

CONTACT



St. Andrew's College celebrated Convocation on May 5 with 10 degrees and diplomas awarded along with two honorary degrees. Please see story page 4.

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From the Chair of the Board

By Doug Neufeld
Board Chair



Doug Neufeld

Our STU Convocation on May 5th was a wonderful affair and my favourite part is always when we bestow the vestments and parchments to our graduates. The look in their eyes reflecting the years of dedication and hard work culminating to the moment of celebrating their accomplishments is always so precious. Witnessing this event always transports me to my own convocation experiences and it's all too familiar of what they are feeling. We congratulate

this year's graduates:

- Aurora Espenant – Master of Divinity
- Minhyuk Hwang – Master of Divinity
- Sungsoon Park – Master of Divinity
- Yujene Oh – Master of Theological Studies in Pastoral Studies for International Partners
- Matteo Carboni – Master of Theology
- Olango Arach – Designated Lay Ministry Diploma
- Nancy Vandenberghe – Designated Lay Ministry Diploma
- Keith Wiseman – Designated Lay Ministry Diploma
- James Wolff – Designated Lay Ministry Diploma
- Kathleen Anderson – Doctor of Ministry

We were blessed with a special treat when our two Honorary Doctorate recipients, Tom Magnuson and Kenneth Neitz, who were both recognized for their musical gifts to our greater community and the world, performed during the program. All in attendance were captivated by these incredible artists and the event was a special evening.

The week leading up to convocation is traditionally the time for the spring finance, academic and board meetings. With all that is transpiring at the college and the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU), there was much information to share and work to be done.

The Common Faculty with Academic Dean Dr. Lynn Caldwell have done outstanding work on the new joint STU academic enterprise, and we're really excited about it going live this fall. There are many great features to our new joint program but what really stands out is that

the experience of ecumenism has been taken to a whole new level and the hybrid delivery allows the degrees to be entirely obtained at a distance. We feel that this improved accessibility will lead to larger, more diverse classrooms, that will be appealing to students anywhere in the world.

Progress has been made on establishing a legal entity for our STU joint venture. We can't have this shared academic program without a mechanism to administer and govern it. On April 21, the three college councils/boards gathered for the first time for a day of relationship building and information sharing. The energy and commitment by all three colleges was really inspiring which feeds great hope and confidence into the success of our partnership. Our next goal in the timeline is to register the STU as a charitable, non-profit organization. An early draft of a policy framework is being developed but there is much more work to be done before it will be ready to be adopted.

We are so blessed to have such a talented community doing this great volume of work. The Common Faculty, the heads of the three colleges, the staffs, and all the volunteers on the committees have put great time and effort into turning this vision into reality. This current milestone is a source of great excitement but we're not of the illusion that we can now coast to the finish line. There is significant work to complete, and we continue with confidence in the talent around us and knowledge of the support of our community. We are focused on our mission of discipleship to prepare the leaders of Christ's church and pray for The Spirit to guide us. Thanks be to God.

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 invited us to consider innovative ways to continue that tradition, and so we are pleased to offer our 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).

Principal's Musings

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

Theological Education that Embodies Compassion, Hope, & Justice

*For everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under
heaven*

Ecclesiastes 3.1 NRSVUE

Change

For me, growing up, change was a constant companion; by the time I reached my early twenties, I had moved 24 times. My mother was not, to say the least, a great driver, so we moved often to be near places of employment, school, or something similar.

In this context, there were two consistent themes in the years prior to my leaving Ottawa to begin my academic journey at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. Perhaps it is self-evident, but the overriding theme was the constancy of change. From new bus routes to navigate, new classmates, and the ever-present challenge of being of Lebanese ancestry in often very White spaces, I found change to be as much a companion in those years as the cats that my mother adored.

The other constant, in the paradox of change's constancy, was that I knew I was loved. Unfortunately, not all children have this experience. Whether in my own upbringing or for those who have since followed, the relationship between wholeness and being loved is intimately bound to shape the elders we may become.

In this update regarding the College, you will find two threads: change and love. St. Andrew's has undergone significant changes,



Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

which the faculty, staff, and members of the governance bodies have lovingly tended to throughout this past year. I am grateful to be a part of this moment in the College's over-one-hundred-year tradition of supporting those who are called to share the Good News and nurturing the knowledge and scholarship that our faculty share with the world.

Saskatoon Theological Union

In this time of change, one of the reminders that was revealed during the pandemic is the importance of community. The College now shares our building with the other two schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union, (Lutheran Theological Seminary and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad) and we have entered into a Covenant of Commitment, which marks a profound level of cooperation among us.

