

# United Church of Canada Diaconal Theses

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This is a list of graduate theses written by members of the United Church of Canada diaconal community.

**ANNE BISHOP** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 2000

**A Conceptual Framework for Understanding the Institutional Dynamics of a University Responding to an Allegation of Racism**

The purpose of this research is to make a contribution to Diaconal Minister' efforts to achieve social justice in the institutions where we study and work through a deeper understanding of "Powers and Principalities."

**RUTH CAIRNS** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 1996

**Alternative Models of Education for Ordered Ministry**

Nine persons were interviewed about the most helpful experience in their educational process. These folk were chosen to represent a variety of theological colleges, and are women and men in ordained and diaconal ministry.

**CHARLOTTE CARON** Ph.D. in Women's Studies, The Union Institute, Cincinnati 1991.

**Shifting Horizons: Feminist Ritual Theology** (Published as *To Make and Make Again: Feminist Ritual Theology*)

Thesis Focus: the relationship between religious rituals and social justice within feminism.

**MARILYN CARROLL and JOAN JARVIS** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 1996

**Being - The Essence and Vitality of Rural Congregational Life and Ministry**

The stories of five rural United Church of Canada Congregations in the Peace River Country were used to address what it is that sustains, nurtures and enlivens these congregations. Sustaining rural congregational life and ministry may happen without nurturing and enlivening. Sustaining in and of itself is maintenance and is seldom life-giving. Nurturing is the key that offers the ability to sustain rural congregational life in an enlivened way.

**DEBBIE COSS** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2004

**Generational Theory and Its Applications to the Canadian Church Context**

This study examines the theory that there exists a distinct cycle of generations and how the understanding of these generations might influence the future of mainstream Canadian churches.

**DENISE DAVIS-TAYLOR** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 1998

**Victim, Survivor, Co-creator: Healing from Sexual Abuse as a Spiritual Journey**

This is a heuristic study of the phenomenon of healing from sexual abuse. The thesis names what it has meant to me to heal as a victim of sexual abuse, and how the process of healing has affected my faith and spirituality.

**DEBORAH DEAVU** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2004

**No Menial Tasks: A Historical Examination of Accompaniment Ministries in the Early Christian Church**

This thesis examines how ministries of accompaniment contributed to the life and development of the early Christian movement. This reclamation of the history of accompaniment ministries as they were lived out in the early church gives biblical and historical foundation to modern everyday ministries of care and compassion.

**KEN DELISLE AND JOANNE KURY** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 1999

**Clowning for Change: An Object D'Art Portraying the Role of the Transforming Clown**

"Clowning for Change" examines the role of the clown throughout history and in different cultural contexts and offers playshops that people of any or no experience can follow or adopt to explore clowning.

**TED DODD** STM, U of Winnipeg, 2003

**Diaconal Ministry in the United Church of Canada: Function, Style and Perspective**

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**TED DODD** DMin, Vancouver School of Theology 2008

**Sacred Circle of Learning: A Model of Transformative Theological Education,**

This project examines the nature of transformative learning by following a 17 day intensive module on ministry leadership, offered by the Centre for Christian Studies.

**CARYN DOUGLAS** DMin St. Stephen's College 2009

**A Story of Lost Opportunity: The Apology to Deaconesses Disjoined by The United Church of Canada**

This project tells the story of the removal of United Church of Canada Deaconesses from ministry when they married and examines the apology given to these women by the United Church in 2006.

**ANNE DUNCAN** and **IRENE RAINEY** MTS Diac Min, St. Stephen's College 2002

**Reclaiming Lament: A Model for Engaging the Human Spirit in Journeying Toward Transformation, Healing and Justice-Making**

Lament is an ancient literary form through which our Hebrew ancestors expressed to God their distress about injustice and suffering. This research project demonstrates that lament is integral to healing and transformation as it engages the human spirit in an interactive, communal process. The model which emerges forms the basis for a theology and ministry of transformation and justice-making, as well as a compelling argument for reclaiming lament.

**LINDA ERVIN** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College

**Witnessing God's Love: Growing a Faith Community By Using A Mission Statement**

Thesis is about two congregations who were facing a slow death. Together they forged a mission statement, amalgamated, and sought ways of doing ministry in their community, intentionally forging relationships with other denominations and eventually providing sanctuary for someone facing deportation.

**EVIE GILMOUR** and **KATHRYN MACLEAN** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 1995

**Comparison of Social Ministry in Two Different Settings**

Social ministries need to be intentional about raising social justice issues as well as responding to perceived needs. Participants in a church based outreach ministries were questioned about their experiences to test if they were empowered for social change.

**LYNDA GOW** MTS in Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College

**Ministry and Spirituality**

The thesis is an exploration of ways that diaconal and ordained ministers are spiritually nurtured by ministry. Both are spiritually fed by ministry but ordained ministers are less clear on their understanding of role and identity than diaconal ministers.

