

# CONTACT



*St. Andrew's College celebrated convocation May 6 with 11 degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded along with two honorary degrees. Please see story page 5.*

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# From the Chair of the Board

By Doug Neufeld  
Board Chair

As I draft this article, I find myself witnessing all the familiar signs of St. Andrew's Easter Season. The grass has become green and the leaves are starting to sprout as we do the business of our May meetings. It's also the same week we celebrate the convocation of this year's graduates and as special as this time has always been, this year adds some extra excitement. We have emerged from our two years of pandemic isolation and many of us have come together (responsibly) for some in-person gatherings. We aren't fully interacting like we did pre-pandemic, but this is a significant step forward and the fellowship has created great enthusiasm.



The enthusiasm has extended from the business at hand. The difficult decision to integrate the curriculum with our Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) partners in February 2021 and the short time frame to accomplish these changes (operational by fall 2023) put a huge strain on the college. Thanks to the gifted and dedicated members of the STU Curriculum Design Group (SCDG), and our Academic Redesign Team (ART) supported by our Faculty Council, our Academic Committee, and the leadership of our Principal Richard Manley-Tannis, there is great excitement around the accomplishment (but not limited to) the following milestones:

The finalization of the three job descriptions of the St. Andrew's College complement of the STU faculty and the offer and acceptance of these positions. We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Lynn Caldwell is our Professor of Theological Ethics, Dr. Becca Whitla is our Professor of Practical Ministry, and Dr. Bernon Lee is our Professor of Hebrew Scriptures and Educational Coordinator for the Lifelong Learning Pathway.

The STU has approved in principle a draft of a Faculty Structure for the Saskatoon Theological Union. Our current governance doesn't have parameters for a shared entity like our new joint curriculum, so we need to create a shared STU oversight for this venture. We look forward to the newly formed STU Faculty helping us flesh out this work that will take the three colleges in a deeper partnership.

The STU has approved their Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies overview, criteria, and outcomes/goals and authorises the Saskatoon Theological Union Faculty to complete the work of finalising an integrated curriculum as per the responsibility of the Standards of the Association for Theological Schools assigned to faculty in the context of theologically shared governance. The final detailed curriculum is the full and final responsibility of the STU Faculty and will come to the Board as information.

These two programs will provide the framework for other degrees to be added to the STU Academic Enterprise. The Board of Regents, based on the affirmation of the Academic Redesign Team as transmitted by the Academic Committee, approved the Lifelong Learning Pathway and authorised the Educational Coordinator to complete the work of finalising the Pathway and establish an Advisory Group with the assistance of the Principal. This is an exciting new dimension of education for St. Andrew's, and we look forward to the new avenues it could create. More information to come.

The Board of Regents, based on the recommendation of the Academic Committee, approved the STU Faculty to complete the reopening of admissions and the development of appropriate recruitment materials for the launch of the new integrated STU academic programmes in September 2023. Students currently in progress within the existing programs will be offered accommodations to enable them to complete the degree programs to which they were admitted.

Last but not least, this past January, Saskatoon City Council rezoned the land on which the college sits, and this has opened opportunities for new renters. We have secured a few leases, but we are currently still 25% vacant. This is a substantial amount of space not generating income, but we are optimistic with the interest we've seen from potential tenants. (We had to pause a Board meeting while the space was being shown.) Preliminary calculations suggest that when we get to 85% leased, we should have a balanced budget and be in a better position for the sustainability of the college.

History is being made at St. Andrew's College, and although there is still much to be done in this reorganization, we take a brief moment to celebrate what has been accomplished so far. Anxiety and grief are transforming to hope and optimism of what is to come. New energy is being demonstrated in the excitement of what we can become. We've been told that the Association for Theological Schools (ATS) is referencing St. Andrew's to other theological schools when it comes to innovation in curriculum partnerships. This is something we never would have envisioned two years ago.

Earlier I referred to the season of Easter at St. Andrew's and I can't help but see parallels to the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. How St. Andrew's was operating had to come to an end and the community was devastated in their grief. Now we are finding that the tomb is empty and the hope in the resurrection has us imagining the amazing possibilities of the future.

Blessings and peace  
Rev. Doug Neufeld

# Principal's Musings

By Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis  
Principal, St. Andrew's College

Dear friends, alum, and supporters of St. Andrew's College,

In this Eastertide season, I greet you with hope and in the recognition of promise in our midst. For my 2022 spring submission to *Contact*, I thought I would share with you my address to the May 6th Saskatoon Theological Union Convocation. In these remarks, I endeavour to name some of the challenges that we, including the College, have confronted over the last several pandemic years. In turn, I pray the places of newness and opportunities born out of these challenging days convey well what is happening in our denomination and the College's context.

## *Friends*

On Treaty 6 territory, I was greeted this morning by a double rainbow at 5:30. This Covenant reminder brought into focus this evening's Convocation. As the Saskatoon Theological Union celebrates with you, the Union has been guided into a closer relationship by our own 2020 Covenant, a flawed and living document that will grow with us as we embrace the gift of our denominational diversity. In such diversity, we experience Creator's ever-present, justice-making through love unconditional.

I am grateful for the members of St. Andrew's Board of Regents, staff and faculty, and the friends of the college who are in attendance, following the end of our May meetings.

So, here's what last Friday looked like as I prepared these remarks ...

All I had written was:

It's a hard world out there ...