This renewed relationship enables us to support one another, so that each partner's unique denominational gifts contribute to our collective ability to do more than we could on

our own. We hope that our ecumenical boldness will inspire faith communities in every denomination to explore creative and courageous ecumenical partnerships as well. Part of this support includes dreaming and, as many will already know, part of that dreaming is an exploration of a possible new name for the Union. I look forward to sharing any updates should a new name be discerned.

Academic Pathway

I am excited to share that we have finalised the development of our renewed **Master of Divinity** and **Master of Theological Studies** degree programmes. Both programmes will be available in an intensive format, and St. Andrew's students can complete the entire learning journey from their own contexts without having to relocate. Our programmes are deeply ecumenical, shared across all three schools, and involve the collaboration of faculty from different denominational traditions and theological disciplines. We look forward to welcoming our first cohort of students for these innovative programmes, beginning in the fall of this year.

I am also pleased to report that we have recommitted to offering our **Doctor of Ministry** program, and we have already received applications for the fall cohort. Additionally, we continue to enjoy hosting the **Designated Lay Ministry** programme at the College, while we await further word from General Council about its future.

Lifelong Learning Pathway

There is so much happening at the College right now, and I do not want to miss talking about the **Lifelong**

Learning Pathway we have been developing. It has been researched and developed over the past two years, and we have completed a pilot project of eager learners during the winter and spring of this year. This new programme opens the great privilege of theological and spiritual reflection to a wider community of learners beyond our traditional degree programmes. Whether you are exploring Christian discipleship through leadership in your faith community or in the wider society, or seeking paths of wisdom in other spiritual traditions, our certificate programmes (*Leadership in the Faith Community - Leadership in the World - Spiritual Exploration*) create new possibilities of study.

Our new Lifelong Learning Pathway prioritises the student's own

learning goals and pairs them with their own educational guide. We will help them identify educational resources and opportunities, develop a personalised learning plan, and build a portfolio of reflective work. The learner will progress at their own pace toward the competencies described in their chosen certificate. This unique new programme is perfect for seasoned ministry personnel seeking continuing education, lay leaders who want to engage in theological work to enhance their ministries and vocations, and the spiritually curious wisdom-seekers who will benefit from a flexible and supportive framework of reflection. Regardless of the learner's previous formal education, St. Andrew's Lifelong Learning Pathway provides rich learning opportunities of theological and spiritual exploration to anyone

who desires it!

Change

As you can see, St. Andrew's is at an exciting place in its history. The challenges that have arisen during the changes of the past few years have unleashed our imaginations and propelled us into God's future. We believe that there are opportunities waiting for us that are greater than we could ask or imagine, and I am grateful for the loving commitment from volunteers, staff, and faculty for their continued support and commitment to ensure that the College is able to joyfully offer multiple paths to provide *theological education that embodies compassion, hope, and justice* into a new century of faithful discipleship.

Your sibling in Christ.

Convocation 2023



St. Andrew's College awarded 10 degrees, diplomas and certificates along with two honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees during the Saskatoon Theological Union Convocation held on May 5 at Zion Lutheran Church.

Degrees were awarded to: Aurora Espenant, Master of Divinity; Minhyuk Hwang, Master of Divinity; Sungsoon Park, Master of Divinity; YuJene Oh, Master of Theological Studies; Matteo Caroni, Master of Theology; and Kathleen Anderson, Doctor of Divinity

Designated Lay Ministry diplomas were awarded to Olango Arach, Nancy Vandenberghe, Keith Wiseman and James Wolff.

Tom Magnuson, of Regina, and Ken Neitz, of Saskatoon, 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. Mathias Ross, of Regina. The Lutheran Theological Seminary awarded five degrees and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad awarded one degree and two honorary degrees during the service.

Farewell to Don Schweitzer



After 23 years serving as McDougald Professor of Theology with St. Andrew's College, Rev. Dr. Don Schweitzer's position on faculty comes to an end on 30 June 2023. Don's laughter, scholarship, teaching, and his deep commitment to the College, to students, to colleagues, and to theological study and education will be so greatly missed. Don has enlivened the study of theology and the hallways and classrooms of the College with his humor and his depth of insight and knowledge. And he has enlivened all conversations with his possibly unrivaled ability to bring in relevant movie references, a paragraph from a book long ago read, or an incident recalled in striking detail, to almost any topic of discussion – his trusty teapot at his side. St. Andrew's has been so remarkably fortunate to have this prominent scholar and teacher of theology on faculty; Don has played a major role in the theological work of The United Church of Canada, in the Canadian Theological Society, and in many other spheres of study and engagement. His books are on the shelves of many clergy, and in the hands and classrooms of other teachers and scholars. Don's teaching and care is in the hearts of many former students. As a theologian actively engaged in The United Church of Canada, and globally, Don's work is and will continue to be vital in the flourishing of faith and religious life. Words of thanks are not enough, and nor are words of regret at the loss of his presence in the lunchroom, the classroom, the chapel, and as a coworker to staff and faculty.

