

APPENDIX A: ALUMNI QUESTIONNAIRE

This Questionnaire was sent to students from COT and TEEC who had completed the Women's Studies course in previous years.

Instructions

Please fill in this questionnaire **as soon as you receive this**. Take time to fill it in as fully and carefully as possible. Feel free to write as much as you like for each question. Remember there is no correct or incorrect answer. If you feel uncomfortable with answering any of the questions, then feel free to leave it unanswered. Send it back to me in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by **31 August 2003**

It is now some time since you completed the Joint Board Women's Studies course. This questionnaire asks you to reflect on the impact of this course on your own life as well as on the lives of those with whom you work and minister. It will invite comment, critique and recommendations for the way the course and the entire learning programme could be changed, adjusted, improved to support women's growth and ministry more fully.

1. Personal background information

1.1 Name _____

1.2 Address _____

1.3 Telephone _____

1.4 E-mail (if available) _____

1.5 Age – tick the appropriate box.

- under 20 20-29 years 30-39 years 40-49 years
 50-59 years over 60 years

1.6 Tick whether you are:

- married single widowed divorced

1.7 Describe your family situation. For example, do you have children? If so, how many and how old are they? Are they boys or girls?

2. Church information

2.1 Which denomination/tradition do you belong to?

2.2 Give the name of your church and the address.

2.3 Describe your particular ministry in the church.

3. Theological education

3.1 Where did you study/are you studying theology?

3.2 Why did you choose to study theology?

3.3 If you have, when did you complete your theological education?

3.4 If you have not yet completed, how many courses have you completed and when do you expect to finish?

3.5 When did you complete the Women's Studies course?

3.6 Why did you choose to study the Women's Studies course?

3.7 Can you remember any of the feelings you had during the course? Describe them.

3.8 Describe briefly the impact the course has had on you.

4. Reflection on your own life and experiences

4.1 What have been some of the significant experiences and growth points in your life as a woman?

4.2 What have been some of the major struggles and challenges in your life as a woman?

4.3 Has the Women's Studies course made any difference to your attitude towards yourself as a woman, and the way that you think about yourself? Describe how.

4.4 Has the Women's Studies course made any difference to your attitude towards other women and the way you treat them? Describe how.

5. Reflection on women in your church

5.1 Tick which of the following roles women can perform in your church.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ordained minister | <input type="checkbox"/> a deacon/elder | <input type="checkbox"/> preach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teach Sunday school | <input type="checkbox"/> visit the sick | <input type="checkbox"/> cater for church functions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean the church/arrange flowers | | <input type="checkbox"/> fundraise for the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administer sacraments | <input type="checkbox"/> read the Scriptures during services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sing in the choir | <input type="checkbox"/> none of these | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

5.2 Do women in your church belong to different groups or organizations, e.g. the Anglican Women's Fellowship, the Women of St Anne in the Catholic church, the Baptist women's association etc? Name them and what they do.

5.3 Who leads the meetings?

5.4 Is there a chaplain or spiritual director for the organization?

- Yes No I don't know

5.5 If yes, who is it?

5.6 In the formal meetings, what are the main issues that the women discuss?

5.7 When they chat together after the formal meetings, what are the issues they discuss?

5.8 Do you think your church helps women to deal with the issues/problems in 5.7 above?

- Yes No

5.9 Tick whether you have heard a sermon preached in your church about any of the following topics?

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> rape | <input type="checkbox"/> wages of domestic workers | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prostitution | <input type="checkbox"/> sexuality | <input type="checkbox"/> depression |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mothering/parenting | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> stress |

5.10 Are there any activities in your church that focus on the above topics?

- Yes No

5.11 If yes, describe them in a few sentences and how you think they help women.

5.12 In what way did the Women's Studies course present a challenge to **your church's** ideas, attitudes and practices towards women?

5.13 In what way did the Women's Studies course challenge **your own** ideas, attitudes and practices towards women in your church?

5.14 Did the Women's Studies course provoke you to any action? If so, describe what kind action.

6. Reflection on your ministry in the church

6.1 What is your role/ministry in the church? In a few lines, describe your tasks.

6.2 What are some of the difficulties you have experienced in this ministry?

6.3 What have been some of the highlights of your ministry?

6.4 What/Who has supported you in your ministry?

6.5 How do you think the Woman's Studies course has helped you in your ministry?

7. Your views on leadership and authority

7.1 Tick which of the following apply to you.

- I like the father to be the head of the house. Then there is a clear authority and one person makes all the decisions
- I would never challenge a rule or a decision in public, but I would discuss my dissatisfaction with my family and friends
- The church or any organization has to have some rules.
- When I don't agree with the rules or decisions made by the church or an organization, I usually try and find ways to get around them or avoid them
- The rules and decisions of the church and institutions are made by people who know better than I do, and they are usually right
- If I believe a rule is wrong I am usually confident enough to challenge the authorities about it
- Men make better decisions because they are more rational than women
- I don't regard any authority as having the answers; instead I make my own decisions based on my own experiences, feelings and intuitions
- The priest/minister/pastor should be in control of the people in the church
- Decision-making should be shared by both husband and wife, and the children should be included

7.2 List 5 qualities you think a church leader should have.

7.3 Do you know any women who are in a leadership position in the church?

- Yes No

7.4 If yes, would you describe them as a good or a bad leader?

- Good Bad

7.5 If good, which of the qualities that you described in question 7.2 do they have?

7.6 If you were a leader what leadership qualities would you try to live up to?

7.7 Did the Woman's Studies course contribute in any way to your present views on leadership in the church?

8. About the college/university/theology department

8.1 From what you remember, are students involved in decisions that are made at your theological college/theology department?

