



Outward from the Centre

A publication of The United Centre for Theological Studies
Editor: Sandy Peterson

Message from our Executive Director

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Slightly over a year ago, the United Centre for Theological Studies came into being as we moved from Bryce Hall to our new location at 520 Portage Avenue where we are co-located with the Global College and Menno Simons College. It was hoped that the move and subsequent co-location would lead to the development of synergies among the programs.

As a first development, the Global College and UCTS are offering a joint course entitled



Terry Hidichuk, Executive Director

“Rights, Religion and Relationships.” It has been advertised in previous newsletters but I want to take this opportunity highlight it once again and draw your attention to the information about the course that appears elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter. The timeliness and relevance of this course is beyond question.

I would like to also draw your attention to the work of Dr. Bill Blaikie and the Knowles-Woodsworth Centre. The UCTS and the Faculty of Theology before it had and continues to have a rich and important partnership with Dr. Blaikie and the Knowles-Woodsworth Centre. Please take note of the Knowles-Woodsworth Annual Lecture, this year featuring Dr. Phyllis Airhart from Emmanuel College in Toronto. A church historian, Dr. Airhart will be addressing the issues that appear in her new book *A Church with the Soul of a Nation – The Making and Remaking of the United Church of Canada*. More information about the lecture appears elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you to attend. This is always an important event in that the Knowles-Woodsworth lecture addresses the contextual issues of theology,

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UCTS Open House

Join us
Tuesday Oct. 21, 2014
5:00 - 7:00 pm
1MS25

Enjoy food and fellowship
5:00 pm - The Future of the UCTS
6:00 pm - Discussion:
Thesis Policy

Everyone Welcome

In order to ensure we have enough food -
please RSVP to s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca





News and notes:



Gwen McAllister (MA SDMP June 2014) was ordained to the transitional diaconate on Monday, Sept 22, 2014.

Congratulations to the newest deacon in Rupert’s Land! For more, follow this link <http://rupertslandnews.ca/gwen-mcallister-ordination/>

Left to right: Primate Fred Hiltz, Deacon Gwen McAllister, Bishop Don Phillips, Incumbent Cathy Campbell.

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](#).



The Rose window and the stain glass windows from the Ridd Sanctuary in Bryce Hall have been temporarily removed for cleaning and restoration. Once Bryce Hall has it’s new windows installed the stain glass windows will be put back in place.

Congratulations to Susan Butler-Jones (MA SDMP June 2013) on her call to Aylmer QC United Church.



The Faculty of Graduate Studies connected with Theology student Adel Compton to talk about her recent thesis defense. (taken from the Graduate Studies website)

Can you tell us about the program you just completed and when you graduate?

I registered for the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) in Applied Theology, Pastoral Care and Counselling, and Spiritual Direction through the United Centre of Theological Studies with the University of Winnipeg in 2010. The Prairie Jubilee Program for Spiritual Direction, and additional UofW course requirements including my Thesis fulfills requirements for my STM degree. I expect to graduate at University of Winnipeg’s spring convocation 2015.

What was your thesis research topic?

My thesis research topic is on the “Meet Me at the Bell Tower”(MMBT) movement begun November 2011. MMBT is a North End Winnipeg Aboriginal youth led spiritual, cultural and political movement focused on gathering local people and anyone who supports the idea of stopping violence in Winnipeg’s North End. There is a weekly local gathering at 6pm at the corner of Selkirk and Powers Bell Tower where each person’s presence is



valued as having potential to identify concerns and explore positive local efforts to stop the violence. The young leaders have discovered the goal of non-violence begins with learning how to be non-violent oneself and teach others to do likewise.

How did you become interested in this area?

I am an ordained minister in The United Church of Canada with a deepening awareness of the need for healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada. I was employed by North End (Stella) Community Ministry from 2009-2013 in “Two Paths One Journey” ministry respecting Christian and Aboriginal traditional teachings as equally valid spiritual foundations. I have significant experience with adult-led children’s and youth groups in the church and community. However, I had never before seen a youth created, youth led self-sustaining community movement generating hope and positive community solutions while affirming spiritual traditions. I wanted to know what Meet Me at the Bell Tower could teach the church and the wider community about new forms of spiritual, cultural and political community building.

