



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

OTTAWA PASTORAL CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

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WHO WE ARE

The Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program (OPCTP) is an inter-denominational program affiliated with The Christian Council of the Capital Area.

An Advisory Committee of clergy and lay people representing participating faith communities oversees the planning, administration and evaluation of the Program.

For over four decades, the OPCTP has provided basic and advanced courses, information sessions, coordinators' events, continuing education events, workshops and other special training sessions. We began keeping attendance statistics in 1990. Since that time, over 5,000 people in Ottawa and the surrounding area have taken the 10-week Basic Course in Pastoral Care.

The 10-week Basic Course runs every spring and fall, Continuing Education Events are twice yearly, Co-ordinators' Events and Advanced Courses are once every year or two and other in-town and out-of-town Workshops, Events and Information Sessions are provided upon request.

Our Mission Statement

To Encourage, Enable and Educate all who have a calling to a Ministry of Care nurtured by the love of God, to share their gifts of compassion, understanding, and presence as they journey with those whom they serve.

Our History

The Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program (OPCTP) had its origin in 1975 when All Saints Anglican Church Westboro engaged Reverend Doctor John Swift, Chaplain at Queensway Carleton Hospital, to train a team of clergy and lay members for hospital and parish visiting.

A lay pastoral care team training program was established within the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa in 1977 and was made available to other denominations in 1978. In 1990, we began providing training to nearby communities outside of Ottawa.

The Christian Council of the Capital Area has recognized the program as an interdenominational entity under its general sponsorship since 1979.

The OPCTP celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2019.

THE ADVISORY BOARD

A Word from the Chair

The pandemic has stressed almost everyone and every business on Earth. It showed how weak we are, and at the same time how strong we can be. I have been very pleased to see the entrepreneurial spirit at work in our Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program facilitators, administrator and board members. Whether we call it adapting to circumstances, pivoting in a new direction or making the best of new opportunities, the OPCTP has met the unprecedented difficulties of 2020 in fine form.

Our spring basic course had just begun last March when we had shut it down. Our many decades of in-person teaching experience was no longer the basis on which we could operate. How does one teach interpersonal communication skills without personal interaction?

Yet the need for skill development remained, and our administrator and facilitators rose to the occasion. They developed interactive on-line Basic and Continuing Education offerings that proved to be useful to those seeking training for volunteer ministry on behalf their churches and institutions. What's more, the Program extended its reach to people outside of the Ottawa area -- indeed as far away as the Toronto, PEI and the Caribbean!

The OPCTP's finances have always been tiny. The honoraria for the administrator and the facilitators are paid for from the money collected in fees for the Basic and Advanced courses and the other training events. There are no other significant sources of income. But enrollment in events was sufficient to pay our bills for 2020.

As a board, we will continue in 2021 to strengthen our governing structure so that we can go on supporting our facilitators in the years ahead. We are in the process of incorporating, which will provide the public presence that is being demanded by governments and other groups with which we deal when we rent space or collaborate on projects. We are also making a conscious effort to include representatives on our board from many denominations, so that we can adequately serve the needs of a wide range of pastoral care teams in the Ottawa region.

We appreciate your support in our training endeavour!

Robert MacKenzie, MDiv, PhD

Advisory Board Members - 2020

An Advisory Board comprised of individuals representing participating faith communities oversees the planning, administration and evaluation of the Program. At present, the Advisory Board is made up of Anglican, Lutheran, Pentecostal (PAOC), Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United denominations, as well as a representative from the Christian Council of the Capital Area (CCCA).

Bob MacKenzie (Chair)	Presbyterian
Rev. Jim Pot (Vice Chair)	Presbyterian
Terri Skuce (Administrator)	Presbyterian
Ann Carmichael	Roman Catholic
Rev. Fritz Clarke	Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
Daugh Dixon Moisan *	Baptist
Laurie Jenkins	Baptist
JoAnne Chung Yan Lam (CCCA Rep.)	Lutheran, ELCIC
Rev. Hilary Murray	Anglican
Bob Orr	Anglican
John Patton	United
Rev. Kathy Petrie	United
Sandra Smith	United
Sheila Wilson (Registrar) *	Presbyterian

* *non-voting members*

In 2020, the Advisory Board had six meetings. On Mar. 23 we dealt with business items via email. On the mornings of May 8, June 26, Aug. 7, Oct. 23 and Nov. 27, we met via Zoom.

At our March meeting, we accepted a letter of resignation from Ann Carmichael.

In October, we had some changes to our Advisory Board membership. We welcomed a new voting member, Laurie Jenkins, along with two new non-voting members: Daughn Dixon Moisan, and Sheila Wilson. As well, Jim Pot stepped down from the Interim Chair position and was elected Vice Chair. Bob MacKenzie was elected to the position of Chair.

