, parent and sole pastor.

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices: Doug Koop

A graduate degree was not even on my mind when I signed up for a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in 2010. At the time, I was beginning to think about making a transition from journalism to spiritual care, and the career change path ran right through the University of Winnipeg's Faculty of Theology. As I got further into the program, it slowly dawned on me that to be fully qualified as a spiritual care provider requires a Master's degree. It helped my decision when I was informed that enrolling in a program made me eligible for scholarships and bursaries. I began fitting regular courses into my lifestyle, and found the department very accommodating. The education was good, affordable, and convenient. Early in 2012 I quit my job, eked out a living as a freelancer, signed up for a couple of intensive courses, and devoted nine months to the CPE residency program at Riverview Health Centre. As the credit count climbed, I began to take seriously the notion of actually earning the degree. In the end, it's taken a little longer than I had hoped, but I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had to learn from the great people here at the United Centre for Theological Studies. This place and these people were present at available at exactly the right time in my life. I've successfully navigated the career change, and now this degree enhances my credentials. It also boosts my confidence.

Master of Sacred Theology: Paul Peters Derry

The Rev. Paul Peters Derry, B.A. Hons (Queen's), M.Div. (Vancouver School of Theology), D.Min. (Chicago Theological Seminary). I applied for admission to the STM degree program once I had graduated with my D.Min. in Preaching in 2007. At the start, it was simply a "parking lot" for academic credits I was earning through Clinical Pastoral Education units. It soon became much more, as I completed the "masters-level course in Professional Ethics" required for spiritual care folk seeking Certification as a Clinical Specialist in Spiritual and Religious Care through Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC). I then taught this course for colleagues wanting to take it here in Winnipeg, and at Chris Wells' suggestion, used that teaching experience as the basis for a "directed project," confirming my sense of vocation as an educator and supervisor.

A couple of years later, an elective course on the history of my chosen denomination, The United Church of Canada, taught by Jim Christie and Greg Glatz, provided a chance to explore the collapse of the decades-long union talks between the United, Anglican and Disciples of Christ denominations. In 2004-15, Jim's "A New Ecumenical Spring," a seminar I took with another CASC colleague, Michèle Barr, took me as one of a handful of Canadians at last fall's World Council of Churches Consultation on in Nashville, TN. Most recently, a directed study with Arthur Walker-Jones on "Jesus in Film" provided a welcome focus as I recovered from one planned, and one un-planned surgery



over the past several months. The paper I wrote as part of that last course: “And the Word Became Allegorical, Dwelling Among Us, Full of Grace and Truth: Exploring the ‘Gift’ of Allegorical Films such as *Jesus of Montreal*, *Selma* and *Spotlight*.”

This “parking lot” became for me the starting point for all sorts of new excursions. I say this with all respect and deep appreciation. I’m sad to see that it will no longer be a degree program offered through the University of Winnipeg. My thanks to the faculty, staff and fellow students, as well as my CASC colleagues, who’ve accompanied me on these journeys.

*Remarks delivered by Terry at the retirement celebration held at the University of Winnipeg
May 11, 2016*

Thank you Murray;
My friend and my mentor.

You encouraged and you challenged: sometimes in the same wonderfully eloquent sentence.
Thank you and thank you for your kind words of introduction.

I saw my father cry on three occasions.
Two were sorrowful,
One was joyful.

The first time happened on the long weekend in May when my mother had her initial heart attack.
The last time was at her death, fourteen years later.
Between those two sad events, I saw my father cry when I graduated with my BA from Lakehead University.

For my parents,
children of the depression,
and the Second World War,
first generation Canadians,
never graduating high school;
post secondary education for their children was the most important thing parents can do to help their children achieve the good life.

For my mother and dad,
education was a lift up the ladder.
They thought it opened doors to possibilities of a future they never had.
On that morning after I received my parchment, with tears in his eyes he said: *you will never have to shovel grain for a living.*

In many ways that graduation was more their accomplishment than mine but it did open doors of opportunity for me that I could never have imagined.
Their dream instilled a thirst for knowledge and also the strong belief that education is an equalizer in society.
Those have remained strong themes, throughout my life, so it was with delightful surprise and great privilege that I accepted the nomination from the United Church to sit on the Board of Regents.



I began my tenure on the Board when Patrick Deane was Acting President and the University was emerging out of the shadows of crises.

Most of my time on the Board was spent during the time of Dr. Axworthy's inspired leadership. There was a certain energy.

