

CONTACT



The College honors the 100th Anniversary of the graduation of Rev. Dr. Lydia Gruchy on April 4, 1923. For more information on the legacy of Lydia Gruchy, please see pages 4 and 5. (Pacific Mountain Regional Council Archives, BCCA 1339)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Board Chair's Reflections.....	2
Principal's Musings.....	3
Following in Her Footsteps.....	4
Lydia Gruchy Chair.....	5

Retirement Announcement.....	6
Faculty Updates	7
From a Faculty Bookshelf	8
From the Library	9
Trish McCarthy Introduction	10

K.S.-Guerrero Introduction.....	11
Friends We Shall Miss.....	12
Companions of the College	13
Designated Lay Ministry Student..	14
Thank You to Our Donors.....	15

From the Chair of the Board

By Doug Neufeld

Board Chair

Threat to the College

² ... *"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,*

*³ my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold and my refuge,
my savior; you save me from violence.*

*⁴ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be
praised, and I am saved from my enemies.*

*⁵ For the waves of death encompassed me;
the torrents of perdition assailed me;*

*⁶ the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.*

*⁷ In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I called.*

*From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry came to his ears." (2 Sam 22:2-7)*



Doug Neufeld

David's prayer of thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude as he reflects on a life of so many blessings and being delivered from countless potential tragedies. As a shepherd boy he triumphed over bears, lions, and Goliath. Then as a young man he led a small rogue army that fought Israel's enemies while evading a jealous and paranoid King Saul. Raised up as the people's champion, and with the eventual death of Saul, they made David their

King. This victory may have been the climax of David's life but the danger from Israel's enemies seems to only become greater. With one critical battle after another and David losing several people close to him, his faith and the hand of God keeps Israel and David protected throughout his life. This prayer reads like a conclusion to David's story of being blessed by God, but we learn that the scourge of enemies and failing health continue to beset him to his death.

I can't help but see similarities between David's story and what we're continuing to experience at the college. St. Andrew's has navigated many challenges throughout its history. A few, including one as recent as 2021, has threatened the college's ability to exist. Miraculously (I don't use this word

lightly), a vision of what the college could become has been coming to fruition. Our gifted community, both internal and external, and what can only be described as divine involvement, has transfigured our institution.

Building an innovative and unique ecumenical academic enterprise in two short years has been nothing but astonishing. The Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) as a legal entity has been created, the new joint Master of Theological Studies (MTS) and Master of Divinity (MDiv) programs have gone live, the Lifelong Learning Pathway program is active with 8 learners, and student interest and enrollment are far above what was anticipated at this point. There is still much work to do to complete the programs and adapt our governance structure to effectively manage them, but we have been blessed far beyond expectations.

Unfortunately, like the story of David, the celebration of a great victory is quickly followed by another threat. We find ourselves again in a fragile financial position. In the wake of COVID and a significant portion of our building unrented, we had to bridge our finances by leveraging our endowment income. The increased use of these available resources plus the impact of the poor performing investment markets leaves us with less funds to draw from.

Rental income is a large contributor to our operating budget and provides necessary support to our academic programs. We have been steadily growing our rental leases (now about 70% rented) since the university vacated the building in 2020. To get to this point, we had to go through a lengthy rezoning process with the City of Saskatoon. What wasn't anticipated is that we are now facing a building code review process that will continue to delay our ability to reach financial stability from a fully occupied building.

Thirdly, as you may have heard, a financial deficit with General Council has them reducing M&S funded entities by 25%. This will impact everything including Regional Councils, outreach mission, and theological education.

Any one of these makes our future challenging, but the combination of all three has us in a position of potential collapse. We look to God, our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, to guide and save us from this enemy. As a people of God, we know that God works through their people. So, we look to our community for strategies to protect us, and gifts from our supporters to deliver us, from this circumstance that threatens our future.

I urge you to reach out to the College for options on how you can be a steward of tomorrow's church leadership.

Blessings and peace.

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*.

Principal's Musings

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

*I alone know my purpose for you, says YHWH,
my purpose for your prosperity and my purpose not to harm you,
my purpose to give you hope with a future in it.*

Jeremiah 29.11 (The Inclusive Bible)

A Memory

I remember the first faith community with whom I had the blessing to journey from dreaming and visioning to implementation and completion. This change process, as I have come to appreciate, bears similar generalities even though every imaginative exercise is particular to its context, people, and moment. In fact, a difference of a day or year often leads to an outcome that would be completely different. This memory is no different.



Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

As we gathered to not only begin the boots-on-the-ground component of the new vision, but to also mark the first milestone, I sat in silence as one of the community's Elders was reflecting on what we had seen together. These moments, in that liminal space of relationships forged through change, are sacred. In fact, my journey with this Elder had not begun as smoothly as either of us would have liked. We came together, nonetheless, as their community had decided to continue to be present within the wider community rather than share that which they had stewarded and then die with dignity. This required finding ways to do new things that brought with it the best of what they had done in the past in innovative and unexpected ways.

In the moment, the silence was broken, and there was gratitude. The Elder looked at me, with familiarity, and commented that what they saw on that day filled them with hope. They continued to reflect that they could not have imagined this when we had begun this journey together almost two years prior. In the pause that followed, and conversations which have since happened, we recognised that entrusting to the wisdom of the Spirit had helped bring about this new thing. As I remember this moment, I have a similar feeling as I prepare this

autumn update for the St. Andrew's community.

