



Sandy-Saulteaux

Spiritual Centre

Thank You to Our Donors

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WE'RE HIRING!

Apply to be our Keeper of the Learning Circle at bit.ly/SSSCjob.

Dear Donor:

This is a huge thank you. With learning circles just completed in January, this seems like a good time to tell you how much you mean to the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.

SSSC brings elders and very qualified resource people to our Learning Circles and we all learn much, but it is equally true that we all learn much from each of our students. Their own story, their Indigenous ministry and community stories are so rich we all think, "I wish you could have been here to listen in!"

"What you are doing is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God." II Corinthians 9:12 Contemporary English Version

You have made a difference in so many lives because you care enough to make sure God's love and justice gets shown and shared. Students and graduates are doing great things as a result.

You are the kind of friend that is always there. Because of you students have a place of hospitality, welcome, friendship, and an excellent program that teaches authenticity, creativity, and confidence in ministry. Because of you, lives in communities across Canada are touched and changed.

That's the ripple effect of your generosity. In 2018 you contributed a total of \$121,565. It means a lot to so many people. We are so grateful to have you in our life.

May grace and gratitude surround you with much love in 2019.



Pastoral Ethics & Boundaries Learning Circle in January with Centre for Christian Studies Principal Michelle Owens.



Meet Our Students



Brian Harper

Brian Harper, from Red Sucker Lake (in Manitoba), returned to train for ministry at Sandy-Saulteaux last year after taking a break for his busy work life. For a long time he had understood from his grandfathers, who were United Church ministers, that they wanted him to carry on their traditions. When Rev. Frank and Susan Evans from his community encouraged him to go to Sandy-Saulteaux he reflected for a few months then agreed to give it a try. In his first year here he was selected by his fellow students to attend a Theological Student's Association Conference in Halifax. Once there, he became the first Indigenous person elected to the student council. A shell that he received as a gift during this experience is now part of the student bundle at the Centre.

Brian has been part of the Presbyterian church since he connected with Place of Hope Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg. He became an ordained ruling elder and represents the Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg on the National Native Ministry council. He now serves as an Indigenous Lay Minister of the Presbyterian Church. He preaches, prays for people in hospital and visits people in their homes who can't get out to attend church. He was honoured a year ago to be invited to lead a healing process between the family members of a man who had killed his partner. Drawing in part on what he has learned at Sandy-Saulteaux, as well as training from the RE:ACT program, he was able to support the families in building trust, finding forgiveness and in the end, to sit down and share a meal together.



Joyce Johnson (right) serving communion

Joyce Johnson attended her first class at Sandy-Saulteaux in January this year.

She has never forgotten the day six years ago when she went to a United Church service in her community of Neyaashiinigiing (in Ontario) and it felt like the service had been written just for her. The minister began by welcoming everyone, proclaiming that "we are all ministers to one another." This message really spoke to her.

Her involvement began with offering to store some books that needed a home during renovations to the manse. Soon she was overseeing the renovations themselves and before long, was asked to lead worship. A part-time minister led the service once a month and Joyce covered the other Sundays. Working with the minister, she helped

lead a breakfast group that morphed from a Bible study to a social support circle. They collaborate on an annual service for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls and a number of other community events. Joyce also helps make the manse available for people to come and use the shower, do laundry or write a resume on one of the computers. She says her active role in the church "just evolved." It seems she managed to say "yes" to every invitation and opportunity that came her way!

Joyce has always felt her Creator's love. This has helped her through hard times and the road she has walked since experiencing her call to ministry has brought her into an even closer relationship with her Creator. She was honoured to receive the designation of Congregational Designated Minister and is now pleased to be continuing her journey with studies at Sandy-Saulteaux.

Engage Difference! by Min-Goo Kang



I understand why the Bible says wisdom takes her stand at the crossroads. A crossroad is where two roads meet. If you drive, think about an intersection where you have to stop, and pay attention to other drivers who take different directions than yours. In our lives, we have many crossroads where we encounter the other who is different from us, or we think different from us. The question is how we treat a crossroad. We can treat it as if it's something to pass by, as if we don't see the other. Or we can treat it as if it's a holy ground where we might encounter the holy by engaging, interacting and sharing.

At Engage Difference! a diverse group of people from different parts of Western Canada came to learn about intercultural ministry. All of us, the 18 people agreed that there was a transformation among the group. The space we were in became a holy ground as we encountered the

holy through an honest and genuine sharing. Each of us had a different place where we were from, and a different pathway we had taken. We met at a crossroad where we were invited to see each other. We stopped, paid attention, and interacted with one another, and wisdom was spoken to every one of us.

Min-Goo Kang (강민구, 姜敏求) is a racialized settler living and working (Fort Garry United Church) on Treaty 1 territory. He wrote these reflections after participating in "Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry" at SSSC in 2016. To read more about his experience and how a municipal fire ban became a catalyst for transformation, visit sandysaulteaux.ca.

Engage Difference! is returning to SSSC in May. Sign up to take part in this transformative learning experience at www.InterculturalLeadership.ca.

Sandy-Saulteaux receives Reconciliation Grant

We acknowledge with gratitude a Reconciliation Grant of \$100,000 received from The Winnipeg Foundation for hosting a series of culturally-oriented, land-based retreats for Indigenous parents working to get their children back from apprehensions by the child welfare system. Ma Mawi Chi Itata will take the lead role in organizing referrals and providing follow-up care for these families.

Water is Life

Due to a lack of snow and rainfall, we monitored our well's water supply last spring, summer and fall. The aquifer in our area is not reliable enough for a second well so we installed a water holding tank to provide a backup supply. The tank, water pump and electrical work all cost approximately \$9,000. We will be completing a water services design report which will estimate the cost for a proper water system that is upgradable to a larger size. A safe drinking water system sized for today's needs will cost between \$30 - \$40,000. Please consider donating to this important project.

Upcoming Events at Sandy-Saulteaux

Ministry in the Midst of Trauma - March 18 - 22

*Offered by the Indigenous Studies Program,
Vancouver School of Theology*

Spring Equinox Sunrise Ceremony - March 24

Christology Learning Circle - April 1 - 5

Ceremony of Celebration - April 6 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Wisdom & Psalms Learning Circle - April 8 - 12

Engage Difference! - May 27 - 31

*Offered by the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning of
the Canadian Council of Churches*

Visit sandysaulteaux.ca for details on these events.

Let us know you'll be attending at sansau@mymts.net or 204-268-3913.



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- For I.C.L.E.F. (Saskatchewan Students)

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