**KATHLEEN (KAY) HEUER** DMin St. Stephen's College 1999

**Calling or Co-optation? Revisioning Ministry in the United Church of Canada**

This project/dissertation explores the choice of diaconal ministers in the United Church to become ordained, from the perspective of a feminist ecclesiology.

**ALYSON HUNTLY** MTS Dia Min, St. Stephen's College 1997

**Grandparenting as a Sacred Gift: Resources for Grandparents in The United Church of Canada**

The thesis creates, presents, and evaluates a resource book for grandparents in The United Church of Canada. It includes the resource, background research, the process of the development of this resource, and critical reflection in light of the author's own grandparenting experience.

**ALYSON HUNTLY** PhD, Queen's University, 2009.

**In Parables: Encountering the Power of Narrative Imagination through the Storytelling of Adolescent Girls**

An exploration of the role of narrative practices in meaning and identity formation, based on storytelling workshops with adolescent girls who had faced difficult economic, social or family circumstances, mental health issues, abuse or trauma.

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The stories of five rural United Church of Canada Congregations in the Peace River Country were used to address what it is that sustains, nurtures and enlivens these congregations. Sustaining rural congregational life and ministry may happen without nurturing and enlivening. Sustaining in and of itself is maintenance and is seldom life-giving. Nurturing is the key that offers the ability to sustain rural congregational life in an enlivened way.

**BETH KERR** MA, U of Winnipeg 2003

Raising Consciousness of Ecotheology in Local Congregations: A Qualitative Evaluation of a Four Week Bible Study

This thesis looked at whether a bible study program could effectively encourage people to take action from a more ecologically-minded perspective. While some limited awareness-raising and action was noted, the conclusions focused on possibilities for improvement and diversification of educational efforts.

**CHERYL KIRK** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 2000

## **Christian Education in a Digital World: The Use of the Computer in Christian Education**

The project explored the use of the computer in Christian Education through the creation of a Computer Centre for Sunday School, reviewing software, and reflecting and theorizing from an educational and theological perspective on the strengths and limitations of computer technology in Christian Education.

**JOANNE KURY** AND **KEN DELISLE** MTS Diaconal Ministry 1999

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**BARBARA LLOYD** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 1999

## **Mountain Moving Women: A Study of Structural and Systemic Change for Justice in the Church**

This research examines how structural and systemic change for justice comes about in the church by studying the development and implementation of the Women in Ministry staff position in the United Church of Canada.

**BARBARA LLOYD** DMin, San Francisco Theological School 2008

## **Open to the Spirit: United Church of Canada Congregations Engaging their Twenty-First Century Context.**

The work discovers five common traits that reflected an openness to the Spirit moving in congregations to address their contexts with justice and love. These five traits were analysed and interpreted from a postcolonial feminist point of view providing both affirmations and challenges for these and other congregations as they try to faithfully embody the Spirit of Christ in this time.

**MARY ANNE MACFARLANE** MA, U of Toronto 1987

## **A Tale of Handmaidens: Deaconesses in the United Church of Canada, 1925 to 1964**

An examination of the working conditions for United Church of Canada Deaconesses from 1925 to 1964. Poor conditions regarding job function, salaries, recognition, security, pensions were perpetuated by church structures throughout the period even in the face of critique from the women. It is a thorough and well documented study of deaconess history.

**MARY ANNE MACFARLANE** PhD., U of Toronto 1991

## **Gender, Doctrine and Pedagogy: Women and 'Womanhood' in Methodist Sunday Schools in English Speaking Canada, 1880 to 1920.**

Examines the amazing work that Methodist women, including many Deaconesses, did to start Sunday Schools in communities across Canada at the time when Canada was forming as a nation. It includes a chapter on Sunday Schools started in Western Canada for Chinese men who had been recruited to work on railway construction.

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**KATHRYN MACLEAN** and **EVIE GILMOUR** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 1995

## **Comparison of Social Ministry in Two Different Settings**

Social ministries need to be intentional about raising social justice issues as well as responding to perceived needs. Participants in a church based outreach ministries were questioned about their experiences to test if they were empowered for social change.

**SHERRI MCCONNELL** MA, U of Winnipeg 2003

## **Canadian Deaconess and Missionary Education for Women – Training to Live the Social Gospel: The Methodist National Training School and the Presbyterian Deaconess and Missionary Training Home, 1893-1926**

This thesis argues that through the integration of the late nineteenth century missionary imperative with the newly emerging social gospel movement of the early twentieth century, a unique form of theological education and vocational development was created specifically for women. The adaptive, practical and socially focused ethos of the training schools meant the training schools became their denominations' concrete embodiment of the social gospel – an ethos which can be seen in today's diaconal education/formation.