The cursor blinking, I wondered: so what?

I got up from my desk and went to hear the robins sing, Magpies babble, and crows caw ...



Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

## *It's a hard world out there ...*

The cursor was still blinking. Again: so what?

I got up again and visited the lilac budding and garlic chives bravely standing tall out of soil not long ago frozen ...

## *It's a hard world out there ...*

The cursor continued to wink cynically: so what?

Well, stuck, I shut off my computer and walked into a spring day that, though late to arrive, gloriously welcomed me ...

Jump to Sunday. Weeklong meetings are about to begin, and all I have is ...

## *It's a hard world out there ...*

There is no denying this. It is as old as our millennia long Christian journey.

As we long to be released from the pandemic's grip, families are splintered politically, people continue to die of opioid addiction, and our mental health has suffered. Whether in families or congregations, we have struggled to gather as caring communities. It has not been an easy time.

## *It's a hard world out there ...*

One need not look very hard to see leadership that has failed so absolutely it is almost comical. People suffer the rise of totalitarian absolutism, antisemitism is growing, nuclear threats are recklessly bandied, and the least endure missiles that slam into day cares and hospitals.

## *It's a hard world out there ...*

As shadows gather, our denomination is confronted by contraction. COVID has exacerbated unstable fault lines, and our college is not immune. During crisis, questions of mission and stability grow into difficult, stark, and challenging conversations.

## *However...*

We celebrate convocation today because of a radical Rabbi's choices, choices that led to the inevitable conclusion of Empire's logic. His body was broken by the executioners' horrors, and the Emperor's oppressive systems seemed to win. But the story doesn't end there. In fact, that's where our story begins ...

Our story begins with resurrection: Love wins. We are transformed. At times we do not recognise ourselves, but always the Easter story is played out.

## *Love: This is our Story*

Congregations now gather virtually and in-person, as community unbounded by geography, to grieve and to celebrate. This expanded community recalls and honours the wisdom of those who have died, and celebrates the hope born through baptism and marriage's Covenants.

## *Love: This is our Story*

For each graduate and Honorary Doctorate recipient this evening, you embody how we address political and unjust systems. Whether you find yourselves advocating for justice or offering pastoral care, these are radical ways to mend the world.

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## Love: This is our Story

Finally, as institutions struggle to find their way in a sea of change, from denominational contraction to the effects of climate crisis, I will leave you with what transformation looks like for St. Andrew's.

I am excited to share that, as of April 30th, The United Church of Canada has approved the appointment of three new faculty positions, which will support the Saskatoon Theological Union's closer academic relationship.

Dr Lynn Caldwell will assume the tenured position as the new Professor of Theological Ethics. She says:

One of the things that St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union do is to hold space and to keep creating new spaces for deep study and practical experience. This is creative, critical, active, faithful, and theological work that requires involvement in the world; that is a very good thing, this is a very good place, and now is a very good time to get to it.

Dr Becca Whitla will assume the tenure track position as the new Professor of Practical Ministry, and she reflects:

I always throw my whole self, especially my heart, into everything I do. At St. Andrew's, I have been deeply moved by the legacy and witness of justice on the prairies. I look forward being part of the future of the Saskatoon Theological Union as it ministers to, speaks to, and speaks from the church at the margins while reflecting God's beloved.

Dr Bernon Lee will assume the tenure track position as Professor of Hebrew Scriptures and our first Educational Coordinator of the College's Lifelong Learning Pathway, and he shares:

The warm welcome and care showered upon me by the St. Andrew's community through my time of transition to life here at the college have gladdened my heart and confirmed to me Spirit's abiding presence in this place. As I walk into my new role, I aspire to live into the magnanimity of that hospitality in our shared path.

Finally, with our renewed faculty complement, transformation for St. Andrew's College also includes a deepening Covenant with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners, new collaboration with St Thomas More College, and a commitment to the ongoing renewal of our academic and lifelong learning pathways.

It's a hard world out there, but Love IS our story, Love crucified and risen and ever present.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The graphic features four portraits of faculty members, each with the St. Andrew's College logo to their left. The logos are arranged in a 2x2 grid. To the right of the portraits is a large blue vertical banner with white text.

Portrait	Text
	Appointment (Tenure Track) Professor of Practical Ministry Dr. Becca Whitla
	Appointment (Tenure) Professor of Theological Ethics Dr. Lynn Caldwell
	Appointment (Tenure Track) Professor of Hebrew Scriptures & Educational Coordinator Dr. Bernon Lee
	Contract Renewal Principal Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

**A St. Andrew's College Announcement**

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**New Appointments & Renewal**

# Convocation 2022



St. Andrew's College awarded 11 degrees, diplomas and certificates along with two honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees during the Saskatoon Theological Union Convocation held on May 6. This was the first in-person convocation service since 2019. Those attending the service were required to wear masks but were very happy to be able to gather in-person again.

Degrees were awarded to: Shane Goldie, Bachelor of Theology; Kent Mohn, Master of Divinity; YoungJin Park, Master of Divinity; Marlene Salmonson, Master of Divinity; Bri-anne Swan, Master of Theological Studies (with honours); and Taeil Yang, Doctor of Ministry.

Designated Lay Ministry diplomas were awarded to Jenn Brown, Susan Hutton, Jeri-Lee Jones and

James Martin-Carter. Charles Kahumbu received a Post-Graduate Certificate in Theology.