The Future has Arrived

As we embrace the changing landscape of theological education, St. Andrew's College has begun to thrive and adapt. It is with gratitude that we have begun to recognise the abundant opportunities that lie ahead for us. The evolving educational landscape demands our discernment and thoughtful allocation of resources. This clearly requires the College to align our efforts with the vision set forth in this year's launch of the new Lifelong Learning and Academic Pathways.

Enrolment at St. Andrew's College, both domestically and internationally, has increased in a manner consistent with the anticipation expressed in the educational changes this fall. In light of this, the College will begin to reach out to our Full Communion Partners, namely the United Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and the Disciples of Christ, this fall. We want to share with those discerning a Call and pursuing MDiv and MTS degrees that St. Andrew's offers education deeply rooted in a theology of justice, one that respects and addresses their unique contexts without necessitating relocations for themselves and their families.

I have recently completed an overview for the College's forthcoming accreditation visitation by the Association of Theological Schools in March 2024. This recent journey through St. Andrew's College's history, particularly focusing on its first Principal, Edmund Oliver, has highlighted the paramount importance of justice within theological discourse amidst changing times. This realisation has led me to reflect on how we can honour this legacy in innovative ways. As we stand at this juncture, there are two new initiatives I wish to present in this autumn update.

Highlighting Two New Initiatives

Thanks to the support and encouragement of the College's Chair of Development, Rev. Carolyn Woodall, we have embarked on a journey to fully endow the Dr. Lydia E. Gruchy Chair in Pastoral Theology by the centennial of her ordination in 1936. The prominence of this Chair, alongside the dedicated leadership of its current occupant, Dr. Becca Whitla, has garnered recognition and support from denominational and ecumenical circles alike since its inception.

The endowment of the Lydia Gruchy Chair has given rise to another emergent vision, which is beginning to

take shape. Think of this as a sneak peek! As we celebrate our history and St. Andrew's enduring commitment to theological education infused with compassion, hope, and justice, it feels as though Dr. Edmund Oliver himself is guiding our steps.

What we have begun, following recent conversations with Dr. Oliver's descendants, is to establish a Centre that will bear the names of Oliver and Gruchy for in conjunction with the denomination's centennial celebration in 2025. This milestone aligns well with Oliver's dedication to ecumenism and his support for women in senior leadership roles. Dr. Gruchy, a figure who epitomised these values and further challenged and modelled for the denomination how to transition through transfor-

mative changes, provides the inspiration for this exciting venture. Honouring these two historic leaders is a way to encapsulate the College's promising future and the unique place it now occupies.

As these new initiatives continue to unfold, I eagerly anticipate sharing more details. They represent the fusion of our rich history and a forward-looking perspective, ensuring that St. Andrew's College remains a destination for those exploring their calling to the Good News and fostering the creation of knowledge that challenges us to confront truth, all while reaffirming our faith's central hope: Love Endures.

In Christ.

Following in Her Footsteps...

Dr. Becca Whitla,
Professor of Practical Ministry &
Lydia E. Gruchy Chair of Pastoral Studies



I've been reflecting lately on the legacy of Lydia Emilie Gruchy, the first woman ordained to ministry in The United Church of Canada. In 2036, it will be the 100th anniversary of her ordination. It is both humbling and inspiring to occupy

the chair position at St. Andrew's College named in her honour.

Reverend Doctor Gruchy was a remarkable woman! A leader in theological education and pastoral care, she was a groundbreaker on several fronts. In addition to being the first woman ordained to ministry in the UCC, she was also the first woman to pursue theological studies and then to graduate from a Presbyterian theological college—in 1923, from the college that was to become the United Church of Canada's St. Andrew's College. The Rev. Dr. Gruchy began her career as a teacher, a vocation she continued once ordained through her leadership as the Secretary for the Deaconess Order and Women Workers of the United Church and as the acting principal of the Deaconess Training School between 1939 and 1943. In 1953, Gruchy was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Andrew's, another first since she was the first woman to be awarded the degree in Canada.

As a newcomer to Saskatoon and the Prairies, I find it fitting that Gruchy found her pathway here. The Prairies are the birthplace of the Canadian Commonwealth

Federation, forerunner to the New Democratic Party, and seedbed for the Canadian Social Gospel Movement. As a descendent of United Church founders and Social Gospel movers and shakers myself, I was very excited to move here in the fall of 2019. One thing led to another, and I am still here, beginning my fifth year in sunny, friendly—and often quite chilly (!) Paris of the Prairies—Saskatoon, following in Gruchy's footsteps. Here at the College, on the banks of the beautiful South Saskatchewan River, people have been discerning how to bear witness to the liberationist, justice-centered vision of Jesus of Nazareth for more than 100 years. Here on Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis, we at St. Andrew's are building robust and vibrant pathways for the future of the College, along with our colleagues of the Saskatoon Theological Union.

We do so mindful of the brokenness of our world due to the issues we know so well—colonialism, the pandemic, poverty, war, the climate crisis, racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia, etc. These are our contexts! They are also the realities of our students and their communities. So, with a commitment to praxis—reflection on our lived realities, with a view towards transformation—like Gruchy, we are forging a program to equip students for meeting the needs of the church and our communities into the future.

When I contemplate the challenges ahead of us, I am moved and inspired by Gruchy's witness, determination, and passion. Like the persistent widow in Luke's gospel, she never gave up (Luke 18:1-8). She answered her call to ministry before The United Church of Canada was even formed—before “union” in 1925—by applying for ordination to the Presbyterian Church of Canada. This

first denial was followed by repeated refusals by the General Council of the UCC every two years for thirteen years until 1936, even though she was supported by her presbytery. That is persistence! And it speaks to a cloud of witnesses in Saskatchewan who stood by her as well.

