

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE
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Dear friends of the Living Skies Regional Council,

Greetings in name of the Holy One,



Chapel Rainbow Tapestry

It has been quite year for all of us. I have had the honour to connect with alum, friends and students from across the country. In these conversations, both in-person and remote, there have been many paradoxes present. Hope has been visible even in the reality of the pandemic. Joy has been evident even in the challenges of the fentanyl crisis. There has been resilience even in the context of forces and voices that have served to challenge the common good and our social democracy.

It is in these places that St. Andrew's continues to journey with leaders who are called to bear Light and Good News. This is a faithful pursuit. It is an honour to bring this annual greeting to you as you gather to do the righteous work of our United Church.

When we spoke last year, the College had begun to address an existential financial crisis that led to both an acceleration of our 2020 Strategic Plan¹ and to some extremely difficult restructuring decisions. Since then, much has unfolded. As in all paradox, there is indeed celebration in the midst of change, which is sometimes well received and at other times disruptive. I hope the following, therefore, imparts some of the significant work and changes for St. Andrew's.

In the last year, the College has engaged with our Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) partners to deepen our relationship in significant and substantive ways. This has included conversations that have ranged from our academic commitments to the realities of administration and governance alignment among St. Andrew's, the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

As I write to you, the Union has held a Covenanting Ceremony² and has just completed an academic retreat. Arising from these important milestones, we are now completing proposals for new integrated academic MDiv & MTS degrees. These new programmes place the context of the student at the centre of an ecumenical experience, which deeply enhances previous collaborations. In turn, we are finalising a framework for a shared STU Faculty, which will nurture a culture of scholarship and interdisciplinary educational opportunity for students. As these degrees receive approval from the appropriate bodies, beginning in May, the STU Faculty will finalise courses and syllabi for this intensive-based endeavour. Recruitment will

¹ <https://standrews.ca/our-community/about/strategic-plan/>

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXz1Wrrioq4>

begin in May for a soft launch in the winter of 2023. We look forward to being up to full steam beginning in fall 2023!

As St. Andrew's innovates with our STU partners in the Academic Pathway, I am just as excited to share the further work of the Academic Redesign Team (ART). ART has also been passionately, creatively and substantively developing a new Lifelong Learning Pathway. The Team includes United Church partners, alum, and an Educational Consultant from the University of Saskatchewan. ART has been developing learning opportunities for lay and ordered ministry. They are creating a learning ecosystem that ranges from condensed workshops to new certificates. At the centre of this new Pathway will be the learner and their context. I am confident that this new Pathway will allow the College to not only recruit and educate our traditional United Church family but will also include people from ecumenical and secular sectors who are hoping to connect their spiritual journey with their work and vocation.

At the moment, the timeline for the deployment of the Lifelong Learning Pathway is similar to the Academic. The first certificate – *Leadership in the Faith Community* – will be launched in the same timeline as the new Academic Pathway. It is further anticipated that the other two certificates (*Leadership in the World* and *Spiritual Exploration*) will be launched in 2024.

The three certificates being developed are listed below and are accompanied by initial draft descriptions. All three of these Certificates build in core competencies which will allow students to progress, if they so desire, into the graduate level degree programs of St. Andrew's College, such as the Master of Divinity or Master of Theological Studies.

- The *Leadership in the Faith Community* (LFC) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for all members of a faith community (lay or ordered) who are involved in Christian ministry. The LFC Certificate program supports lifelong learners to grow and deepen their skills in contextual theological reflection and the practice(s) of ministry, while assessing and documenting this growth through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.
- The *Leadership in the World* (LW) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for professionals, community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and social justice activists/advocates working for a better world. The LW Certificate program supports lifelong learners to explore their sense of vocation or “calling” and deepen their leadership skills, while assessing and documenting their development through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.
- The *Spiritual Exploration* (SE) Certificate is a non-credit, competency-based program of active learning and reflection, designed for all who identify as “spiritual but not religious” or spiritually curious/adventurous. The SE Certificate program supports lifelong learners to delve into a wide range of worldview conversations and spiritual practices, while assessing and documenting their exploration and growth through a personalized study plan, learning portfolio, and intentional mentorship.