DLM Program

With the return to in-person learning circles in October 2022, the current cohort of DLM students shared learning in the same space and time zone for the first time ever. Singing and lively conversations echoed in the halls of Laura's Lodge in the evenings while, during the day, their voices were a welcome addition to the quiet of the college's Main Lounge and library. We also discovered some of us were either taller or shorter than we seemed to be on zoom!

In October, the topics included preaching, exegesis, theological reflection, and presiding at the sacraments. The focus for March was on faith formation, Christian education, the principles of good teaching, and learning preferences. The circle included a day-long session with the Rev. Dr. Don Schweitzer on United Church history and conversations with Dr. Becca Whitla on faith formation and Christian education. In addition, the Rev. Keith Hall and the Rev. Darren Woof shared their expertise on ministry with youth and elders, respectively. From the visit of Dr. John Egger, a United Church co-worker in mission with the PROK in South Korea, the students learned about the history and changes to the denomination's engagement in international work.

Each learning circle has included opportunities to deepen understandings of anti-racism and decolonization. In March, we welcomed Dr. Michael Capello, University of Regina, who spoke on the topics from a White settler researcher's perspective. We hope to partner with the Saskatoon Theological Union in fall 2023 to host the second part of the anti-racism workshop which will centre BIPOC experiences.

Volunteers are central to the success of this program. The past two learning circles have seen the well-deserved retirements of two longtime program team members, the Rev. Mary-Jo Tracy from Manitoulin Island, ON and Marc Grenon from Mystic, QC. The program team works with a small group of students, called a peer group, supporting the weekly on-line discussions of readings and videos, and then, during the in-person sessions, assists students to articulate and reflect on their learnings. As the educational philosopher John Dewey said in 1906, "We do not learn by experience. We learn by reflecting on experience." Hence, program team volunteers such as Marc and Mary-Jo are essential for the students' reflective learning, the core of the DLM experiential pedagogy. As we say thank you and "merci" to Mary-Jo and Marc, we welcome two new volunteers to the program team, Pastors Doreen Hewitson and Steven Loweth. Doreen and Steven are both graduates of the DLM program and serve United Church communities of faith in Eston, SK and Thunder Bay, ON, respectively. The program is richly blessed by and grateful for our volunteers!

Congratulations to Olango Arach, Nancy Vandenberghe, Keith Wiseman, and Jim Wolff who graduate with the DLM certificates in May, 2023. Blessings on your ministries!

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



These four DLM candidates completed their six learning circles in Spring 2023. They are (Left to Right): Linda Roberts, Dave Henderson, Tanis Podobni, and Sandi Irving (in front).



DLM class October 2022: top row: Linda Roberts, Corey Paul, Rebecca Whiting, Marc Grenon (Program Team), Tanis Podobni, Bev Sharpe, Dale Worrall

Lower row: Kathleen James-Cavan (Director), Heather Cronhelm, Nancy Painter, Sandi Irving, Kelley Molloy, Mary-Jo Tracy (Program Team), Kathleen Welch, Roxanne Bale, Dave Henderson

Companions of the College

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:

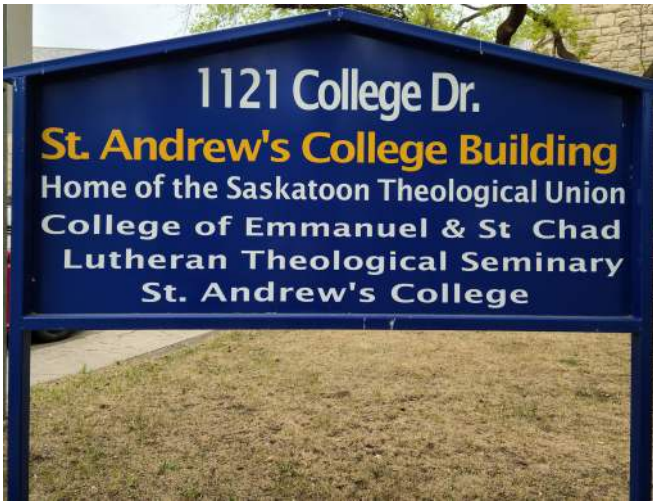
1. Cypress \$500/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 10% annually; and,
2. Tamarack \$1 000/annum with a yearly commitment to increase the gift by 5% annually.

