

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consent Recommendation

There are no consent recommendations.

Recommendation No. 1

That the General Assembly concur with the actions of the Board of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, in agreeing to the new Memorandum of Understanding between The Montreal School of Theology and McGill University. (see p. 22.1.7)

REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

INTRODUCTION

2015 marked the 150th anniversary of Presbyterian College. It was an event-filled and forward-looking year in the life of the college as the board, faculty and staff worked together at implementing and strengthening the initiatives that grew out of the college's strategic plan of 2014. Also, a major change in our relationship with McGill University, which is described below, has been approved by the boards of all three colleges, the Board of The Montreal School of Theology and the Senate of McGill. It is expected that the documents will have been signed by the time of this General Assembly. We begin with an overview of the college's place in the church's task of theological education, and then move on to describe the year that was.

OVERVIEW

The Presbyterian College, Montreal, is part of the Montreal School of Theology/École Théologique de Montréal, an ecumenical body consisting of three autonomous theological colleges affiliated with McGill University. Students of the School are registered at one of the denominational colleges (Presbyterian College, United Theological College or the Montreal Diocesan Theological College) as well as at McGill. Through participation in a community of scholars, students engage in a variety of theological studies. The final year of the Master of Divinity program is an intensive year of supervised pastoral formation, during which students integrate theology and ministry, dividing their time between the study of pastorally-oriented disciplines and the exercise of ministry. While the curriculum is thoroughly ecumenical, students are also formed in the ethos of their own ecclesial tradition as each college engages in worship according to its particular traditions, and provides courses, seminars and retreats designed to foster spiritual life and denominational identity. In addition to academic work and congregational experience, Presbyterian College places a strong emphasis on learning within community. But the learning does not end with graduation. Through its unique mentoring program, Presbyterian College follows its graduates, offering them a group mentoring program that helps them grow and succeed in the challenging world of church and society.

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 150th Anniversary celebrations included an ongoing pictorial display in the foyer showing the many changes in the life of the college over 150 years; a celebratory dinner held at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul; a historical visit to Mount Royal Cemetery where many prominent Presbyterians are buried and whose stories were retold by a knowledgeable guide; a joint event on the theme of *Sola Scriptura*, co-sponsored by the college as part of its 150th anniversary and by the Committee on History as part of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, with guest presenter Edith Humphrey of Pittsburgh Seminary. On October 31, a highlight of the year occurred – the launching of the college's anniversary publication, *Still Voices—Still Heard*. This is a history book with a difference. It tells the stories of 13 individuals who were of great importance in the life of the college. It also contains a list of all known graduates of the college since 1865, plus faculty members, recipients of an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree and others who had an impact on the college and the mission of the church. The college wishes to express its thanks to J.S.S. Armour, Judith Kashul, William Klempa, Lucille Marr and Dan Shute, the editors of the book.

DR. IAN VICTOR

The year began with the sad news of the death of the Rev. Dr. Ian Victor at the end of 2014. His life and ministry were recognized at last year's General Assembly and, in honour of Dr. Victor, the college established the Ian Victor Pastors to Pastors Initiative. This memorial fund will carry forward Ian's deep concern for clergy support and

renewal, and it will help fund the Pastors of Excellence program that the college is planning to bring to Canada if negotiations with Ashland Seminary in Ohio are successful.

NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MCGILL UNIVERSITY

2015 also marked the year of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with McGill University. For the last 20 years, the University of McGill has been concerned that the Faculty of Religious Studies was too small to be financially or educationally viable, and has considered making it a School of Religious Studies within the Faculty of Arts. After several months of negotiation, and with the advice of legal counsel, the Montreal School of Theology agreed to a new memorandum of understanding. (see below.) The memorandum confirms McGill's commitment to maintain a theology program in partnership with the Montreal School of Theology. The School of Religious Studies will have its own Director who will be responsible to the Dean of Arts. The principals of the three colleges continue to sit on the Bachelor of Theology committee and maintain significant representation on the committee. The four academic chairs established under the 1948 agreement remain in place.

With the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between McGill and the Montreal School of Theology, new opportunities arise for Presbyterian College. By the 1948 agreement, each college could only register students from their own denomination who were studying toward ordination. The new Memorandum of Understanding allows the colleges to enroll students from a variety of denominations who are studying for any form of Christian ministry. This means that students who are taking the Bachelor of Theology as a first degree could enroll in the college. Students completing the Bachelor of Theology who decide to go on to ordained ministry could then proceed to the Master of Sacred Theology and to the In-Ministry Year, as an equivalent to the Master of Divinity. This would mean that students would spend six years of theological formation at the college rather than the traditional three years. Given that many people who come into ministry today do not necessarily have the theological background that students from a previous era had, this provides the opportunity to gain the theological foundation and Christian formation that is key to effective ministry.

This provision of the Memorandum of Understanding also means that students who are not intending to go into ordained ministry could take a Bachelor of Theology that allows for a minor in leadership with the Desautels School of Business. This would be ideal training for those desiring to serve with Non-Governmental Organizations, or who would like to work in international relations or other areas of service.

Students may also enroll in the Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) as a graduate degree and do so through Presbyterian College. The S.T.M. has been reshaped into a 12-month program. This would be an ideal course of study for international students, and the college is in the process of inviting such students who will become part of our new Faith to Faith-Face to Face program, a program focused on interfaith studies.

The Memorandum of Understanding, therefore, allows Presbyterian College to enlarge its area of recruitment and to increase its own revenue stream since all students registered at the college fall under the waiver agreement with McGill, and they will pay their tuition directly to the college. (Presbyterian College pays a flat fee of \$20,000 to McGill and can enroll any number of students for that cost.)

It is envisioned that there will be a three-year period of transition from a Faculty of Religious Studies to a School of Religious Studies within McGill's Faculty of Arts. A transition team has been established and a member of the Montreal School of Theology sits on that team. At the present time there is a good spirit of cooperation and there appears to be a sincere desire to make this move an opportunity to create an arrangement that helps both McGill and the Montreal School of Theology to achieve their respective missions.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The School of Religious Studies

1. The Faculty of Religious Studies (the "FRS") shall become the School of Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts (the "School"). The School shall be the successor unit of the Faculty of Divinity as established in 1948 and shall exercise in continuity the prior rights, obligations and functions of the Faculty of Religious Studies. It shall be the primary academic unit for teaching and research in the field of religious studies, including religions and theology as fields of scholarly interest.
2. The School of Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts shall continue the functions of the Faculty of Religious Studies as the University's primary academic instrument for maintaining and fulfilling its on-going

relations with the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, the Presbyterian College, the United Theological College and Montreal School of Theology (the “MST”). Those relations continue to be defined in the “1948 Agreement” as modified and supplemented from time to time by mutual agreement, notably, but not exclusively, the “Trigger Report” (approved, Board of Governors, 14 June 1999 [ED98-121]) (the “Agreements”).

The B.Th. Programme and Masters Programmes

3. The University shall make reasonable efforts to maintain and enhance teaching and research in the field of religious studies. MST and the University shall work together on the B.Th. programme, which shall continue to be granted under that name, so that:

- (a) It can reflect changes in contemporary theological education in a pluralistic society;
- (b) It can provide and enhance theological education in the global context for the Colleges; and
- (c) Options could be developed within the B.Th. programme to support ministerial education, as well as cooperative programmes with other University disciplines, such as management and leadership, pastoral care in health services, education, law, and social work.

4. The Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) programme, including curriculum and admissions decisions, shall be administered and governed by the School, under the guidance of the B.Th. Committee.

5. Subject to section 6, courses that are required for MST’s degree programmes shall not be discontinued only as a result of a small number of enrolled students. There shall be a sufficient number of required and complementary courses to allow students to complete the requirements of the M.Div. years 1 and 2 through the 60 credits B.Th. Programme, normally within two years, in a logical sequence.

6. Essential biblical languages courses (Koine Greek and Hebrew) will be offered with sufficient frequency to permit degree completion in the normally allotted time, and to be available as credits to meet the requirements of the Colleges affiliated with MST for the M.Div. Programme.

- Given the low enrolment in the language courses currently offered by the FRS, such language courses may have to be taken in other departments.
- At the end of the transition period described below, students may have to take those language courses in other universities in Montreal as arranged by the University and acceptable to MST provided that such courses may be credited towards both the 60 and 90 credit the B.Th. Programs.

7. The School shall continue to offer the S.T.M. degree under that name so that students taking the B.Th. as a first degree will have access to a suitable accredited graduate degree.

Commitments underlying this Agreement

8. This agreement is based on the following financial and academic commitments of the University:

- The current accumulated deficit of the FRS will be absorbed by the University, but no further operating deficits will be permitted;
- Any endowment and other donor assets currently held on behalf of the FRS will be held for the School;
- Subject to section 9, the School will have access to approximately \$500,000 that could, at the discretion of the Director of the School, be endowed, spent down, or both;
- The complement number of academic, tenured/tenure track positions in the School shall be raised to 16.5, inclusive of the Director of the School if such individual is a new hire and the incumbent of the CRC mentioned below, and inclusive also of
 - A replacement position in the field of Japanese religions;
 - Two (2) junior joint appointments with primary appointment in the SRS;
- The University will support an application for a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair to be held in the School;
- On the date of implementation, there shall be no change as a result of the transition to any of the teaching programs or in the way in which they are managed;

- Over time, and subject to section 22, the approval of teaching programs will be harmonized with the practices of the Faculty of Arts (approval of curriculum committee and council of the Faculty of Arts, APC and Senate, etc.), except as otherwise provided in this proposal.

Transition

9. There will be transition period of approximately three (3) years, during which the School will engage in a collegial process to decide the best use of the additional funding and on the two junior appointments mentioned above, to prepare the CRC nomination and recruit an appropriate scholar, and to recruit for position in Japanese religions.

