

Canadian Mennonite University Report

And the word was made flesh...

Through this year's chapel theme we seek to inspire students in their trust of Scripture as a guide to faith and life. A commitment to Scripture as a 'living word' enlivens all aspects of university life, including a Biblical and Theological Studies core within every program of study. A unique practicum program requires every degree student to reach out in service and mission, bridge academic and life learning, discern career opportunities and partner with a diversity of people and agencies. Forty-four percent of our practicum students work, serve, lead, and explore ministry in congregations, church camps, schools, church-run inner city programs, orphanages, and in diverse chaplaincy settings. Other practicum placements open students to homelessness, health care, education, business, refugee work, crisis counselling, and more in Winnipeg, across Canada and internationally.

Enrolment and Program

The school year began with a 2.0% increase in the number of students registered for classes for a total of 629 students.

- At the Shaftesbury campus, 501 undergraduate students are pursuing BA degrees in arts and humanities, as well as specialized degrees in Business and in Music. CMU offers 173 undergraduate courses in areas of Biblical and Theological Studies, Psychology, Mathematics, English, Biology and other sciences, Communications, Peace and Conflict Transformation, History, International Development, and more. Additionally, 10% of University of Winnipeg students are taking one or more courses through CMU's Menno Simons College.
- In fall and winter semesters we had 160 course enrolments in our Graduate School of Theology and Ministry – a significant increase from last year.
- Seventy-six Outtatown students have embarked in a program of challenge and faith-deepening

encounter in Canada, South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Guatemala.

- We're gifted with an ecumenically rich and diverse student body, 54% of which come to CMU from Pentecostal, Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and other church homes, and 46% (288) from Mennonite congregations (76 from MB congregations; of these 57 are from MBCM).

Partnering with the Church

Student ministry discernment opportunities are supported through the Office of Ministry Inquiry, Ministry Quest, and Ministry Lunches. The Pastor in Residence Program brought J. Janzen (Pastor of the Highland Community Church in BC) to campus this fall for one week and in January we welcomed Fred Redekop (Pastor of the Floradale Mennonite Church in ON). Pastors' Roundtables; Sunday evening Vespers; Face2Face evenings of conversation on issues of importance to the church, university and society... and more.

- In early November the CMU Singers served in the Lakeview Community Church, Killarney; Boissevain MB Church and Elm Creek MB. In January there were at Westwood Community Church and in March were in Brandon, hosted in part by Richmond Park MB. This semester the CMU Worship Band will lead worship at the Lasalle Community Church and Faithworks. We are grateful that the Worship Band can also serve during your delegate sessions. The Chamber Choir and an Octet are going to Ontario in May and will be singing in Leamington on May 1, in Floradale on May 2, Breslau on May 3, Toronto at 2:00 p.m. and St. Catharines at 7:00 p.m. on May 4.
- Christine Longhurst has led a "New Songs for Worship" in Winnipeg and Winkler. Both events have experienced strong MB participation.
- Besides frequently speaking in MBCM congregations on a Sunday morning, our faculty have completed or committed to the following Portable CMU weekends: Sheila Klassen-Wiebe and

Gordon Zerbe at Fort Garry MB; Delmar Epp at Community Fellowship Church, Newton; and Christine Longhurst at Crossroads MB.

- Our new Library and Bridge is under construction and as of the end of December, \$11.2M of \$14M has been pledged or given. We are grateful to MBCM for their financial commitment to this project as well and for the support of Andrew Dyck's position in the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
- We value our partnership with your leaders, Elton DeSilva and Keith Poysti to discuss concerns, challenges and ways to partner more effectively in meeting the needs of the church. We appreciate your official connection to us through the appointment of Kathi Fast, John Reimer-Epp, Ron Malech and Art DeFehr to the CMU Board and Marvin Dyck, Mary Friesen, Allan Janzen, George Klassen, Fred Pauls and Mary Reimer to the CMU Council.
- In November we partnered with MC Manitoba and MBCM to bring Dr. Angela Reed for a 2-day conference on "Creating a Community of Spiritual Formation." November 7-8, 2014 we will again partner with MBCM and MC Manitoba for a Conference on "Leadership Structures for the church in Mission" with senior consultant Dan Hotchkiss from the Alban Institute and author of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Governance* (2009). We are pleased to work together in these ways.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)

Seeking to inspire and equip students for pastoral ministry, leadership, scholarship and service.

- Canadian Mennonite University has been involved in theological education through its predecessor colleges since the 1940s. However, about 14 years ago something new began to emerge that signaled a new era in theological education that included significant inter-Mennonite cooperation. Mennonite leaders from five Mennonite conferences in Manitoba began

gathering on a semi-regular basis to talk about seminary education. Other persons at the table were representatives of CMU, Steinbach Bible College, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

- The conversations soon led to an Evangelical Anabaptist Seminary Program, and a few years later a Winnipeg Centre for Ministry Studies (WCMS) was established. Eventually the visions of church and school were brought together and a Graduate School of Theology and Ministry emerged. Today the Graduate School at CMU offers a full program in theology and ministry studies. Most of the almost 50 students, enrolled in MA and certificate programs, are in part-time studies.
- The GSTM works in partnership with other schools such as Anabaptist Mennonite Bible Seminary (AMBS). It is a teaching centre of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary Canada. The Graduate School also works in cooperation with The United Centre for Theological Studies (Formerly the Winnipeg Theological Cooperative) at the University of Winnipeg. This past spring a Graduate School Advisory Council was formed with the purpose of building stronger links between church and school. Keith Poysti is representative for MBCM, Randy Klassen is the National representative and John Neufeld is the MBBS representative. Other invited representatives are Elton DaSilva and Willy Reimer. In a world of much complexity there is a need for theological education rooted in Christ that seeks to be receptive to the biblical story and open to the Spirit's leading. At CMU we are grateful for the church connection. We look to MBCM for advice, council, and support, and want to work in partnership with the church community as together we take on the responsibility of calling men and women to leadership positions, and as we work toward fostering excellence in theological education.

Peace and joy in your deliberations and discernment during these sessions.

*Cheryl Pauls,
President*

“These last two years at CMU have been great both for my spiritual walk with God and for my general overall growth. I have found a real close group of friends who offer endless support and who constantly consider the needs of others. Before coming to CMU I had planned on meeting several new people and on learning some theology. My expectations have been far exceeded and as I prepare to graduate I am already beginning to consider the immense impact this school has had on my life.”

Alexander Klippenstein,
Richmond Park MB,
Brandon.