Pastoral Care Course Facilitators - 2020

Lisa Boulay, Unitarian

Ann Carmichael, Roman Catholic

Rebekah Hackbusch, Lutheran

Julie Ann Levett, Anglican

Rev. Hilary Murray, Anglican

Terri Skuce, Presbyterian

Joyce Hamelin, Baptist (available for special training only)

Verna Nuttall, United (consultant only)

The facilitators met three times in 2020. The first meeting was a social check-in via Zoom on the evening of May. 25. On the evening of June 29, we discussed planning and proceeding with delivering our Basic Course via Zoom in the fall, per the Advisory Board's recommendations. On the evening of Dec. 7, we reviewed participant feedback about the Fall 2020 Basic Course via Zoom and discussed plans for 2021 courses and events.

Overall, both participant and facilitator feedback from the Fall 2020 Basic Course was very positive and some beneficial changes to course content and materials were made.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

Professional Development

From time-to-time Course and Workshop Facilitators and members of the Advisory Board have the opportunity to attend events, such as workshops or seminars, put on by outside groups. Facilitators and members are encouraged to attend those events which will enhance their knowledge and provide support to the organizers in the community.

In 2020, the OPCTP Advisory Board members and Facilitators did not attend any events related to professional development.

New Equipment Purchases

No new equipment purchases were made in 2020.

Other Internal Business

In Memoriam

Norman Dodge and Ruth Grace were beloved members of our Advisory Board for many years. They also were good friends. Norman served from 1994 to 2015 and Ruth from 2003 to 2012.



DODGE, Father Norman S.J.
JESUIT
1928-2020

Norman Dodge of the Society of Jesus died on May 2, 2020 surrounded by fellow Jesuits at René Goupil House in Pickering, ON. Born in Saint John, NB he was the son of Charles Frederick Dodge and Veronica Theresa McDonald. He was 92 years old and in his 67th year as a Jesuit. He was ordained a priest in 1964. A trained social worker, he worked with the Federation of Catholic Charities in Montreal for 21 years in the care of seniors and shut-ins. He became the pastor of St. Theresa Church in Kingston, Jamaica 1990-93. In 1993 he returned to Ottawa where he founded the Pastoral Homecare Program and trained many teams of visitors to shut-ins and the elderly. In 2016 he retired to René Goupil House where he began his ministry of prayer for the world. Funeral celebrations will be delayed to a later date. Arrangements have been made through Rosar-Morrison Funeral Chapel (Toronto). As your expression of sympathy, a donation may be made to the Jesuit Advancement Office, 43 Queen's Park Cres. E., Toronto, ON M5S 2C3, (416-481-9154). Condolences may be left at www.rosar-morrison.com

Published on May 6, 2020



GRACE, Ruth (née Herbert)
May 18, 1928 - April 22, 2020

With much sadness, but also gratitude for her long and fulfilling life, we announce that Ruth passed away peacefully on April 22, 2020. Ruth, who lost her loving husband John in 2009, was predeceased by her brother John Allen, and leaves behind her children, Jim (Christine), Ellen (John), John (Bronwen), Christopher, Elizabeth (Marc) and Anne, as well as her cherished grandchildren Michael, Katherine, Lily, Thomas, Allen, Charlotte, Louisa, William, Samuel, Florence, Frédéric, Béatrice and John, and great-grandchildren James, Henry and Margot.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Ruth met John in Washington, D.C., where both were studying English Literature. Ruth embraced life in Canada, making Ottawa her home for more than 60 years, yet always remained proud of her Southern roots.

Everything Ruth did, she did with a generous spirit, and in a style that went beyond mere appearances. She welcomed many into her home and her heart, forming enduring bonds that enriched her life and her family's. Ruth was a devout Catholic, with a profound spirituality that found expression in her thoughtfulness towards others throughout her long life. Her extended family, and the many others whose lives she touched, will cherish their memories of Ruth.

In later years, Ruth's life was blessed by the devotion of dedicated caregivers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bruyère Foundation, www.bruyere.org. Due to the current coronavirus situation, a private funeral has been held.

Condolences/Tributes/Donations
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry www.hpmcgarry.ca
613-233-1143

Published on April 26, 2020

COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Basic Course

The Basic Course normally consists of 25 hours of training during one afternoon or evening per week for 10 weeks in the Spring and Fall in a wheelchair accessible church centrally located in Ottawa. However, with the course being delivered on Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic, to prevent Zoom fatigue, it is currently reduced to 18 hours over 9 weeks. The cost is \$125.00 per person with a late fee of \$140.00.

This course is also regularly conducted in various communities in eastern Ontario on invitation by local faith communities. Out-of-town courses can be modified if requested to suit the priorities of the requester. Since being available on Zoom, we have had participants attending from other areas in the world and will look at continuing online offerings.

