



Centre for Christian Studies

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The Centre for Christian Studies proudly presents The 2010 graduating class:

Rob Reed

In Rob's call to Diaconal Ministry Rob yearns to offer the Church an alternative vision of what it means to be a community of faith. Rob is currently serving the Gainsborough-Carievale Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan as Student Supply.

Rob's 2010 personal creedal statement begins: "I believe that in the experiences of living there exist tangible realities and incomprehensible mysteries, and these are God."

His statement ends:

"For as much as my life is given purpose and meaning in responding to God's grace upon it, my faith is rooted in knowing that God seeks to be in relationship with me."

Catherine Gutjahr

Since enrolling in the CCS program, Catherine notes that her understanding of diaconal ministry has grown and changed. In her diaconal conviction statement Catherine articulated her excitement for diaconal ministry when she wrote: "What I have discovered over the past four years is how I am still passionate about diaconal ministry. I'm passionate about it because of its rich history. I'm passionate about it because it stands outside of the norm and therefore challenges the status quo. I'm passionate about it because it embraces feminist and liberation theology. I'm passionate about diaconal ministry because I understand it to be what Sallie McFague defines as wild space; 'the space [that] will allow – and encourage – [us] to think differently, to imagine alternative ways of living'".

Because Catherine has lived in Sudbury, Ontario all her life she embraces settlement as an exciting opportunity to serve the church in a new place away from the community with which she is most familiar.

Jody Maltby

Jody currently works as the Conference Minister for Program in Living Waters Presbytery of Toronto Conference in the United Church and plans to return to school at Queen's School of Religion and complete a Masters of Theological Studies in Restorative Justice.

Jody lives in Orillia ON. Reflecting on ministry Jody writes: "our ministry must always be focused on bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth and this can only happen when all people share in life's glories: bread and roses."

Helen Reed

Helen indicates that God has pushed and prodded her on this journey and taken her in new directions even when she resisted. Throughout it all, she describes a relationship with a God who has given strength when needed, and a God who laughs with her as she listens, learns and grows. In her diaconal convictions paper, Helen wrote: "Diaconal Ministry does not set me apart from people, it sets me within the people. It opens my eyes to their struggles and needs, and challenges us to journey together with mutual respect as we support and empower each other on the way."

Terrie Chedore

The transformative experience for Terrie at the LDM centered around her recognition that visual images were key to her understanding. With each learning circle, in assignments, field placements and external courses, Terrie has found ways to include her artistic vision.

Terrie wrote in her diaconal convictions assignment: "I understand education, service and pastoral care within the social justice model of praxis and reflection – taking action by feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, providing living waters to the thirsty, freeing the captives; reflecting on our experiences and working to make systemic changes around social issues,... educating about the impact of empire and colonialism."

Maureen Anderson

Maureen understands diaconal ministry, "both as a ministry in community, where all are included and respected, but also a ministry of care and nurture." She describes it as a ministry that "listens to stories, for possible places of encouragement and affirmation, as well as, invitation and celebration." To explain diaconal style she chose the words, "inclusive, team oriented, and social justice centred".

In her credo statement for the Integrating Year, Maureen emphasized that the task of faith involves, "be[ing] aware of and act[ing] from God's greatest intention and lov[ing] others as ourselves,...striv[ing] for right relationship".