Martha Dawson of Grande Prairie, AB, and Terry Shillington of Lethbridge, AB, received Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*) degrees.

The Convocation service included greetings from the Heads of the Colleges of the Saskatoon Theological Union as well as an address from Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. The Lutheran Theological Seminary awarded degrees to seven graduates during the service. The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad did not have any graduands or honorary degree recipients this year.



Pictured are Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis, Principal, and Rev. Doug Neufeld, Chair of the Board of Regents.

## Contract Renewal

St. Andrew's Board of Regents is thrilled to announce the renewal of Principal Richard Manley-Tannis' contract for an additional five years after the end of his current contract in 2023.

This continuity is ever important as Richard's role includes being our Chief Academic Officer and visionary for the work before us.

# Martha and the MDiv: The STU Beckons

The August heat swaddled the fields of Canora. The warm afternoon breezes, for Martha, bore the beckoning of matriculation at the STU. But still, a creeping sorrow was settling in the gut. Blast it! Covid had sapped the strength of Mum's bones, leaving her already frail form failing further. Winter, without Martha's helping hands, would break her. The STU would have to wait.

The stifled bewilderment of the recruitment officer on the telephone was disconcerting. The fellow seemed callous, almost. The "Distance is no matter," he quipped, "MDiv's hybrid!" An internet connection was all Martha would need. Keeping a few hours at the hardware store to help with the groceries, looking in on Mum; this could still go on. Some relief snuck in the back of Martha's mind. She learned of how it was all set in an intensive format on a 12-month trimester model—Fall, Winter, Summer—with 3 intensives in sequence each 4-month trimester. Done in three years, maybe less. This meant that Martha need only be focused on one course, at any point in the program. Ha!

"Okay, tell me more," Martha muttered, still grudgingly. The bubbling bacon on the skillet was still a greater draw. An assigned faculty guide would assist her, from the get-go, in articulat-

ing objectives flowing from the outcomes of the program. This would be fitted to her formational and professional objectives. They would revisit this conversation at the start of every year, just to negotiate the turns in the road. She would proceed, then, to the foundational courses of the first year. There would be several courses taught by teams of two bringing Bible, theology, preaching, ethics, liturgy together across denominational, even religious lines.

Beyond the first year, Martha would launch into a different part of the program, one that would include experiential learning with academics. These experiential learning components might take Martha across a range of spaces: a faith community, a social service agency, an institution, you know, like a school or a hospital. Mind boggling, it seemed, but the guide would be in touch for scouting out possibilities. All this theology talk and do, of course, would be connected to Martha's unfolding vision for the future, unpacked in those chats with the guide. Golly, what a concept: theology and action, mind and matter, thinking and practice, just like it always was in the fields, in school, in the pubs. And the range of topics in this part of the curriculum, indeed in the entire program—by the earnest description of the voice on the phone—was

a potpourri of delights: prophecy and intergenerational trauma; decolonizing liturgical practice; diaspora, refuge, and the theological imagination in the twentieth century. This was starting to sound alright.

Moving on, Martha would engage upper-level courses on a range of topics that would allow for greater focus in a chosen area. Here, it really would come down to where Martha's intellectual curiosity and practical interests would take her in the flow of things beyond that first year. And this topical or disciplinary concentration might take her even to a thesis. She'd check in with that guide on this point. Martha realised she'd stopped thinking of this person in a pantsuit or tweed any longer. The staid images of seminary education had fallen away. And the recruitment fellow's incredulity at her hesitation now seemed quite understandable.

Accessibility, flexibility, intersectionality, practicality, student-driven learning. "All this," the chap went on to say, "in a program that could open the door to three denominations, maybe more." The STU was starting to look as open as Canora's skies.

## SAC seeks to strengthen governance structure

The Nominations and Board Education Committee of St. Andrew's College is pleased to report several significant developments as the College transitions to a new season of faithful theological education in collaboration with Lutheran Theological Seminary and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad.

The College announced the launch of the new Lifelong Learning Pathway and the academic integration with our Saskatchewan Theological Union (STU) partners.

We are pleased also to announce three new faculty positions for the STU. Dr. Lynn Caldwell will assume the tenured position as the new Professor of Theological Ethics; Dr. Becca Whitla will assume the tenure track position as the new Professor of Practical Ministry, and Dr. Bernon Lee will be Professor of Hebrew Scriptures and the first Educational Coordinator of the College's Lifelong Learning Pathway.

The Board of Regents has renewed the contract of Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis as Principal to 2028.

As the College enters this historic transition, it will continue to rely on a strong governance structure made up competent, skilled and dedicated Board and committee members.

We are seeking potential nominees to fill several positions on the Board and committees.

Our areas of urgent need at the moment are the Finance Committee and Audit Committee. If you are financially-minded, or know someone who is,

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please contact the College office as soon as possible at 639-638-2478 or email [melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca). We will be happy to send you details about these opportunities.

The Audit Committee needs members who have some experience or certification in accounting. The committee meets once a year virtually to review the College's financial statement.

The Nominations and Board Education Committee also invites expressions of interest for Members at Large on the Board, the Nominations Committee and Personnel Policy Committee.

We are committed to diversity on the Board and welcome interest from lay persons and paid accountable ministers as well as from all genders, sexual orientation, ethnicity, geography, ability and age.

