

This year I've been studying "The Sacred Actions of Worship" (the sacraments) for my Doctor of Worship Studies degree. My project has been to research the origins of the Eucharist in the Greco-Roman banquet tradition and create a rite for "Dinner Church" in my community, resembling the way the earliest Christians met for meal and worship. Rev. Kristian Wold

"I have been so incredibly grateful to have received the funds from the Advanced Study Grant from the ELCIC to pursue a year in the Counselling Residency Program with Living Systems Counselling, Education, Training and Research Society in North Vancouver, BC. This year provided me the much needed space to reflect upon my person and work through the stresses of the pandemic, and to acquire pastoral counselling skills to better serve an adapting church. I left this program more equipped to journey with people facing struggles, and with a strengthened call to minister to those courageously leading in trying times. Thank you for this great blessing to receive the formation and support I needed to get through the anxiety of a global pandemic-it has made an incredible difference in my life." Rev. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford

In continuation of writing a PhD thesis, the support of the CEP Advanced Study keeps me motivated to continue learning and to keep up with the most current literature on collaborative leadership during transitional times in the church. Rev. Tanya Varner

While research in long-term care has been challenging, this year data collection has been in full swing. It is fascinating to hear how healthcare providers from different backgrounds experience awe in their personal and professional roles and how they seek to enact compassion in the care they provide to residents and families. I look forward to moving into the synthesis phase that explores the relationship between awe and compassion and how organizations might create cultures and environments to support this. I'm grateful for the Advanced Study Grant that helps make this research possible. Rev. Daranne Harris

For me, the study grant has afforded me the opportunity to study the art of Spiritual Direction, to delve into and integrate spirituality and Jungian teachings. Psycho-spiritual education in the Jungian, mystical, and Christian traditions. This has enabled spaciousness for and care of the soul. This work is of immediate benefit in my congregation and in our Arts and Spirit Centre but will help me serve in pastoral ministry wherever God calls. I will graduate in January 2023 and be a certified Spiritual Director. Rev. Fran Schmidt

The Advanced Study Grant has helped with funding for Spiritual Direction training through the Haden Institute. This training has allowed me grow in my own spiritual life, as well as provide tools to help with my pastoral ministry in the area of faith formation. Rev. Kevin Powell

My studies this year have continued to broaden my understanding of mental health and relationships. The things I'm learning in my courses are helping me to understand the ways in which our life experiences inform the way we interact with others and encounter the world. I'm learning about trauma, addictions, and attachment and now I'm seeing these things not only in

what I'm watching on Netflix, but also in people around me. It's all really fascinating -- and my learning is helping me to be more compassionate and gracious. Rev. Joanna Miller