There is indeed much to celebrate at St. Andrew's! The College is relying heavily on our Strategic Plan. Though the timelines have been accelerated by the pressures of the past year, we are intentionally pursuing a course upon which Spirit has invited us. To that end, we are happy to provide the Regional Council (and its Communities of Faith) opportunities to support the vital work which we do. Here are several concrete development programs we would like you to consider and share widely:

- The 2021 #NoGalaGala

Last year's event featured our previous Registrar, Greg Torwalt. Greg is a successful recording artist and founding member of the band Too Soon Monsoon. This concert is still available online for exclusive viewing by ticketholders, and contains music, conversation, and guest appearances that include student reflections and an introductory meditation with our Pastor in Residence, Janet Clarke.³

Stay tuned for news about the 2022 #NoGalaGala, which will feature the art and music of one of the College's most recent Honorary Doctorate recipients, Brenda Baker. Recording for the September 9th premiere will begin this summer

- Companions of the College

This initiative builds upon the College's ongoing commitment to develop deeper relationships with supporters and friends. College Companions are those who have committed to support the college, on an annual basis, at one of two initial tiers:

1. Cypress: \$500/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 10% annually; and,
2. Tamarack: \$1 000/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 5% annually.

This initiative invites new donors to give at these levels; existing supporters, at either of these two-tier levels, are invited to commit to the annual increase. Each tier will have access to ongoing new digital content, which the College has and will continue to create:

1. Cypress: This donor level will have access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library. This resource allows individuals and faith communities to download and/or stream full worship services developed by members of St. Andrew's. Currently there are 6 worship services, which range from thematic to stand-alone. The college will be adding at least 2–3-year new worship experiences per year; and,
2. Tamarack: At this donor tier, supporters will receive access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library and exclusive access to all previous and future #NoGalaGala events. Currently the college has hosted two online premieres and intends to have 1-2-year.

If you or your faith community want to know more about this exciting initiative and the digital resources which accompany the tiers, please contact Melanie Schwanbeck, College Secretary, melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

- College Sunday Digital Library

St. Andrew's College has a long tradition of visiting communities of faith, large and small, to bring greetings, share the Gospel, and strengthen our bonds with the wider church. The covid era has invited us to consider innovative ways to continue that tradition, and so we are pleased to offer our new College Sunday digital resources. These include a growing digital library of full worship services, including sermons, hymns, liturgical notes, and conversation-starter questions. Current themes include leadership, stewardship, compassion, vocation, humility, and much more. For more

³ <https://standrews.ca/donate/donate-now/> and choose NoGalaGala

information, contact Melanie Schwanbeck at the College office melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

- Classroom Enhancement Initiative

As the college prepares for renewal over the coming years, we are also continuing to update our classrooms to offer hybrid learning. This will allow students to learn together whether onsite or remotely. Please consider giving to the College's *Second Century Fund*.

In Christ,
Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal

DESIGNATED LAY MINISTRY: A PROGRAM IN FLUX

Currently, the DLM program has a total of 20 students enrolled from across Canada, literally "from Bonavista to Vancouver Island" with all provinces except Alberta represented in between. They serve in congregations as diverse as a church in downtown Toronto, a three-point charge in rural Newfoundland (one point requires a boat to access), and a congregation nestled in a South-western Ontario farming community. Sixteen students are actively completing program requirements while we have the pleasure of honouring four graduates this year. Congratulations to Jenn Brown, Susan Hutton, Jeri-Lee Jones, and James Martin-Carter.

The switch to remote learning in March 2020 brought both change and opportunity. For the past two years we have engaged in completely online learning: for each themed learning circle, students have spent five weeks reading assigned articles and books and discussing their responses online followed by an intensive ten days on Zoom comprising presentations, roundtable and small-group discussions, and in-circle assignments such as sermons or workshops for the whole learning community.

While students have missed the in-person gatherings, shared meals, and late-night conversations at Laura's Lodge, a tourist hotel across from the College, they have also benefited by learning from such leaders as the Rev. Alf Dumont, author of *The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge*; John Pentland, author of *Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith*; the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, the very Rev. Richard Bott, and Adele Halliday, Anti-Racism and Equity Lead, United Church of Canada. Faculty from St. Andrew's College such as the Rev. Dr. Sandra Beardsall, Dr. Lynn Caldwell, Dr. Christine Mitchell, and Dr. Becca Whitla have offered leadership in one or more of the five online learning circles. We have been joined by the Rev. Robin King speaking about social media and worship and this past March by the Rev. Cathy Coates, the Rev. Janet Clarke, and the Rev. Shelly Manley-Tannis who all brought wisdom and expertise to the topic of "Caring for Community." The program team has taken advantage of the pandemic to expose learners to a wide range of virtual learning opportunities.

Each zoom learning circle has included a graduation worship service at which Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis, the program team, and the director have offered reflections on the graduating students' ministries. I remain in awe of the wisdom, leadership, and care offered by the program team leaders, the Rev. Mary-Jo Tracy and Marc Grenon. They are integral to the students' learning.