Please share this information about volunteer opportunities in the College to all communities of faith in your network and to any individual you know who may be interested in helping build a strong and sustainable future for the College and to fulfill God's mission through theological education.

# Choose Your Own Adventure! Lifelong Learning at St. Andrew's College

## ***Enter the Lifelong Learning (LLL) Pathway:***

Participate in community learning events, meet like-minded people, and explore the opportunities open to you by joining St. Andrew's new Lifelong Learning Pathway. Here you will learn on your own terms and track your own progress, or choose to enter one of the certificate streams, with the support of an Educational Guide.

## ***Subscribe to Join the Open Pathway***

Enter the Open Pathway through a subscription you may renew or pause every four months. If you choose to pause your subscription, you can later re-open your pathway at any time. Once subscribed to the Open Pathway, you will have access to learning events, community support, and consultation with the Coordinator and Guides.

## ***Draw your LLL Pathways Map:***

What happens if you commit to one of the three certificate streams? You will then choose an Educational Guide to support you in drawing your certificate stream map. You choose your timeline, based on the time available to you in harmony with your other commitments. You also determine the details around what and how you will build your skills, based on your prior learning and personal learning goals, within the scope of the core competencies along your chosen Certificate pathway. These certificates are "Leadership in the Faith Community," "Leadership in the World," and "Spiritual Exploration."

## ***Follow Your Pathway and Document Your Growth:***

You've assessed your current level of skill and charted your path forward, using your Certificate's competencies, outcomes, and indicators as a guide. You've proposed a timeline to develop and assess your skills. Your guide is in place, and you are ready to grow your abilities and wisdom, contribute to and connect with your community, and document your path!

## ***Resourcing Your Certificate Stream:***

Having committed to a stream within the LLL Pathway, your registration moves from the Open Pathway to your chosen certificate stream. To remain registered, you contribute a new monthly subscription that now includes your milestones and access to a dedicated Educational Guide.

You know that you might need to pay for external programming you are interested in, and the skill you build through this will count towards meeting the competency requirements of your certificate.

The timeline you determined helps you identify the resources you need to complete the certificate you have chosen. You will remain registered until you meet all outcomes and successfully complete your final competency demonstration. Your status within the certificate stream will remain "In Progress" until you complete your demonstration, and you will continue to collect badges and micro-credentials along your path at each successful milestone to mark your success in building your skills. The fee for badges and micro-credentials is part of your overall subscription.

## ***Arrive at Your Destination: Show What You Know and Can Do***

Congratulations! You have built your skills and knowledge as you followed your path, collecting badges and micro-credentials at each milestone along your pathway's map. You have consulted with your Faculty and Community Guides, supported and learned with your peers, and responded to feedback to help you grow. You are now ready to showcase your skills and knowledge at the final competency demonstration, where you will have the opportunity to view your peers' showcases, and celebrate with the community you contributed to building. Your final portfolio, which documents your growth from start to finish, will be reviewed shortly after your demonstration, on a date agreed upon in partnership with your Educational Guide. This is an exciting accomplishment ... but remember: lifelong learning never actually comes to an end!

# Faculty Updates



Becca Whitla

As I write this reflection on the past months, the sun is shining brightly, and I can hear some children playing outside my office window at the college. Spring is so delicious this year! It really does feel like the vale of the pandemic is lifting, at least somewhat.

This year has been very busy teaching-wise. I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with our SME students in learning circles 1 and 5. I also taught PA 352: English Language and Culture for Canadian Pastoral Contexts, Christian Education last fall and a new course: Intercultural, Ecumenical, and Interreligious Ritual. I was very excited by the students' projects that demonstrated deep contextual awareness and a sensitive creative flair. Another highlight was co-teaching a doctoral seminar with Lynn Caldwell and Iain Luke. STU Chapel continued to happen every Tuesday and Thursday via ZOOM this term. Many thanks to fellow chapel dean Dr. Trish McCarthy from ESC and Worship Coordinator Bruce Elhert from LTS. Thanks, as well, to St. Andrew's students, faculty, and community members for their ongoing contributions.

This past winter, with Joerg Reiger, I organized a book panel for the Liberation Theologies Group of the American Academy of Religion (in November) and participated as a panelist in "Decolonizing theology, reframing the discipline: What's hidden in how we think about what we do" for the Virtual Forum Series Doing Theology during epochal shifts: fears and hopes of the Toronto School of Theology (in December). Now, I'm looking forward to attending the annual meeting of the Hymn Society this summer in July, which is taking place in Washington, D.C. It is the society's 100th anniversary! I'll be presenting two sessions at the conference: the new Anglican supplement, Sing a New Creation, with Ken Hull, as well as "Sing the World God Imagines: Performing Liberation in Congregational Singing" with Marcell Silva Steuernagel from Perkins School of Theology. Planning is also well under way for next year's conference in Montreal, which I'm co-chairing with my colleague Anneli Loepp Thiessen. And, I'm delighted to share the news that I've been invited to the Calvin Summer Seminar: "Power, Participation, and Access within Congregational Worship Music" in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in August.

I continue to work on research and writing including: my chapter, "Inclusion," for the *Oxford Handbook of Music and Christian Theology*; the book I'm co-editing with Néstor Medina under contract with MQUP, provisionally titled *Decolonizing Church, Theology, and Ethics in Canada*; as well as a couple of other projects. I'm looking forward to some research time this summer to dedicate to this work.

