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CaringforClergy.ca

The Centre exists to support the well-being of clergy and congregations and to enhance the overall ministry of the church in Canada.

Update on the Ministry and Work of



the Centre for
Clergy Care &
Congregational
Health

Fall 2006

**Director:
Rev. Dr. Andrew Irvine**

**Senior Researchers:
Dr. Brian Clarke
Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald**

**Administrative Assistant:
Anne Miller**

The Centre has a vision to engage ministers and churches in a variety of ways. With our official Launch held just this past April, we are at the beginning stages of our work and the diversity of offerings will increase in time to come.

Our first year has included a variety of projects -

- establishing our office and resources at Knox College
- developing our website - CaringforClergy.ca
- beginning to form an Advisory Board
- providing administrative support for the *Starting Well* and *Making the Most of Retirement* programs for clergy offered by the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada

Work of Our Centre Director - Dr. Andrew Irvine

Red Deer Pilot Project

Andrew continues to work with clergy from several denominations in the Red Deer, Alberta area. Laypeople of participating churches are also engaged in their own process. The project will culminate with both groups coming together to strengthen their collective ministry. It is hoped that this will form the basis for other regional work across the country. We also hope that the clergy will continue as a support network beyond the Centre's direct involvement.

Take Care

In late May Andrew offered *Take Care: Strength for the Journey* for clergy in pastoral ministry. Participants represented many regions across Canada and a cross-section of contexts and length in ministry. Plans are underway for this year's edition - *Take Care: Going from Strength to Strength* - being held May 28th through June 1st, 2007. Once again, Crieff Hills Community near Guelph will be hosting the event to offer a true retreat environment. See the website or contact us for more information.

Andrew has also had several speaking engagements, most recently as the theme speaker at the Rural Ministry Symposium sponsored by Queens' Theological College.

Current Research Projects

First Five Years Study

The Churches' Council on Theological Education (CCTE) has provided to us a grant to enable research about the unique challenges and needs of clergy in their first five years of ministry. We are excited about the information which will be gleaned from this work encompassing many denominations.

Census Research - Dr. Stuart Macdonald and Dr. Brian Clarke

- "**Christians not included elsewhere**" - work on this fifth largest "denomination" in Canada (2001 census) has been completed and we are moving to publication (thanks to CCTE for its assisting grant)
- "**Protestant Five**" - the story of the Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Churches in Canada between 1941 and 2001 was first presented to the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion in 2003 - the findings are being revised for publication
- **Further Topics** - the explosive growth of the "No Religion" category is another topic being explored as well as what is happening with the other Protestant denominations in Canada

The Church in Canada - Dr. Stuart Macdonald

- an article on **Presbyterians and ethnicity** is nearing the final draft stages and is intended for publication in a book on Christianity and ethnicity in Canada
- the timing of **when the church moved into decline** is critical to our understanding of what happened and the world in which the church finds itself (United Church, Anglican and Presbyterian data are used)
- research of **self-studies and state of the church reports** done in the PCC from the 1960s to present day will help us to better understand why the '60s were such a time of questioning in Canadian churches
- I am offering a new course this fall at Knox College - **What happened to the church? Theories of change in the church** - to consider various theories, with particular reference to the church in Canada