- The early transition period will also serve to appoint a Director to the School, in accordance with Section 11.
- After the transition period and having achieved the goal of 16.5 tenure-track positions, the School will be subject to the then existing rules and procedures regarding tenure-track complements as a unit within the Faculty of Arts.

Administration and Governance

10. The School shall be administered by a Director, who will also be advised as appropriate by the School Council.

- The Director shall be generally responsible to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts.
- Under the direction and supervision of the Dean, the Director shall prepare and manage the budget for the School.
- Within the terms of that budget, the Director shall determine course offerings, class sizes, teaching loads and teaching support in relation to RELG and CATH courses.

11. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts shall, after consultation with a committee broadly representative of the membership of the School, including representation from and the written recommendation of the MST (to be made within 10 days of request by the Dean of Arts, at the latest), and including, if desired, representatives from outside of the School, make recommendations to the Provost for the appointment or reappointment of a Director of the School.

- Prior to recommending the re-appointment of a Director who has served in that office for five years, the Dean shall again consult with a committee broadly representative of the membership of the School, including representation from the MST and the same written recommendation process, and including, if desired, representatives from outside of the School.

12. McGill recognises that while the entity will become a School of the Faculty of Arts, its status within the Faculty of Arts will of necessity be a special one, as and in the measure described in this proposal, in particular in relation to:

- its unique programmes (B.Th. and STM);
- the common interest of the University, MST and the Colleges have in these programmes;
- accreditation;
- MST's representation on the School Council and the B.Th. Committee;
- the existence of an external advisory board, as described in section 16.

13. The School shall be housed at the Birks Building which, along with the Birks Heritage Chapel was designed and built and later (under the "1948 Agreement") transferred to the University in order to further the objects of theological and interfaith education and research and to house the principal activities of the predecessor of the School.

- The Director of the School shall therefore, like the Deans of the FRS were, be ex-officio Building Director of the Birks Building.
- The functions and needs of the School shall continue to be given priority in the allocation of space within the Birks Building. In particular, the Birks Heritage Chapel, its uses and booking of times, shall remain under the strict oversight of the School Council.

- It is understood that, except in respect of the Birks Heritage Chapel which shall remain under the rule mentioned above, Birks Building space may be allocated to other purposes of the University as long as the School's purposes are given priority.
14. The library located in the Birks building will continue to be a reading room.
 15. Subject to the provisions of section 29, a School of Religious Studies Council shall replace the FRS Faculty Council and be composed and governed by the "Faculty Council Regulations" of the FRS (approved by Senate, May 3, 2006, document D05-72) as amended from time to time, as a result of a collegial process. The School Council shall meet at least four times per year.
 16. The current Faculty Advisory Board to the FRS, composed of individuals who are not in the employment of the University, the MST or the Colleges shall become an external advisory board of the School (exact designation to be determined). Its mandate and composition may evolve over time as a result of a collegial process including members of such board,
 17. Members of the FRS serving as such on University bodies (especially the elected Senate representative) shall complete their terms as initially appointed unless they decline to do so.
 18. Members of the School shall have the same rights as other members of the Faculty of Arts to serve on various Faculty and University bodies, boards and committees.
 19. On the date of the implementation, tenure-track, tenured, and contract academic appointments in the FRS shall become appointments in the Faculty of Arts with continuity of benefits, years of service (e.g., for pension rights, reappointment, tenure, promotion, and/or sabbatical consideration), as from the date of appointment to the FRS.
 20. For the 2015–2016 academic year, the Departmental Tenure Committee (DTC) shall be as established by the FRS and the University Tenure Committee (UTC) as established by the FRS, the Provost and by the Secretariat.
 - From the date of implementation of the move, the Departmental Tenure Committee (DTC) shall continue as the DTC for the School of Religious Studies within the Faculty of Arts.
 - The University Tenure Committee (UTC) shall continue as a UTC within the Faculty of Arts.
 - In subsequent years, all processes related to the reappointment, tenure and promotion of ranked academic staff in the School of Religious Studies shall be governed by the relevant University regulations and conducted in accordance with the relevant procedures of the Faculty of Arts.
 21. As long as the Agreements are in force, search committees making recommendations to the Dean of Arts for new appointments in the fields of New Testament, Old Testament, History of the Christian Church, and Theology shall continue to consist of members nominated according to current practices in the FRS.
 22. At the date of implementation, all B.A. Major and Minor Concentrations and Honours and Joint Honours programmes currently administered in conjunction between the FRS and the Faculty of Arts shall become departmental programmes of the School within the Faculty of Arts.
 23. MST agrees that the B.A. programmes in Catholic Studies may become departmental programmes of the School within the Faculty of Arts, while maintaining and potentially reinforcing their interdisciplinary character.
 24. All funds held by the University in support of functions of the FRS (including all endowments) shall be held for the functions of the School.
 - All endowment funds administered by the Dean of FRS shall be administered by the Director of the School.
 - All endowed funds shall be administered in full respect of the conditions of the donations. In particular, the role of the Principal of the United Theological College in the choice of Gordon Scholarships awardees shall continue in accordance with the current practice.
 25. The School shall have the right, continuous with the right of the FRS and in cooperation with University Advancement and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, to seek and accept new endowments and gifts in support of its functions and priorities.

26. The Director of the School will present a stewardship report annually to the MST on the endowed portion (and any unendowed portion) of the 1948 Funds. The endowed portion shall remain endowed unless otherwise agreed by the University and MST.

27. On the date of implementation, the governance and bylaws of The Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR) shall remain in force, except that the lead Faculty shall be the Faculty of Arts, the Dean of Arts or delegate shall be the Chair of the Advisory or Management Board, and the Director of the SRS shall be ex-officio a member of the Advisory body.

28. The current practice of MST faculty being invited to teach in the FRS at the discretion of the Dean shall be continued in the School, at the discretion of the Director.

29. As long as the 1948 Agreement is in force, the mechanisms now in place for representation of MST and FRS on each other's governance bodies shall be continued between MST and the School.

- The three Principals of the Colleges shall each have voice and vote on the School Council (replacing the FRS Faculty Council) and on the B.Th. Programme Committee and B.Th. Admissions and Awards Committee, each in the same proportion as currently, and shall continue to have Advisors' access to student records and admission records relating to the B.Th. and S.T.M. programmes.

30. Students jointly registered in the Colleges in all forms of ministry and at the University will continue to have the privilege of University tuition fee waivers, which shall also apply to language courses in other universities pursuant to Section 6.

31. The University shall undertake to retain accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools.

32. The University will endeavour to meet upon reasonable request and in any event at least once a year with the Principals of the Colleges and representatives of MST to discuss matters of common interest.

- For the purpose of such meetings, McGill University shall be represented by the Dean of Arts accompanied as appropriate by the Director of the School.

- The Provost shall also be available to meet with MST and the Principals of the Colleges, upon reasonable request and normally once a year.

33. The changes described in the present proposal as aspects of the transformation of the FRS into the School, shall take place at the date of implementation, it being acknowledged that some measures regarding the teaching complement will require a longer period of implementation, but shall be put in place in an ordered manner over time and that the University will use its best efforts so that they will be completed on or before the end of the transition period (end date to be determined on the basis of the implementation date).

Final Provisions

34. The Parties shall also work collegially towards the continued development of the B.Th. program, and in particular its marketing, so as to build its appeal to a broader community of students, without materially adding to their respective financial commitments.

35. Except as it amends the Agreements, the MOU shall not be read in contradiction of the contractual and historic relations between the University and the Theological Colleges of the Montreal School of Theology.

36. Acknowledging that the provisions of the Agreements are amended in accordance with Appendix "A", the parties reaffirm all provisions of the Agreements not directly amended by this MOU.

37. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or implementation of this MOU shall be resolved through binding arbitration pursuant to articles 940 to 947.4 of the Code of Civil Procedure of Quebec in front of a single arbitrator chosen by consent by the Parties. Before submitting a matter to arbitration a Party shall provide the other Parties with a written notice of dispute, stating the facts, its view of the correct application of this MOU to the facts, and of the resolution to the dispute that it proposes. The Parties shall then engage in negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute without resorting to arbitration. In the event that no such resolution is achieved within 90 days of the written notice of dispute (or such longer delay agreed to in writing by authorized representatives of the Parties), either Party may refer the matter to arbitration as described above. The arbitration costs shall be shared equally by

the Parties, and each party shall pay for its own costs incurred for the purposes of the arbitration such as fees of legal counsel, witnesses, experts, reproduction of documentary evidence, etc.

38. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the date of implementation shall be May 1, 2016. The term of this MOU shall be 25 years and shall expire on April 30, 2040 or, if later, 25 years after the date of implementation. All students who are in programs at the expiry of the term shall be allowed to continue in their programmes until completion, in accordance with the rules then in force at the Faculty of Arts concerning time to completion of degree. Upon expiry and the completion of the degree years of the last complement of such students, the Birks Building and the 1948 endowment and funds (as they then are) shall revert to MST and other equitable adjustments shall be made between the parties.

39. The Parties agree to engage into discussions with a view to renegotiate the Agreements to arrive at a renewed understanding adapted to current realities as soon as possible, but in any case, during the first 5 years of the term of this agreement. To that end the University shall propose to MST and the Colleges a robust collaborative process for discussion and consultations on the proposed amendments which, once approved by MST and the College shall serve as the basis for exchanges between the Parties.

40. This MOU shall be subject to the approval of the board of governors of McGill University and the boards of MST and of the Colleges. Once approved and executed by all Parties, it shall constitute a binding Agreement.

Recommendation No. 1 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the General Assembly concur with the actions of the Board of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, in agreeing to the new Memorandum of Understanding between The Montreal School of Theology and McGill University.