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

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

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

September 2023: New STU joint academic program for the MDiv and MTS programs officially launches!



As of September 2023, the MDiv and MTS degrees of St. Andrew's College, The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary can now be completed through a Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) program delivered jointly by an STU Common Faculty! This is both a big change, and a continuation of long work together. Students currently enrolled with St. Andrew's College in MDiv and MTS programs and continuing with us will complete their studies through a continuation of current program elements, offerings in the new program, or a combination of both. New students will move directly and fully into the joint program. For readers of this newsletter, the look of things may or may not be that different depending on your relationship to the College and its academic programs... if you are visiting the

building in person, we are still here on College Drive in Saskatoon. As you may know, our partners in the STU – the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad and the Lutheran Theological Seminary – have been in the building with us since 2020 and so the St. Andrew's College Building is home to not only St. Andrew's as a College, but also to these other two Colleges and their individual operations, and to the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) as a shared enterprise of the Colleges.

This launch of a new program in September means that there will be new course offerings toward a new joint MDiv and MTS program of study. Some of these offerings are described elsewhere in this edition of *Contact*, more information will be posted to the website, and we look forward to sharing glimpses of happenings in classrooms, online, and through all the ways that the students and programs of the College intersect with the church and communities we serve.

Faculty Updates



Lynn Caldwell

I continue many involvements with programs, projects, and colleagues at the University of Saskatchewan. Most recently this includes working as advisor with two student groups doing research and education about equitable access to menstrual products and serving on a guest editor panel

for a special issue of the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal (USURJ). The theme for the special issue is “Disrupting the Status Quo” as an opportunity for students to make non-conventional submissions for publication.

With Chantalle Morris-Fesciuc (ICM Director) and Bernon Lee, I am working toward a proposal to formalize the long-standing partnership between Integrated Community Ministry (ICM) and St Andrew’s College. This is still at an exploratory stage, with a plan to develop more opportunities in theological education for teaching and learning with ICM.

I serve on the Research and Data Advisory Committee of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), meeting with ATS staff and other committee members to review the activity of the ATS research function. This involves meeting via video conference with other members of the committee (all from ATS member schools) and ATS staff who are involved in directing research related to theological education.

Over the past year I’ve been participating in consultations with colleagues across several universities and colleges in Canada to discuss and strategize about the impacts of precarious employment in the higher education sector.

In February, I participated in a meeting of representatives from United Church of Canada theological schools to discuss entry requirements for theological education, particularly for MDiv programs, and I am involved in a task group from theological schools to support the United Church Anti-Racism action plan.

I look forward to some periods of dedicated study time over the next few months, to pick up on some writing projects.



Bernon Lee

Through Spring 2023, my focus remains on preparing the Lifelong Learning Pathway (LLL), the college’s learner-driven, competency-based series of certificate programmes set for an official launch in September of

this year. Through a pilot programme, with five volunteer Learners who are helping us improve on the LLL, we are working (with our consultant Wenona Partridge) to develop evaluative rubrics for the advancement of Learners towards their Competencies and for the on-going analysis of the LLL. In July, we shall commence with the training of our Guides for engaging Learners on their journey of discovery through the LLL.

In scholarship, I continue to move towards the completion of my manuscript on Victorian biblical interpretation (tentatively titled *Victorian Perversions: Sundered Suasions on Scripture in a Time of Empire*). My aim is to have this ready by the conclusion of 2024. The most recent increment is a chapter on Florence Nightingale’s reading of scripture. A shortened version of the chapter, “The Science of Propriety in Florence Nightingale’s Bible,” has been submitted to Rowman & Littlefield for their anthology *Science and Religion: Perspectives Across Disciplines* (edited by Claudia May and Channon Visscher). The edited volume is forthcoming in 2023.



Becca Whitla

As the Saskatoon Theological Union draws closer together to launch the new curriculum, I was asked by the Lutheran Theological seminary to write a short article for their newsletter. Instead of my usual update in *Contact*, I thought I’d share it here. But first a couple of brief updates: The Hymn Society’s annual conference is in Montréal this summer – I’m the co-chair of the conference. Do come along (July 16-19) to sing your heart out! (<https://thehymnsociety.org/event/>) At the conference, GIA is releasing a new complete works of the Hymns of Sylvia Dunstan. I was asked to write a tribute about her hymns which will be included in the collection. Another highlight this June is the Four Colleges Conference (see the notice). *Decolonizing Our Churches: Reweaving Our Lives* June 20-22. It has been a joy to work on the conference and it is going to be wonderful. I hope you can come!

