

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at University of Guelph

A partnership of the Anglican Church, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada

May 2010

I want to express my gratitude for the warmth of welcome I have received since arriving at U of G; from my colleagues on the MultiFaith Resource Team, from members of Student Counselling and other people on campus. They have guided me in decoding the bureaucracy of campus life, learning what can be done, and what must not be done!

While all nature is waking to the warmth of spring, and trees and bulbs are busy bursting forth in colours delightful to see, the campus is coming into a period of quiescence. Students have completed all their papers, assignments, and exams; residences are emptied and the University Center echoes with my steps as I cross the courtyard. It is a time to reflect on what has been attempted and what accomplished in this, my first full academic year at the University of Guelph.



Other thanks go to the Ecumenical Campus Ministry Board, who have oversight responsibilities for this ministry. This year the Board has worked hard to review the purpose and functions of the campus minister and the Board itself, and will come to the AGM with a revised statement for consideration. Several members advocated within their denominations for this ministry so that funding can

continue at sustainable levels for 2010. I am especially thankful for the support of our outgoing Chair, Dr. Denis Lynn.

During this year we said farewell to Rev. John Borthwick, who served so ably during his tenure, and also to Andy Comar, our UCC member. On the other hand we welcomed with pleasure three new members of the board; Robin Begin, Rev. Marion Loree and Rev. Johan Olivier.

Peace, Margot Feyerer

Members of the Board 2009-2010:

Chair: Dr Denis Lynn
(faculty, Anglican Church)

Treasurer: Michael McMurray

Robin Begin (director, Campus
Community Police)

Dr. Clarence Swanton (faculty,
Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Nigel Bunce (faculty,
Anglican Church)

Dr. Doug Goff (faculty, United
Church)

Rev. Marion Loree (United
Church)

Rev. Johan Olivier (Presbyterian
Church)

Thanks to our funding denominations!



Diocese of Niagara,
Anglican Church of Canada

United Church of Canada



Presbyterian Church in Canada

Thanksgiving Dinner for International Students



Thank you! Because you cared, ECM was able to partner with Trinity United Church, and with the whole community, to prepare a traditional turkey dinner to share with 125 international students and family members during Thanksgiving weekend. Questions centered on ‘what exactly is turnip?’ and ‘why do Canadians eat brown pie (pumpkin)?!’ Thank you to all who baked pies, cooked casseroles, and washed dishes. Are you looking for a way to continue this welcome and support for international students? Give Margot a call at 519-824-4120 ext 52390 to discuss “adopting” a student.

Haiti Cries... And We Cry With Them”

(A prayer as we search through the rubble)
by Safiyah Fosua from www.gbod.org

Following the earthquake in Haiti in February 2010, the university community gathered to remember those who had lost their lives and to take action to reach out in solidarity with the Haitian people. ECM led a prayer vigil from the porch of Raithby House, and joined others to promote several events, including a concert to raise funds for Haiti.



MultiFaith Resource Team

Campus Ministry is about partnerships. The Multi Faith Resource Team, of which the ECM is a member, works with campus partners to sponsor Peace Week and Faith week where events such as the following are highlighted:

Movie: “The Hurt Locker”

Peace Week Activities:

Do some painting with the Congo Art Exchange, make peace paper cranes, experience contemporary dance performances and participate in a Hate Crimes Vigil

Peace at Home

A discussion facilitated by Maribel Gonzales and Zhaleh Afshar as part of the Woman Abuse Awareness Month.

Learn about the international disarming domestic violence campaign, the abuse of women in our communities and the Canadian gun registry.

“Remembrance Day Service”

Places of Worship Tour

Visit a Catholic Church, Sikh Temple and Jewish Synagogue and bring those questions you’ve always wanted to ask!

Lecture: Jim Loney "What I Heard About Afghanistan"

From Child Soldier to Child Activist: The Journey to Hope”

Hear the story of Michael Chikwanine, a former child soldier in the Republic of Congo who witnessed the torture of his father, rape of his mother and endured torture of his own.



Hands and Hearts Extended

Bereavement counselling

Thursday evenings a small group of 6 to 8 students and two facilitators gather in the living space of McNally House to journey together. We are drawn together because we know the devastation of loss- loss of mother, father, brother, friend. Group members have shared that outside of this group, they feel the need to pretend that their life is just like all the others- “How are you?” they hear- and yet they feel they cannot tell the truth- “I am lost, I am angry- I am sad.”



During our time together, we can tell the truth. We can tell our stories of love and loss. We can help one another and accept the wisdom offered by our facilitators. Together we explore our feelings, our understandings of loss and death, and what it means. In this safe place and in this safe group, we can ask the big questions. “Where was God?” “How can I love again, if I might suffer the loss of that love also?” “Why me?”