I remain grateful for the deep commitment of faculty colleagues past and present to the St. Andrew's ethos of transformative leadership through collaborative teaching and learning,

especially their attentive concern for students and their contexts. I am delighted to have been appointed to the tenure track position of Professor of Practical Ministry. I hope and pray that the new direction of the college will continue to hold fast to the vision of hope and perseverance in the prairie context as it charts a new direction for this remarkable learning community. I also pray that there may be some healing in the wake of the past few difficult months.



Lynn Caldwell

I recently accepted the newly developed position of Professor of Theological Ethics with St. Andrew's College as part of the program integration within the Saskatoon Theological Union. So, this is the first faculty update for someone holding this Theological Ethics position, and it is also the last one from a Professor of Church and Society at St. Andrew's College. Since I have this opportunity, I want to use this space to offer appreciation and respect to others who have held this position, to students who have engaged with me and my predecessors, and to colleagues I have worked with over the years in that role.

In the time since it was first developed in 1961, the Professor of Church and Society position at St. Andrew's has been held by Benjamin Smillie (who had been originally appointed to the College as Lecturer in Applied Theology), by Christopher Lind, and by Nettie Wiebe. Of course, no position title can really convey the fullness, diversity, change, and collaborations involved in what the people do in a role or what else and who else shapes its possibilities. In naming these three professors, I also think about all their students and colleagues, and about the different contexts that shaped their teaching and scholarship over the decades.

I came to the work myself in a job-share position with Nettie Wiebe who shifted from full to half-time during her tenure as professor here. We shared the job from 2009 through to Nettie's retirement in 2015. In those job-share years I also taught courses with Colleges of the University of Saskatchewan and St. Thomas More College; and my involvements in Sociology, Gender Studies, and Educational Foundations on this campus have been vital to my teaching, scholarship and community engagement in ongoing ways. I consider it a strength of St. Andrew's College that our fields of study and practices of teaching are open to and engaged in so much collaboration and interdisciplinarity. I usually found that the Church and Society title required explanation when I would introduce myself, and I would often say that it was hard to describe because all my colleagues in their teaching of Church History and Ecumenics, of Theology, of Biblical Studies, and of Pastoral Studies were also, of course, teaching about and studying church and society, and also because my own work moved across several fields of study.

The specific focus in the position I filled at the College has long included the study and teaching of ethics, and that was one way to explain its particularity. However, it has had many other related emphases. A central thread for me has been about integrating community experience with theological reflection, especially drawing sociology and on the work of anti-racist and anti-oppressive education.

There is much that I look forward to bringing into this new role in Theological Ethics and I continue to be enthusiastic about my work with students, colleagues, and the community. I especially look forward to creating new courses, and to new conversations about the collaborative work of theological education and ethics.



Bernon Lee

In the Winter Semester of 2022, I had the joy of walking with seven students through the Wisdom books of the Bible. The books, both sprightly and sombre, touched off a series of exchanges on the stability of Wisdom's constructs and the daunting vistas of divine mystery and human suffering. Our conversations, sometimes fevered, reflected the chal-

lenges and complexities in the Body in relating to God in our often troubled contexts. In scholarship, my labour on Josephine Butler's biblical interpretation against the backdrop of Victorian literary and scientific discourse culminated in the publication of an article in the *Journal of the Bible and Its Reception* in May. My work on Florence Nightingale's notes in the leaves of her Bible in a same cultural milieu continues.

Perhaps the most significant slice of my work this semester has been my collaboration with others in the broader St. Andrew's community and the STU in casting new academic and certificate programs of learning. The fruit of our striving is the subject matter of a good chunk of this issue of *Contact*. The most satisfying aspect of this collaboration, from my perspective, has been our commitment to an inter-disciplinary and ecumenical dialogue in situating our sometimes seemingly disparate needs and wants in the emerging structures, as this dialogue pertains to cutting-edge theological education and governance. I look forward to the continuance of this communal cooperation in the months ahead as the STU moves towards the completion of this work.

## Farewell to Janet Clarke

In March, Janet Clarke, Pastor in Residence, announced her retirement effective April 30, 2022. Following is her letter to the community, which was shared with the announcement:



*Hello Friends,*

*To be the Pastor in Residence of St. Andrew's College has been a great blessing in my life the past 5 years.*

*I've decided to leave at the end of this school year - not an easy decision. However, I have gone past the usual 3-year commitment and I know it's time for me to go forward toward some of my other retirement dreams and honour my ongoing commitments and realities.*

*I've enjoyed everyone in the College community. It has been a particular blessing to spend time with students both in person and online. As the pandemic led to more students gathering from across the country and across streams of study, our time together became richer and more robust.*

*I appreciated the support from both principals, Lorne Calvert and Richard Manley-Tannis. Both encouraged me to place my own stamp on Core Group/Core Community. I was given space to use my pastoral and urban ministry experiences and my Spiritual Direction skills in service of my vision. This meant a lot to me. The Pastor in Residence position provided me with a path for the integration of my work as my ministry years wind up.*

*I also wish to thank my faculty liaisons and all the staff who helped me out in many times and in many ways.*

*So with thankfulness I wish St. Andrew's College and Community every good success. May the years ahead be grace-filled.*

*In Peace and Gratitude,*

*Janet Clarke*

**The College Community gives thanks to Janet for all of her work and wishes her well in the future.**

## Friends We Shall Miss

### Don Milne (Grad 1959)

of Regina, SK, passed away on December 3, 2021. He graduated from St. Andrew's College and was ordained in 1959 and served congregations in Semans, Raymore, Punichy, Tate, North Battleford, Meadow Lake and Yorkton.

