

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

A Year of Desire and Longing

The year 2023 was a year of desire and longing, and with some exciting events to help us feel energized. During the Black History Month, Alcris Limongi organized a lively panel discussion with black diaconal ministers; Principal Alan did something similar with Asian UCC friends during the Asian Heritage Month, with the panelists addressing the question: Who is Asian?

The two-day Con Ed event with Dr. Claudio Carvalhases on worship was refreshing. We rejoiced with The Rev. Dr. Wenh-In Ng during the Annual Service of Celebration when she received the Companion of the Centre Award. To add another layer of joy, the presence of the Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and her conversation with Dr. Ng on Indigenous relations was stimulating.

We began the year desiring to strengthen intercultural education. Conversation with the Executive Director of the Forum of Intercultural Leadership and Education elevated our imagination. As invited by the Office of Vacation, CCS conducted an Admission Orientation Circle in August.

As far as longing goes, we hired Julie Ng-Leung to lead a strategic planning activity. It was a longing for direction and financial stability. After the pandemic, we are faced with the changing landscape in theological education and church life in general. There was a need to sort our priority, strength, and future path.

The strategic activity was completed. Julie has presented the school's leaders several options. The school has set up a special small team to study those findings, taking financial situation seriously. They will also study the recommendations and background information of the strategic plan of 2019. The goal is to provide a decisive strategic goals for the next two years.

CCS is working hard to envision the future. We do not approach it with fear but with courage and understanding. We pray for and work towards transformation.

We are blessed with collaborative, generous partners, including:

- Anglican and United Churches
- Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
- Anglican Deacons
- Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean
- Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators,
- Local Committee members,
- Council and Committee volunteers
- St Andrew's College
- St Stephen's College
- Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
- Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Yearbook, Financial Statements, and Annual Report may be found at:

<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,

Rev.Dr. Alan Lai, Principal