I wonder where and when we might be called to be persistent like Gruchy in our struggles for justice, like the widow in Luke or like Lydia Gruchy. And I wonder whose struggles we can put our muscles behind in bold and daring acts of justice and solidarity like her Saskatchewan ministry colleagues. After all, ours is a faith journey of persistence against the odds for which we can draw courage and hope from our forbears! In that vein, I'd like to close this reflection on Lydia Gruchy by quoting another feminist leader and United Church minister, Sylvia Dunstan. 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of her death, far too young, at the age of 38. Yet she leaves us a legacy of internationally renown hymnody. One of her hymns was a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the first woman to The United Church of Canada—Lydia Gruchy!

Here's the entire text of "For the Faithful Who Have Answered." It is available in a new volume of Dunstan's collected works published by GIA this year.

For the faithful who have answered
when they heard your call to serve,

for the many ways you led them,
testing will and stretching nerve,
for their work and for their witness
as they strove against the odds,
for their courage and obedience
we give thanks and praise, O God.
Many eyes have glimpsed the promise
many hearts have yearned to see.
Many ears have heard you calling
us to greater liberty.
Some have fallen in the struggle,
others still are fighting on.
You are not ashamed to own us.
We give thanks and praise, O God.
For this cloud of faithful witness,
for the common life we share,
for the work of peace and justice,
for the gospel that we bear,
for the vision that our homeland
is your love-- deep, high, and broad--
for the different roads we travel
we give thanks and praise, O God.

Lydia Gruchy Chair

By Carolyn Woodall, Development Committee Chair

Every year when the anniversary of my ordination comes around, on May 27th, I say a little prayer of gratitude for the tenacity of Lydia Gruchy. Her commitment to her call, and the exemplary manner in which she lived her vocation, offered to the new United Church of Canada (UCC) a vision for an expanded understanding of ministry and ministers.

More recently I have become aware that St. Andrew's College has an endowed Chair, in Practical Theology, in honour of Dr. Gruchy. Up to this time, the endowment is unfulfilled, being less than halfway to the monies required to protect that faculty position from budget variables. I was quite surprised that there has not been more commitment to the funding of this position, as it is a significant way to celebrate our historical steps toward diversity and inclusion.

It occurred to me that with more than a decade still in view before the 100th Anniversary of Dr. Gruchy's ordination, there is an opportunity to fulfill the Endowment of the Chair named in her honour. I shudder to think what it might convey if we come to that anniversary

with the Chair still vulnerable. So, I have decided that part of my gratitude prayer each year will be a gift to the Gruchy Endowment in the amount of one dollar per year since my ordination. In 2023, that was \$33. It's not a lot of money at one time, yet between now and 2036, those annual gifts will total \$553.

If every woman in ministry in the UCC, as a beginning group, were to join me, we could increase the level of endowment by approximately \$150,000 over a decade. That's a significant offering, created by small gifts faithfully offered in thanksgiving.

I am hopeful that others in ministry, and individuals and communities of faith who have benefited from the ministry leadership of women over these past 90 years will join in this endeavour, through one-time offerings, or by giving over time to the Gruchy Chair in Practical Theology.

This idea is just one way we as the St. Andrew's community can work toward greater stability for our future theological educational opportunities. The Development Committee is open to hearing of other ideas as well.

Retirement Announcement



This fall I notified Principal Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis of my intent to retire as Director of the Designated Lay Ministry Program, effective December 31, 2023.

Since January of 2020,

I have been privileged and honoured to serve the Designated Lay Ministry students and work alongside four remarkable volunteer program team colleagues: Marc Grenon, Doreen Hewitson, Steven Loweth, and Mary-Jo Tracy. My first learning circle, “The Learning Community” in March 2020, coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and tested everyone’s skills as we shifted from in-person to remote teaching. Adaptation to change is part of the call to ministry, whether that means devising new ways of being community during a pandemic or winding down a ministry. Through it all, I have

been blessed by the opportunity to nurture the spiritual and vocational development of remarkable designated lay ministers who serve in many parts of Turtle Island, from British Columbia to Newfoundland and nearly every province in between. They are a blessing to our United Church and have been a personal blessing to me. My retirement ends a 41-year career in education which began in a French-as-a-second-language classroom in Central Ontario, included 30 years as a professor of English literature at the University of Saskatchewan, and four years working alongside staff and faculty colleagues at my alma mater, St. Andrew’s College. I am profoundly grateful for the learning acquired from those thousands of students over the years, but I am especially indebted to the designated lay ministry students who have helped me deepen my faith and trust in Creator and inspired me on the continuing journey of discipleship. May St. Andrew’s College continue to grow hope, compassion and justice in the servants of Jesus.
the Rev. Dr. Kathleen James-Cavan

Self Study Information

St. Andrew’s College is hosting a comprehensive evaluation visit for reaffirmation of accreditation by the ATS Commission on Accrediting on March 18 – 21, 2024. The purpose of this visit is to verify that the school meets all applicable Commission Standards of Accreditation. Comments regarding how well the school meets those standards and/or generally demonstrates educational quality may be sent to accrediting@ats.edu; 412-788-6505 at least two weeks before the visit. Comments may also or instead be sent in writing to Dr. Bernon Lee (bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca). All comments will be shared with the onsite evaluation committee.