### Greig Jonelle McLellan (DipTh 2004, MDiv 2007)

of Calgary, AB, passed away on February 5, 2022. Jonelle was a lifelong member of The United Church of Canada, singing in choirs for decades. In 2004 she was called to leave her career in accounting and deepen her religious life by becoming a United Church minister. She served various congregations in Alberta, British Columbia and Scotland before retiring in 2018.

### Donald Laing (MDiv 1960)

of Toronto, ON, passed away on March 29, 2022. After graduation and ordination in 1958, Don went on to receive his MDiv in 1960. He also received an STM from Vancouver School of Theology and his PhD from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland). Don served congregations in Leask, Cabri, Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw before serving in Edmonton. Don served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents of St. Andrew's College for many years and also served as Interim President in 2004.

## #NoGalaGala

St. Andrew's College will launch its third #NoGalaGala on Friday, September 9.

This year's event will feature Brenda Baker. Please watch the website for more information on how to purchase tickets for this online event.



## Core Group Bread maker

Just as they left Saskatoon for ministry with the people of Wawa United Church, Minhyuk and Sena dropped off a wonderful gift for the college: A new bread-maker! You may remember that the bread maker we used in Core Group for 3 years "died" March 2020, during our last in-person Core Group, just before the pandemic changed all our lives.

Later Minhyuk wrote:

*Thank you for the email. Sena and I hoped that you were happy with the gift. Yes, the dolls were made by Sena. The clothes they are wearing are Korean traditional costume.*

*I could not forget the bread we shared after our core group. It was not just A loaf of bread. For me, it was love, grace, joy, and friendship. I hope the bread maker will be helpful when the core group takes place in person.*

*I will keep in touch with you.*

*Thanks,*

*Minhyuk*



So, in 2022, the new bread maker found a home in St. A's lovely kitchen and the scent of fresh-baked bread will remind us all of the generosity, support and kindness of Minhyuk and Sena. Many blessings to them on their new adventure.

# Development Opportunities

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

**Cypress** \$500/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 10% annually; and,

**Tamarack** \$1,000/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 5% annually.

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

## **Cypress:**

This donor level will have access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library. This resource allows individuals and faith communities to download and or stream full worship services developed by members of St. Andrew's. Currently there are 6 worship services, which range from thematic to stand-alone. The college will be adding at least 2 to 3 new worship experiences per year; and,

## **Tamarack:**

At this donor tier, supporters will receive access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library and exclusive access to all previous and future #NoGalaGala events. Currently the college has hosted two online premieres and intends to have 1-2-year.

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

## **College Sunday Digital Library**

St. Andrew's College has a long tradition of visiting communities of faith, large and small, to bring greetings, share the Gospel, and strengthen our bonds with the wider church. The Covid era has invited us to consider innovative ways to continue that tradition, and so we are pleased to offer our new College Sunday digital resources. These include a growing digital library of full worship services, including sermons, hymns, liturgical notes, and conversation-starter questions. Current themes include leadership, stewardship, compassion, vocation, humility, and much more.... For more information, contact Melanie Schwanbeck at the College office ([melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)).

# The Original West Wing of St. Andrew's College Turns 100!

## **Jake Buhler**

Getting the College built was not easy. University of Saskatchewan President, Walter Murray, and his recruit, Dr. Edmund Oliver, were the visionaries behind founding a theological college. They worked for two years before the Presbyterian Theological College was founded in 1912. In 1914, the University leased 4.5 acres to the College at \$5.00 a year on the site now occupied by the College of Education. Fifty thousand dollars was raised and a stone foundation was built. But the Great War interfered and the building plan and the lease were cancelled.

Meanwhile, 37 students had enrolled at a temporary location at 209 Albert Avenue. Students continued to study there until 1923. Lydia Gruchy was the first woman to graduate from St. Andrew's College at 209 Albert, just 4 months before the West Wing opened.



West wing or original building in late 1920s.  
Photo courtesy U of Sask. Archives

St. Andrew's College was given a piece of land on College Drive. In 1922, the firm of David R. Brown designed the first phase of the Presbyterian Theological College. Smith Brothers & Wilson were the general contractors. Construction began the same year, and the building was completed in 1923. The cost was \$365,000. Anticipating Union, the College was renamed, St. Andrew's College, in 1924.

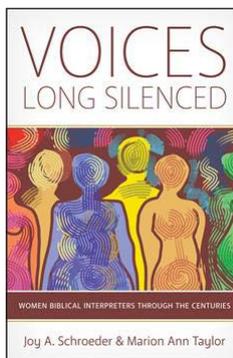
The limestone used for the building was non-quarried fieldstone gathered from areas north of Saskatoon. The exterior stone walls are load-bearing. Please check out "University of Saskatchewan Heritage Register" and find section 7-398-418 to see 20 pages of detailed description of the West and East Wings of the College.

So, while the College is 110 years old, the first building is turning 100! The East wing, or phase 2 was built in 1959-60.

# From a Faculty Bookshelf

Joy A. Schroeder and Marion Ann Taylor, *Voices Long Silenced: Women Biblical Interpreters through the Centuries* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022): *An Appreciation*.

