



To: Diaconia of the United Church of Canada Meeting in Winnipeg, June 2011

From: The Centre for Christian Studies, Charlotte Caron, Acting Principal

The **Centre for Christian Studies** continues to be involved in exciting and transformative education toward diaconal and lay ministries in the United and Anglican Churches.

**Good news:**

1. We had five graduates this year who had very good learnings as they prepared for their diaconal work in the future. They all will offer many gifts to the church and the world. They along with 20 students in the Education Theme Year and 5 Reflection students gave us a full house. We anticipate about 14-16 Theme Year Students but numbers won't shake down until after the two Leadership Development Modules.
2. We are all excited about the impending arrival of the new principal, Maylanne Maybee. She has much to offer as a person who has carried the flag for Deacons in the Anglican Church for many years. After some time of lots of staff change, we hope Maylanne will be a good fit and want to stay for several years! Maylanne will be one third time as Program Staff and two thirds time as Principal primarily doing administration in the Principal job. Marc Desrosiers has come on board to do development and community relations so much of the public relations work previously done by the Principal will be done now by Marc. CCS has a competent and committed staff. I have really enjoyed my time with these good people during my time as Acting Principal.
3. Recently our Endowment reached the two million dollar mark. Thank you to all of you who donated to the Life Shaping Justice campaign and to those who are continuing to fulfill your pledges. Growth from the Endowment Fund is used to give us a secure source of income. Last year and this year about one quarter of our income is from the Endowment.

4. Next year CCS will be 120 years old (using its line of predecessors from the Church of England Missionary and Deaconess Training School which started in 1892.) Plans for some special events are beginning. Make sure you are on the email update list so that you get all the information!

### **Things we need your help with:**

1. It is good that we have two Leadership Development Modules, having had one in Winnipeg earlier in June and having one in August in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. However, our enrolment in these is not as high as we would have liked. We need your help in **recruitment**. Most people learn about the Centre for Christian Studies through a tap on the shoulder—frequently a diaconal minister saying, “You could really benefit from some time at CCS” or “Have you thought about Diaconal Ministry?”
2. In the past year CCS has made difficult decisions about its current staffing configuration. The decision was made to have the Principal be Program Staff for one third of her time instead of hiring a third full time Program Staff Person to replace Sherri McConnell when she left. The jobs of Program Staff are too full. We need another person, but we cannot do it without having a balanced budget. Our program is also highly reliant on volunteers, with Mentors, local committees, Learning Facilitators and resource people being essential to the students’ learning. We also seek to have a Chaplain at Theme Year Learning Circles. The Chaplain is a volunteer position with people offering pastoral care, conversation or resources if they are needed by students. Much of the time, the Chaplain just sits in the Learning Circle and has opportunity for continuing education, reading what the students are reading, hearing the discussions and being part of good theological conversation. Some DUCC members have done this as con ed—so consider it! We need your help as volunteer **Mentors, Learning Facilitators, Resource People, and Chaplains**.
3. The good news is that Endowment money has come in and reached the \$2 million goal, but the bad news is that while it sounds wonderful to think of a quarter of our income coming from the endowment, what it really means is that our budget is too low. We need more sources of funding. We do need another Program Staff person. We do need to have enough money to have a “Miscellaneous” line in our budget so that every penny spent has to be wrung from a budget with no flexible dollars in it. Marc has started a campaign to get at least 20 new people onto **pre-authorized monthly donations (PAR)** this summer in order to increase our regular revenue. We need a substantial numbers of regular donors to operate the program as effectively and creatively as we would like.

Please consider becoming a PAR donor if you are not already. Expect to hear from Marc!

4. When DUCC was established there was discussion about whether it was really needed since the national Church had a half-time staff person dedicated to Diaconal Ministry. But the church eliminated the position and most of its **advocacy work** so DUCC is absolutely essential in doing advocacy work for Diaconal Ministry in the church. We get frequent questions at CCS that should be able to be directed to church staff but our work is about education so we are not always able to be on top of all issues for Diaconal Ministers in the church. We count on you as DUCC to do advocacy in the church. One area to keep on top of is the Candidacy Pathway work that is going on. CCS has not always been well consulted in the process and are not involved in the testing that is currently underway in some Conferences and schools. We do not know what the future holds. We like our integrated program and would like to stay with it. Please keep your eye on this and other subjects in the church that need our knowledge, input and advocacy—and speak up when that needs to happen.
5. We need you to keep spreading the word about CCS. We gain students and supporters through you! You are our **Public Relations** front line people. So please keep up your good work in these areas!

CCS continues to be involved in exciting and transformative education toward diaconal and lay ministries in the United and Anglican Churches. Thanks for your help in that!