Recent news reports suggest the positive change in Winnipeg’s North End in terms of lowered incidence of crime is the result of increased police presence. That is only part of the change that I see unfolding. Reclaiming traditional teachings, participation and leadership of young Aboriginal men and women voicing the need for positive change and collectively inviting others to partner with them is raising hope in this community. This shows that a better quality of life for Aboriginal children and youth and everyone living in the North End is not just possible but is happening with youth leadership committed to create long-term sustainable health and wellbeing for the community. When local people learn their traditional teachings support non-violence, see current violence related to the loss of culture/spiritual teachings and take steps to live with the respect ancient teachings affirm, they collectively shape positive change. The youth feel and see positive change happening in the North End that police statistics measure annually. Since MMBT began in 2011 police statistics confirm a steadily lowered incidence of crime.

What would be the next steps for you, or another researcher, continuing with your work on this topic?

More research is needed to identify if Meet Me at the Bell Tower is transferable to other contexts. Also, more research is needed to identify similar movements among aboriginal youth.

Given Canada’s history negating the wisdom of Indigenous peoples by outlawing traditional teachings, breaking up familial and social support systems, and silencing their voices, these Aboriginal young people demonstrate the ancient teachings remain relevant and are instructive to raise hope for all people.

With the opening of the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg, I wonder if the emerging spirit in Winnipeg’s North End could help to transform Winnipeg into a living laboratory for non-violence. Our Aboriginal youth could help adults learn how to live with hospitality, respect and non-violence providing foundations for peace and wellbeing for all citizens in 21st century pluralistic Winnipeg.

What do you intend to do, now that your program is completed?

I will continue to share this research through academic and church presentations and possible publications. I will share the University of Winnipeg’s website link to help disseminate my research.

As Regional Director Spiritual Health Services I see the lack of understanding and respect for traditional teachings and Aboriginal peoples reveals a lack of knowledge about the truth of Canada’s history as experienced by Aboriginal peoples. The emotional legacy of residential schools named by Aboriginal youth as impacting daily violence in the North End has not been taught in most Canadian education curriculums. The links between this emotional legacy and poorer health, reduced mortality, high suicide rates, high incarceration rates, poverty and violence for Aboriginal peoples needs to be better understood by health care providers delivering health care and planning for long-term solutions.

The example of the North End Aboriginal youth seeing contemporary gaps as opportunities for positive change offers an invitation to partnerships with public institutions to address the whole complexity of circumstances that must be addressed for long-term positive systemic changes ensuring equal treatment for Aboriginal peoples as well as settlers/newcomers.

Any other thoughts you’d like to share?

I will seek to create more safe spaces for conversations with people of other spiritual traditions or of no spiritual tradition to collectively discern long-term strategies for respecting diversity and raising hope for peace and wellbeing for all our children. There is an idea for Winnipeg to have a site, “The Garden of Compassion,” where respect for all spiritual traditions on Turtle Island could help educate us all about common hopes and common threats to those hopes. This could be a place where my recent studies and my work with Winnipeg Regional Health Authority as Regional Director Spiritual Health Services could intersect.



Knowles-Woodsworth News

FIFTH ANNUAL

Knowles - Woodsworth Lecture



PLURALISM AND
THE CHALLENGES OF A
PROPHETIC GOSPEL

THE UNITED CHURCH EXPERIENCE

7 PM - Thursday, October 23rd, 2014

Co-Sponsored by:

The Knowles - Woodsworth Centre
for Theology and Public Policy



PRESENTED BY:

Dr. Phyllis Airhart

Professor of Church History at Emmanuel College &
Author of the recently published book,

*"A Church With The Soul Of A Nation:
Making and Remaking the United Church
Of Canada"*

Eckhardt-
Gramatte Hall
University of
Winnipeg

The 5th Annual Knowles-Woodsworth Lecture will be given this year by Dr. Phyllis Airhart, Professor of Church History at Emmanuel College, and author of the recently published book, *A Church with the Soul of a Nation – The Making and Remaking of the United Church of Canada*. The lecture will be given at 7pm on Thursday, October 23rd in Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall at the University of Winnipeg. The title of the lecture is “ The Challenges of a Prophetic Gospel – The United Church Experience.”