Looking for gifts for family?

Are you an alum and need swag?

Want to fly your St. Andrew’s colours?

Checkout our new online store: <https://urstore.ca/StAndrewsUCCan>



Faculty Updates



Becca Whitla

It has been a very busy fall as the Saskatoon Theological Union Faculty come together to launch and continue to build our new curriculum. My own teaching schedule included co-teaching, along with Bernon and Lynn, our new SAC101 class on UCC history. Half of the students were in person and half online and we had robust and even raucous conversations. What a treat! I look forward to teaching the new Practical Ministry Level 1 course in February, which is a combination of worship and preaching. The former worship course and preaching course are being woven together into two courses a year apart. I’ll also be coordinating our last cohort through Learning Circle 5 and will be offering *Community Song, Justice, and the Sacred* (June 3-7).

I continue to coordinate STU Chapel services. Services occur every Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday services are via

ZOOM and Thursday services are mostly in person with live streaming at the same link. You are warmly welcome to join us.

Over the summer, I was privileged to co-chair the Hymn Society's annual conference with colleague Anneli Loepp Thiessen. It took place in Montréal (July 16-19). At the conference, GIA released a new complete works of the Hymns of Sylvia Dunstan (UCC minister who died far too young 30 years ago. My tribute about her hymns is included in the collection. For the conference, I was also pleased to co-facilitate a panel on the state of church music in Canada. The conference featured Mohawk singer Jonathan Maracle, Kenny Wallace, Lester Ruth, hymnody and culture from Québec, among other things. Another summer highlight was the Four Colleges Conference: Decolonizing Our Churches: Reweaving Our Lives (June 20-22). It was a joy to work on the conference and was a delight to welcome guests and deeply engage in the issues. We had an excellent panel, guest clinicians, Bannock making, storytelling, tipi-teaching, and worship. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Just last week, in addition to co-teaching our SAC101 class on UCC history, I also participated in a live panel on the connections between anti-racism and decolonial theologies. It was part of the UCC's 40 days of engagement on anti-racism. (I also wrote a reflection which you can find here: <https://united-church.ca/stories/40-days-anti-racism-unlearning-colonial-whiteness>). Then, at the end of the week, I travelled to Edmonton to give a presentation at the gathering of the Western Intercultural Ministry Network. This wonderful group of UCC ministers and lay people are deeply committed to the UCC's vision of becoming an intercultural and anti-racist church. It was such a joy to participate – and there were many St. Andrew's connections I was pleased to celebrate. It is wonderful to witness the vision of the college come to life in the ministry of college alum. The vision of compassion, hope, and justice in the prairie context is alive and well.

On the research front, there are several book chapters in various stages of peer review. Also, the book I co-edited with Néstor Medina under contract with MQUP, *Decolonizing Church, Theology, and Ethics in Canada* has just come back from the peer review process with a recommendation to publish. So, we'll be entering the final editing phase for this project and it'll be published sometime in the next year or so. With all the changes at the college, it remains a real challenge to find the time for these projects, but I am continuing to forge ahead with a couple of other book ideas I'm working on as well.



Bernon Lee

September marks the commencement of Academic Year 2023-2024. With my able colleague, the capable Kathleen James-Cavan, I oversee our movement towards the completion of the self-study report for the Association of Theological Schools in Canada and the United States. The visit of the accrediting team is in our sights for March 18-21, 2024.

Autumn brings, also, the launch of the college's Lifelong Learning Pathway, a learner-driven, competency-based program of study and reflection alongside the college's academic pathway. We count eight in enrolment, well on our way to our target of twenty in this first academic year of the program's launch.

In November, I shall be joining my friend and colleague in the STU, Adam Z. Wright, in offering FND103, Introduction to Biblical Literature, my first teaching foray into the new curriculum (MTS and MDiv shared with our partners in the STU). The current enrolment of fourteen for this course will be the largest group I have taught to date in the STU!

Also, I celebrate the publication of my essay "The Science of Propriety in Florence Nightingale's Bible" in (a volume edited by Claudia May and Channon Visscher,) *Science and Religion: Perspectives Across Disciplines* (Rowman & Littlefield). This essay brings me one step closer to the completion of my book on nineteenth-century biblical interpretation.

I look forward to another year of rich engagement with students, staff, and faculty colleagues with what seems a promising start.



Lynn Caldwell

An update from Lynn will be available in the Spring 2024 issue of *Contact*.

From a Faculty Bookshelf

Books Provide Great Engagements with Questions of Racism and Whiteness

So You Want to Talk About Race. Ijeoma Oluo. New York: Seal Press, 2018.

White Fragility: What It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, Robin DiAngelo. Boston: Beacon Press, 2018.

By Becca Whitla, Professor of Practical Ministry

To quote from my recent post for the UCC's 40 days of engagement on anti-racism (see post here: <https://united-church.ca/stories/40-days-anti-racism-unlearning-colonial-whiteness>): "I often wrestle with questions of identity, and in particular the reality of my own Whiteness. I've been working on issues related to anti-racism and social justice my whole life—from anti-apartheid activism in my late teens and early 20s, to conducting a choir of Caribbean hotel workers in my 30s, to animating song and making music in many diverse contexts with diverse groups, to leading worship in a variety of ecumenical contexts, to teaching and preparing students for diverse ministries."