Some students graduate from this small group study, able to move on. Others decide to continue with one-on-one conversations with the ECM chaplain, conversations that explore in more depth their experiences of letting go, and reinvesting in life. In every instance, the ECM minister offers to journey with them.

Pastoral Conversations

Wondering how to help your workmate, or roommate?
Wondering how to deal with sudden changes in your life, or how to reconcile your understanding of faith with the real life circumstances that you face?

Is it acceptable to date someone outside your faith tradition?

Others call themselves “Christians” – and imply that you somehow “fail to qualify”. You wonder if you still agree with all the teachings you remember from Sunday School- but don’t know where to go to ask the questions that niggle in the back of your mind.

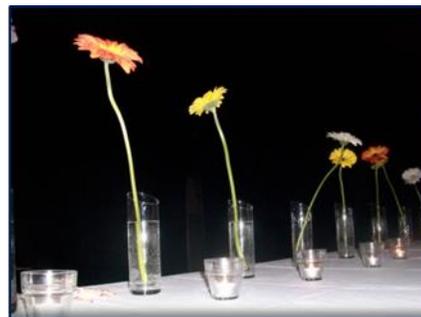
You yearn for the comfort of your teenage youth group- and wish that were an option for you on campus.

You care about the world- you want to make a difference – to have your love “colour outside the lines”- and wonder where you can do so, motivated by your faith. Come and see how you can use your faith to change the world!

Other Duties as Required

Ministry is filled with a multitude of tasks and roles and opportunities that do not easily fall within one description or another. This past year the ECM has –

- Participated in various campus services such as memorial services, convocations, prayer vigils, and celebrations to honour those who have donated their bodies to our Human Anatomy program.
- Provided mentorship to student leaders on community and campus Boards
- Engaged in multi faith discussions along a wide range of topics- always seeking to encourage students to discern what they believe, and why.
- Offered individual and group facilitation for those interested in developing their spiritual practices- prayer and meditation in particular.
- Led small group studies and one retreat.
- Hosted presentation on Stations of the Cross with Karen Kurtz.
- Facilitated training for Wellness Center peer leaders on issues of faith and spirituality.
- Sought to model with the Multi Faith Resource Team, the values of promoting inter- religious respect without discarding Christian values which form the core of Christian life.
- Made presentations to various congregational and presbyterial groups.
- Prepared and presided at several weddings for members of the university community



April 2010 Celebration of Donors, Human Anatomy Program

ECM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Thursday May 20th, 1-3 pm in the Sunroom at the Arboretum. You are welcome to attend! Contact Margot at 519-824-4120 ext 52390 or mfeyerer@uoguelph.ca

Grateful for our Friends

Want to make a difference?

Offer to connect young people arriving at U of Guelph from your congregation or neighbourhood with the resources of the ECM. Ask if you can pass on their email address to ECM!

Do you belong to a book study group? Have a great book to share? Donate a few copies to the ECM!

Willing to extend Christ's welcome to the stranger? Come and

welcome international students to dinner next Thanksgiving!

And yes, we certainly appreciate your financial support! You can invest in our endowment fund, (the interest of which may be used to support operating costs) or more directly to the current costs of this ministry.

Many thanks to those unnamed supporters and friends of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry! You have made a difference!

Funding Sponsors

The ECM is supported by a number of institutions and organizations both on and off campus.

U of G- Student Affairs
Student Counselling

Presbyterians Sharing- The
Presbyterian Church in Canada
Waterloo Presbytery (PCC)

The United Church of Canada-
Hamilton Conference (MSS)
Waterloo Presbytery (UCC)

Anglican Diocese of Niagara

Campus ministry is about being there- being right there- when young people come face to face with issues of life and faith. Perhaps campus ministry is about supporting our own children as they transition from their home congregations to university, but it also about being the face of Christ to those who have never been inside a church. Through small group studies- through being a visible presence on campus, in residence life and through social justice acts, and through counselling opportunities, we as faith-centred people, reach out in campus ministry to those who yearn to hear the answers to the big pictures- "Why am I here? Where do I come from? To whom do I belong?"

Thank you for
supporting young
people on campus!

You can be a part of this mission – please join our efforts with your generous donation.
Charitable Registration: #108161829RR0002

YES! I/We wish to contribute to the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph.

Please accept my/our gift of: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

My/Our cheque is enclosed (payable to: The Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph)

Mailing address: 50 Stone Road, University of Guelph, Guelph, On N1G 2W1

I would like my donation to be placed in Endowment fund Current operating funds

Please send me/us information about:

ECM programs and services Arranging for ECM minister to speak at my event.

Memorial/In Honour gifts Leaving a bequest

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Home/Bus. Phone: _____ Email: _____