Reprinted from LTS Today: Spring 2023

Warm greetings to the communities of the Lutheran Theological Seminary! Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Becca Whitla. I teach liturgy, preaching, Christian education, and practical theology at the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU). Originally from Toronto, I worked for many years leading church and community music in downtown Toronto at the Church of the Holy

Trinity, with a big community women's choir called Echo, and as a leadership animator with the trade union movement through singing. With one foot in the world and one in the church, I felt a call to deepen my engagement through further stories. To make a long story short, I pursued a Master of Sacred Music Degree and then a PhD in liturgy from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. One thing led to another, and I find myself in my fourth year here in sunny, friendly—and often quite chilly (!)—Saskatoon. Quite loving it, I am a secret ambassador for the Paris of the Prairies, though I do also work remotely from Toronto as well. My children Emma (24) and David (17) and nephew Kyle (17) have all spent time here. I'm working on convincing nephew Jake (20) to visit soon!!

The theme of this newsletter, "The Emerging Church," resonates deeply with my own scholarship and my book *Liberation, (De)Coloniality and Liturgical Practices: Flipping the Song Bird* which focus on liberating liturgy and include explorations of what it means to decolonize our worship. The theme is top of mind for the common faculty of the Saskatoon Theological Union as well, as we work hard to discern how to guide, support, and inspire tomorrow's church leaders. Building on our tradition of sharing resources in theological education at the STU, our three schools have made a commitment to a fully collaborative curriculum for our students. In this shared endeavour, I offer chapel leadership (STU Chapel services were every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:40 from Sept to April this year) and classes in which all our students to learn about Christian practices and traditions across our denominations. You are all invited to join us at chapel when you can!

So how do we do all that? In my classes, we honour our traditions by learning about history and culture with respect to what we're studying. We also pay attention to present day realities, something that is lived out in the STU's ongoing commitment to contextual and collaborative education. By paying attention to what's happening at the grassroots, in our communities, the diverse contexts in which we find ourselves—from rural to urban, from mono- to multi-cultural, from small to large—we can bring together the gifts of our Lutheran, United Church, and Anglican inheritances. We're also mindful of the brokenness of our world due to colonialism, the pandemic, poverty, war, the climate crisis, racism, sexism, homo/transphobia etc. These are our contexts, the realities of our students and their communities. So, with a commitment to praxis—reflection on our lived realities, with a view towards transformation—the STU common faculty is forging a program to equip students for meeting the needs of the church and our communities into the future, for the church that is emerging.

Building robust and vibrant pathways for the future is certainly not an easy task given all the challenges of our day. But we do not face these challenges alone of course. We are guided and inspired by Jesus of Nazareth who embodied a message of love, justice, and inclusion in the face of violence, persecution, and death. We also have each other. I am inspired and filled with hope in the shared task of what we are building in the common faculty at the STU. From our distinct denominational perspectives, we can model a vibrant, ecumenical future for all our churches, one that celebrates our distinctness, but recognizes that our future is better together.

Decolonizing our churches, re-weaving our lives: experience, reflection, transformation

The 2023 Four College Summer Conference is quickly upon us ... June 20-22, here in Saskatoon, to be exact! This year we will be exploring the theme of decolonization with a particular focus on the role and responsibility of our various churches in working toward truth, reconciliation, right relationship, justice, and healing. We have chosen dates around National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) as a way to step out of our ecclesial comfort zones into the vibrant learning-spaces of local community celebrations. And as we tend to the work of decolonizing the church, we may just find ourselves gifted with the re-weaving of our own lives as well...

There are still several spaces left, and it is not too late to register! Head over here for more information: <https://standrews.ca/current-students/rejuvenation/>.

College Embarks on "Year of Intention" in Affirming Journey

By Shawn Sanford Beck

In March of 2009, St. Andrew's College celebrated its official beginning as an Affirming Ministry. Fifteen years is a long time, and there have been many changes in the world and in the church. New issues have arisen, new wisdom has emerged, and new challenges beset many in the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Recently, Affirm United has called for a "Year of Intention," whereby all Affirming ministries and institutions undertake a period of reflection, education, and advocacy toward a more PIE (public, intentional, and explicit) commitment.