On October 1st Bill Blaikie was a guest lecturer at the Centre for Public Theology at Huron College, University of Western Ontario in London. The title of the lecture was “ The Twilight of Neo-liberalism and New Opportunities for the Christian Left”. The lecture focused on increasing inequality as a possible objective condition for a new and more inclusive critique of capitalism.

On August 14th Bill Blaikie gave a talk on faith and politics to a group of 25 young people attending the United Church national youth gathering which took place in Winnipeg. He was gave every student at the seminar a complimentary copy of his book *The Blaikie Report – An Insider’s Look at Faith and Politics*.



Ridd Institute News

Given that much of the mandate of the *Ridd Institute for Religion and Global Policy* is to act as a nexus of sorts between the United Centre for Theological Studies, various constituencies within the University, and with the religious communities of Manitoba and beyond, it must be said that this has been quite an autumn!

With Dr. Mohinder Singh Dhillon and the Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha Foundation, the Institute celebrated the achievement of Jillian Swan as she received the Foundation's Award for a graduating student. Jillian has travelled and engaged extensively in India, and could hardly be a more appropriate recipient. Dr. Dhillon is also a Ridd Institute Local Partnership Council member.

From December 1-4, Belle Jarniewski, another Local Partnership Council member and Chair of the Holocaust education Centre of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, will travel to Manchester as a member of the Canadian delegation to the *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance* Plenary. She serves as a member of the Education Working Group, with multiple *foci* on education and remembrance of the Roma genocide; the engaging of young people in Shoa education; joint work on Shoa, genocide and crimes against humanity; social media and their use in Shoa education; and work on education research, memorial days, killing sites and archives.

Co-sponsoring by the United Centre and the Ridd Institute of the launch of former United Church Moderator, Senator and Church Councils' President (WCC and CCC) Lois Wilson's new book, *I Want to be in that Number: Cool Saints I Have Known*, afforded a happy gathering of old friends and new.

Dr. Christie, Professor of Dialogue Theology and Whole World Ecumenism at the Centre and Director of the Ridd Institute has himself been rather busy. Through his agency, the Manitoba Multifaith Council has become the first regional member of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation, a *de facto* Canadian Council of Religions. In October he was an invited panelist to the 21st Annual Conference on Religion and the Law at Brigham Young University in Utah, one of eighty delegates from forty-two countries committed to the quest for a just and plural global community rooted in religious freedom. In consequence, in November he will travel to Griffiths University, in Queensland, Australia, to deliver a paper on *Interfaith Dialogue and Social Cohesion*.

The UCTS and Ridd Institute continue to be players in a very big arena in a very new world!

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politics and the social Gospel. The mission statement of the United Centre for Theological Studies reads: "*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*" As we move forward, the UCTS remains committed to offering programs and courses that offer a theological lens to the issues and problems of our day. I invite you to check out this newsletter not only for the information provided but also as an invitation to join us in the programs we offer.

Blessings
Terry



Next Bursary Deadline is November 15, 2014

Remember you must be registered to qualify for a bursary!

Winter 2014 Certificate in Theology

Course #	Title	Instructor(s)	Day(s)	Dates	Hours	Location
GTHEO 1560 001	The Gospel of Mark	Michael Anderson	T	Jan 13-Mar 3/15	5:45-8:45 pm	TBD
GTHEO 1567 001	Emerging Church Ministry	Greg Glatz	W+	Jan 21-Feb 25/15	6:30-9:00 pm	TBD
			F	Jan 30 + Feb 13	6:00-10:00 pm	

Winter 2014 Degree

No classes reading week February 16 - 20 (excluding SPE units)

Course #	Title	Instructor(s)	Day(s)	Dates	Hours	Location
BIBLICAL STUDIES						
GTHEO 7155 001	Topics in NT: Jesus in Film	Arthur Walker-Jones	W	Jan 7 - Apr 1/15	2:00 - 5:00 pm	1MS25
GTHEO 7182 001	Introductory Hebrew II	Arthur Walker-Jones	T&TH	Jan 6 - Apr 2/15	9:00 - 11:00 am	1MS25
GTHEO 7182 002*	Introductory Hebrew II	Arthur Walker-Jones	T&TH	Jan 6 - Apr 2/15	9:00 - 11:00 am	n/a

*This course is available by internet-based Cisco WebEx. Must be available online during the class time. Permission of the instructor required to register.