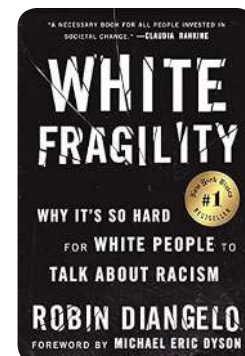


But, because "I am haunted by my own Whiteness and the privilege it gives me," I have been intentionally wrestling with how I can work to make more space for racialized leadership in my contexts. Over the summer, I read two books that I found provocative, in a good way. The first *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo is a candid reflection on experiences of racism by the author. The prose is crafted

in an accessible, engaging, frank style, in which she writes both for those who have experienced racism and for those who, like me, want to do better. From questions of privilege to intersectionality, to police brutality, to affirmative action, to questions of cultural (mis)appropriation, micro-aggressions, and the model minority myth, the volume covers a wide range of issues. Written compassionately, the book invites readers to engage with questions of racism in a way that opens up the possibility for deeper reflection about the ways in which we are all conditioned to behave according to the logic of systemic white supremacy. And it invites us to change our behaviour and ways of being in the world.

In a similar vein, *White Fragility*, written by Robin DiAngelo challenges those of us who are racialized as white to confront the ways in which we have been conditioned to accept white privilege as the status quo. As I mentioned at the beginning of this short article, I've been committed to anti-racist action and social justice my whole life; I've

been reflecting on these issues for a long time. But DiAngelo's work challenged me to take a deeper look at my own assumptions, and especially at my own patterns of defensiveness and guilt, for the ways in which I fail to see my own racism and/or the patterns that I have internalized because of my whiteness. She challenges several tropes used by white folks to exonerate themselves from having to do the work. It was, at times, an uncomfortable read, but I believe I will be a better teacher, scholar, colleague, and friend as a result.



As the UCC embraces the mission of being an anti-racist church, volumes such as these are crucial if we want to do more than make superficial statements ("Yes, of course, we're anti-racist") and instead take a deep dive into living out these visions through our actions as church communities. There's another volume on my bookshelf that I haven't read yet called: *White Benevolence*, edited by Amanda Gebhard, Sheelah McLean, and Verna St. Denis. It is Canadian and focuses on racism and colonial violence in the helping professions. I'm really looking forward to reading it.

I thought I might finish this book review by quoting the end of the piece done for the UCC's 40 days campaign with my own suggestions for how we might engage this work.

1. Be honest with yourself and work to untangle the colonial threads of your stories! Spend some time telling stories about how you and your ancestors came to be here. Do so in a way that honours the particular cultures and the complex ethnicities that are in each of us. Also, learn about the traditional land where you live. Whether you and members of your community are Euro-descendent, Indigenous, or racialized, we have complex and beautiful stories to tell.
2. Make intentional space! If you are Euro-descendent, try to listen more and talk less. As a person, and maybe as a community, think about what you can give up to make more intentional space for those who are racialized and marginalized in other ways. Consider concrete ways to make reparations and share economic wealth.
3. Build relationships! None of us can do this alone.
4. Be praxical! Don't just say the right thing—do the right thing! Praxis means that we reflect on our experience with a view to transforming our world. What can we do to nudge our communities toward racial justice and to decolonize our lives?

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning at St. Andrew's College: An Update

By: Bernon Lee

The implementation of the Lifelong Learning Pathway (LLL)—the college's series of certificate programs that pairs a Learner with an educational guide in pursuit of the Learner's self-described goals—continues apace.

To date, the LLL counts eight Learners in its ranks: five in the Leadership in the Faith Community Certificate program, two in Spiritual Exploration, and one in the Open Pathway, a category designed for those discerning a way forward in one of the three certificate programs of the LLL. One month into the launch, we find ourselves well on the way to our target of twenty Learners in the first year of the LLL.

Through discussions in August, the LLL finds itself in a

place to apply two bursaries of the Friends of St. Andrew's Fund for assisting Learners with program costs providing as much as a sixty percent discount to every Learner in a program.

As we look ahead to increased numbers in our second year (commencing in September 2024), planning continues. The LL's Advisory Group will meet towards the end of the Fall Trimester to refine the protocols for program evaluation. In consideration also (in the months ahead) is the incorporation of a joint course in leadership studies as a variant of the Leadership in the World Certificate program.

Buoyed by the reports (from our Recruitment Ambassador Shawn Sanford Beck) of the many conversations with interested parties, we look forward to a continuing expansion of the LLL.

From the Library

The STU Library is thrilled to introduce you to the latest offering from the Digital Theological Library - ***The Seminary Bookshelf*** subscription service!

While access to the digital resources of the library is typically reserved for current students and faculty, we are delighted to extend this access to alum and guest patrons who have expressed interest in accessing quality resources similar to those found in the main Digital Theological Library.

The Seminary Bookshelf stands as an extensive research library in the field of religious studies, tailored to support the research needs of religious professionals. Its aim is to aid in personal growth and professional

advancement by providing members with access to a top-tier research library boasting an impressive collection of over 1,300,000 eBooks. These include 850,000 eBooks from the last 25 years, 400,000 eBooks from the last 10 years, and 125,000 eBooks from the last 5 years.

This valuable resource was collaboratively created by approximately 70 seminaries across the globe, with the aim of mirroring the book volumes available in their local libraries. The selection of books has been carefully curated by seminary professors and professional theological librarians. The collections exhibit a wide-ranging and in-depth coverage in areas such as Biblical studies, theology, leadership, ministry, prac-

tical theology, history, counseling, pastoral care, and philosophy.