FACULTY

At its April 2015 meeting, the board unanimously put forward the name of the Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries for the position of Director of Pastoral Studies. The nomination was approved by the General Assembly and Dr. De Vries was appointed as the new Director of Pastoral Studies of Presbyterian College. His induction service on October 29 brought together an encouraging and enthusiastic community of those who love and support the college and its new programs. Dr. De Vries has already proved to be a great asset to the college, both academically and administratively.

In addition to Dr. De Vries, the faculty of the college for 2015 consisted of the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, Principal, and the Rev. Dr. Dan Shute, Librarian, Dr. Lucille Marr, Academic Dean and Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino, Director of the Leadership Centre, along with McGill instructor, Professor Gerbern Oegema of the Faculty of Religious Studies, who serves on the college faculty by annual appointment. Two retired members of the faculty, Principal Emeritus William Klempa, and Professor Emeritus Joseph C. McLelland continued to participate in the life of the college when possible. The Rev. Dr. Barry Mack was sessional lecturer in Canadian Presbyterian History. In addition to its own faculty, the college continues to work collaboratively with the faculty of the other two colleges and the Faculty of Religious Studies. In 2015 the following people provided supervision for students in the In-Ministry Year: the Rev. Jeremy Sanderson, the Rev. Ian Fraser, the Rev. Dr. Barry Mack, the Rev. Shaun Seaman, the Rev. Wayne Menard, the Rev. Joel Coppieters, the Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino and the Rev. Paul Graham. The Rev. Dr. Glen Davis served as Director of Communications and Alumni Relations, and his contract has been renewed for a further one-year period.

STAFF

The college is served ably and effectively by its administrative and custodial staff: Ms. Jeannette Vink (part-time administrative assistant), Ms. Sandra Steadman (part-time accountant), Mr. Mario Elvé (building superintendent) and Mr. Stéphane Richard (custodian). Ms. Jillian Wood served as part-time administrative receptionist for the first half of 2015 and then went on to pursue further studies. Her replacement, Ms. Mary Sicoli, is a fine addition to the welcoming and efficient environment of the college.

FINANCES

The calendar year is the fiscal year for The Presbyterian College. At the time of writing the report the audited statements were not complete and therefore the numbers in this report are approximate. In 2015 The Presbyterian College received \$178,500 as its percentage of funds from The Presbyterian Church in Canada's budget for theological education. The remainder of its revenue was derived from residence rentals, investment income, tuition

fees and donations. As of December 31, 2014 the endowment fund totaled \$3,116,697. The college withdrew from its endowment fund in order to cover all operation costs, and to invest in its new strategic plan. The college ended the year with an endowment fund balance of approximately \$2,600,000 reflecting both the withdrawals and the overall downturn in world financial markets. Of the amount withdrawn from the endowment fund \$218,000 was allocated to capital projects with the balance put to operations and strategic plan initiatives. The college is grateful to the many generous donors who contribute directly to the annual operating costs and the endowment fund, and to the many Presbyterians across Canada who support the work of theological education through *Presbyterians Sharing*. The challenge to find adequate funding to support its academic programs is always before the college. The board has had the foresight to undertake a capital campaign in order to finance the strategic and certain capital improvements with a view to making the college a viable institution well into the future. The financial statements are available on request from the college or from the General Assembly Office.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Board of Governors is committed to strengthening the financial base of the college and securing its long-term ministry. It has, therefore, embarked upon a fund-raising campaign with a goal of \$1,750,000. The money from this campaign will be directed almost entirely to the support of people in the college's newly initiated programs, with a small portion devoted to the upgrading of the college facilities. The program is divided into two main sections: the Leadership Centre and the Enhanced Master of Divinity Program. For the Leadership Centre the goal is \$700,000 to be divided into three programs: Mentoring Missional Leaders, the Ian Victor Pastors to Pastors Program, and the Shuling Chen Lay Leadership Program, which includes continuing and lay education, as well as the unique program for nurturing the faith of young adults. The Enhanced Master of Divinity program will receive \$800,000 to help establish three programs: Congregational Renewal, New Church Development and Faith-to-Faith Program for international students. The remaining \$250,000 will be used for capital improvements on the building, especially upgrading student rooms. Thus far, the campaign has raised \$807,000. A full description of the campaign can be found on our website at presbyteriancollege.ca. We are deeply grateful for all of the gifts we have received to date and have been greatly encouraged by the generosity of so many.

FACILITIES UPGRADE

Overall, the college facility is in relatively good shape. A survey by an engineering firm indicated that over the next 10 years the college will need to spend \$500,000 on structural items such as the roof, elevator, windows, etc. While working on these areas of improvement each year, the college is more immediately working on updating the residences. We have begun to receive gifts of \$5,000 from individuals and congregations, which is the cost of renovating one room. Community has always been an important part of Presbyterian College and it is our goal to ensure a pleasant place for our students to live at a reasonable rate. The major capital expense in 2015 was the renovation of the three washrooms in the residence. We are moving ahead with plans for some renovations that will enable us to reopen the cafeteria and make it available to the community outside our residence. We developed a community urban garden in the courtyard in 2015, a shared project with the Presbyterian Chaplain's office at McGill. This year we are undertaking modifications to that design which will allow for more growing space, an inner "quiet and conversation" space, an entrance way to the cafeteria and improved lighting.

LEADERSHIP CENTRE

Over the past year, under the able direction of Dr. Victor Gavino, the Leadership Centre focused on Continuing Education, Lay Education and the Mentoring Program.

Continuing Education

In February 2015, the college ran a continuing education event called Mission and Worship after Christendom, led by Alan and Eleanor Krieder. Although participation was small, participants found the week instructive and helpful. In May the college, along with St. Andrew's Hall, jointly sponsored a continuing education event on the theme: "Ready to Give an Answer for the Hope within You", with speakers Dr. Robert Fennell and Dr. John Stackhouse. It was well received, despite some quality issues with the live-streaming platform and we are encouraged to explore further areas of collaboration with our other two colleges. In February 2016, we held an event to explore the theme, "Assisted Death: Faithful Responses in a New Landscape" with the leadership of several prominent and knowledgeable speakers and panelists. We adjusted the schedule in order to increase accessibility to lay people, and registration was good, both on-site and off-site via live-stream. This June we are trying an experimental event, a retreat for ministers, based on indications that ministers are looking for a time of spiritual renewal. Looking forward, we plan to re-imagine our continuing education programs in ways that will better address the concerns of the church.

Lay Education

In June the college sponsored a young adult event based on a program called “Discover Your Dependable Strengths”. It proved to be a useful and positive experience for participants, and we see the need to promote this program among young adults beyond The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In addition, we are developing a certificate program, to be recognized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, designed to equip lay people to assist in a variety of ministry tasks in congregations that might be no longer able to afford a full time ordained minister. The college is also working on a proposal to establish a Montreal Institute for Faith, Work and Society, which will assist with the challenge of living out one’s faith in the workplace.

Mentoring Program

This unique program for recent graduates of our three colleges grew by 30% in 2015. We now have 40 participants with six mentors. We started two new groups: one for those in rural ministry, and one focused on the theology of ministry and mission. Two further new groups are being formed: one on church renewal and revitalization, and one on stewardship and planned giving.

ENHANCED MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

The college has developed an enhanced Master of Divinity program which offers options to students who want to take advantage of receiving specialized training either in Revitalizing Congregations or in New Church Development. The college provides opportunities for candidates who feel called to one of these areas of ministry to spend their summers working with experienced ministers and congregations in these areas. Over two summers, this adds 8 months of paid leadership preparation within the regular three-year Master of Divinity program. We believe that this initiative will be of great benefit to students who will eventually face the challenges of leadership in a spiritually hungry society and in declining, struggling congregations. It will also be of benefit to our wider church whose energy and effort seems to be demanded more for closing congregations than on starting new ones or renewing older ones.

GLOBAL AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

In January seven students from Presbyterian College, along with the Director of Pastoral Studies, attended a week-long study tour in Cuba, visiting with churches and mission organizations, and also with the students and faculty at Matanzas Theological Seminary. Above all, this experience provided our students with an opportunity to learn from the Cuban church what it means to embody the love of Christ in a particular context – what it means that the church is, by definition, missional. We anticipate that we will have room, in January 2017, to invite lay participants to join us in this challenging and enriching experience.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Under the pastoral care and leadership of the college chaplain, Dr. Lucille Marr, the spiritual needs of students, residents, faculty and staff are well met. With a focus on building authentic Christian community, the spiritual life of the college revolves around the weekly chapel gatherings for worship and prayer. We also hold regular “pizza conversations” for the whole community. The chaplain provides a listening ear and helpful advice to students experiencing difficulties. Please pray for us, including the board of the college, as we work to implement our strategic plan and carry out our new programs aimed at preparing and supporting excellent leaders for the church as it meets the challenges of a dramatically changing society.

WORK OF THE BOARD

The Board of Governors continues to provide visionary, supportive and united leadership to the college. It consists of 12 members appointed annually (four per year for three-year terms) by the General Assembly, plus the Principal, one faculty representative, one representative from the Graduates’ Association and one student representative. In addition to its usual committees, the board established a Recruitment Committee in 2015.

Appreciation: Retiring Board Members

According to the church’s rotation system for board and committee members, the time has come to record the college’s gratitude to two outstanding members of the board who have completed their terms of service, Jane Wylie and Ralph Loader. Ms Wylie’s commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the college is deeply appreciated. Her insightful interventions at board meetings and her faithful committee work will be missed. At her last meeting she expressed how much the board meetings have strengthened her Christian faith, not a common statement at the end of

a term of board service! A special word of thanks goes to Mr. Loader who has served as convener of the board for several years. He expended countless hours and much energy on the multiple tasks of convener. His wise, pastoral and spiritual leadership has been a blessing to us all. Ralph is an example of a Christian who takes his faith with him into the work place and into board meetings. His pastoral care and spiritual support for the Principal and faculty have been especially appreciated.

MONTREAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Joint Board of Theological Colleges affiliated with McGill University is the ecumenical theological consortium of Protestant theological schools of which The Presbyterian College is a member. The public name of the Joint Board is The Montreal School of Theology/École Théologique de Montréal (MST). In 2014–2015 the college was represented on the Joint Board by Mr. Jim MacKinnon, Dr. Michael Pettem, Mr. Markus Arsenaault (student representative), Mr. Donald Walcot, and the Principal. In the In-Ministry Year, offered conjointly by the three colleges through the Montreal School of Theology, Presbyterian College students received instruction from the Rev. Dr. Alyson Huntly and the Rev. Dr. Philip Joudrey of the United Theological College, and from the Rev. Dr. Karen Egan and the Rev. Dr. Donald Boisvert of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. Presbyterian College and its students are blessed by this ecumenical partnership, and our college's contribution to the Montreal School of Theology is vital to its work. Our Principal, Dr. Dale Woods, currently serves as Director of the Montreal School of Theology.

CONVOCATION

The 2015 convocation was a time of both blessing and challenge. The blessing was that to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Montreal School of Theology, the three colleges held a joint convocation. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the long and rich tradition of ecumenical work. The challenge was that, due to a combination of a number of unforeseen circumstances, there were no graduates from Presbyterian College in 2015. However, we were able to recognize servants of The Presbyterian Church in Canada whose outstanding contribution to the church was celebrated by the conferring of Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree upon the the Rev. Stewart Folster and the Rev. W.G. Sydney McDonald.

More encouraging news is that the 2016 convocation will celebrate the graduation of seven Master of Divinity students. The college will also confer Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degrees upon two outstanding leaders in both the international mission and education ministry of the church, the Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay and the Rev. Glenn Inglis. In addition, some of the new programs of the college have attracted more participants, both lay and clergy. For example, our mentoring program (for recent graduates of all three colleges) grew from 27–40 enrollees, and we added two new mentors.

ENROLLMENT AND RECRUITMENT

While the increase in graduates this year is gratifying, the task of recruiting candidates who will present themselves to be trained for leadership in the church continues to be a challenge. We are encouraged to note that our new programs are showing signs of promise. For example, we are preparing to welcome two students from Cameroon into our new Faith-to-Faith Face-to-Face program. We are making progress on establishing the Congregational Renewal and New Church Development aspects of our enhanced Master of Divinity program. Five new candidates for the Master of Divinity program have already indicated their intention to enroll in the fall. But the challenge remains. Presbyterian College is a small college that is not well known in the world of theological education. Marketing and recruitment have not been a significant part of the college's life.

In response to this challenge, the board has developed a recruitment plan, formed a recruitment committee and hired a part time recruitment coordinator in the person of Jillian Wood, our former administrative receptionist. She will focus on increasing enrolment through outreach to summer camps, youth conferences and congregations, as well as through strategic advertising both in The Presbyterian Church in Canada outlets and in church media in the US states that are close to Montreal. Principal Dale Woods will continue to make connections and visits to churches in Africa and other regions to promote our Face-to-Face Faith-to-Faith program.

Furthermore, the Memorandum of Understanding with McGill, as described above, presents several new opportunities for marketing which we will take advantage of by communicating with high schools in Canada and the eastern United States, and also with Presbyterian churches and presbyteries in nearby US states. The considerable advantages of studying and living in a small college within a supportive Christian community, while being a part of one of the leading universities in the world, will be attractively presented through our website and other media.

We believe that our work in creating new and innovative programs will play an important role in attracting new students. We also believe that recruitment must be connected to our mission: engaging the world through congregations, one leader at a time. Our goal is to graduate students who have the skills to lead congregations in growing their own mission.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION LIAISON GROUP

The Theological Education Liaison Group was established after the dissolution of the Committee on Theological Education. The group consists of the principals of the three colleges and their board conveners, as well as the Principal Clerk of General Assembly, the General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency and the Chief Financial Officer of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The group meets twice a year for the purpose of working together to develop greater collaboration between the colleges and the national church. The group is able to share the work of each college and discuss matters relating to the future of theological education in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. It discusses topics such as the use of technology, the challenges for the theological education task in a changing society, the development of curriculum and sharing resources. Presbyterian College is an active participant in these discussions, and a partner in seeking effective collaboration, an example of which was the joint continuing education event with St. Andrew's Hall in 2015.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

The book of Zechariah describes the kind of ministry that pleases God as ministry which cares for the perishing, seeks the wandering, heals the maimed and nourishes the healthy. Our world is in desperate need of the good news of God's grace in Jesus Christ. Congregations are the places where that good news is both lived and shared. But congregations need healthy leaders who can help congregations become all that God intends them to be. Presbyterian College has the potential to help shape those leaders here at home and around the world. It has the potential to be a place, not only of teaching others, but also a place of learning from others, especially those from other parts of the world. And it has the potential to play an important role within our own city of Montreal.

Imagine being part of the renewal of 100 congregations across Canada, or providing leaders to plant 50 new churches, or engaging with leaders who are equipped to provide an alternative to religious conflict, or helping lay people live their faith in the workplace, or training lay people to do ministry so that when they can no longer afford a minister, their congregations do not need to close. All of that potential lies before us. But we must embrace it with humility, knowing that 'unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain' (Psalm 127:1). And that potential will only be realized through the persistent and confident prayers of our people throughout the church. We ask you to pray for us, for the faculty and board, but especially for our students, both those who have already committed themselves to prepare for leadership in Christ's church, and those still undecided. Your prayers will be answered for the glory of God and the establishment of God's reign on earth.

Ralph Loader
Convener

Dale Woods
Principal

KNOX COLLEGE

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recommendations.

REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

THE 172ND CONVOCATION

The 172nd Convocation took place on May 11, 2016, in Convocation Hall, University of Toronto. The following students received degrees, diplomas and certificates:

Master of Divinity Degree: Seung-Ho (Charles) Baik, Lisa Brimblecombe, Euikyun (David) Chang, James Clark, Torrey Griffiths, Robert Henderson, Soon-Nyung Huh, Dae Hyeon (James) Kim, Matthew Lingard, A. Ian Marnoch, Ernest Naylor, Nicole Reid, Mikal Schomburg, Seung-Vin (Vincent) Shin, Mi Hoa (Michelle) Yoon, Sanghun (Steven) Yoon.

Diploma of the College: Lisa Brimblecombe, Euikyun (David) Chang, James Clark, Torrey Griffiths, Robert Henderson, Soon-Nyung Huh, Dae Hyeon (James) Kim, Matthew Lingard, A. Ian Marnoch, Elias Mendes Gomes, Ernest Naylor, Nicole Reid, Mikal Schomburg, Jee-Eun (Megan) Shin, Seung-Vin (Vincent) Shin, Mi Hoa (Michelle) Yoon.

Master of Divinity (Honours): Elias Mendes Gomes, Jee-Eun (Megan) Shin.

Master of Theological Studies: Paulus Cha, Phye-Huat (Pye) Chew, Kiersty Hong, Sang Hyuk Lee, Jae Heong (David) Lim, Barbara Smibert.

Master of Religious Studies: Ki Sung Song.

Doctor of Ministry: Rosa Yuk Chu Leung, John William David McMaster, Wendy Vanderwal Gritter.

Master of Theology: Deborah Rapport.

Others completing denominational requirements (GAC): Phye-Huat (Pye) Chew, Megan Purdy.

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the decision of the General Assembly to ordain women to ministry and eldership, this year's convocation speaker was the Rev. Linda Ashfield, minister at Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. The title of her address was "What matters is faith expressed through love" (Galatians 5:6b). On the morning of Convocation Day, she also gave leadership at a workshop on "Full inclusion of women in the church – what were they thinking?".

FACULTY

Sabbaticals

Since January, Professor Charles Fensham has been on sabbatical and will return in August. Over the years, Professor Fensham has been working on a research trajectory that has included work on the future of the North American Church (*Emerging from the Dark Age Ahead: The Future of the North American Church*), the spirituality of the church (*To the Nations for the Earth: a Missional Spirituality*) and, on this sabbatical, a process working towards a third book on the public witness of the church. The general area of his research remains that of contemporary ecclesiology with a focus on engaging the present world. His research leave is focused on working on the public witness/missiology project in the following ways:

- a. Drawing together the published work in the area already complete or in progress towards a draft for a book.
- b. Interacting with students and colleagues in South Africa in testing ideas and gaining insights from the majority world on his work.
- c. Working on additional research and material for a book on public witness.

This second part has been facilitated by a two-month sojourn in Cape Town and Stellenbosch, South Africa where he was invited by the University of Stellenbosch as well as the University of Western Cape as visiting professor.

Knox College's academic planning takes into account that for the foreseeable future almost every semester will see a member of the Knox faculty on sabbatical. Sabbaticals are critical both to Knox as it engages fully within the TST

and the UofT as well as to individual faculty members as they continue to develop as scholars. At the same time, as you can imagine there are, within a small faculty, some challenges in terms of resourcing teaching, faculty administration and student advising. Knox is fortunate to be situated in a large city where there are highly qualified sessionals who welcome teaching opportunities.

STUDENTS

As we look to the future, we recognize the challenging work of recruiting well-qualified students for all our programs. We continue to rely on our graduates, sessions, congregations and presbyteries to identify prospective students for Christian ministry and leadership. But there is also a need to be more proactive, thus over the past year a small task force has been actively working to understand the field of recruitment and the kind of staffing expertise needed. In February, the Board of Governors approved a recommendation to include the hiring of a Recruitment Officer in the college's 2016–2017 budget.