THEOLOGY/CHURCH HISTORY

GTHEO 7200 001	Introduction to Theology	Chris Wells	TH	Jan 8 - Apr 2/15	1:00 - 4:00 pm	TBD
GTHEO 7200 002 *	Introduction to Theology	Chris Wells	n/a	Jan 8 - Apr 2/15	n/a	Online

*Permission from the instructor is required to register for the online section.

GTHEO 7255 001	Major Theologians: Dialogue	James Christie	W	Jan 7 - Apr 1/15	6:00 - 9:00 pm	1MS23
GTHEO 7260 050	Christianity & World Religions: Dialogue	James Christie	M	Jan 5 - Mar 30/15	6:00 - 9:00 pm	1MS25

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES AND MINISTRY PRACTICES

*Proof of course acceptance from HSC is required to register for the following course. Please contact [Elizabeth Sawatsky](#) 204-787-3884/787-1795

GTHEO 7345 004*	Supervised Experience in Ministry: Supervised Practicum	Ross/Barclay	TH	Jan 8 - Mar 26/15	6:00 - 9:00 pm	NA543 HSC
GTHEO 7347 050	Leadership in the Church	Terry Hidichuk	W	Jan 7 - Apr 1/15	6:00 - 9:00 pm	1MS25
GTHEO 7362 001*	Theological Reflections in Context: Religion, Rights & Relationships in Israel & the West Bank	Terry Hidichuk	TH*	Jan 8 - Apr 2/15	6:00 - 9:00 pm	1MS25

*This is a field-based course that will include two weeks in Israel & West Bank Feb 16 -27/15 (please note dates are approx at this time). In addition to tuition there will be a field course fee assessed for this course. Please contact the UCTS office for more information.

[Check the website for syllabi](#)

[Bursary Application](#)

GTHEO-7362-730(6) Theological Reflections in Context: Religion, Rights & Relationships in Israel and the West bank . This course explores contemporary conflict and justice issues in Israeli-Palestinian relations, with particular attention to the perspectives and contributions of the three Abrahamic faith traditions, along with secular narratives. The course will meet once a week on campus, and include two weeks in Israel and the West Bank. This field portion will include guest lectures from various individuals and groups, visits to sites of historical, religious, and political significance.

On-campus classes - Thursday, 6:00-9:00 pm – Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12

Field portion - February 15-28

On-campus classes - Thursday, 6:00-9:00 pm – March 12, 19, 26



Is it safe?

There is currently a travel advisory in effect for Israel and the West Bank due to armed hostilities. We are monitoring the situation, and will make appropriate decisions regarding this course as necessary.

For more information contact Terry Hidichuk t.hidichuk@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-786-9247.



University Club
Winnipeg
Casual Dining • Licensed Pub • Catering

4 October 2014

To: All UW Graduate Students
From: Robert J. Young, UW Club President

Greetings to All,

I'm sorry that I can't address this to you on a more personal basis, but I do understand the privacy restrictions we all face, and I am most grateful to Dean Reimer for seeing that the following invitation gets to you.

The University of Winnipeg Club is located on the 4th floor of Wesley Hall. Its members include faculty, staff, alumni, employees of other post-secondary institutions, *and* graduate students! – but only a small handful at present. I would very much like to change that, partly for your sake – for we do have an attractive facility – and partly because I think a younger presence would simply make the Club an even more lively place than it is at present.

The most relevant information about the Club can be found on our website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index.university-club> but I want to underline just a few things. First, you have my assurance that you will be welcomed by our very hospitable operator, Tracey Hilderman, and her equally accommodating staff. Second, Graduate Students are eligible to be Associate Members at an annual fee of \$40, a fee good for 12 months from the time of subscription. Third, application for membership is a pretty simple process if you download the form, complete it, and send it to our Administrative Assistant. There is, of course, a tough vetting procedure, but something tells me that your chances are pretty good.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me (284-2044) or write to me at: r.young@uwinnipeg.ca And should you decide to join our humble ranks, would you make a point of asking if I am about. I'd like to meet you in person.

In the interim, I send best wishes for a productive academic year.

Bob

Dr. Robert J. Young
Emeritus Professor of History
Club President

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offices: 520 Portage Avenue

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