



OTTAWA CAMPUS CHAPLAINCY

ENGAGING CHRIST, COMMUNITY & CULTURE

GEN Z AS LEADERS?



Handing out care packages put together by Calvin CRC's youth

by Ryan Farrell (Chaplain)

Generation Z, this current generation of university students and young adults, are sometimes thought of with suspicion. As a Millennial, I never appreciated others pigeonholing me and my peers into an entitled, lazy stereotype. Generation Z is so much more than a phone-addicted generation (although they probably wouldn't argue that phones can sometimes be an issue). It's been my joy to witness some of the different ways God is gifting them. I will share three examples from this past year with hopes it will inspire you.

Example #1. As the internship team and I discussed a sensitive issue it was not I, the (trained) chaplain, who came up with a solution. I was stumped. It was the interns themselves who concocted a better response than I could have imagined, who found a way to discuss the problem graciously with each other. I saw them work with a high level of emotional and pastoral sensitivity. I took notes!

Example #2. After a Feast & Faith discussion on Christianity and the environment the classic (and understandable) Generation Z hopelessness about the climate took off. During discussion time students were evidently overwhelmed and paralyzed, and the conversation became about a whole host of broader, global issues. It was one of the students who closed the discussion in a mic-drop moment as she exhorted her peers to convert their fears and passions into a vocational calling, with God's help to hone in on one or two issues. Going around the room she honoured a number of the students by pointing out the ways she already saw God at work in and through them and suggested ways they might be agents of redemption in the world. We ended with a prophetic word.



Worshipping together at our winter retreat

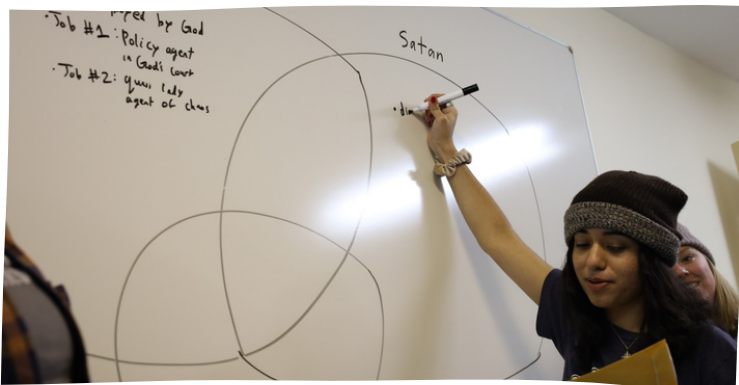
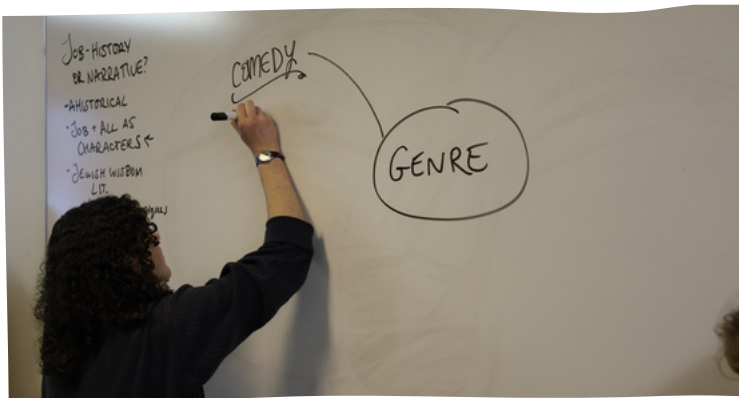
Continued on next page.

GEN Z AS LEADERS (cont'd)

Example #3. At our winter retreat we dove into the book of Job. And some of the most Spirit-filled teachers were not the ones who knew the definition of theodicy. On a sunny Saturday afternoon when other students were still in bed, these retreatants sat with the Scripture and combed through theological articles, biblical commentaries, and scholarly textbooks so that they could return together and share with one another what they learned about God's text. There were Venn diagrams and wacky illustrations and deeply resonant observations as these future leaders walked one another through the passages. They knew how to wrestle with Scripture and we were all blessed by each other's knowledge.

At the end of our retreat we shared some of our laments and difficulties since Job is an evocative book in this way. These students are struggling with some of the same problems many generations have grappled with in the past; and some issues that are distinctively different. But God is not done. The Spirit is still (and always has been) equipping people for the work of the Kingdom. There are certainly important factors we need to consider as to why Generation Z is underrepresented in our churches. I have been noticing through campus ministry that willingness, skill, and gifting are likely not the culprits. I don't quite know how to bridge the gap, but I do know I am excited for these young leaders to keep stepping into their callings.