**Bernon Lee**  
*Professor of Hebrew Scriptures*



The expressed purpose of Joy Schroeder's and Marion Taylor's book is to restore to memory the works of women's biblical interpretation and to record for posterity the names and the stories of these women, and their considerable contributions (p. xi). The book seeks, in other words, a remembering of a swath of the larger religious and intellectual body severed by the culturally constrained—and sometimes malicious—regimes of synagogue/church and guild. Through 300 pages or so, *Voices Long Silenced* takes us from the first centuries of this era up to the present. There is no doubt in my mind that the authors are successful in their undertaking. The balanced judgment of their sprightly (and sometimes appropriately acerbic) prose bares the impassioned lives of the exegetes, the ingenuity of their literary critique, and their zeal in pressing for a more just world.

In my brief article here, I offer not a review as traditionally construed, but an appreciation for this book—with reference to select parts—for the way it lights my imagination. *Voices Long Silenced*, very specifically for me, is a timely reminder of how we think of our intellectual forebears within frames. We see their lives as pictures within pictures, words within words. And so, when Schroeder and Taylor walk me through (the second-century martyr) Vibia Perpetua's Christological and apocalyptic meditations on Genesis 1-3 through a canonical lens freighted with inner-biblical allusions (pp. 12-14), I become aware of the ancient redactor's framing of the account along the generic lines of Passion stories from late antiquity. I see the kerygmatic flow in the arrangement of the narrative. Indeed, the claim that Perpetua's very own hand shapes the account only betrays an anxiety over the evidence of editorial agency through the text. There is, therefore, something of a dialogical texture to Perpetua's story. And then, one frame out, this story joins the choir of the book's redemptive and restorative agenda. And so, twice, Perpetua's voice is caught up in the rhetoric of a later project. Twice, her religious verve finds significance, speaking well beyond the confines of her historical environment. In the leaves of

*Voices Long Silenced*, Perpetua lives to speak again; this time, to us!

Similar observations are appropriate to our views on Maximilla's and Priscilla's (also of the second century) spirited defense of women's prophecy by appeal to biblical models through the eyes of their Montanist followers (pp. 9-12); on the praiseworthy scribal labours of Marcella and Paula, two fifth-century female scribes in St. Jerome's employ, in Jerome's epistolary correspondence (pp. 22-26); on Elizabeth Cady Stanton's wrestling with the Fifteenth Amendment (pp. 168-72) through the critical evaluations of Frances Watkins Harper (pp. 205-06). Stories within stories.

But why is the layered texture to this book important to me? It reminds me of my pending work on Isabella Thoburn, the Scotch-Irish, Ohio-born Methodist missionary to India in late Victorian times. It reminds me that the stories of Thoburn's dedicated service at the Lucknow Women's College and other institutions comes through the quoted quips and letters of her pupil, Phoebe Rowe, through the words of a parent of another student, a certain Mrs. Chuckerbuttery. It reminds me that it is a third student of Thoburn's pupil, Lilavati Singh, who supplies the narrative of her final hours in the grips of cholera. It reminds me that these voices that capture Thoburn's are marshalled, in the last, in Bishop William Fitzjames Oldham's brief biography on Thoburn. Frames within frames. And so, I aspire to Schroeder's and Taylor's lucid exposure of the manifold interests that inform the genesis of what can only be regarded as something of a composite historical artefact. Carefully, the layers must be peeled back. Does Isabella's younger brother, James Thoburn's ascent to succeed Bishop Oldham as missionary bishop to India and Malaya influence in any fashion the good bishop's characterization of Isabella as "faithful," but "not brilliant" and "a trifle slow" (p. 7)? What are the inner probings of Lilavati Singh on colonial matters behind her remark that she forgot herself and "felt free" with her mentor, though Thoburn was American and she, a Hindustani woman (p. 36)? There are so many stories to tell.

If the world, the church, and the academy go in the way I'd like things to go, this book will be well received, widely. At the least, the ethos to the work reflects the United Church of Canada's zeal for equity and justice, and its knack for growing the narrative fabric of meaning-making in its storied rehearsals of the lives of the church. But for me, now, *Voices Long Silenced* is a goad to excellence in scholarship and to get on with the work of uncovering the divine voice across a broader spectrum. For this I am grateful.

Did you know that this issue of *Contact* is available to read on our website

[www.standrews.ca](http://www.standrews.ca)?

If you would like to receive *Contact* by e-mail instead of a paper copy please e-mail  
[melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

# Welcome to Kristi Baxter

Kristi Baxter joined the College as our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) on May 1.

Kristi has over 30 years of financial management experience as a CPA CMA and considerable time spent in supervisory and management positions. Before coming to the college, she worked with ATCO in Edmonton. Kristi was at the College for the month of May to allow for onboarding and, until her relocation to Saskatoon, will work in a hybrid capacity both at the College and remotely.

In the full-time, permanent role of CAO, Kristi will provide strategic and administrative leadership in the financial management and processes of the College, supervision of our operations staff and support to the Principal and committees for development and strategic planning.

We are grateful to have Kristi join our team – she will bring great expertise in both accounting and leadership.

