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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

Spring 2007

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

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

**Administrative Assistant:
Anne Miller, MRE**

The Centre continues to have a vision to engage ministers and churches in a variety of ways. Having just celebrated the first anniversary of our official Launch on April 5th, we already are able to reflect on many opportunities we have had to offer support and ministry in a variety of ways. We also look forward to the possibilities for the future as we become more established.

Our first year has included a variety of projects -

- accumulating resources for our office at Knox College
- developing our website - CaringforClergy.ca
- forming 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—these events are now falling under the Centre’s mandate and oversight

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 on as a support network beyond the Centre’s direct involvement.

Take Care

Plans are well underway for this year’s edition - *Take Care: Going from Strength to Strength* - being held May 28th through June 1st, 2007. We anticipate a diverse group of clergy converging on Crieff Hills Community near Guelph who will once again be hosting the event. See the website or contact us for more information.

Andrew continues to be asked to speak at different events and gatherings about his research and the area of clergy care, most recently to the Dufferin Presbytery of the United Church of Canada.

Current Research Projects

First Five Years Study

We are currently meeting with focus groups and devising a survey for participants in this study. We once again thank the Churches’ Council on Theological Education (CCTE) for providing a grant to enable ecumenical research about the unique challenges and needs of clergy in their first five years of ministry.

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

- A new course entitled **“What happened to the church? Theories of change in the church”** was offered in the fall semester 2006. Plans are being made to make this course available online.
- **“Death of Christian Canada? Do Canadian church statistics support Callum Brown’s timing of church decline?”**, presented at the Canadian Society of Church History, to be published in their forthcoming Papers.
- Research on the **Ross Report** (1969) and the **first report on church decline** in the Presbyterian Church in Canada (1971) was presented to the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Presbyterian History.
- A chapter on **Presbyterians and ethnicity**, now complete, is intended for publication in a book on Canadian Christianity and ethnicity.