Bursaries and scholarships are important to maintaining student enrolment and ensuring that students do not enter ministry with an unmanageable debt. To that end, Knox provided a bursary of approximately 75% of the tuition cost of each course for which a student in the M.Div., M.T.S., and M.R.E. enrolls. In addition to a smaller bursary, a number of our doctoral students received a multi-year scholarship. A total of \$408,000 in bursary and scholarship assistance was distributed to 121 students this past year.

2015–2016 Enrolment

Knox College has enrolled a total of 149 students in degree programs. In its basic degree areas, there are 75 students actively registered. Of these, 57 are enrolled in programs for ordained ministry. Eighteen are in lay programs leading to various ministries including Christian Education. There are 49 students enrolled in the advanced degree division of the college. Presently 25 students are on various leaves of absence. In addition, there were also 49 students enrolled in three lay education courses during the academic year.

Other statistics of interest include the following: for the student body in our degree programs the percentage of full-time students to part-time students is 60 to 40; the citizenship percentage is 81 domestic, 19 international, and the average student age within both the graduate and basic degree programs is 42.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Since 1844 the academic programs of Knox College have prepared people for leadership and service in church and society. Recently, the faculty and board adopted an academic plan that will guide the college as it lives into the plan of God for the church and theological education in Canadian society. The plan affirms that faith matters in an increasingly pluralistic and secular age and that the faith tradition and educational model represented by Knox College has a unique contribution to make. The academic plan emphasizes:

- One Academic Mission** Educating women and men for faithful and creative ministries and scholarship through our teaching, research and global partnerships.
- Seven Academic Degrees** Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Religious Education, Master of Pastoral Studies, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies.
- Five Academic Outcomes**
 - Congregational Ministries
 - Teaching Ministries
 - Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Ministries
 - Social Service Ministries
 - Intercultural and Interfaith Ministries

Basic Degree Programs

In September 2016, Knox College will welcome its first cohort of students in the Master of Pastoral Studies program. This is a two-year (20 course) program with two streams: (1) Pastoral Ministries and (2) Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy.

Graduate Degree Programs

In addition to the Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry degrees, Knox College now offers a conjoint Ph.D. in Theological Studies with the University of Toronto through the Toronto School of Theology. Applications and

admissions in these programs continue to grow year-to-year making for a robust advanced degree community of faith and learning.

Association of the Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada

We continue to complete the reports requested as a result of the 2011 ten year re-accreditation of the college. In June 2015, Knox received approval of its learning outcomes for the four basic degrees. These formed the basis of a revised assessment plan that Knox reported to ATS (May 1, 2015). A report on the implementation of the plan was submitted May 1, 2016.

Continuing Education

This was the third year that the Fall RENEW event was offered. We were gratified to have our highest total registration at over 80 and were pleased to offer it on You Tube to 17 sites. The RENEW 2015 educational event was held November 10–12. Following upon Dr. Darrell Guder's Laidlaw lectures (March 2015) "Taking the Form of a Servant: Polity for the Missional Church", Vera White conducted a presentation on the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s goal of establishing "1001 New Worshipping Communities". Initiated in 2012, Ms White led a lively workshop using illustrations from over 300 new worshipping communities based on a more outward, creative and disciple-making (as opposed to maintenance) model of church. A panel on assisted dying/death was moderated by Dr. Pamela McCarroll with panelists Dr. Anne Wood, physician and Director of Palliative Care at St. Joseph's Health Sciences McMaster University; Peter Allatt, Clinical Ethicist Bridgepoint Hospital, Toronto and Dr. Thomas O'Connor, chaplain, educator and pastoral counsellor Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. The 2½ day event concluded with Hillary Donaldson leading an interactive workshop "Singing the Story of Advent and Christmas".

LIBRARY SERVICES

Through social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and blogs, the Caven Library's architectural features continue to be written about with enthusiastic admiration. They are often compared to Hogwarts from the Harry Potter novels. On these sites, the library is also highlighted as an ideal study space due to its natural lighting and quiet ambience. As a result, most weekdays the reading room is filled with UofT undergraduate students, as well as Knox/TST graduate students and several Knox residents. Since Knox College is situated at the centre of the university, the use of Caven Library by Knox students and other UofT student groups is expected and welcomed.

The large north window in Caven Library, in need of renewal for some time, was repaired last summer through the generosity of a donor who has great admiration for the Knox College building and architecture. This large window and its duplicate south-facing window in the chapel are of significant architectural and theological significance. The Reformed tradition's focus on the tenet *ora et labora* (study and work) is reflected in the identical placement of both the chapel and library windows, signifying the importance the Reformed Church places on both worship and study. These large windows are considered exceptional by architects as they are constructed of coloured panes of Norman slab glass, made by blowing the glass into squares. The slabs are thick in the centre and thinner at the edges, creating unique optics. The coloured and opaque panes allow light to enter both spaces while creating an opportunity for revelation and reflection for the occupants. This glass is quite rare today. Made by only one or two companies, it is difficult to replace. Knox College was given a number of extra squares at the time of construction in 1915, some of which were used last summer for the careful and detailed professional repairs.

The library staff, including our student workers, are diligently working on and making steady progress with a project of sorting, culling, cataloguing and organizing a large collection of older materials not yet listed on the online library catalogue. Although these are much less frequently used materials, they are still valuable in an academic collection in order to provide historical and seminal works for local and international researchers.

Another large project involves the Ewart College historical collection of Christian education materials, presented to Knox in the early 1990s on the amalgamation of Ewart with Knox College. In 1996, the McKay Educational Resources Centre (MERC) was established not only to maintain the legacy of Ewart College and its collections but to also add new resources for the students of the amalgamated colleges. Each year MERC, with the assistance of grants from the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education, has added curriculum recommended by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. It has slowly expanded the scope of the collection to include a variety of practical resources for church ministry and leadership. While the more current materials are available and easily accessible within the McKay Centre located in Caven Library, the historical collection remains uncatalogued and inaccessible in the basement. Since the library staff believes the Ewart historical collection is a rich resource that could be used by students and other researchers, our current project involves sorting and organizing this collection chronologically

with the view to creating a finding aide to add to our website. The plan is to purchase a high quality scanner to enable resources to be sent to researchers electronically.

DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

The Development Office focuses on stewarding contributions from our supporters and building relationship with the college's many patrons. We are grateful for the generosity and commitment of our supporters to the mission of Knox College, including but not limited to scholarships, prizes and bursaries, library resources as well as academic and building renewal. Our donors are our alumni/ae, former residents, friends, congregations, *Presbyterians Sharing* and other church groups. We thank them all for their faith in our work and belief in our vision to remain a vibrant and dynamic centre for Christian theological education.

We continued to work towards raising funds for board designated priorities, building renewal, endowment of faculty chairs and other projects in our Re:forming Tomorrow capital campaign. Our annual fund supported general day-to-day costs and we began implementing a planned giving program to engage our donors and friends in our mission.

In relationship building we extended support to students and alumni as well as current and former residents. All groups participated in organizing the 100th Anniversary Gala celebration of Knox's building on University of Toronto campus. The celebration was an opportunity to bring Knox's community together while raising funds for the renewal of our building.

The Knox-Ewart Graduates Association (KEGA) Reunion Luncheon at Convocation and Reception at General Assembly have both been well attended in the past. At the college, KEGA hosted two community worship services and dinners to nurture student-alumni relations. At Convocation 2016, the Principal hosted the 40, 50 and 60+ year Grads for a reunion dinner of fellowship and memories of times spent together at the college. The Former Residents Association (KNXOFRA) combined their annual dinner with the 100th anniversary celebrations. Four former residents received the KNOXFRA Award of Honour for their contributions in the community. The Development Office also worked closely with students and residents to connect the two groups through activities and shared interests.

The Principal and Development staff visited with graduates, former residents and donors across the country. Those gathered at the Synods of the Atlantic Provinces and of Alberta and the Northwest were presented with news of the college. The college also had a display at the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Governors in setting the annual protocols for the budget requires that it be realistic and that no more than 5% from its investments be used as revenue. For the fiscal year May 2015–April 2016, the goals of the board were met.

As of December 2015, Knox College had over \$23.3 million dollars in investments held with The Presbyterian Church in Canada Consolidated Portfolio. This balance reflects years of donations and bequests from graduates and friends of the college, as well as the result of income and market increases within the portfolio. Of that \$23.3 million, \$15.4 million is restricted for student bursaries and scholarships. For the 2015–2016 academic year, \$408,000 was paid out in bursaries and scholarships to students. The remaining investment income (\$560,000) was used primarily for academic and administrative expenses.

Staff Update

During the 2015–2016 academic year, a number of staffing changes took place at Knox College. With Seta Ghougassian settling in as the Director of Development, Louise Longhurst was welcomed as her replacement as the Development Officer. In September, Jim Burgess was hired as Caretaker to replace Dave Lynas who retired. Yolanda Fernandez also retired after almost 30 years as Knox's Head of Housekeeping. Marina Rozina has been hired to replace her. Our Events Coordinator, Elena Livertovsky, hired to assist with the additional events associated with the 170/100 celebrations, completed her contract in December. With Aaron Gordon having completed his one-year contract as Communications Associate (during which Development reassessed its needs), Stephanie Hanna was welcomed in March as the Communications and Marketing Associate, a full-time staff position.

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Ewart Centre for Lay Education

As part of its overall mission the Ewart College, until its closure in 1991, provided courses for the laity. Presently Knox, as an amalgamated college, seeks to fulfill this mission through its English Certificate in Christian Faith and

Life I and II. This English certificate program is offered on-line. Eight basic courses are offered in four areas – Bible, Theology, Lay Ministry, and History. At the present time, the Rev. John Henderson continues his work with the college assisting the Principal in re-visioning the place and the design of lay education at Knox. Part of this work is to alert the college to trends and experiences from the perspective of congregational needs and what is taking place in educational and lay ministries in other places in North America.