**RICHARD MANLEY-TANNIS** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 2010

## **Our Addiction to Violence: Conflict and the Johannine Community**

An examination of the Johannine Community through the filter of contemporary conflict tools and processes. The intent is to better understand this community of the early church as it wrestled within a matrix of external and external conflict.

**BARBARA MEYER** MTS MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 2003

## **Coming Home: Hospitality as an Overarching Theme for Adult Learning and Pastoral Supervision**

Demonstrates how the theological theme of hospitality can be applied to Adult Learning and Pastoral Supervision theory and practice and concludes that hospitality, understood as "welcoming the stranger," is intrinsic and operative, in the supervisory process.

**NEL OUWENS** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 1997

## **Giving Shape to God's Dream: A Model Reflecting Our Call to Journey in Community Oriented Ministry**

**MARION PARDY** MA, York University

## **Models of Biblical Authority**

An exploration of the authority of Scripture in The United Church of Canada and the use of the Bible in Christian Education, particularly with children. The thesis was published in 1988 by Harper and Row Publishers, under the title, *Teaching Children the Bible*.

**MARION PARDY** DMin, Boston University 1997

## **Biblical Understanding In The Local Congregation**

The work focuses on narrowing the gap between theological education and congregational biblical education and provides substantive guidelines for teaching the Bible effectively in the local congregation.

**NANCY POST** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 1997

## **New Way of Seeing: Innovative Ministry through Friendship with Adults who have a Developmental Disability**

The shares the story of how we have come to see ourselves, each other, the church and the world differently. It points to the potential for congregations to become agents of social transformation through direct contact, friendship and public solidarity with the disenfranchised people in our neighbourhoods.

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**IRENE RAINEY** and **ANNE DUNCAN** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2002

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Lament is an ancient literary form through which our Hebrew ancestors expressed to God their distress about injustice and suffering. This research project demonstrates that lament is integral to healing and transformation as it engages the human spirit in an interactive, communal process. The model which emerges forms the basis for a theology and ministry of transformation and justice-making, as well as a compelling argument for reclaiming lament.

**HEATHER SANDILANDS** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 2011

**Using the Enneagram's Wisdom of Transformational Energy in Worship** explore the possible applications of the ancient symbol of the Enneagram in 21st century worship.

**DEBRA SCHWEYER** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College 1998

**The Art of Diakonia**

The paper explores how the arts have changed/shaped/reflected the realities of the world and compares that to Diakonia in 3 particular time periods; the early church (first century), the middle ages and in modern time.

**YOON OK SHIN** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2009

**Possible Ways of Empowering Lay Leadership in the Korean Congregations in The United Church of Canada**

This narrative research study explored the role of lay leadership in the Korean United Church in terms of the theology and ethos of the United Church in Canada.

**NELLIE SPICER** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2000

**Theological Reflection with Calvin and Hobbes**

This thesis draws on the insights in the cartoon strip Calvin and Hobbes, and explores doctrines of death and beyond, God and human nature. The strip offers the viewpoint that human nature is just plain crazy, so with that as the basis, the thesis goes exploring.

**LORI STEWART** EdD, International University of the Caribbean with University of Sheffield 2012

**Once upon a spiral: the story of the Centre for Christian Studies Action/Reflection Model**

A gathering together of the narratives of the "spiral" in the life of the Centre for Christian Studies.

**ERIC [TUSZ-] KING** MA Adult Education, St. Francis Xavier

**Animating the Church's Participation in Community Development Helping to Turn the Tide of Social Ministry**

The purpose of this study was to develop a set of guiding principles and to articulate appropriate roles and functions for an animator to use in the church sponsored community development work.

**ERIC TUSZ-KING** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2001

**Promoting Diaconal Ministry with Presbytery Education and Students and Pastoral Relations Committees**

Based upon an action-reflection model of adult education, the project developed several print resources and workshop outlines for interpreting diaconal ministry, for use by these particular committees. These resources and workshops, which are included in the appendices, were trialed and evaluated by the three presbyteries' Education and Students and Pastoral Relations Committees.

**KAREN THORNE** MTS in Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College/ST Andrew's 2004

**"Hearts and Hands": Building Faith and Community across Generations through an Integrated Approach to Worship and Education**

This thesis details the development, delivery and evaluation to educate on communion in a congregation in which children previously had not been welcomed to share in this sacrament.

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**ROSLYN (ROZ) VINCENT** MTS Diaconal Ministry St. Stephen's College

*The Song of a Community: A heuristic Study of Community Formation in Congregational Formation.* This thesis grew out of the experience of three small rural congregations who formed one church family.

**MARGARET WOUFF** MTS Diaconal Ministry, St. Stephen's College 2003

**SHAME...and Shadow: Can Religion Help?**

In this study, the experience of shame is explored from an interdisciplinary perspective. A phenomenological method is used, informed by a feminist consciousness, and a thealogy/theology of Christian ministry offered from a diaconal perspective and style.