

**Report for 2003-2005 to National DUCC
From Centre for Christian Studies
March 2005**

CCS is appreciative of this opportunity to report to DUCC, while there is no formal relationship of accountability, CCS values the input and response from those in the practice of diaconal ministry.

Students and Graduates

Year	Students	Certificate Graduates	Diploma Graduates	Commissioned
2002-2003 (Theme Pastoral Care)	LDM:15 Theme: 27 Integrating: 6 Other:15	LDM: Theme: 3	Ted Dodd, Laura Foushe, Elaine Graham, Roly MacLean, Heather Robbins, Shariynn Upsdell	Ted Dodd, Laura Foushe, Elaine Graham, Roly MacLean, Heather Robbins, Shariynn Upsdell
2003-2004 (Theme Social Ministry)	LDM:16 Theme: 24 Integrating: 6 Other: 12	LDM: 4 Theme: 4	Allison Halstead, Sally Meyer, Laura Hunter, Janet Jones, Heather Sandilands, Juanita MacKinnon-Smith	Allison Halstead, Sally Meyer, Laura Hunter, Janet Jones, Heather Sandilands
2004-2005 (Theme Educational Ministry)	LDM:17 Theme: 24 Integrating: 9 Other: 14	LDM: 3 Theme: 1	Expecting to complete: Paula Ashby, Nancy Corrigan, Joan Golden, Cindy Langley, Pamela Milton, JungHee Park, Elizabeth Stewart	Anticipating Commissioning: Paula Ashby, Nancy Corrigan, Joan Golden, Cindy Langley, Deborah McKellar, Pamela Milton, JungHee Park, Elizabeth Stewart

Program Staffing

Gerry Wolfram resigned from the Program Staff in June 2004 after 6 years of providing leadership, particularly in the areas of Social Justice and Educational Ministry. CJ Adams, an Anglican priest, is on a contract which expires in June 2005, co-facilitating the Educational Ministry year. The third program position will not be filled full time for the 2004-06 school year because of budget pressures and an anticipated temporary work reduction. For the program to be maintained as is, however, this position will need to be filled prior to the year 2006-07.

Change in Program Design

In 2004 the 4 year diploma program was amended so that the final, Integrating Year (IY), will only be offered on an every other year basis. The decision was made with the recognition that the student numbers anticipated in an annual IY were not going to materialize and it was difficult to work with 4-5 students, both pedagogically and financially. This plan should also enable CCS to be offering more continuing education opportunities and some respite for program staff in the years without an IY. There was no way to introduce this change soon enough to bring relief to staff without effecting the plans of some students. Satisfactory arrangements and adjustments have been made to accommodate those students affected.

Development of Curriculum

The Program Committee and staff completed a major project of documenting the entire curriculum. This provides the guidelines for the content of the program intended to enable students to meet the Guidelines for Completion, which also underwent revision. These documents are available on the CCS website. The website is an excellent source of information about CCS and its programs. There is an expansion of the pages for volunteers and we plan for a page on resources. It is at www.cconline.ca.

Developing a Strong Network

There has been an intentional effort in the last 7 years to foster a sense of CCS as a network of graduates, friends and volunteers all across the country. This has been accomplished through many strategies, including coordinating gatherings often to coincide with visiting staff, strengthening and expanding an email connection, corresponding with the constituency, developing *Tapestry* and having a national governance structure. Another consequence of the dispersed model of the program is an opportunity for people from many places to serve as program volunteers, working directly with students in the field or classroom setting. Every year 100s of volunteers support the ministry of CCS.

Issues of Concern

The most pressing issue for CCS is that of financial security and stability. A phased in reduction in core grant funding from Education for Church Leadership has meant a loss of \$100,000 annually. In 2003 we incurred a \$50,000 deficit. In 2004, ECL provided CCS with \$64,000 in discretionary funding because CCS was noted to be responsive to the priorities that ECL has established for support and we were able to avoid a deficit in 2004. However, the discretionary money is not secure or predictable and we are again anticipating a deficit of \$65,000 in 2005. This could be reduced if there is a discretionary grant. Efforts began a few years ago to increase annual giving support, major gifts and bequests are beginning to see fruit. A total of \$124,000 was received in donations in 2004, for the operating fund and special projects. Annual givings have steadily increased since 1998, from \$17,000 to nearly \$60,000. But it is not sufficient to offset the reduction in funding. A Re-imagining Task Group has been formed to develop a plan for either reducing the budget by \$100,000 or increasing revenues by a similar amount. This is painful work, as everyone involved recognizes that the work of CCS is excellent, the program is effective and attractive to students and the church and the institution is efficiently managed. Any cut is going to be a loss. We lament that at this time in the life of the church an expansion of what CCS offers could be a much needed source of life giving energy and leadership. Entrepreneurial ideas to expand revenues would be welcomed! It would be fruitful to discuss support for CCS with the DUCC community. **The future of diaconal ministry in the UCC is dependent on strong, healthy institutions for the training and advancement of diaconal ministry.**

Relationship with UCC

CCS has asked ECL for a more intense relationship of "direct dialogue" as a result of the financial pressures and the implications on CCS and the future of diaconal ministry. We are still awaiting a response to our request. CCS was involved in the consultations leading up to the establishment of an in ministry program for ordination (MBOP), where we made our best effort to share our experience and move the church toward a vision of a truly integrated model of education. Discussions with St. Andrew's-St. Stephen's for a multi-institutional proposal to offer MBOP were strained and in the end ECL did not affirm the proposal.

Highlights to Celebrate

So many good things are happening at CCS. Here is a brief list of some of the highlights from 2003-2005

- Companion of the Centre to Marion Pope, Cyril and Marjorie Powles, Alyson Huntly, Edith Shore
- Overseas Personnel in Residence: Faye Waking, Pierre Goldberger, Lori Stewart
- Spirituality Program: 10 theme year students in spiritual direction and guided retreats as a pilot project funded by a donor
- first graduate of joint diploma/degree program with University of Winnipeg, Beth Kerr
- CCS history book project with researcher/writer Gwyn Griffith underway
- Western Field Based Program for Diaconal Ministry Memorial Trust Fund established
- UCTS/Covenant College reunion in Winnipeg, including involvement with LDM
- 130 people attend con ed event with Iona leader Kathy Galloway
- trips lead by Garth Mundle to Zambia (with Betty Marlin) and to India
- joint learning circles in Pastoral Care with Dr. Jessie Saulteaux and Francis Sandy
- And So Much more!

Submitted by Caryn Douglas, Principal