Four courses were offered this year, two in the fall and two in the winter. In the fall of 2015 “Evil, Suffering and the Love of God” taught by the Rev. Dr. Dong Ha Kim and “Listening for a Transforming Word: Bible Study and the Church” taught by Dr. Laura Alary. A total of 14 and 12 students respectively took these courses. Of these students, 5 had never taken a Ewart lay education course before.

In the winter term, “Introduction to the New Testament” taught by Dr. Laura Alary had 13 students registered, 7 of whom had never taken a Ewart lay education course before. “Pastoral Care: Loving God’s People” taught by the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll had 10 registrants of whom 1 was new to on-line lay education.

In conjunction with the Knox-Ewart Graduates Association (KEGA), a series of webinars is in the planning stages.

Asian-Canadian Centre for Theology and Ministry

This year the Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry continued its focus on academic and practical research for the Asian-Canadian Churches in Canada.

The first research project was entitled, *Religious Attitudes and Commitment Among 1.5 and Second Generation Asian-Canadian Protestant Young Adults*. This study examined religious loyalty among the identified group with the aim of discerning whether religious commitment and attitudes might change when these young people leave high school. A questionnaire of 74 questions was completed by 300 Asian-Canadian young adults. On September 28, 2015, the centre held a public forum to discuss the findings from an analysis of the data and their implications for youth ministry. Over 100 people from diverse backgrounds in terms of ethnicity and age levels participated in the forum. The plan is to publish the results of the study in order for churches to benefit from the insightful findings.

On May 9, 2016, the centre, in partnership with Justice Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, continued its conference series “Crossing Cultures Together XI”. This year’s theme was “Cracking Open Power and Privilege” facilitated by Peter Noteboom who is a Senior Partner with Global Learning Partners, Deputy General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, and the Associate Secretary for the Council’s Commission on Justice and Peace. It was an opportunity to better understand and identify ways to address the negative effects of power and privilege in the church.

The centre continues to cooperate with the college and its English Tutors program through its hosting of volunteer tutors who provide services in written and spoken English practices to ESL students. Many thanks go to our volunteer English tutors: Mrs. Nancy Mathewson, Ms. Lorna Hutchinson, and the Rev. Noel Gordon. The centre misses Ms. Christie Bentham who served as an English Tutor for many years and passed away during Christmas season last year.

APPRECIATION

One member of the Board of Governors has completed six years of service. We heartily thank Ms. Joanne Stewart for her service to the board on its committees and at its regular meetings as convener of the Administration Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. With regret, we received the resignation of the Rev. Jane Yoon who served on the Governance Committee and for the past two years on the Academic Committee. We wish her well as she pursues further education out of province.

The Board of Governors also expresses its gratitude to the faculty and staff of the college who work diligently on a daily basis to ensure that the mission of the college is achieved and that every year students are taught, supported and prepared in numerous ways for ministries within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and beyond.

Peter Ross
Convener

J. Dorcas Gordon
Principal

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**KNOX COLLEGE****RECOMMENDATIONS****Consent Recommendation**

There are no consent recommendations.

Recommendation No. 1

That the above minute of appreciation for the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll be adopted. (see p. 23.1.7)

REPORT**THE REV. DR. DORCAS GORDON****Leaving Knox College in 2018 after 24 years, 18 as Principal**

The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon, Principal of the College, informed the Board of Governors at its February meeting of her desire to take her planned sabbatical during the 2017–2018 academic year with the intention that 2016–2017 would be her final year as Principal of Knox College. The board accepted her intention to resign as noted above and has begun the process of transition. In the meantime, Professor Gordon is committed to continuing her duties as Principal with the same enthusiasm and diligence that she has demonstrated since she assumed this position at Knox in 1999. The board and she look forward to this coming year as a time to bring a number of projects to completion.

“I have thought and prayed long and hard about this decision, and I believe now is the right time,” she said. “By July 2017 the capital campaign will have completed the congregational phase and the work of planned giving, a long-term project through which the campaign will reach its goal, will be well underway. The first stage of new academic programming will be complete, our endowments have grown beyond my expectation, and after a decade of balanced budgets we are well practiced in exercising fiscal responsibility.”

The board is arranging to appoint a search committee to conduct the search for a new Principal, with a focus on ensuring diverse composition of the search committee. Guidelines for the search committee were duly approved by the board on May 12, 2016 and were forwarded to the Assembly Council Executive along with the position description. Subsequently at a meeting on May 16, the Executive gave permission to the college to circularize the presbyteries. The board expects the search committee to be in place by the end of June 2016 and to serve until a Principal-Elect is chosen by the board. The board aims to present the Principal-Elect for approval at the 2017 General Assembly.

The board has established that Knox College needs a leader who:

- Possesses a compelling vision for the future of the College;
- Provides a sense of direction;
- Ensures a strong contemporary curriculum;
- Handles administrative matters efficiently;
- Manages the finances responsibly;
- Speaks on behalf of the College’s interests as a representative to its many partners; and
- Is prepared to manage change effectively, with a balance of risk and caution.

In consultation with the Faculty and Senior Administrative Team, the board has identified key criteria for the new Principal and established a corresponding position description.

THE REV. DR. PAMELA MCCARROLL**Leaving Knox College June 2016 after eight years as Faculty in the area of Pastoral Theology**

The Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll will be leaving Knox College to take up the faculty position, Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Emmanuel College effective July 1, 2016. Professor McCarroll came to Knox in 2008 as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and over eight years has carried out that role in an enthusiastic and conscientious manner. A much loved faculty colleague she has a reputation among students as an excellent teacher. Her work in the area of theological field education has refocused this aspect of the M.Div. and M.R.E. degree

programs in significant ways. Knox College will miss Professor McCarroll but wishes her well in this next stage of her theological journey.

A position description was approved by the Knox College Board of Governors at its meeting on May 12, 2016 and permission to circularize the presbyteries has been given by the Executive Committee of Assembly Council. A search committee will be established in the coming months and the plan is to have this position filled by July 1, 2017.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

The Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll

The Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll will be leaving Knox College to take up the faculty position, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, at Emmanuel College effective July 1, 2016. A graduate of Knox College (M.Div.) and the University of St. Michael's College (Ph.D.), Professor McCarroll came to Knox College in 2008 as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of Theological Field Education. Over eight years she has carried out this role in an enthusiastic and conscientious manner. A much loved faculty colleague she has a reputation among students as an excellent teacher. Her work in the area of theological field education has refocused this aspect of the M.Div. and M.R.E. degree programs in significant ways.

Professor McCarroll brought to her work at Knox many additional qualifications, which have greatly benefitted the college in its academic planning. Her previous experience as Clinical Educator/Professional Leader, Spiritual and Religious Care at Sunnybrook Health Sciences (2006–2008), her Certification as Teaching Supervisor and Specialist (2008–present) in the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care and her qualification as a Registered Psychotherapist in the College of Psychotherapists of Ontario (April 2015) has provided significant leadership to Knox College in its development of a new degree program, focused on forms of ministry practice such as spiritual care in hospitals, the armed forces and prisons as well as in social ministries. Thanks, in no small part, to her initiative this program will be launched in September 2016.

In addition to her teaching, Professor McCarroll has engaged in a significant amount of scholarly research and publication. Of particular importance for both the church and the academy are two books: *The End of Hope-The Beginning: Narratives of Hope in the Face of Suffering and Trauma (2014)* and *Waiting at the Foot of the Cross: Toward a Theology of Hope for Today (2014)*. To these she adds a number of chapters in multi-authored books as well as a significant number of papers presented at meetings and symposia, and of course, manuscripts in process. As one deeply concerned for the church, she has spent significant time leading workshops for both laity and clergy, and not surprisingly many of these presentations focus on hope, hope in a congregational context, hope in contexts of violence, hope in crisis, hope and poverty.

Writing to students about her decision, Professor McCarroll states: “As some of you know this decision has come through a challenging discernment process and with all sorts of competing emotions. While it has become clear to me that my move into this position is a Spirit-inspired calling and while I am excited about serving in this position at Emmanuel, I feel great sadness to be leaving my beloved students, colleagues, staff, and community at Knox College. I have relished the opportunities to work with all of you. I am grateful for the leadership of Principal Gordon and my faculty colleagues. I have learned so much from them and from you, my students, and I am deeply grateful. I look forward to continuing to serve as an ordained minister in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and to serve the larger church through my work at Emmanuel.”

Knox will miss Professor McCarroll but wishes her well in this next stage of her theological journey.

Recommendation No. 1

Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the above minute of appreciation for the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll be adopted.

Peter Ross
Convener

J. Dorcas Gordon
Principal

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ST. ANDREW'S HALL

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recommendations.

REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

The mission of St. Andrew's Hall is to form quality leaders who will serve a church that serves the world in Christ's name. Our post-Christendom context makes it more and more difficult to fulfill this mission in traditional ways, but God is always doing new things and is ever faithful to the church. The Board of St. Andrew's Hall is grateful for the resources God has entrusted to us, and is committed to investing these in programs and initiatives that are oriented to the future God is bringing, not to the past. God has been faithful to us, and we are moving forward with confident hope, witnessing to the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit leads us.

We have taken crucial steps toward the future of theological education by establishing the St. Andrew's Hall Centre for Missional Leadership. We are exploring various forms of collaboration among all the theological colleges located at the University of British Columbia, including Regent College, Carey Theological College and the St. Mark's-Corpus Christi Colleges, as well as our primary partner, the Vancouver School of Theology. St. Andrew's Hall has contributed resources, personnel and crucial leadership to the remarkable turnaround and renewed energy evident in the Vancouver School of Theology. God is doing new things in Vancouver, and we rejoice to be part of it.