The board chair at the time, Richard Grayden asked me to take a leadership role on the board and in 2007 I became chair.

Board meetings were interesting, sometimes in the Irish curse sort of way, *you know...may you live in interesting times.*

They were interesting indeed.

Lloyd would be on my left and Val Gilroy the corporate Secretary at the time would be on my right.

They would be feeding instructions and advice.

It was a cacophony of whispers.

Most of it contradictory.

Halfway through the meeting I would start thinking about the liquor cabinet at home, hoping there still was some scotch left.

And for those of you who were on the board at that time,

I won't even get into the Carver model stuff.

There isn't enough liquor for that.

But through my entire time on the board, I was undergirded by those strong beliefs in the value of education that were given its nascent shape and form around the kitchen table back home.

I was perfectly content in Ministry at St. Andrews River Heights when Brian Stevenson asked me to consider coming to be Acting Dean of the Faculty of Theology.

For me, it was another door opening into a world that is so important to me.

I came for a year, then two more, then three more.

Rest assured people, I am going now.

But in the leaving I have discovered two things about my time here as a Board member, as an Administrator and as a member of Faculty.

First a colleague of mine, used to say to me the university life is a golden opportunity.

They give you an office,

it may be small and without windows,

but it is place to work, write,

read and research about an esoteric interest that you have spent a lifetime pursuing and then get to teach students about it.

And for that you get well paid.

I have to come to appreciate the truth behind those words and the gift they represent.

On those dark days and there were a few, I could hear my father's voice answering my complaints: "Well, it



sure beats shoveling grain for a living.”

And that leads to this final point...about this place.

There is a yin and yang about the University of Winnipeg.

It pursues Academic excellence, on one hand and it acts as an instrument of social justice on the other.

It is a place of important research yet it can be an incubator for community development.

There is a tension that flows through this institution.

It is what attracted me to this place.

May it always be thus.

There are too many people to thank by name.

But I want to thank the Faculty in Theology with whom I worked: Arthur Walker-Jones, James Christie, Chris Wells and Jane Barter.

I would be remiss and guilty of some crime, I think if I didn't mention Sandy Peterson. She is the glue that keeps everything stuck together. She cares about the place and its people and her work shows it. What started out as a working relationship has become a friendship. Thank you Sandy.

There is one other name I will mention: Phyllis my partner, my friend, my wife without you breathing would be difficult.

Thanks and thank you all.

Terry Hidichuk

Phoenix Rising

More than two generations ago, the Canadian Theological Students Association (CTSA) emerged on the Canadian ecumenical scene with great ambitions and sweeping visions of inclusivity.

Every theological student registered in Canadian seminaries, theological colleges and faculties of theology from coast to coast to coast were automatically understood to be member.

Decade after decade, the CTSA convened national conferences (CTSC) rotating amongst Canadian schools and cities, drawing on the extraordinary wealth of Canadian theologians as speakers and seminar leaders. More than a few church and academy leaders were delegates during their formative years, and hold fond memories of gathering with peers and the greats of the Canadian theological world.

In 2013, it seemed that the dismantling of the Churches' Council on Theological Education would mean twilight (or at least, Evensong) for the CTSA and the CTSC. But a new idea grew in Winnipeg.

With the Canadian Council of Churches willing to receive the trust preserved resources for the CTSA, UCTS agreed to be an academic partner, indefinitely, in a new triad, a three-legged "milking stool model" with the CTSA.

And a theological phoenix arose.



A national conference was convened in May of 2015 at UW, hosted by UCTS with a for credit course as a leading component of the event. Thirty participants arrived from across Canada and from a wide variety of both Christian traditions and Jewish theologians in the making.

In May of 2016, the Conference reconvened in Montreal, hosted by the United Theological College and featuring such luminaries as the great Prof. Gregory Baum.

In 2017, the CTSA is tentatively exploring Waterloo University, with its abundance of theological colleges of Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, United Church and Mennonite persuasions, and with a renewed welcome to theological students of multiple world faith traditions.

Keep May flexible; year three of the new CTSA iteration promises to be the best yet, and UTCS students, plan to incorporate a credit course, with bursary eligibility, as a part of this extraordinary ecumenical opportunity.

James Christie



Photo top left: The typical happy buzz at the CTSC conference.

