



## Dr. JESSIE SAULTEAUX RESOURCE CENTRE

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March 23, 2005

Report from: The Dr. Jessie Saukteaux Resource Centre to the Diaconal gathering

Greetings friends!

We pray that this gathering will bring success, hope and strength to all who are present.

We currently have two diaconal students in our theological program with another anticipated. Adeline Samson Harvey will be commissioned at the All Native Circle Conference meeting in July in Wasakasing, Ontario. Adeline is from the community of Hobbema, Alberta and is a Cree woman. She has spent most of her ministry in her community, working as a community mental health worker in the area of Suicide Prevention.

Delores Bouchie is a Ojibway woman, who has been in the program for three years and lives in the northern Manitoba isolated academic community of Berens River on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Delores shares full-time ministry with her husband Roy. Delores spends much of her ministry work with youth and children in her community.

The men and women in our five year theological program travel from Alberta, Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario and are currently from five different tribal and language groups.

We celebrate the fact that Dr. Jessie Saukteaux Centre honors both Christian and Aboriginal Traditional spiritualities. There are only a few places in the world where it is safe to practice such pluralism. Folks from numerous interfaith communities come to visit the centre from all over the world and to exchange cross-cultural understanding and dialogue. The diversity of our students and the life experience and wisdom that they bring from their communities is also a celebration. We are gifted to have numerous elders from various tribal nations that are part of our ministry at DJSRC.

It has been a challenge for us as a community-based program to be recognized as having an equally valuable place alongside academic schools in delivering theological education. There is often a misunderstanding amongst the wider church that our graduating students must work in Aboriginal ministries. Upon graduation, our students are able to offer ministry anywhere in the United Church of Canada and not just in Aboriginal communities. It is a challenge to constantly be addressing these issues. Increasing requests over the past two years to provide cross-cultural education to the wider church without a person being hired to focus on that particular piece of work, has been a struggle in terms of time and staff energy.

It is a concern for us as it is for many across the Diaconal network when we see outreach ministries having their funding cut and that ministry eventually being deleted.

It has taken a long time to build up the trunk of the tree. As we see new branches appearing, we hope and pray that blossoms will appear and flourish, providing fruit across the land for many years to come.

*Blessings to all a warm strength for the journey  
melody in a yellow - Mrs. Keeper of the Circle*

*Miss Paupanick  
elder in residence*



**FRANCIS SANDY  
THEOLOGICAL CENTRE**

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March 30, 2005

**Diakonia of the United Church of Canada  
National Gathering April 5-8, 2005  
Tatamagouche Centre, N. S.**

**RE: THE LIFE AND WORK OF FRANCIS SANDY THEOLOGICAL CENTRE**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Francis Sandy Theological Centre, I am pleased to share with you highlights of the life and work of our Centre in recent months.

I write to you from our location on the beautiful grounds of Five Oaks Education Centre near Paris, Ontario. My window on this expanse of the Grand River reveals not only the frozen river below, but also the stark branches of numerous trees, not frozen, but giving pathways of life to the movement of bird and wildlife along them.

The Francis Sandy Centre also gives a pathway of life to those who choose to minister to the aboriginal communities in our midst. Our students come to us from varied corners of our network in southwestern Ontario and Quebec; Cape Croker, Christian Island, Moraviantown, New Credit/Delaware, Ohsweken, Rama and Toronto. We number seven in our Learning Circle now with three new students and one enquirer. We look forward to graduating one of our students this summer while welcoming another in September.

Vision Keepers, Rev. Maggie McLeod and Rev. Lee Claus provide rich staff resource. Both have just returned from Beausejour, Manitoba where they attended a Vision Keepers Event sponsored by Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre. They are eager to share their findings and explore new directions with local vision keepers and Presbytery supervisors. We are missing the experienced and knowledgeable presence of our Office Manager, Anne Miller, who remains seriously ill. Fortunately the work of the centre has been ably carried on in her absence.

Our Learning Circles have encompassed a cross-section of themes including pastoral, worship, theology, social ministry and in the coming months, Biblical, history and church governance, with leadership provided by local ministers, college professors, General Council staff and our own staff. We are in the midst of plans for a cross-cultural learning experience in 2006 when students of Queen's Theological College will join the students of Francis Sandy. A joint diploma is being explored with the Centre for Christian Studies and course supplementation with Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre. Our diaconal student is

ministering in a First Nation Congregation and gaining an increasingly aboriginal perspective as she continues her studies through FSTC.

Our students have successfully ministered in a variety of contexts, congregational, urban, community and Conference positions. Sometimes they preach, sometimes they heal and sometimes they make waves, but they are always in the service of their Creator and come from the perspective of first peoples.

Activities of the Centre also include collaborative ventures with Five Oaks Education Centre such as Aboriginal Women's Wellness Weekend planned for July and Mission Study focussed on Right Relations, even a Gardener's program to benefit our natural landscape. We benefit also from the exceptional opportunities for continuing education afforded by such proximity to Five Oaks.

Francis Sandy Theological Centre works hand in hand with sister organizations Great Lakes Waterways Presbytery and All Native Circle Conference, especially the Councils on Learning, which provide oversight on education and students. Through these bodies we also contribute to the National Aboriginal Consultation and National Curriculum Consultation as well as local tasks of needs assessment. ANCC Grand Council meets in Wasauksing in July and will provide an example of aboriginal church governance for our students.

Deans and Principals of Theological Schools are responding in positive ways to changes in Education for Church Leadership (ECL). Francis Sandy joins Toronto School of Theology in representing the theological schools to ECL.

Our Board of Directors provides a solid base of support and direction to the Centre. Board membership consists of eight elders and nine other members drawn from the geographic area served by the Centre. Three out of five central conference representatives are on the Board at any given time, plus a permanent representative, Sophia Jamison, ANCC Leading Elder. Current central conference representatives are: Margaret Smith (LON); Linda Parsons (TOR); Rev. Jean Wilson (BOQ). Jean finishes her term this spring while Montreal and Ottawa Conference appoint a representative.

Francis Sandy Theological Centre is supported through grants from the United Church of Canada as well as individual and group donations. We welcome those who would walk with us in our journey through their gifts of time and money. We continue to be available to UCW gatherings, congregations, Presbyteries and Conferences through Conference representatives to our Board of Directors, our students and our office. We welcome invitations to tell you more about what we do here in our ministry with aboriginal communities as we attempt to live out the love of Christ in our student circles and in our communities.

Your Sister in Spirit,

*Brenda Laronde Simpson*  
Director, FSTC

**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, Rolly MacLean, Heather Robbins, Sharilynn Upsdell	Ted Dodd, Laura Foushe, Elaine Graham, Rolly MacLean, Heather Robbins, Sharilynn 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 Sandlands, Juanita MacKinnon-Smith	Allison Halstead, Sally Meyer, Laura Hunter, Janet Jones, Heather Sandlands
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 plans for a page on resources. It is at [www.cconline.ca](http://www.cconline.ca).

## Developing a Strong Network

There has been a 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 1996, 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