Our gathering for the upcoming learning circle, “The Community’s Story, in October 2022 will be bittersweet. While the students and program team look forward to meeting in person at St. Andrew’s College for the first time ever, the future of the program is unknown. As commissioners to General Council 44 study and debate the future of Designated Lay Ministry as part of proposal GCE06 “Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of the Church in the 2020s,” applications for 2023 have been suspended, effective December 1, 2022. Along with all our siblings in Christ, however, we know we are not alone. St. Andrew’s College is changing and so is our denomination. More important, however, we live in God’s world, and, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we move together into a future in which we continue to be and minister with the body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
(the Rev. Dr.) Kathleen James-Cavan
Director, Designated Lay Ministry Program

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES



A Year of Planning for the New

Pandemic – *It was certainly not going away...*

Spring – New Rhythms

By the spring of 2021 staff had found rhythms of working together while working from our homes. We became quite adept at meeting through Zoom for staff meetings, committee meetings, student and mentor and field orientations, and we also made sure to schedule meetings with each other just to chat like we would if we were in the office together. Students were also becoming more comfortable and resourceful with online learning and we have been impressed with the ways students have worked creatively with their field sites to meet their learning goals under ongoing health restrictions.

This year we also held our Annual Service of Celebration online which allowed friends and family of the graduates to participate from across Canada.

Summer – New faces

This summer we ran our first UCC Admission Orientation program for ministers entering the church from other denominations. People joined online from time zones in Canada, India, Korea, Kenya, Congo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This meant people were joining the learning circle from every part of the day – morning, afternoon, evening and late into the night. Our Learning on Purpose circle was held for the first time online in August. Donors to the Matching Gift Campaign supported the development and implementation of this new way of offering the LoP. We learned from student feedback how to create space during the intensive learning circles for time to work independently away from the screen while also offering students opportunities to meet informally so they could chat about all the non-school stuff that matters to them. And, importantly, staff enjoyed valuable vacation time. We took advantage of the easing of COVID restrictions to visit family and friends throughout July and August.

Fall – Changes coming and other new things

Our learning circles continued to be online, including: Integration Year, Culture and Identity, and Right Relations. The Right Relations learning circle was a joint circle with Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre and CCS. It was designed and led collaboratively with the staff from both schools. This collaboration allowed staff from both schools to learn from each other's teaching methods, but best of all was the opportunity to talk and laugh together. Right Relations was the first learning circle we ran in a hybrid format with sixteen people participating in person and sixteen people participating online. Some students proceeded with field placements, while others focused on external courses, which were widely available online.

In the fall Michelle and David both announced that they would be leaving CCS to pursue other ministry callings. Michelle returned to congregational ministry in London Ontario and David has begun the discernment process to enter ordained ministry in the Church of England. This set in motion the search process for two new additions to the CCS staff team and the announcement that Ken Delisle would serve as Interim Principal for the first half of 2022.

Progress **Education**

We continued to innovate online pedagogy – the UCC Admission Orientation and Right Relations circles are just two examples. We held 11 Learning Circles online, including four circles that had never been offered online: Culture and Identity, Right Relations, Grief and Loss, and Ministry as Community Building. We continued with free-of-charge public workshops with our CCS Fridays series, exploring topics including How to Host an Online AGM, The Pandemic of Racism, Profiles of Diakonia, Indigenous Testamur, Unanswered Questions about 9/11, and Transgressive Devotion. Members of our learning community presented and participated at conferences including Diakonia of the UCC and Anglican Deacons Canada gatherings (attended by Lori, Michelle, Janet, Marcie). Janet and Michelle attended an online conference on Asian Women's Theology. David attended an online conference with a diaconal network in the UK.

Justice

Staff and students remain committed to ministry education that lives a theology of justice. One aspect of this is our continued practice of revising assigned reading lists with an anti-racist, decolonial lens. Carrying on from last year, we are stringently assessing the whiteness of our assigned authors, and making changes, circle by circle. We do this with the understanding that auditing readings is not a box to be checked, but it is an ongoing practice we are committed to.

We understand that striving for anti-racist and decolonized education is not only about readings. When inviting chaplains, guest speakers, resource people, and education partners for learning circles we are prioritizing people of colour and Indigenous people.

Connecting

Our partnership with the social media firm, Strategic Charm, enables us to stay connected with old friends and reach new folks through Instagram and Facebook.

Our online learning circles have provided an opportunity for people to try a CCS learning circle who might not have otherwise made the journey to Winnipeg. This includes continuing studies students from the US, but it also includes continuing studies students from across Canada. The same is true for our CCS Fridays – in the past these were only available to those who make it to Woodsworth House at noon on a Friday. Now we regularly see people from across the country and occasionally we are visited by someone in the US or further abroad.

Community

The CCS community includes a vast group of generous donors and engaged alumni. As an example of our community engagement we saw a 48% response rate to the donor survey – most organizations don't receive more than 20% response rate. This year donor generosity supported the project to put the LoP online. The fact that they gave almost the same amount in 2021 as 2020 shows an outstanding outpouring of generosity when we were expecting to have some financial losses.