*I joined ATCO in 2017 as the Manager of Accounts Payable in their newly formed common services group. As part of this new position, I was responsible for the integration of 7 AP departments which ultimately ended up in a group of 24 direct reports with people located in both Edmonton and Calgary. I was also instrumental in the implementation of an invoice imaging system in 2017 and part of the team that implemented the Oracle Cloud ERP system in 2018.*

*Prior to ATCO, I was the Manager of Accounts Payable at PotashCorp (now Nutrien). During my tenure at PotashCorp I held various positions and helped the company in the areas of finance, system implementation, and change management.*

*I am a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, where I majored in Accounting and Health Care Administration. I went on to get my CPA, CMA designation.*

*I grew up in Saskatoon. Most of my immediate family still lives in Saskatoon. I currently live in Edmonton and will be moving back to Saskatoon for this position.*

*When I am not keeping busy with my work, you can find me traveling, reading, hiking, golfing, or playing soccer. I enjoy learning, trying new things, meeting new people, and visiting new places.*

*I also enjoy volunteering. I received the CMA Saskatchewan Member Recognition Award in 2010 for my contribution to the Society of Management Accountants. One of my more interesting roles was as a member of the Canadian Soccer Finance Committee from 2008 to 2012. I currently volunteer as the President of my condo board and as a member of the Saskatchewan Soccer Audit and Finance Committee.*



**As you have likely noticed in this edition of *Contact* great things are afoot at St. Andrew's, one of which is the 100th anniversary of the original building. Of course, this means that something unexpected has happened: One of our boilers needs to be replaced as soon as possible. We will be reaching out to the community and supporters for help. Please stay tuned ... until then, please do consider supporting us by donating to the Second Century Fund.**

# Designated Lay Ministry: a Program in Flux

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

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

While students have missed the in-person gatherings, shared meals, and late-night conversations at Laura’s Lodge, a tourist hotel across from the

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

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

and Marc Grenon. They are integral to the students’ learning.

The upcoming learning circle, “The Community’s Story,” in October 2022 will be bittersweet. While the students, program team, and I look forward to meeting in person at St. Andrew’s College for the first time ever, the future of the program is unknown. With the December 2022 expiry of the Memorandum of Understanding between St. Andrew’s College and the United Church of Canada for the provision of DLM training, applications from students wishing to begin the program in 2023 have been suspended. In addition, commissioners to General Council 44 are studying and debating the future of Designated Lay Ministry as part of proposal GCE06 “Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of the Church in the 2020s.” Like the rest of the church and St. Andrew’s College, the DLM program is in flux. But along with all our siblings in Christ, we are not alone. We live in God’s world, and, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we move together into a future in which we continue to be and minister with the body of Christ.

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

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## College Re-Opens Admissions for Degree Programs

After an extended period of pause, the Board of Regents has approved the re-opening of admissions to our renewed degree programs. Applications for our MDiv and MTS programs will once again be accepted, beginning later this summer, and studies will start in the winter trimester of 2023.

We are excited to launch these renewed programs in full ecumenical cooperation with our partner schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union.

For more information, and to begin the application process, please contact St. Andrew’s recruitment officer at [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca) or call Shawn at 306-441-6367.

# Thank You to Our Valued St. Andrews Donors

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November 13, 2021 to May 13, 2022**

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Melanie Schwanbeck

## St. Andrew's College

1121 College Drive  
Saskatoon SK S7N 0W3  
Phone: (639) 398-5565  
Fax: (306) 343-6049  
[standrews.college@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:standrews.college@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)  
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# Retirement Announcement

In recognition of the diverse requirements of our College, the College is pleased to announce that Leslee Harden, while retiring from her current position as Chief Administrative Officer, will continue to support the College and our employees in human resource matters.

The new position of External Human Resources Consultant will be a term appointment until June 2024. Leslee will continue to be involved in human resource policies, work with our pension, benefit and payroll providers, manage continuing education allowances and serve as a confidential consultant for the Principal, faculty members, staff and committee and Board members on human resource matters. She will also serve as Coordinator for the College's Harassment Prevention Policy.



## From the Library



Spring is here!... but it appears Winter is not leaving without a fight. No matter because the library has some cheerful news for you: THE STACKS ARE OPEN FOR BROWSING AGAIN! And although limited, seating in the main stacks is also available again.

It has been a long wait as we got through the tough months and years of the pandemic, but one of the best things to come out of this time was the opportunity to better the library's reference and distance services to serve more patrons efficiently. As our private jingle goes, "whether near or far, we will send you the books you need by mail with free return postage included!"

Now with our current COVID guidelines, it has been lovely to see more library friends be comfortable enough to visit in-person. The recent addition of a book sale wall in the Reading Room has been great so far and we hope to see more patrons interact with it and find lovely potential additions to their personal collections. These book sale items are mostly duplicates withdrawn from the collection after the college libraries' amalgamation and donations that do not meet our collection development guidelines but were wonderful resources from personal libraries.

For many reasons, some of you might not find our recent protocol change easy to take advantage off, and that is completely understandable. Just know you only need email the library at [library@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:library@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca), or call us at 639-398-5561 for any of your library needs.

Rachel Kotei  
Senior Library Technician

## St. Andrew's Honorary Degree Nomination

Nominations are invited for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in preparation for St. Andrew's Convocation 2023. The degree is conferred upon persons for distinguished service in ministry, especially pastoral or missionary services, theological scholarship, church leadership, and community responsibility and concern. Nomination forms are available by calling 639-638-2478 or emailing [standrews.college@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:standrews.college@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca). **Nomination deadline is September 15, 2022.**