Photo top right: “Plato’s Academy,” Presbyterian Style’

Photo bottom left: The great Professor Baum with Mary-Cate Gardiner, CTSA



For more than six decades, the Manitoba Multifaith Council (MMC), formerly the Manitoba Interfaith Council, has brought the diverse expressions of Manitoban's religious traditions together around the dialogue table.

That dialogue has borne fruit in greater understanding, the nurturing of friendships, the establishment and maintenance of spiritual care programmes and positions in health care and correctional facilities province wide, and, increasingly, Multifaith educational opportunities for the "sake of the city" and far beyond.

In a global community in which world religions and spiritualities continual to play critical, and not always constructive roles, MMC, while not an advocacy group, recognizes that there are times when dialogue no matter how deep, is not enough. There are times when faith communities must speak together for the sake of the whole created order and for all peoples everywhere.

To that end, and in light of recent tragedies and atrocities perpetrated against the Yazidi community in the Levant and the LGBTQQ community in Orlando, MMC released the following statement on Friday, June 17th, circulating it widely.

UCTS and the former Faculty of Theology have deep and long established relations with the MMC, academically and programmatically. The late Dr. Thomson Faulkner of the Faculty served as MMC Secretary, and developed the "Great Winnipeg Flood of 2013" Multifaith simulation exercise, outlining a Multifaith disaster response plan.

Ms. Belle Jarniewski, an UCTS Master's candidate has recently been elected President of MMC. Dr. Christie, UCTS Professor of Whole World Ecumenism and Dialogue Theology is an MMC Board Member.

The Manitoba Multifaith Council joins the global chorus of horror and dismay at the recent waves of violence perpetrated by some accounts and to some perspectives attributable to the religious impulse, in the immolation of 19 Yazidi women by the forces of Daesh (IS) in early June and the shootings in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando in the early hours of June 12. We lift up several foundational concerns that extend beyond the visceral revulsion provoked by such acts.

We acknowledge and confess that all too often in the course of human history religious communities of all stripes have betrayed the founding impulses of their communities. We pledge yet again to stand by the conviction, as stated in many of our religious traditions, that within Creation all human beings are made in the image of the Divine; and that consequently, the image of God in all humans implies that each person has "infinite value, equality and uniqueness." (Rabbi Irving Greenberg).

We hold these convictions to be universal human values, regardless of race, religion, orientation, or nationality.

We call upon all Manitobans, whether people of faith or no faith; we call on people of good will everywhere to:

- To resist superficial analysis of these tragedies and the religious implications of each;
- To suspend judgement concerning motivations and meaning in the face of apparent meaninglessness;
- To refrain from xenophobic suspicion of the other;
- To pursue open dialogue amongst people of differing religious traditions and ideological

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News and Notes



To our alumni:

Lynette Miller (MDiv 1973) on the 43rd anniversary of her ordination to ministry in the United Church of Canada June 2, 2016.

Sarah Bruer (MA SDMP 2012) on the 9th anniversary of her Commissioning as a Diaconal Minister in the United Church of Canada June 3, 2016.

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

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

All submissions are subject to editing and space.

Fall 2016/2017 Registration starts July 1/16

Update link

The Fall & Fall/Winter Bursary Deadline is August 15, 2016

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.

Did you know that The UCTS has Scholarships you may qualify for? Scholarship are award 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.

Freeman Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing their Master of Sacred Theology degree, in either Christian Education or Systematics.

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.

Nixon 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 Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices.

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



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

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positions;

- To seek always and everywhere to be agents of reconciliation, instruments of peace and understanding in contrast to the demagogue urgings of those who would pervert religious faith or human ideals to the demonic ends of hatred and bigotry;
- To embrace complexity in all aspects of the human adventure.

We urge the leaders of our province and our nation to recall the provisions of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which recognize the integrity and liberty of religious expression and to apply that recognition to all policies of our province and nation, whether domestic or global.

We remember, soberly and hopefully John Donne’s conviction that “no (one) is an island,” and the wisdom of the late Rabbi Harry Joshua Stern that we will have “one world or no world.”



Westworth United Church

Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Westworth United Church is a socially conscious, progressive and energetic church located in southwest Winnipeg. We are seeking a part-time (.5) *Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family Ministries* to initiate, expand, deliver and support programs for our children, youth and their families. If you have a strong faith and Christian perspective that is compatible with United Church theology and are a caring, creative and outgoing individual, love working with children, youth and families, and have a vision for an exciting Children's Ministry, please find a full job description and how to apply at www.westworth.ca. **Deadline to apply Friday, June 24th**

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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.