As St. Andrew's sets out on a renewed journey of discipleship with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners, we embrace the invitation to this "Year of Reflection". Our Affirming commitments are firmly lodged in the culture and practices of our community, and enshrined within our robust Justice Policy, but it is always good to renew and deepen our collective understanding of solidarity. Doing so with the cooperation and accompaniment of our STU partners will make the process even better!

Join us through a series of webinars, lectures, and advocacy activities over the course of 2023-24, as we journey toward our service of celebration and recommitment, marking fifteen years as an Affirming Ministry. For more information, please contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

Friends We Shall Miss

Rev. Dr. Austin Fennell (BD 1957, DD 2018) of Lethbridge, AB, passed away on December 15, 2022. He was ordained in 1957 and served in congregations in Saskatchewan, Scotland, Manitoba and Alberta. He also served as Chair of the St. Andrew's College Board of Regents. In 2018, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Dr. Martha Pankratz (DColl 2012) of Saskatoon, SK, passed away on January 11, 2023. Martha worked at St. Andrew's College as secretary, bookkeeper and administrator from 1945 to 1988 and served on the St. Andrew's Guild for many years. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of the College degree in 2012.

Rev. Margaret Crawford (MDiv 1994) of Saskatoon, SK, passed away on January 12, 2023. She was ordained in 1994 and served several congregations including Mayerthorpe-Sangudo, Neville-Vanguard, Eaton-Mantario, Grace Westminster, Asquith-Perdue and Bethel pastoral charges.

Rev. Jack Ballantine-Dickson (BD 1979) of Winnipeg, MB, passed away on January 29, 2023. He was ordained in 1979 and served in various congregations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Rev. Dave Petrie (BD 1962) of Regina, SK, passed away on February 18, 2023. He was ordained in 1960 and served congregations in Saskatchewan, as well as worked at the Saskatchewan Conference office.

Rev. Dr. Joyce Sasse (BD 1968, DD 2021) of Pincher Creek, AB, passed away on February 28, 2023. She was ordained in 1965 and went to South Korea for four years as a missionary. After returning to Canada, she worked in Saskatoon and various rural communities in southern Saskatchewan before moving home to Alberta. She was a strong supporter of rural ministry and wrote four books on her work. In 2021 she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Rev. Jason Richards (MDiv 2016) of St. Marys, ON, passed away on April 13, 2023. He was ordained in 2016 and served at St. Paul's United Church in Estevan, SK, before moving to St. Marys United Church.

Rev. David Maxwell (MDiv 2001) of Canora, SK, passed away on April 29, 2023. He was ordained in 2001 and served in several pastoral charges including Alameda-Frobisher Pastoral Charge, Roblin Knox United Church and Grenfell United Church, as well as Chaplain for several Royal Canadian Legion branches.

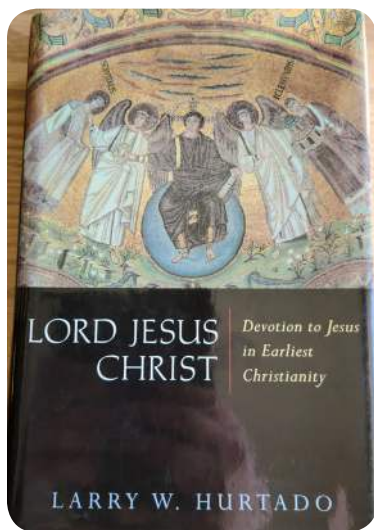
Dr. Laura Balas (DD 1997) of Aneroid, SK, passed away on May 3, 2023. Laura served the church in various capacities for 40 years. She served St. Andrew's College as the Internship Coordinator in the 1990s and then as the Principal from 2006 – 2009.

STU Joint Boards Meeting



On April 21, the Boards and Councils of the Colleges that make up the Saskatoon Theological Union gathered at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Saskatoon to build community and to receive updates on the academic program.

From a Faculty Bookshelf



Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity.
By Larry Hurtado.
Grand Rapids, MI:
William B. Eerdmans
Publishing Company,
2003. Pp. xxii + 746.

Larry Hurtado (1943-2019) was a New Testament scholar, born in Kansas City, who ended up teaching at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Much of his career

was devoted to pursuing the idea that already in the first two decades after Jesus' death, Christians were worshipping Jesus along with God, and that this continued to be a defining feature of early Christian belief in succeeding centuries. Hurtado convincingly argued that this devotion to Jesus was a remarkable innovation, given that most of these early Christians were Second Temple Jews, for whom it was axiomatic that only God was to be worshipped. These early Christians maintained their exclusive monotheism, yet also worshipped Jesus. He repeatedly emphasizes that this wasn't a later development. It appears to have characterized early Christian beliefs from as far back as the evidence goes, and to have some roots in what can be known historically about Jesus. *Lord Jesus Christ* has been described as Hurtado's magnum opus. It sets forth the evidence for his argument through an investigation covering almost all the New Testament, including the Q document and non-canonical writings like the Gospel of Thomas.

