

FRANCIS SANDY THEOLOGICAL CENTRE

Greetings to Toronto Conference:

Francis Sandy Theological Centre offers leadership training for aboriginal ministry. Our students serve in-community while attending three to five years of theological study at the centre in ordered or lay ministry. Learning Circles take place one week each month, ten months of the year on the beautiful grounds of Five Oaks Education Centre. We welcome inquirers as well as those seeking continuing education.

Students Brenda Duckworth and Phil Schuyler are candidates in the All Native Circle Conference (ANCC), serving in Wasauksing/Shawanaga and Oneida respectively. Phil will be featured in an upcoming *Mandate* article. Angela Whitwell is completing her discernment in Hamilton Conference and is in process of preparing for ministry in Wahta. Rheta Webb, inquirer, lives in Six Nations. We are pleased to announce that Georgina Elliott, in Lay Ministry at Cape Croker in Hamilton Conference, has been named Sacrament Elder and will graduate at our Annual Celebration in July 2010.

On staff, Kim Uyede-Kai is well into her one-year contract as Keeper of the Vision. Kim guides our students on their ministry pathways and helps keep us focused on our mission. FSTC will be seeking a half time Vision Keeper for 2011. Rheta Webb is our new Office Manager while Financial Administrator, Norma Cronkwright, keeps us on track. Brenda Simpson continues as Principal at Francis Sandy.

Learning Circles include themes on theology, pastoral care, polity, as well as aboriginal culture, history and spirituality. Animation of events such as *Native Peoples' Retreat* and workshop and worship at *More Franchises: A Second Cup*, give students opportunity to develop leadership skills. We continue *Affirming Relationships* of inclusion in April circle and in May our students and staff will attend *Journey Toward Healing Together- Responding to the Legacy of Residential Schools* at Jackson's Point. All are welcome at Friendship Tea, held monthly, Grandmother's Circle and Aboriginal Film Fest in September.

Our partnerships with Five Oaks, the Aboriginal Theological Schools and now the new Aboriginal Ministries Circle at General Council, are vital to our work. Francis Sandy is unique in our relationship with six Conferences: All Native Circle, Bay of Quinte, Hamilton, London, Montreal & Ottawa, and Toronto, who also serve the aboriginal communities in southwestern Ontario and western Quebec. This network as well as local urban aboriginal connections is woven into all aspects of our life and work. Cross-cultural connections continue to be important to our mission. This spring we are sharing with Waterloo First United, Waterloo Presbyterial, and Erindale UCW.

Among our Board of Directors Maggie McLeod will be missed, as she leaves the Chair, to take her new position as Executive Minister of the Aboriginal Ministries Circle. We welcome Peggy Monague as Chairperson of the Board. Representatives from Toronto and London Conference will be announced this spring. We are grateful to our Board and

our Conferences for supporting the vision of aboriginal ministry through the Francis
Sandy Theological Centre.

Your sister in spirit,

Brenda Simpson