Individual memberships cost \$10 USD per month. If you're an alum, you can reach out to the STU Library via email at library@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca or call us at 639-398-5561, and we will provide you with a choice of two discount codes that can be used for a subscription to this exceptional digital library.

The Seminary Bookshelf website: <https://seminarybookshelf.libguides.com/home>



Rachel Kotei
Senior Library Technician

Welcome to Martin Nord



Martin Nord joined the Saskatoon Theological Union Library (STU) as the Advising Librarian in August 2023. He was hired by St. Thomas More College (STM), and in a new collaboration, will spend 20% of his time in the STU Library advising the STU on many library resource and service facets, while fostering valuable linkages to the STM library and other libraries in the University of Saskatchewan System. He holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Dominican University (River Forest, Illinois) and is completing a PhD in Library and Information Science (LIS) from Western University in 2023.

Trish McCarthy Introduction

Being Pastoral on the Prairies: Trish McCarthy



I was ordained to the Anglican priesthood in 1993 and married my beloved, Art Howell, a year later. While I have no children, we currently have a small dog named Lexi and a Tennessee Walking horse named Lucy with whom I enjoy summer riding in official Saskatchewan Long Rider (Endurance 25+ mile) rides.

I have served mostly full time in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, in both urban and rural contexts. I have volunteered in Christian camping ministry for eight years—sometimes as Chaplain, and more often as Camp Director for the Anglican Diocese of Calgary. I attended four Truth and Reconciliation Hearings in Regina, Fort Qu'Appelle, Key First Nation and Saskatoon. I was deeply moved by the courage of Residential School survivors as they shared their experience of cultural, familial, and

spiritual deprivation, as well as sexual and physical abuse as youngsters. The lack of cultural sensitivity was the result of just one of the disastrous policies enacted within the Residential school system.

I have taken three Clinical Pastoral Education units—in 1991, 2015 and 2017. With my interdisciplinary tendencies, I also served as a Victim Service Advocate Volunteer using my pastoral skills for five years with the Hanna, AB, R.C.M.P. and two years with the Niagara Regional Police. In parish and other contexts, I have exercised my certified skills in Spiritual Direction and have often been sought out for guidance by people discerning a formal vocation. Having prepped approximately 150 couples for marriage over 30 years, I have much experience and insight in supporting folks as they prepare to enter Christian marriage.

In 2005, I graduated with my Doctorate of Ministry from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, having written a 200-page Pastoral Care Curriculum. Since that time, I have taught Pastoral Studies in parish and diocesan settings, First Nation contexts and, since 2010, in the Saskatoon Theological Union.

I greatly enjoy the interaction with STU students and would share (veiled) vignettes from my 30+ year ministry to highlight specific aspects of my pastoral care and spiritual formation teaching. In the Spring of 2024, I am planning on undertaking some professional development in the areas of “Congregational Conflict Management and Mediation” as well as in Ecumenism.

The wonderful cosmopolitan dimension of both Regina and Saskatoon parish ministry settings have been exciting and demanded a creativity to ensure that all those who attend feel welcomed and that their cultures are celebrated and appreciated. In reflecting back on these special times, it seems that there are some basic ideas that help receiving congregations to warmly enfold new people: to learn and use their cultural name, to honour their culture and to learn how God has worked in their family and national histories.

Ultimately, as we prepare people for ministry in multicultural settings, there is so much to learn and enjoy—not only about people of diverse backgrounds but also about God, who created us all!

Rev. Dr Trish McCarthy is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Internship Field Education Director at the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad.

Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero Introduction



Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero started at the Saskatoon Theological Union this fall as the Grace Professor of Leadership at the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Originally from the farmlands of west-central Minnesota, Kyle enrolled in Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, which exposed him to the sociological study of congregations. He became involved in the Church Innovations Institute, founded by one of his professors, which assists congregations in asking, “What’s God up to?” He worked with the team that developed an online tool to help congregations create ethnographic studies of themselves and served on reading teams that assisted congregations in deep listening practices.

Kyle continued his theological studies by enrolling in the PhD program in liturgical studies and systematic theology at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. Under the direction of Professor Michael Aune, Kyle’s dissertation, *Sin and Brokenness, Passage and Purpose: Reforms in Recent American Lutheran Rites for the Pastoral Care of the Sick*, puts forward an interdisciplinary approach to understanding sickness and healing through historical-theological, liturgical, and anthropological lenses.

For Kyle, leadership is an organic outgrowth of his work as a liturgical scholar. “Dr. Aune would often speak of ‘liturgical pastoring’ (rather than ‘pastoral liturgy’) to emphasize the worshipful nature of pastoral ministry, in which Christ revealing himself to us through word and sacrament stands at the center of all ministerial leadership.”

During his graduate study and after earning his PhD, Kyle became interested in technology-assisted pedagogy. He earned a Learning Technology Leadership micro-credential from Educause and an Instructional Design Mastery badge from the Online Learning Consortium. This experience led him back to GTU to serve as Director of Digital Learning and as a Lecturer.

The fall of 2019 brought Kyle to United Lutheran Seminary to serve as the Steck-Miller Assistant Professor of Worship and Liturgy and later Co-Director of Worship Life, where he expanded his research to include digital theology. He brought his critical reflections and those of his colleagues together in the book *Church After the Corona Pandemic: Consequences for Worship and Theology*, published this past spring by Springer.

