

December 2022

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

GRADUATE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (GCF)

Graduate Christian Fellowship is grateful to have a regular meeting space again this fall at the Toronto School of Theology. It has been ideal for our gatherings: space and facilities to eat together, as well as a room where we can gather in a circle for conversations. There's even the ability for people to join via zoom, in case of illness.

Some of the important conversations we've had this semester have included: the state of the church in Canada based on the most recent census results; on difficult issues around MAiD; and on elections and politics. We've heard the life and faith stories of two members of the ministry. We've looked at the Bible on a range of topics, focusing on images of God, such as Christ the King and whether God is a God of abundance or simply enough. In honour of Halloween and All Saints Day, we even looked at how ghosts show up in the Bible.

Last of all, as part of our desire to develop community, we've been hosting social events, such as our annual fall hike, a city of Toronto ghost walk, and an evening of bowling.



WINE BEFORE BREAKFAST (WBB)



At Wine Before Breakfast this past semester, we explored images of God, examining how some images can limit our understanding of God and exploring lesser used images from other cultures or the past. This has led to sermons about God as dovecote, God as mother, and how God sees us. You can see excerpts from our services via the website and on Instagram. We've also been experimenting with the format of the service, seeing what happens if we add or delete elements. At our last WBB of the semester we replaced the sermon with a period of silence following a psalm of lament and held another period of silence after reading Mary's Magnificat. The silence in particular was a gift to those participating. We hope to hold similar services with silence and songs from Taizé in the coming semester.

In October, we switched locations from Church of the Redeemer to the Chapel at Trinity College. With its intimate space and its location right on campus, the chapel has quickly felt like home to us. We added a coffee maker to the vestry, pulled out our old dishes and quickly got back to regularly hosting breakfast. Between being able to experiment with new things, and having the freedom to do things we've always done well as a community, it has been an encouraging semester overall, and we look forward to seeing what the new year brings!

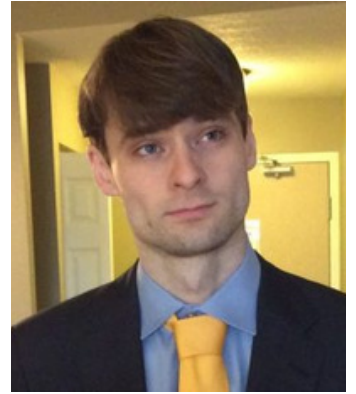
The Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto is graciously supported by the churches of Classis Toronto, as well as the generous support of our campus ministry communities, alumni, and friends.

If you'd like to donate to the ministry, you can do that online or by sending cheques to our address:
Christian Reformed Campus Ministries at U of T, TST, 47 Queen's Park Cres. E, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C3

For more information about donating and the ministry, see <http://crc.sa.utoronto.ca/donate/>

EMERGING LEADER: ROBERT REVINGTON

Our Emerging Leader this year is Robert, a doctoral candidate in Church History at Knox College. Robert has been part of the ministry since Fall 2018. As part of his Emerging Leader role, Robert has been preaching and writing prayers for Wine Before Breakfast and leading sessions at Graduate Christian Fellowship, including an evening focusing on how Christianity fits into a post-modern world. Fun facts: Robert is also a men's league hockey player and Hamilton Tiger-Cats season ticket holder, and once went skydiving in a Superman costume.



As part of our desire to find concrete ways to learn from Indigenous people here in Canada, we hosted a [Kairos Blanket Exercise](#) at the end of September. We were invited into the story of Indigenous people in Canada through the use of physical blankets to represent the land and being assigned to represent different people (groups) throughout history. It was a moving experience for many, as we learned more of the history of our land and lamented how much harm many Indigenous people experienced, which continues to affect our society today.



Members of GCF at the Toronto School of Theology building

MINISTRY UPDATE

We are thankful for how we've seen God working in the ministry this past season. After an extended period of transition, the ministry has finally settled into more permanent locations for meeting. While we are thankful for Church of the Redeemer and Brenda's housemates for their sharing of space with the ministry, after all the challenges connected to COVID-19 and meeting, there is great joy in having places which we can call home.

We are also thankful for the new and returning members involved in our ministry. Their stories and contributions are deeply valued. We are honoured to provide pastoral care to many of them, hearing their stories and struggles as they adjust to life in Toronto and the university, as well as walking alongside them as they explore questions of faith and doubt.

A final thank-you is to those who support the ministry through their participation, prayers, and financial support.

With thanks,

Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink, Carol Scovil, Deb Whalen-Blaize, and Robert Revington



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