

This month's minute for Grace is on CGIT.

WHAT IS CGIT?

CGIT stands for Canadian Girls In Training. This Canadian movement started in 1915 for girls 12-17 years old. It was started by the YWCA as a mid-week alternative to the Girl Guide Movement. It provided activities based on Christian values. The YWCA recruited local teachers and Sunday school teacher to start groups in churches across Canada. CGIT expanded rapidly. By 1933 there were groups in 1,100 communities and 44,000 members.

Grace and Westminster Churches were no exception, both congregations had active CGIT groups. Grace's group started in 1916 with 12 girls. Sorry Westminster folks, if the start date for your group was in the archives I missed it. Can you believe there were 120 girls in CGIT at Grace Church alone in 1920! Our groups were affiliated with the WMS until 1962 when the WMS and WA joined to become the UCW. By the 50th Anniversary of CGIT in 1965, the number of girls participating had decreased significantly. When Grace and Westminster churches amalgamated, one joint CGIT group was all that was required. Grace-Westminster continued to have a CGIT group until 1991.

Like many church-based programs, the number of CGIT groups has decreased. There are now about 150 groups with 2000 members in Canada.

CGIT Motto

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man." Luke 2:52.

WHAT DID THE GIRLS DO AT CGIT?

The CGIT program recognizes that every girl is unique. It assists girls to grow in their faith, build upon their strengths, and develop their leadership abilities. CGIT activities included music, games, bible studies, drama, banquets, speakers, camps, conferences and a candlelit Christmas Vesper Service.

The CGIT program has expanded to countries all around the world and raised thousands of dollars for worthwhile throughout the world.

WHAT WAS THE UNIFORM?

CGIT even had their own uniform. It was adopted in 1919. Middies were a common clothing item for girls when CGIT was started. The uniform included a white middie with a dark collar, a dark tie, a friendship badge and a dark skirt. Senior girls were given a white lanyard to wear and leaders wore a blue lanyard. In 1930 the CGIT Friendship Knot (a four-cornered knot representing the kinship with the four corners of the world and the four aspects of the CGIT purpose) became the acceptable knot for the tie.

WHAT WAS THE CGIT PURPOSE?

As a Canadian girl in training
Under the leadership of Jesus
It is my purpose to
Cherish Health
Seek Truth
Know God
Serve Others
And thus, with His help,
Become the Girl God would have me be.