Kyle also experienced a renewal of his call to ordained ministry and served as “bridge pastor” at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Philadelphia as they discerned what was next for the congregation. “My ministry at St. Tim’s has allowed me to experience leadership from all aspects of the congregation’s life, embodying ‘liturgical pastoring’ and figuring out what God is up to in this corner of Philadelphia.”

All these experiences led Kyle to Saskatoon. He is excited by the future-oriented and ecumenical nature of the STU, breaking down barriers to theological education that goes beyond our campus walls to bring the gospel message of liberation. For Kyle, leadership is meant to create meaningful change in the world. It is attentive to the context in which it occurs and must be agile and iterative. This leadership, which goes beyond the customary clergy designations, is accountable to both those the person is leading and to the theological claims of the community. Leadership, like justice, must go beyond being a commitment to being an action.

Kyle is excited by what the future holds in the STU and our respective denominations.

Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero is the Grace Professor of Leadership at the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon.

Friends We Shall Miss

Rev. Dr. Paul Campbell (DD 1995) of Winnipeg, MB, passed away on July 5. Paul served in congregations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as serving as the Saskatchewan Conference Pastoral Relations Minister and President of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conference. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Andrew's College in 1995 in recognition of his work in congregational ministry and for his work at the conference and general council levels.

Rev. Greg Parker (MDiv 2007) of Provost, AB, passed away on June 26. Following graduation, Greg served the Provost Macklin Pastoral Charge until his passing.

Rev. Heather Graham (MDiv 1987) of Bobcaygeon, ON, passed away on September 16. Heather was ordained in 1987 and served in many congregations in Saskatchewan before moving to Penetanguishene, ON, with her partner Bev Irwin. While in Ontario, Heather was involved with Hospice Huronia, started her own counselling practice and served in congregational ministry before retiring in 2018.

Rev. Beverley Ann Marie Irwin (MDiv 1994) of Peterborough, ON, passed away on October 8. Bev was ordained in 1994 and served in many congregations in Saskatchewan with her partner, Heather Graham, before moving to Ontario in 2001. She continued to serve in congregations in Southern Ontario before retirement in 2019.

CiRCLe M and Theological Education

By: Shawn Sanford Beck
Recruitment Ambassador

After a pause during the recent pandemic, the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M) has re-emerged for a new season of life and work. Invigorated by a generous legacy from the late Rev. Dr. Joyce Sasse (who was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by St. Andrew's College in 2021), the Centre is now strategizing about how to most faithfully put its resources to work on behalf of rural churches and their communities.

Through the eyes of CiRCLe M, rural churches are seen and upheld as a potent force for leadership and network development that is already resident in small communities. They offer buildings, committed and enthusiastic volunteers, local, national, and international connections, leadership training, fund-raising structures and a focus on building hope, quality of life, and human capacity. But their community-building capacity has been under-explored and under-used.

Rural ministers report that they love many things about rural ministry — the sense of deep support from and intimate knowledge of their people, the way that everyone has a chance to share their gifts, the integration of church and community life. They sense God's presence in the people in a real way.

At the same time, CiRCLe M realizes the well-being of rural communities is important not only for their own sake, but for all of Canada. It is primarily in and through rural communities that we touch the earth. Rural communities live intimately with nature and they know their

survival depends on that relationship. In an increasingly urbanized world and in the face of a looming ecological crisis, it is in everyone's interest that our rural communities not only survive but flourish. (<https://www.circle-m.ca/about-us>)

Over the past several years, CiRCLe M has also become keenly aware that "rural" has always and must continue to include Indigenous communities. Treaty consciousness has grown within the Centre and the board is honoured to include members from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation of the Morley area. Truth and Reconciliation takes many shapes within rural realities, and CiRCLe M is committed to walking the path of partnership and healing.

As CiRCLe M is renewed in its vision, there is a re-engagement, as well, with the schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union. Emmanuel and St. Chad Principal, the Rev. Dr. Iain Luke, is a board member, as is St. Andrew's Recruitment Ambassador, the Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck. The STU Doctor of Ministry degree program will continue to be a learning opportunity which the Centre will promote; each school also has various programs of study which focus on the strengthening of lay and clergy ministries in the rural context. (For example: St. Andrew's new Lifelong Learning Pathway, Lutheran Theological Seminary's Diaconal Diploma and Certificate in Lutheran Leadership, and Emmanuel and St. Chad's Licentiate in Theology.) Most of these programs can now be accessed in online and hybrid forms, which offers much wider accessibility for those in rural communities.

As CiRCLe M “renews its strength, to soar on wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31), we look forward to a new season of relationship-building, justice-seeking, and rural-flourishing among all the partners involved in

the Centre. For more information, please contact the Board Chair, the Rev. Catherine Christie at christiecatherine4@gmail.com.

Year of Intention update and future events

The first two online sessions of our “Year of Intention” have occurred, with widespread interest and deep conversations. Our October panel discussion focused on the histories and trajectories of our three schools’ journeys toward supporting LGBTQIA2S+ students, and our November session consisted of a public lecture given by Lutheran scholar Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein on the theme of “Queer Christology.” Both sessions provided much food for thought and dedication.

Moving into 2024, we will continue this series celebrating St. Andrew’s commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon’s commitment to being “Reconciling in Christ.” We’ll be educating ourselves about sexual orientation and gender identity and exploring new ways to be in solidarity and celebration with LGBTQIA2S communi-

ties in the church and beyond. Please mark your calendars now! More specific information to follow, closer to the dates... all events will happen online at 7:30-9pm SK time.