A major rehabilitation of our residential hall is on schedule and will be substantially completed by June 2016. A bank loan at prime has been arranged to finance the project, with the option of paying it off early without penalty at the board's discretion. Funds held for St. Andrew's Hall in The Presbyterian Church in Canada's combined investment fund substantially exceed the value of the loan. The board anticipated and planned for a temporary operating deficit in 2015 due to extraordinary factors, including depreciation write-offs, modest losses of rental revenues during construction, and personnel transitions that involved some overlap in salary payments to those leaving and those coming on board. We expect to return to a nearly balanced budget in 2016, and are projecting operating surpluses again by 2017.

Leadership transitions have gone smoothly since the retirements of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris and Ms. Helen Anderson last June. The Rev. Dr. Robert Paul was appointed Dean of St. Andrew's Hall by the General Assembly in June 2015, and assumed his duties in early July. Ms. Deanna Louie, formerly a member of the Board of St. Andrew's Hall, joined the staff in April 2015 and assumed Helen's role after her retirement. Mr. Rod Thomson became convener of the Board, succeeding Mr. David Jennings in that role.

The current generation of the board is deeply grateful for the legacy of excellent leadership and visionary thinking on the part of those who served St. Andrew's Hall before us. Thanks to their bold strategic thinking, timely actions, and diligent attention to the details of sound governance and management, we are well positioned to focus on what matters most – the preparation of leaders equipped to serve our Lord with integrity and intelligence, whatever the future brings.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

St. Andrew's Hall was chartered on March 14, 1955 by an act of Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, with authority to grant degrees, honorary degrees, and certificates of proficiency in theology. On October 31, 1955, the University of British Columbia Board of Governors approved an application for affiliation with the University. The college was founded in 1957 on a property located on land leased to St. Andrew's Hall by the University of British Columbia for 999 years, with the condition that the college continues to teach theology.

From the beginning, St. Andrew's Hall has fulfilled its educational mandate through and in partnership with the Vancouver School of Theology, as defined by a formal agreement established between the two respective institutions and The Presbyterian Church in Canada. A working group representing the two colleges reviews the agreement from time to time to keep it up to date with current needs and opportunities.

St. Andrew's Hall faculty members teach as part of the Vancouver School of Theology faculty. Currently, this includes the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, the Principal of VST and Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition; the Rev. Dr. Robert Paul, Dean of St. Andrew's Hall and Professor of Mission Theology; and the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Director of the Centre for Missional Leadership and Director of Presbyterian Formation.

St. Andrew's Hall also has a formal agreement with Regent College, under which Presbyterian students studying for the M.Div. degree at Regent may take courses in Presbyterian polity and history offered by VST concurrently, in order to satisfy requirements for ordination in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

St. Andrew's Hall also offers a variety of other educational opportunities to serve the needs of church leaders in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Recent offerings have included a national training seminar for clerks that was provided through on-line distance learning technology; seminars on missional theology and church planting; seminars for pastors and ruling elders on 'missional church' themes; and ongoing support for graduates now serving churches in Canada.

Thanks to the vision and efforts of former Dean Stephen Farris, the heads of the five theological colleges at UBC meet periodically to explore opportunities for cooperation among the respective schools. A notable achievement is the integration of library cataloguing systems, which has brought together the collections held in the H.R. MacMillan Library (which is housed in the Vancouver School of Theology and in St. Andrew's Hall), the John Richard Allison Library at Regent College, the Dr. John Micallef Memorial Library at St. Mark's College, and a microfilm archive of the Church Missionary Society mission to First Nations people in Canada, which is housed at the Koerner Library of the University of British Columbia. The board and management of St. Andrew's Hall are grateful for a productive, cordial, and mutually beneficial relationship with all the theological colleges at UBC.

The board is also grateful to the General Assembly for supporting theological education through an annual grant from *Presbyterians Sharing*, which represents approximately 5% of our budget.

THE CENTRE FOR MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Centre for Missional Leadership (CML) at St. Andrew's Hall equips leaders for witnessing communities with the vision of making missionary disciples who bless and mend God's world. The centre takes seriously the theological principle that the church is missionary by its very nature, and endeavors to form inspired and inspiring missional leaders for Christ's Church of tomorrow, today. The structure of the centre includes the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart as Director and the Rev. Dr. Darrell Guder as Senior Fellow in Residence. Dr. Guder is on site several times throughout the year to teach courses and serve as "Missionary Architect" of the centre's work. In addition, we are developing a network of fellows from across North America who are experienced in missional theology and practice, and ministry practitioners who are leading innovative ministries to form vibrant witnessing missional communities. The Centre for Missional Leadership aims to be a place of research, teaching and practice that is a resource to the wider church to help in learning how to engage in mission in our post-Christendom cultural context, so that God's reputation is enhanced wherever we live, work and play.

We are grateful for the significant support of donors to this program, and welcome conversations with other Presbyterians who are interested in investing in leadership development for the church of the future in Canada.

PERSONNEL

The past year has involved significant transitions in personnel at St. Andrew's Hall with the retirements of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris and Ms. Helen Anderson at the end of June. The Rev. Dr. Robert Paul became Dean in July, and has been received as a Minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through the Education and Reception Committee, and as a member of the Presbytery of Westminster. Ms. Deanna Louie, who is a chartered accountant, became Director of Finance and Operations in April after having served previously on the Board of St. Andrew's Hall, in private industry, and with the University of British Columbia. The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart continues his work as Director of Presbyterian Formation and Director of the Centre for Missional Leadership. Ms. Sumarne Goble leads the Campus Ministries department, with able assistance from student chaplains Janet Taylor, Roberto DeSandoli, and Andrea Perrett. Ms. Mihye Park serves as Housing Manager, with assistance from Ms. Kim Woody and community coordinators Silva Kraal, Xiaoyi Ze, and Onyoo Kim. Ms. Mavis Ho serves as Executive Assistant to the Dean, Secretary to the Board of Management, and provides administrative assistance for the Centre for Missional Leadership. Ms. Amy Lin assists with bookkeeping and financial administration, and we are blessed by the good services of Mr. Greg Bonkowski in facilities maintenance and Mr. Rick Smith as custodian.

THE YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION

The property on which St. Andrew's Hall is located is approximately three acres in size and is located in the so-called 'theological neighborhood' at the University of British Columbia, in close proximity to four other theological colleges and near the centre of the campus. Steps were taken to development portions of this valuable property during the past decade, which has helped St. Andrew's Hall to achieve and maintain a strong financial condition.

The current residential facility was built in 1995, with the capacity to accommodate between 200–250 individuals, depending on how many families with young children are in residence. Studies completed in 2014–2015 revealed that extensive repairs were needed on the exterior cladding and roof of the building, and would be needed at some point on interior piping as well.

Based on this assessment and the value of extending the useable life of the facility, the Board of St. Andrew's Hall on June 19, 2015 authorized a contract with the Engineering Consultant firm RDH to oversee a major rehabilitation project, with an original budget of \$4.2 million. Additions to the scope of the project were subsequently approved, on October 8, 2015, as additional needs were identified. The most substantial increase in scope involved the complete replacement of interior piping throughout the facility. These additions brought the total authorized budget to \$4,775,500, including contingency funds. The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of May 2016.

Working and living in the midst of a major construction project has presented many challenges for the staff and residents of St. Andrew's Hall. Early in the project, scaffolding went up around the entire building. The rehabilitation process began with new shingles on the roof, followed by the removal of the exterior stucco right down to the studs. Areas affected by water incursion were identified repaired, and then all windows were removed and replaced with new ones. Finally, new exterior cladding designed to eliminate future water incursion problems was applied in stages. At the same time, a subcontracting company, Cambridge Plumbing, systematically worked through the building from one end to the other, replacing all the interior plumbing from the main supply lines to the feeder lines connected to kitchens and bathrooms in every unit. In addition to the noise, dust, and daily disruptions caused by work on the exterior of the building, the interior plumbing involved scheduled entries by workmen into apartment units to remove sections of drywall, remove old pipes, install new ones, and repair the drywall. This process required about three weeks of intermittent activity in each apartment unit.

Two significant water escape events occurred when construction workers accidentally damaged fire sprinkler pipes. In one of these, three families were displaced because their apartments were rendered uninhabitable by water damage. St. Andrew's Hall secured alternative housing for them. The damaged units have required extensive repairs, which meant a loss of rental revenue for these units.

Despite these difficulties, which are inherent risks in a large construction project, residents and staff have persevered and weathered the process. A construction rebate to residents was planned from the beginning of the project, anticipating the disruptions that were likely to occur. In light of actual experience, the board recently authorized an increase in the amount, along with its sincere appreciation for the resiliency and understanding of residents who have lived through this year of construction with patience and grace.

The board is also grateful for the excellent management of this project by its Property Development Committee, chaired by Mr. Ian Rokeby. Former board members Mr. David Jennings and Mr. Alan Hartley have continued to participate in this committee, along with Dean Robert Paul, Convener Rod Thomson, and Director of Finance and Operations Deanna Louie.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

The board wishes to express its deep appreciation for the service of Mr. Robert Paterson and Ms. Val Kerekes in relation to financial accounting and management. Mr. Robert Paterson has served as treasurer for the past seven years. His acumen in financial matters and his advocacy for sound management principles has been an important factor in establishing a secure financial basis for the work of St. Andrew's Hall. We will miss his presence at our meetings, and wish him well in all his future endeavours. Ms. Val Kerekes for many years has rendered able and faithful assistance with year-end accounting and the preparation of reports and statements for the annual audit. Her services will be sorely missed, and we wish her well, with gratitude for all her work.

Rod Thomson
Convener

Robert Paul
Dean

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recommendations.

REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

Vancouver School of Theology is a theological graduate school that offers a wide range of degree, diploma, certificate and continuing education programs with sufficient flexibility to accommodate a variety of goals and personal circumstances. Together with the core work of the school preparing candidates for Christian leadership in the church and the world, the school has a stream of Inter-Religious Studies and Indigenous Studies, unique in North America. There is rich overlap and intersection between these streams deepening and broadening theological education. Vancouver School of Theology is a Theological College of the Anglican and United Churches of Canada, with which The Presbyterian Church in Canada is associated through St. Andrew's Hall. The Vancouver School of Theology has a dedicated board, under the wise and able direction of Mr. Michael Francis, chair. It is composed of representatives of all the supporting denominations and it meets at least quarterly to review the strategic direction, development, sustainability and excellence of all streams of VST's community of learning. Mission: Vancouver School of Theology is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders.

NEW FACULTY

In 2015 VST hired 5 new faculty and St. Andrew's Hall hired a new Dean, who teaches at VST. They are:

- The Rev. Ray Aldred, Director Indigenous Studies and Professor of Indigenous Theology;
- The Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee, Butler Chair in Homiletics and Biblical Interpretation;
- Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan-Kaplan, Director Inter-Religious Studies and Professor of Jewish Studies;
- The Rev. Dr. Travis O'Brian, Anglican Director of Denomination Formation (Anglican Studies);
- The Rev. Dr. Robert Paul, Dean St. Andrew's Hall, Professor of Mission Theology;
- The Rev. Grant Rodgers, Anglican Director of Denomination Formation (Anglican Formation).

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris will complete his sabbatical in June 2016, after which he will retire. We are very grateful for the leadership of Dr. Farris for over 12 years at St Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology. We do hope to keep him active at VST in the years to come. The Rev. Dr. Robert Paul and the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, both of St Andrew's Hall, both play key roles in the leadership and vitality of the Vancouver School of Theology.

PROVINCIAL ACCREDITATION

The Province of British Columbia now requires that all post-secondary educational institutions be accredited by the province. We submitted a thorough application for accreditation and received the EQA certification from the province. Education Quality Assurance (EQA) provides protection for all our students in the event of dissolution and certifies our school as a going concern. It also allows students to receive government loans to attend VST. This accreditation by the province is proof of good governance and fiscal responsibility. It also provides reassurance to foreign students who register at our school.

NEW BUILDING, BUDGET AND VST FOUNDATION

In October 2015, the Vancouver School of Theology moved into its new purpose built, IT savvy facility. A significant change to our school in the last year lies in our enhanced ability to deliver programs remotely. The new VST building is equipped with five Smart Classrooms. We now use Adobe Connect software for real time delivery of classes to students across British Columbia and elsewhere in the country. Class lectures are also archived on the Moodle platform for asynchronous learners. We have engaged in serious training with our teaching faculty in order to make the best use of this new capacity. An official opening was held in November 2015 with officials from all supporting denominations in attendance, as well as representatives from our Indigenous partners. In our new building we are renting space to a coffee shop and to St. Mark's, a Roman Catholic College, to provide a revenue stream for the school, add animation to our building and interact with the university community. The new VST Foundation, established to manage the net proceeds from the sale of the Iona building, together with other assets, holds over \$30 million. The Board of the Foundation is peopled with experts in the field of financial management.

The school is well on its way to a balanced budget for 2015–2016 (year end is April 30), and forecasts the same for its next fiscal year.

LIBRARY

The H.R. MacMillan Library officially re-opened February 4, 2016 in our new facility. The school houses its active collection in this space, with a secondary collection held at St. Andrew's Hall. Our increased commitment to electronic resources supports off-campus students, hybrid delivery of theological education and our extension sites in Calgary and Victoria. A new library software system (OCLC) allows us to integrate connections to electronic resources and cooperate more closely in an 'electronic' consortium with our neighbours at other theological colleges in the neighbourhood. Dr. Naomi Lloyd is our new co-ordinator of Library Technical Services.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CHURCHES

One of the central goals of our new strategic plan is to engage more fully with our denominational partners, and the wider community, to support the work of Christian ministry for the flourishing of all God's people. The following is an inventory of some of the significant cooperative ventures: Syrian Refugee Sponsorship together with Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver Acts, City in Focus, Primex Investment and Ajjal; Kathleen Norris at St Mary's Kerrisdale for lecture and workshop, June 2015; Jason Byassee Preaching Workshops with Diocese of New Westminster, February/November 2016; Hillhurst United, Calgary – four weekends of instruction with VST faculty on Theology, Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Spirituality, 'Theology for the First Time,' January 2016, with over 2000! attending; William Willimon, Preaching Workshop, Christ Church Cathedral, January 2016; Lillian Daniel, Revitalizing the Church Conference 'Religion without Ranting,' May 2016; Co-sponsor of 'Inspire Conference' – leadership with youth and children, March 2016; Theology Sunday – preaching opportunities for students at local churches, February 2016, in over 45 churches; the Principal was invited to offer the Niblett Lecture at Sarum College, Salisbury, UK, in October of 2015. The address was entitled, 'Troubling Context: Mainline Protestant Theology Education in Canada' and will be published in Encounter, Spring 2016.

(RE)NEW PROGRAMS

This year a number of new programs were started at the Vancouver School of Theology. A new emphasis on Anglican Formation supported by a grant from the Anglican Foundation is taking shape. This program recognizes that with increasing numbers of part-time students the school needs to be innovative in the work of formation for ministry in retreat format and intensive delivery of programs. This model is important for all our students. The school is developing a certificate in Youth and Children's Ministry in cooperation with our denominational partners, meeting a real need for the churches of the Lower Mainland and beyond. This emphasis is being built into our summer school, day programs and intensive formats. Conversations continue with the Sauder Executive School at UBC in the interests of a certificate in Entrepreneurial Ministry. 'The Teaching House that Moves,' is an innovative project for ministry in Indigenous communities funded by a grant from the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf. This proposal is being developed by the Rev. Ray Aldred in collaboration with Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark McDonald. A new annual inter-religious conference, 'Religious Constructions of the Other' will be held May 15–17. Dr. Marc Gopin, Director of the Centre for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, will be the Keynote speaker. VST summer school (July 4–15) will reboot after a two-year hiatus. Instructors include Visiting Distinguished Scholar, Dr. Daniel Boyarin, of the University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Jason Byassee, of VST; Dr. Jay Daniel, of Hendrix College, youth specialist Dr. Kathy Dawson of Columbia Theological Seminary and Missional Theologian, the Rev. Dr Bob Paul of St. Andrew's Hall. The Native Ministries Consortium Summer School takes place at VST, July 11–22. This annual event allows distance students to complete courses on site in a community of Indigenous students and scholars from across the North American, including Hawaii, Alaska and also Oceania. Courses this year include: 'North American Indigenous Spirituality' with the Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, United Keetoowah Band Cherokee; 'The Land is Sacred' with the Rev. Ray Aldred, Cree; Reading the Old Testament Through Post-Colonial Eyes, with Dr. Ira Mangililo, Indonesian First Nations; 'Let's Go to Church,' with the Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo, Ho Chuck. A renewal of the covenant of Indigenous Partners that make up the Consortium will be a part of the summer school. This renewal of the covenant marks the 30+1 anniversary of the Consortium.

ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT

The fall 2015 head count was 124 and increased to 147 in the spring of 2016. The number of course registrations for the fall of 2015 increased by 10 from the previous academic year to 257. The spring semester saw 329 course registrations. The number of full-time equivalent students in the fall of 2015 was 59 and it increased to 70 in the

spring of 2016. 20 Presbyterian students were registered in the spring of 2015. This number increased to 25 in the spring of 2016. The United Church of Canada form the largest part of our student body (55); Anglican/Episcopalian the second largest (36) and Presbyterian students the third (25). We have students from at least 12 different Christian denominations. On May 9, 2016 we will confer degrees and certificates on 30 students at our Convocation at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church. An honorary doctorate will be presented to Mr. David Jennings, former convener of the Board at St Andrew's Hall and VST board member. Mr. Jennings efforts as a member of the Turning Point and Property Management Teams was crucial to the renewal of VST. Senator Lois Wilson, the first female Moderator of the United Church, Companion of the Order of Canada and 1985 recipient of the Pearson Medal of Peace will also be a recipient of an honorary doctorate. Our convocation speaker is the Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, author of *When Spiritual but not Religious is Not Enough*. On May 10, for the second year, we will offer a special event for local church leaders with Lillian Daniel entitled, "Religion Without Ranting, Spirituality Without Stereotypes". This workshop is sponsored by the Hugh and Helen Mogensen Fund for Church Revitalization.

MAJOR GIFTS

In 2015–2016, alongside our regular donor support, we received a number of major donations. We received \$300,000 in October 2015 for recruitment of outstanding students. The money will provide 8 entrance scholarships for students with B+ average and the endorsement of their denomination, \$100,000 to support housing costs for students attending VST intensive courses on site and funding to increase the hours of our new Recruitment Officer, the Rev. Julie Lees. St Andrew's Hall and Presbyterian students will benefit from this gift. We received \$50,000 in November 2015 from a private donor to support our library. A \$500,000 gift from the BC Conference and the Presbytery of Vancouver-Burrard (United Church of Canada) was received in December 2015 to ensure a robust United Church presence on Faculty of VST. This money, for which we are incredibly grateful, will be held in the VST Foundation. The national office of the United Church also restored funding for one full-time academic position for the next two years. Finally, we received commitment of \$72,000 to support Indigenous Studies at Vancouver School of Theology and a start up grant for our innovative new project: 'The Teaching House that Moves'.

We offer thanks for the partnership that Vancouver School of Theology has with The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through St Andrew's Hall. Together we work to equip our students to participate in God's mission to the world in Jesus Christ. Be assured of our prayers for the General Assembly and The Presbyterian Church in Canada as you serve Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God.

Richard Topping
Principal