Normally, people review new books. This one is twenty years old. Yet in my work in christology I kept encountering references to it, so this past March I finally read it. I'm glad I did. Hurtado's work makes it difficult to bypass the New Testament claim that Jesus is the Christ in favour of a portrait of Jesus as an insightful teacher or mystic who can more easily be assimilated

into current Western thought. The christologies we find in Paul's letters and the Johannine tradition do not appear to be departures from Jesus and early Christian beliefs, but distillations and explorations of these in light of Jesus' resurrection.

Although this is a long book, there were places where I wished for further discussion. For instance, Hurtado notes that the canonical gospels seek to locate Jesus in the specific historical, cultural, geographical location of Galilee in the first century CE (266-7). They include all kinds of information about this context, such as how far Emmaus was from Jerusalem (Luke 24:13). This is all part of their concern not simply with the "ideas" of Jesus, but with his person as someone who lived in a particular time and place. This is true and important. But what Hurtado doesn't discuss much is that as Mark's gospel does this, for example, it frequently gets this geography or history wrong, or renders it in a confusing way. What are we to make of this?

Secondly, Hurtado sees one of the roots in early Christian worship of Jesus to lie in the impact that his person and ministry made on people. Hurtado argues that Jesus is portrayed in the gospels as a polarizing figure (263). People either loved him or rejected him. I found myself wondering about this. There is lots of evidence in the gospels and the rest of the New Testament that people were divided over Jesus, both before and after his death. But there is also a sense in these writings that for lots of people Jesus was just one of many; first, a charismatic prophet of eschatological renewal like John the Baptist, and then, a heavenly figure who some revered.

This is a book with a single focus. There are many dimensions of New Testament thought and practice that it doesn't explore much. Matthew's gospel insists that Jesus is to be worshipped along with God, but through the Sermon on the Mount, also that honouring Jesus requires seeking justice and peace. Yet though this is a book with a single theme, the thoroughness and extent with which it is argued makes it an arresting and thought-provoking read.

Don Schweitzer

Classroom Enhancement Initiative

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

Fall 2023 Courses!

These courses are all part of the new program offerings toward the MDiv and MTS with the Saskatoon Theological Union. Many of these courses are also available to occasional students, or for audit; if you are interested in registering for these or other courses, please contact the Registrar's Office or Recruitment Officer for more information.

[There are additional courses on offer in 2023-24, primarily at upper levels of study, as part of existing programs at the Colleges]

FND101 What is the Good News?

A Historical Approach

Week-long intensive (Blended: by video and in person)

28 August – 1 September 2023

What is the Good News? If asked, could you answer in terms that a non-Christian could understand? Part of the challenge in the question is that Christian understandings of salvation have shifted over the years, as culture has changed and our approaches to theology have developed. This course focuses on the theme of the Good News and traces developments through history to the present. The purpose is to enable participants to develop an “elevator speech” presentation of Christian gospel, along with a deep historical and theological understanding of what that speech might have sounded like from previous generations of Christians.

FND102 Who is the Church?

Fall dates to be determined (Blended: by video and in person)

The goal of this course is to equip students with a common vocabulary of experiences, concepts, and reflective tools in order to make sense of the life of faith communities and their leaders in the contemporary world. Components of this course are drawn from church history (Canadian and global), doctrine, pastoral leadership, ecumenics, and sociology of religion. The course will involve an experiential component, inviting students to share and reflect on their current and prior experiences of church as well as stepping outside that experience to observe and learn from a faith community with which they are unfamiliar.

SAC101 The United Church of Canada in Context (Knowing the Church)

Week-long intensive (Blended: by video and in person)
16-20 October 2023

This is a foundational course in United Church of Canada (UCC) history, theology, polity, and ethos. It is the first of three required courses for UCC MDiv students. Other STU students are eligible to take the course as an elective. This course examines the impetus behind the formation of the UCC, traces the history of the denomination over the last 100 years, and explores UCC identity through its statements of faith. The course also examines the impact of UCC polity on the wider Canadian context, particularly with respect to Indigenous communities, the Canadian Social Gospel Movement, the Ecumenical Movements of the 70s, 80s, and 90s, and the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative. The class will consist of lectures, guest presentations and in-situ learning in an Indigenous context. Assignments will include reflection papers, presentations, book reports, and integrative learning.

FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature

Two-week intensive, half-days (Blended: by video and in person)

13-24 November 2023

A team-taught and interdisciplinary intensive course introducing students to a variety of topics—thematic and methodological—in biblical interpretation. The course aims for the elucidation of the literary, religious, historical, and sociological contexts (up to and including the mixed cultural milieux of the Hellenistic and Roman periods) germane to the genesis and the interpretation of biblical literature. There will also be a component of the course that focuses on the interpretive application of certain topics and themes for ministry, liturgy, and theological formulation in the form of a panel discussion drawing on faculty from various disciplines.

FND104 Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion

Split intensive (Blended: by video and in person)

Part One: 4-8 December 2023

Part Two: 8-12 January 2024

This course will introduce students to a variety of spiritual practices, including Indigenous ones, that cultivate resilience and compassion. The focus in this class is to develop and deepen a student's prayer life, to orient them to core, regular and occasional spiritual practices and learn about six key perspectives: stages of spiritual growth, purification, community, meditation, cultivating personal integrity and deepening compassion.

From the Library

What a fast-paced academic year it has been in the library! It has been wonderful having many visitors browse the library stacks again. We have even seen a noticeable interest in guest patronage this year. So here is a timely reminder that the STU and Horizon libraries are open to the public, and anybody can become a patron free of charge.

With many of our new friends of the library being distance patrons, we also received several inquiries concerning accessibility to the library's primary digital database, the Digital Theological Library (DTL), currently restricted to students and faculty. If the answer is one you would like to know more about, then we are happy to share more information on the Open Access DTL, which is accessible from our online library catalog.

The OADTL is a curated collection of open-access resources broadly related to religious studies. It combines over half a million digital books and over thirty million articles into a single searchable database that is free for anyone to use.



Take some time to explore this incredible resource and if you have any questions about it or guest patronage, please email the library at library@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca, or call us at 639-398-5561.

Have a happy summer!

Rachel Kotei
Senior Library Technician

Rural Ministry and Lifelong Learning

By Shaw Sanford Beck

During the online gatherings of General Council throughout the summer of 2022, there was much discussion about the ongoing challenges of small and primarily rural congregations to continue to provide vibrant ministry within their local contexts. One of the more interesting proposals, entitled “Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of the Church in the 2020s,” made reference to a new and accurate description of “lay-led congregations” (GCE06.4.A.1). Read in context of rural depopulation and radical demographic changes in communities of faith, along with the challenges of the pandemic, this proposal points, as well, to the need for appropriate forms of theological training and support.

Our research, both anecdotal and through our accrediting body, demonstrates that the ministry needs of the church are rapidly changing. Rural and small churches are experiencing these changes at an overwhelming pace. St. Andrew's new Lifelong Learning pathway

has been developed with these very changes in mind. Our “Leadership in the Faith Community” certificate is designed not only for the continuing education needs of professional ministry personnel, but also for the layfolk in “lay-led” communities of faith. Each of these leaders is situated in a different context, with unique ministry training needs. Our Lifelong Learning pathway puts those ministry needs and learning goals at the very heart of the program, working individually with each learner (and their faith community) to craft a path of learning and support that works for them. Requiring no previous academic experience, and accessible from wherever you live, the “Leadership in the Faith Community” certificate may be just what you are looking for as you prepare your rural ministry for the challenges and opportunities of the near future.

For more information, please connect with the College Recruitment Officer at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca or call 306-441-6367.

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St. Andrew's Honorary Degree Nominations

Nominations are invited for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, in preparation for St. Andrew's Convocation 2024. 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.

Nomination deadline is September 15, 2023.

USask Outreach

Whether you're a student, staff member, faculty member, or visitor to the University of Saskatchewan, we invite you to take a break from the bustling campus and discover opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth at St. Andrew's College. We extend a warm invitation to you, your families, and your faith community to join us in our pursuit of innovation through our mission of Theological Education that Embodies Compassion, Hope & Justice. If you know someone who regularly finds themselves on campus, we would love to connect.

We offer regular chapel services throughout the week during the academic year, as well as various learning events and community involvement opportunities, and we welcome anyone to join us when their interests and schedule permit. If you or someone you know would like to connect, please feel free to reach out to us via email or through our online platforms. We are excited to welcome you and your loved ones into the St. Andrew's community.

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