

***CCS Students at DUCC:
“Wisdom Arising: Seek, Discern, Embody”
compiled by Nancy Corrigan***

Six CCS students or commissionands were among the forty participants when DIAKONIA, United Church of Canada was held at Tatamagouche Centre in April. This significant degree of student participation reflects recent initiatives by DUCC. TAPESTRY asked the students to reflect on their experience.....



The DUCC event strengthened my diaconal identity, and helped in my networking. Everyone used similar language (I did not have to explain what an LDM was) which made me feel part of the community. I was encouraged to voice my concerns as a student, and felt they were heard and received with compassion.

Annika Sangster, NS

This was my second DUCC experience. This involvement and my DUCC membership have been vitally important to me while I was a student. It helped form and solidify my own diaconal identity, increased my understanding of diaconal history, expanded my personal network of diaconal support, and affirmed a shared concern for justice and alternative modes of being in ministry. Wisdom Arising was a time of both renewal and challenge for me as I look ahead to being commissioned. I would not have missed it for anything!

*Nancy Corrigan, ON, CCS
2005*

It was fascinating to connect with folk from across the country who are practising ministry in a style that I can relate to, can appreciate, and learn from. I never tire of listening to the struggles diaconal folk have had for validation of their ministry, and to

hear celebration of the joys of their life in ministry. As a student it is helpful to connect and become acquainted with the persons I have heard about in my diaconal education. It is hopeful to hear that struggle can result in change.

Kathy Douglas, ON

Because I had just finished my four years of study at CCS, I felt like I had lost a great community. At DUCC, I learned that I belong to an even greater community in which I can grow and find support. I was deeply impressed by the whole conference as it worked as one organic body, with each part (business, worship and theme presentations) integrated. I appreciated the opportunity to take part in the preparation for worship in a trusting community.

Junghee Park, ON, CCS 2005

Initially, I was uncertain about what I would get from the gathering but I really wanted to be identified with this group... As the business meeting progressed I became disillusioned, hearing that this powerful dynamic group was marginalized at national church level... Friday morning I mentally summarized my experiences. This group of people understood group processes and skillfully moved on when others might have gotten stuck in an issue. Community and enabling were important. There was a passion for the gospel and when on Friday morning there was a spontaneous chorus of the song "God is passionate life", I felt the power of this dynamic group who would shape or enable others to shape the future of the church. So I filled in a membership form for DUCC. "God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us as we seek justice for all people."

Annette Hoare, NB

Being asked to come was a gift. Being able to find the time was a greater gift. Actually arriving and taking part was the greatest gift of all...Theme and worship were life-giving for me. It came at a time when I was feeling particularly alone in my ministry. Isolated on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation and just coming out of our freeze-up, this event was WISDOM ARISING out of every pore of my being. This was an incredible experience.

Betty Lou McNabb, ON, Francis Sandy Theological Centre

With the Photo

Students at DUCC 2005

Caption: Students and Principal Caryn Douglas in Nova Scotia.