The training includes:

- Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Active Listening
- Spiritual Needs and Pastoral Identity
- Grief Through Losses
- Ministry with Dying
- The Transitioning Years (Aging)
- Visiting in Hospitals, Institutions, Homes
- Care for the Caregiver and Pastoral Care Teams
- Celebrating our Community and our Call

2020 In-Town Basic Courses – Cancelled due to the pandemic

Spring Afternoon

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
 Facilitators: Ann Carmichael
 and Terri Skuce
 Registered = 36, completed 0
 (plus 5 withdrawals or cancellations)

Spring Evening

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
 Facilitators: Verna Nuttall
 and, being mentored, Lisa Boulay
 Registered = 30, completed 0

Denominations/Faiths/Institutions Represented

Afternoon

Anglican	5
Brethren	1
Free Methodist	5
Pentecostal	3
Presbyterian	3
Roman Catholic	9
Unitarian	1
United	7
Unity	1
Unknown	1

Evening

Anglican	7
AGM	1
Baptist	2
Christian Universalist	1
Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital	2
Pentecostal	1
Presbyterian	1
Roman Catholic	5
Unitarian	1
United	5
Wesleyan	1
Unknown	3

Fall Evening – via Zoom

Leadership: Terri Skuce and Lisa Boulay with Bob Orr interning
 Registered = 40, Completed = 40

Denominations/Faiths/Institutions Represented

Anglican	6	Presbyterian	1
Associated Gospel Ministries	1	Roman Catholic	9
Baptist	2	Unitarian	2
Brethren	1	United	9
Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital	2	Wesleyan	1
Free Methodist	3	Unknown	1
Pentecostal	2		

Modified Courses

When we have a request (usually from out-of-town or from a different faith group) to choose only certain subjects from the Basic Course, we will offer a modified course. If there are enough participants, two facilitators deliver the training. If the number of participants is low, one facilitator may deliver the training. This is decided on a case-by-case basis, looking at the needs and financial ability of the requesting community as well as the availability of facilitators.

There was one modified course in 2020. It was delivered on Zoom.

Other Faith Community

Requested by: Other faith community representative

Dates: Thursdays, Oct. 15 to Dec. 3, 9:30am to 11:30am

Location: Delivered via Zoom

Facilitators: Terri Skuce and Lisa Boulay

Attendance: Registered = 14. Cancelled = 2. Completed = 14.

Out-of-Town Courses

When we have a request for an out-of-town course, we work with the organizer(s) to provide a format that works best for them. They provide a location and we send our facilitator(s) to deliver the course either weekly or on a slightly modified format of 3 or 4 Saturdays. Certificates are provided for the participants who attend these courses.

There were two out-of-town courses planned 2020 - one in Westport and one in Cornwall. Both were cancelled/postponed due to the pandemic.

Advanced Courses

Topics of interest are suggested, discussed and matched up with appropriate speakers based upon the topic. Advanced Courses are delivered in a 4-part series and presented every second year.

Our most recent Advanced Course took place in October 2019 and the next will take place in October 2021.

Continuing Education Events

These events are held in Ottawa each Spring and Fall to provide information on specific topics or issues of concern to pastoral care visitors.

Topics and speakers are suggested by the participants who attend our courses and events as well as by Advisory Board Members and others familiar with our Program. Persons with knowledge and experience in the chosen subject conduct a two-hour workshop during an afternoon session and repeat it during the evening.

Bob Orr coordinated a spring Event which was cancelled due to the pandemic. It was then rescheduled for the fall. In between there was a trial session in June to determine if our communities would want to attend events on Zoom and then a fall session in November.

June 24, 2020 via Zoom

“Pastoral Care in an Era of Physical Distancing”

presented by Joyce Hamelin

Attendance: 118 paying registrants, non-paying participants = 38

November 10, 2020 via Zoom

“Spiritual Care in the Face of Medical Assistance in Dying”

presented by Roshene Lawson

Attendance: 97 paying registrants, non-paying participants = 26

Coordinators' Event

All coordinators of pastoral care teams or their representatives are invited to meet every second year to brainstorm, share ideas and suggestions and examine issues or topics they have identified as being of concern to their teams. This event is led by an OPCTP course facilitator or Advisory Board member.

Our most recent Coordinators' Event took place in April 2019 and the next will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

Consulting

Information Sessions

These sessions may be arranged with congregations or groups to describe the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program and to discuss what training may be designed to address specific interests and needs. The OPCTP will absorb the consultation costs for one visit by one or two trainers.

There were no Information Sessions requested in 2020.

Needs Identification

These sessions may be arranged with representatives of congregations or groups to identify specific needs for Pastoral Care Training and to plan Special Training. The OPCTP will absorb the consultation costs for one visit.

There were no Needs Identification Sessions requested in 2020.

Special Training

Special Training includes all specially designed Pastoral Care Training other than the regularly scheduled ten-week Pastoral Care Training Courses, Advanced Courses and Continuing Education Events. Usually, two facilitators conduct the training. An exception may be made if the numbers do not warrant two facilitators. The cost is determined by the number and length of the training sessions.

The special training sessions that were schedule for 2020 were postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic.