

Study on the Apology to Deaconesses and Married Ordained Women

Images of Apology

Arrange a way to see the images found on UCCDeaconessHistory.ca, under the Disjoining Tab (either by printing them or electronically).

Use some or all of the images depending on your time. The activity could be done in either in small groups or the whole with sharing along the way or at the conclusion of reflection on an image. Give time for contemplation, this is not an exercise to rush through. It could also be a solitary exercise, without any group sharing. Adapt to your setting. Participants could be encouraged to keep notes, especially if using several images.

Invite reflection on each image using the following as a guide. Remind people that throughout this exercise they are to keep the themes of the workshop in mind.

- If this image was on a gallery wall, what title would you give it? Why?
- Does the image evoke a bible story? Or a hymn?
- If you were to place yourself in the picture, where would you be?
- If you were to place those women affected by the marriage bars in the picture, where would they be? Where would the United Church be?

Choose one of the following passages to go with each image. After reading the passage, ask:

- Does the image speak to you differently having heard this passage? How?

Peter came up to Jesus and asked, “How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?” Jesus answered: Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18: 21-22)

I know I distressed you greatly with my letter. Although I felt awful at the time, I don't feel at all bad now that I see how it turned out. The letter upset you, but only for a while. Now I'm glad—not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you away. The result was all gain, no loss. (2 Corinthians 7:8-9)

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. “The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees are the authorized interpreters of Moses' Law. So you must obey and follow everything they tell you to do; do not, however, imitate their actions, because they don't practice what they preach. They tie onto people's backs loads that are heavy and hard to carry, yet they aren't willing even to lift a finger to help them carry those loads. (Matthew 23: 1-4)

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2)

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. (Matthew 6:12)