- Thurs, Feb 8 Liturgical Resources for LGBTQIA2S Christians (panel discussion)
- Tues, Mar 19 Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion)

And our “Year of Intention” will culminate in a splendid worship service of recommitment, celebrating 15+ years of Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble Affirming Ministry and 4+ years of ReconcilingWorks Reconciling in Christ ... the date for this service is still to be decided.

For more information on any of these events, please contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

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. 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 new worship experiences every year; and,

2. Tamarack: At this donor tier, supporters will receive access to the College Sunday Digital Worship Library, as well as a sampler of the Lifelong Learning Pathway. This sampler includes a free learning goal consultation, a three-month subscription to Pathway membership, and one free audited course as part of the Pathway portfolio. This would be available either to an individual, or to a community of faith which would elect to sponsor one of their members as a learner.

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, collegesecretary.sac@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 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 (collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

Reflections From a Designated Lay Ministry Student



Back row: L-R: Marc Grenon (Program Team), Kathleen Welch, Corey Paul, Cathy Coates (Chaplain), Bev Sharpe.
Front row: L-R: Steven Loweth (Program Team), Kelley Molloy, Nancy Painter, Rebecca Whiting, Marg West, Roxanne Bale, Heather Cronhelm, Dale Worrall, Kathleen James-Cavan (Director)

I remember very clearly the first vote on the remit for One Order of Ministry. I sat in the back of the church during our Presbytery meeting, my supporters, almost all ordained ministers, seated around me. They understood the impact this vote would have on my entry into ministry. I remember saying how I wished it would pass because it would affect me in my journey, but I never expected the negative reaction I received that day from an older minister who was seated up a few pews. They voted no. I was crushed when the remit was defeated and it left me wondering about how I would proceed next.

I soldiered on and after completing my 2-year program for the LLWL Atlantic, I still was unsure of how I would proceed. After much soul-searching and angst, I started the lengthy process of applying to the DLM program. Over the next year, I had extensive interviews, phone calls, assessments, and then the final and very scary Candidacy Board interview. I was thrilled and relieved when I learned I had been admitted into the DLM program. Those words were bittersweet because my greatest supporter, my dad, had just passed away barely 2 months before.

But still, I soldiered on, and within a couple of years, I had my appointment to three small struggling churches that due to finances came together in collaborative ministry. This is why we are called to serve: DLMs are needed, appreciated and well-trained. Our schooling is post-secondary-level and in-

tense. Our semesters are not just a 2-week circle as some may think. We have regular 12-week semesters, write academic papers and have major assignments from each circle to prepare and present. We often serve in rural areas with little support except for our educational supervisor and often these churches are so small or remote that we have no music leadership. Resources are limited and we must come up with services on our own from planning to implementing. The communities of faith we serve are older, tired, small, and simply want to have the chance for worship. Trust me, you learn to adjust.

As our class sat together on Saturday, October 21st, we listened closely to the remits, held our breath for the votes, and, for the most part, cheered at the outcome. As the reality of what was said, and more was read, some had tears of defeat, and most were shell-shocked but we all had similar questions: yes, it all passed, but now what? It is way too early to see where this will take any of us currently in the DLM program. Those who wish will be eligible for ordination, after the requirements are met, and the candidates are approved and voted on. Some feel let down and abandoned by the process. I am halfway into my certificate, and I will be one of the last three to be recognized. I was well informed of my options and will follow that path when it comes because I still soldier on.

Bev Sharpe, Candidate-DLM

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Best wishes to all and may you have a safe, healthy and joyous festive season.

We hope and pray that St. Andrew's College continues its important work in preparing people for ministry.

Contact

This publication is free of charge. If you would like to add someone's name to the mailing list, please contact us:

Editorial Board

Richard Manley-Tannis
Melanie Schwanbeck
Carolyn Woodall

St. Andrew's College

1121 College Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 0W3
Phone: (639) 398-5565
Fax: (306) 343-6049
Email:
standrews.college@
saskatoontheologicalunion.ca
Website: www.standrews.ca

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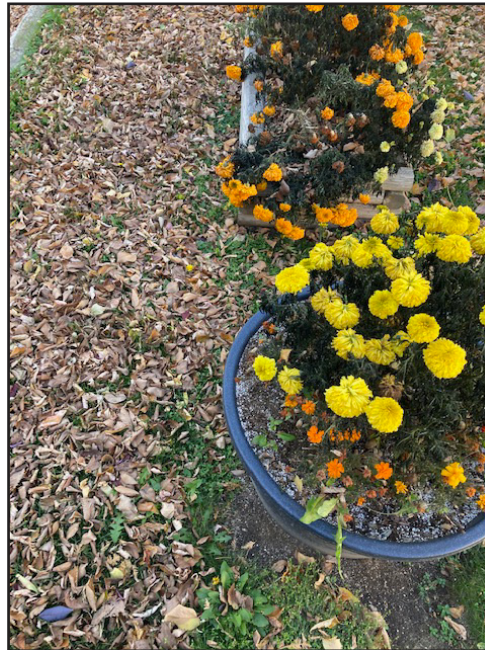
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Saskatoon Theological Union Convocation 2024

Friday, May 10th, 7:00 pm
Knox United Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

St. Andrew's College Convocation will take place next spring as part of a larger event of the Saskatoon Theological Union, as we join with our partners the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad (Anglican) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary.



The frozen flowers and the fallen leaves at St. Andrew's are a reminder that we are part of the Creator's seasonal cycle.

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