Students are persisting in their ministry formation during this protracted experience of distancing and Covid health precautions. They support each other as they support their local communities. It has been a tiring and challenging year – that is undeniable. But students remain engaged, inspired, and motivated to keep transforming themselves and the world around them.

We are blessed with collaborative, generative partners, including:

- Anglican and United Churches
- Diakonia of The United Church of Canada
- Anglican Deacons
- Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean
- Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members,
- Council and Committee volunteers
- St Andrew's College
- St Stephen's College
- Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
- Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Year Book, Financial Statements and Annual Report may be found at:
<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-Year-Book.pdf>

On behalf of Ken Delisle and
 The Centre for Christian Studies

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Annual Report to United Church of Canada Regions

Greetings from Atlantic School of Theology!

Atlantic School of Theology continued to offer a full slate of courses and programs in the last year, adjusting constantly to COVID-19 protocols and norms, just as the churches have done. All courses were delivered online or in a hybrid format. We enjoyed a strong number of new applications, and our total enrollment hovers around the 180 person mark.

Three faculty members were called and appointed to tenure track positions: Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, Rev. Dr. Andy O'Neill, and Dr. Evangeline Kozitza Dean. We are delighted by the rich knowledge, experience, and skill that these scholars bring to our teaching team. 2021 brought a change in senior leadership, as Rev. Canon Neale Bennet retired as President. Dr. Tim O'Neill has been called as our Interim President, and we have commenced the search for a new long term president to serve from mid-2023 onward.



2021 saw the launch of our newest program, the Diploma in Missional Leadership. The first cohort is comprised of United Church persons serving in active ministry. The next cohort will launch in 2023. Our Continuing Education programs ranged from “Progressive Approaches to the Bible” to “Decolonizing Theology,” and were all delivered online. AST’s Camino Nova Scotia pilgrimage program took place in beautiful Cape Breton Island this year.

Deep gratitude goes out to our United Church of Canada partners, from the General Council to the Regions to the local churches and ministers where our students are serving and are supervised. We continue to seek to be responsive to the emerging needs of the church as we serve God’s world together.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell
Academic Dean

EMMANUEL COLLEGE



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Spring 2022

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring. It is my hope and prayer that your meeting goes well and that you experience God’s presence and blessing in this important work of the church. As Interim Principal, I write to share news of various aspects of life at Emmanuel College.

The search process for Emmanuel’s new Principal is in its final stages. My term will close at the end of June and the College’s new Principal will begin July 1, 2022.

2021-22 has been our second full academic year offered through pandemic-related remote delivery. After a brief taste of in-person gatherings and community life at the beautiful Victoria University campus in fall 2021, we had high hopes of returning to in-person learning this past January. Regrettably, due to the rise of the Omicron variant we were forced to remain online for the winter term and will have our summer course offerings online as well. Emmanuel staff and faculty have adapted well and continued to offer excellent pedagogical, community & spiritual life & student service experiences throughout the pandemic in this online format. We are exploring ways to incorporate the best of the online experience as we move forward into predominately in-person experiences in fall 2022.

Emmanuel College’s accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools has been renewed for another 10 years. Emmanuel received a very positive report from the ATS, commending us on the hard work of interreligious theological education in a triply-embedded school. Emmanuel College is blessed and challenged by the three significant relationships we share with Victoria University, Toronto School of Theology, and University of Toronto.

These relationships made the re-accreditation process particularly arduous, but under the fine leadership of Nevin Reda, it was successful and we were well prepared for the ATS Team visit in September. They were very impressed with our self-study and complimented those responsible for it. In doing this work at Emmanuel College, we have become aware of areas where we need to make changes. We think these changes will strengthen the College and enhance its work as an educational institution preparing individuals for various forms of ministry and service.

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students.

Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. programme and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada's candidacy pathway process. All incoming domestic full-time students are eligible for our **Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first year courses**. The application deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programmes, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison (emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca)

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online.

These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and its Contexts. This past academic year featured The "Things They Didn't Teach Me in Seminary" Seminar Series, which was developed to bridge the gap between academy and church. M.Div. students could take this series for credit, while engaging with continuing education participants who were ministers in the field. The Centre will host its second Annual symposium entitled "Re-thinking Preaching," in April. It will also host the third annual "Christian Left Conference" with a focus on Creation, Land and Indigeneity in August. A list of upcoming offerings are found on the Emmanuel College web site at <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/>. For further information about these events and about applying, please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

Please follow us on social media:

Facebook:	@EmmanuelCollegeofVic
Twitter:	@EmmanuelColleg2
Instagram:	@emmanuelcollegetoronto
Youtube:	@EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Yours sincerely,
Rev. Dr. John H. Young,
Interim Principal