Students put together charts and graphs to teach each other about theological themes from the Book of Job.



There were many laughs and snacks during our weekend away from the busyness of campus!

CREATING SPACE FOR GRAD STUDENTS

by Jacob MacDonald (Intern)

Supporters of OCC, I am writing to tell you about the **graduate student ministry** that we have been piloting this year. First a little about me! I grew up in Nova Scotia and did my undergraduate in Halifax in piano performance. During my time in university I became very involved in various campus ministries, eventually starting a Bible study within the music school. We saw God do amazing things through that group and my passion for campus ministries greatly developed.



I came to Ottawa last year to do a Master's in cello performance and started attending Feast and Faith. When I was approached about being an intern last summer, grad ministry came to mind, and I expressed to Chaplain Ryan my desire to create a space for Christian grad students to meet and study the Word together. **There are many Christian graduate students out there who don't quite feel at home** in some of the other ministries on campus that are more geared towards undergrads.

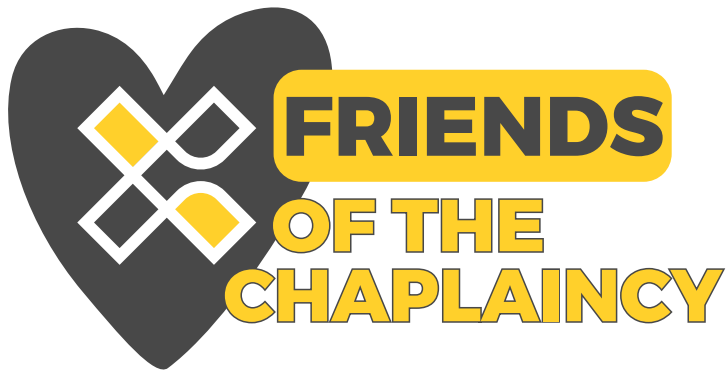
Launching this ministry this year has been such a blessing for me. The grad students who have attended have **expressed how lonely they feel in their fields**, and that within the graduate group they have been able to connect and feel surrounded by peers going through a similar stage of life. One of our grad students who has attended faithfully is a counselling PhD student who is the only Christian in her field of 24 other PhD counselling students. Another is a PhD biologist who has many times shared great insights with us on the Bible passage we're studying, and also one week brought his guitar and sang us an original song about Creation. It was incredibly moving!

As we've been working our way through the book of Mark while enjoying a slice of pizza, I've seen the Holy Spirit illumine Scripture and been amazed by how Scripture reveals the compassionate servant heart of Jesus and how He calls His followers to express their faith.

One of the highlights of the year was having Dr. Peter Schuurman come and talk about Global Scholars Canada with all the grad students. Over desserts we enjoyed a great discussion about the **importance of having a Christian network within academia** as a grad student or professor. This grad ministry has been such a blessing to me, and I pray that it will continue and expand next year and following!

Heading to Mer Bleue for a hike on nice April day





EMAIL UPDATES!

If you want to receive three to six emails a year, including a virtual copy of our newsletters and ministry updates, use the QR code below to sign up or visit OTTAWACAMPUSCHAPLAINCY.ORG/NEWS.



GIVE



Financial support is crucial to our presence on campus. Please consider giving. **Ways to give:**

1. **E-transfer and/or Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** to become a monthly donor. E-transfers can be made to ocrccbookkeeping@gmail.com and you can use the same email to set up PAR.
2. **Canada Helps** via our website. Click on the "Donate" tab or the link below.
3. **Cheque** via snail mail.

OTTAWACAMPUSCHAPLAINCY.ORG/DONATE

Cheques / gifts can be sent to:
OCC – 1475 MERIVALE RD.
OTTAWA, ON, K2E 5N9



PRAY

- For our next team of interns and student leaders next year!
- For the growing number of international and grad students in our midst.
- Continued growth into being a community of radical hospitality.
- That students would centre their life on the Way of Jesus in the academy, their vocation, in justice, in the public sphere.
- Sensitivity and ears to hear the Spirit's leadings into next academic year.

This spring & summer help us meet your students heading off to Carleton or uOttawa!

We want to share about campus ministry so freshman are ready when they arrive on campus in September. How? Maybe Ryan can bring pizza & conversations to your group of Grade 12s? We can also meet one-on-one in person or on Zoom with an incoming student or they can come visit us on campus!

Text **613.483.1222** or email chaplain@ottawacampuschaplaincy.org