



# Halifax Campus Ministry

## Looking Back and Moving Forward

Greetings from the Halifax Campus Ministry! As always, we offer prayerful thanks for those who support Campus Ministry in a variety of ways. Your faithful prayers are our most valuable human asset. We are also deeply grateful for your ongoing financial support of this ministry.

The opening reflections for this newsletter go back to May 2011. At that time our Halifax Campus Ministry hosted the annual conference of the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association. This was a large undertaking and a magnificent experience. We had about 100 conference attendees, which included over 50 student/emerging leaders from across Canada. Our conference planning team consisted of two paid staff, seven student leaders, and three members of the Campus Ministry Steering Committee. We also had an on-the-ground team of thirty volunteers for the conference. The theme of the conference was *Living God's Vision for Shalom in the World of Campus Ministry*. We set aside four days to search for a kingdom way, the path of shalom. In that space and time we were able to let go of our expectations, our cleverly constructed identities, and open ourselves to God's refreshment, where we caught glimpses of the "now and yet-to-come" Era of Shalom.

The following reflections from Geoff Wichert (Campus Pastor, University of Toronto) paint a picture of the impact the conference had on those who attended: "In my 12 years of campus ministry this was the largest gathering of campus ministers and students that I have ever attended. And it was precisely at this largest-ever Campus Ministry gathering that the hosting group opted to prepare and serve all the food themselves, and to set an incredibly high bar in terms of healthy ingredients, local and organic sources, innovative food sponsors, a creative menu, etc. - in other words, the best food they could possibly give us. And they did all this efficiently, on time (yet flexible to our schedule), and in borrowed facilities. The sheer magnitude and lavish generosity of the hospitality we received in Halifax remains one of my most prominent memories I carry with me from the conference."

## 2011 Fall Lecture Series

On September 20-21, we hosted our annual Fall Lecture Series at Dalhousie University. This series is co-sponsored by the Christian Reformed and Anglican Campus Ministries at Dalhousie. Our guest speaker this year was Mike Hogeterp, the Director of the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue - an Ottawa based, justice and peace advocacy and education office of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada. The series was an intimate affair, which proved to be deeply informative and challenging. The theme of the series was: *Education and Reconciliation: Journeying Toward*

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*Campus fellowship*

### Our Mission:

Following the Way of Jesus and forming a missional faith community.

### Our Vision:

To live out God's kingdom vision for shalom through the integration of faith, learning, and lifestyle. As we draw students, faculty, staff, and others into a multi-ethnic and inter-generational faith community, we aim to impact our community by making disciples of Jesus. While prayerfully discerning our cultural climate and seeking God's wisdom, we celebrate and bear witness to God's love in Jesus Christ for the entire Halifax community.

Learn more! Visit:

[www.dalcampusministry.org](http://www.dalcampusministry.org)

**Halifax Campus Ministry**

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*Deep Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada.* Mike led two interactive presentations/discussions: 1) "The Blanket Exercise," which helped us learn the history of indigenous and non-indigenous relations in Canada from an Indigenous perspective, and 2) "Reconciliation: Indigenous Education as a Case Study," which explored the question: Why should reconciliation in education matter to non-Indigenous Canadians?

### **Emerging Leaders Initiative**

Through this initiative we seek to develop young adults into community leaders who will make a difference in the world. The goal is to develop people's gifts and passion for spirit-filled leadership in our universities and the wider Halifax community. Through this initiative, students and recent graduates serve the ministry on a part-time basis throughout the academic year.

This year, we are committed to supporting two emerging leaders: Allie McTaggart and Lauren MacNaughton. Allie is a student at NSCAD University and has been an active member of the Halifax Campus Ministry for three years. Allie is working hard to create a vibrant Christian fellowship on campus. Her vision is to create a strong Christian community within the university, as well as to serve and reach out to the greater campus community and to the wider Halifax community.

Lauren is a recent graduate of Dalhousie University, and has been an active member of the Halifax Campus Ministry for two years. There are two main elements to Lauren's Emerging Leadership: outreach to on-campus students and community leadership. Lauren will seek to bring Dalhousie students, faculty, and staff into Christian community, in addition to equipping members within the campus ministry community to engage their own gifts in mission to the broader community.

- Rev. Brad Close

### **A Community of Belonging**

My entrance into the campus ministry community several years ago was both unplanned and unexpected. To be sure, the love and welcome I received was no match for my initial skepticism. I was surprised by joy, and my experience with this community serves as a testament to the transformative power of God in community.

This year, I am entering into an Emerging Leadership position with Campus Ministry. This is an opportunity that I am both excited about and challenged by, and it is my prayer that this experience would serve to strengthen both my leadership and the campus ministry community.

In reflecting on what it means to be a community of Christ on Campus, my eyes have been continually drawn to the words of Christ in Matthew 25: "For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." Hunger has as much to do with love and belonging as it does with food and bread. We thirst not for drink, but for living water, that we might "never go thirsty again." We were strangers and exiles, God grants us a home in him and in his community. It is within the perfect marriage of both God and the community of believers that we find the fullest expression of Matthew 25. It is here where we are fed, nourished, clothed, healed, and offered freedom by God and one another. It is here where, through transformation of the heart, we are compelled to go and do likewise. It is this vision of shalom community that I am both inspired and challenged by, and it is my hope and prayer that we might press onwards in this direction.

- Lauren MacNaughton  
Campus Ministry Emerging Leader



### **DONATIONS**

To make a donation to CRC Campus Ministry at Dalhousie, please log on to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and search for Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Dalhousie. CanadaHelps will provide you with a tax receipt. Or you can mail a donation or post-dated cheques to: **Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in Halifax Society**  
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