- Yes No I don't know

8.2 Do women and men participate equally in the life of the college/university/theology department?

- Yes No I don't know

8.3 Are there women on the staff?

- Yes No I don't know

8.4 Are there women on the board/council?

- Yes No I don't know

8.5 Are there students represented on the board of the college/university?

- Yes No I don't know

8.6 Tick which of the following you remember about the college/theology department.

- Staff understand the lives of the students and their problems
- Special attention is given to women students in the college/theology department
- Students can share their particular problems and needs with the college/theology department
- Communication (letters, personal meetings, conversations) from the college/theology department encourage me as a woman student
- Students are free to offer their opinions about the college/theology department e.g. the courses, the teaching, marking, the administration etc.

8.7 If you have ticked any, please explain how it happens.

8.8 What aspects of the leadership and management of the college/theology department do/did you like, or respond well to?

8.9 What aspects of the leadership or management of the college/theology department do/did you feel uncomfortable, with or dislike?

8.10 Did the Woman's Studies course contribute to the way you view the exercise of leadership in your college/theology department?

9. Your ideas about theology

9.1 Describe what God means to you in a few lines.

9.2 How do you feel about calling God 'mother'?

9.3 Can you explain your feelings?

9.4 In the story of creation in Genesis 2:18, the woman is identified as man's helper. Is this how you like to describe your role as a woman in the family, and in the church?

Yes No

9.5 If no, explain why you don't think so.

9.6 Tick the statements that you **agree** with.

- Sex is a sign of our sinful nature
- The soul is more important than the body
- Sex is a gift to be celebrated and enjoyed
- Menstruation and childbearing pollute women
- One shouldn't pay attention to the body because it is really the soul that counts
- A woman's body tempts men so it should be well covered
- A female body is worthy

9.7 How do you understand each of the following texts?

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28) (NIV)

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach, or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. (1 Timothy 2:11-12) (NIV)

9.8 From what you know, fill in the following chart about people in the history of the church. (Don't worry if you cannot complete it.)

Names of important men in the history of the church	Names of important women in the history of the church
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.

9.9 Do you think women are oppressed by the Christian religion?

- Yes Sometimes Never Not sure

9.10 If yes or sometimes, in what way?

9.11 Did the Woman's Studies course contribute in any way to the way you think about:

- (a) God
- (b) Scripture
- (c) The church

(a)

(b)

(c)

10. The things you know about, as a woman

10.1 Have you, or a woman who is close to you, experienced any of the following?

- giving birth
- breastfeeding
- caring for children
- any form of abuse
- any form of injustice because you are a woman
- poverty
- disability
- premenstrual tension
- post natal depression
- menopause

10.2 Which of these experiences did you discuss, write about, or read about as part of your theological studies?

10.3 Do you think these topics should be included in a study of theology?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

10.4 If no, why?

10.5 If yes, which other topics concerning women's lives should be included?

11. About how you learn

11.1 When you are invited to speak in a meeting, a group or in class, how do you feel?
You may tick more than one.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confident | <input type="checkbox"/> Embarrassed | <input type="checkbox"/> Stupid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uncomfortable | <input type="checkbox"/> Frightened | <input type="checkbox"/> Challenged |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excited | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy |

11.2 Tick which of the following statements apply to you.

When you are in a class or a tutorial do you:

- Contribute to the discussion and express your own opinions freely
- Say little, but listen carefully to the lecturer/teacher, and take down notes for study
- Prefer to learn from your own experience and feelings, rather than from books and lectures
- Ask critical questions and constantly evaluate whether the information from the lecturer/teacher or book is accurate
- Listen with interest to other people's views and learn from them
- Sit quietly and speak to no-one about anything
- Enjoy the challenge of other ideas and problem-solving, as well as sharing your own insights
- Talk to a friend about the issues after class
- Remain silent because what you say is often ridiculed or not understood
- Feel you have something to say but can't quite find the words
- See the links between the discussion in the class to your own experience but feel too shy to share it
- Use the information gained in class in your family, work situation or church
- Other responses

11.3 Think about **two** things you have learnt to do, that you enjoyed learning. Don't only think about formal learning, but it could be when you learnt to do something practical, e.g. cook food, change a car tyre, care for a baby.

11.4 What made it a positive learning experience for you?

11.5 At your theological college, did you have any similar positive learning experiences?

- Yes, often Sometimes No, never

11.6 If yes/sometimes, describe what made them positive.

11.7 If no, why do you think this is so?

11.8 Tick which of the following views you agree with.

- The teacher is always the expert on the subject.
 Learning is best done with other people sharing their knowledge.
 A teacher is a person who facilitates learning.

11.9 Did the Woman's Studies course help you discover other ways of learning? Mention them and whether you have continued to use them in your life/work/ministry.

12. From your experience in ministry now, how could the Women's Studies course have been changed/improved so that it better supported you (a) in your own growth as a woman, and (b) in your ministry. Any comments, criticisms or recommendations will be welcomed.

(a) _____

(b) _____

13. Any other comments you would like to make.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please send it back to me by 31 August 2003.