



# QUEEN'S COLLEGE

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## Office of the Provost

### REPORT TO CONVOCATION 2017 Richard C. Singleton, PhD

Your Honors, Mr. Chancellor, Madame Chair of Queen's College Corporation, Bishop Peddle, Bishop Watton and Members of Corporation, Faculty and Staff, Bishop Alexander, Archbishop Currie, Minister Trimper, Associate Vice-President Cadigan, Members of Clergy, Families and Guest of Students of the College, and to the Graduating Class of 2017, and all our friends, I am pleased to report to the assembled Convocation on the activities of Queen's College.

*Story of the axe being renewed by replacing the head and the handle.* This story reflects the need and experience of renewal in many organizations and structures. At Queen's College, we are like other educational and church organizations, and communities. As I have heard Archbishop Coffin quote General Eric Sheniski, "If you don't like change, you will like irrelevance even less".

When all is said and done, our prime mission at Queen's College, is to prepare women and men to take on ordained and non-ordained ministries and leadership roles in the Church. Our programs provide a solid preparation for the roles our students will take on when they finish at Queen's. This aligns with what St. Paul says in Ephesian Chapter 4,

verse 12: “ ... to equip the saints for service and to build up the Kingdom of God”. Their preparation is built on four pillars.

**Pillar 1. Theological education** is changing and requires constant review. This year, we have completed a thorough curriculum review of all our programs and courses and updated our calendar. The goal was to ensure our course offerings have a scope and sequence to provide a balanced theological education for those in our degree and non-degree programs on-campus and by distance. Following the regulations of the Association of Theological Schools and the practice of most colleges and universities, we have clarified our policies and procedures to grant Advance Standing for students who have completed a program and wish to move on to a higher one. We are now at the point where we have to get the right balance in delivery of courses on-campus, off-campus, and by distance. This includes making our Diploma Program and possibly our Bachelor of Theology for Discipleship and Ministry available outside St. John's. In fall 2016 and winter 2017, Rev. Dr. Joanne Mercer offered courses in Central Diocese. This is the beginning of a venture to make better use available technologies, and expertise in our province and make theological education accessible across the province. In fall 2017 we look forward to launching of our Diploma in Theology and Ministry Program in Western Newfoundland and in Central Newfoundland. With special support from Bishop Peddle we will offer the Diploma in happy valley Goose bay, Labrador, and with special support from Archbishop Currie, we will be offering the Diploma RC Stream on the Burin Peninsula.

This year we have enhanced our Continuing Education for Clergy Program by offering monthly programs on campus at Queen's, on-line by Webinar, and by recording

sessions and making them available through our YouTube channel. We have had twelve sessions on topics such as *The History of Queen's College*, *The Diaconate: Past Present and Future*, *Clergy Wellness*, *The Theology of Money*, *Spirituality in the Senior Years*, and earlier this week we had a session marking the *500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Luther's Reformation*. We had a special session with Bishop Francis Loyo of South Sudan when he visited the College as a guest of Bishop Watton.

We are also working with representatives of the Anglican Diocese in Cyprus and the Gulf to establish an arrangement that will allow Queen's College to facilitate theological education and pastoral training as a means to support the Christians who live and work in areas of the Middle East where Christianity is a small minority of the population.

In March, the Association of Theological School (ATS) for the US and Canada renewed our Associate membership for five years. This renewal verifies our credibility as a theological college and allows us to engage with other ATS member schools.

In February, the Anglican Church of Canada sponsored a gathering of representatives from dioceses and theological schools to discuss the future of theological education and training for ministries. It was interesting to hear of the challenges across Canada as dioceses face the shortage of priests. In our province, we are blessed to have a local theological school. We are further blessed to have a good working relationship between Queen's College and the three dioceses.

**Pillar 2. Pastoral training and practice** go hand in hand with good theological education when preparing people for ministry. Queen's has always had a good selection of courses in Pastoral Studies and good supervision for internships. In fall 2017 we will have five students on internships. As more students come to us later in life and complete programs by distance, we see the need to develop a system for pastoral supervision across the province. We are working on a program to equip clergy with the competencies to provide pastoral supervision and spiritual guidance for students in our Diploma Programs when they are offered at satellite sites outside St. John's. With the cooperation of the diocesan bishops, we will hopefully launch this training in the Fall Semester of 2017.

**Pillar 3. Spiritual development** is essential to rounding out the experience of theological education and pastoral skills into readiness for ministry. We place strong emphasis on the spiritual component of our program. This year we have ensured that all students preparing for ministry are availing of a spiritual director and we have had structured programs with spiritual guides to provide students with exposure to spiritual practices such as praying with scripture, silence, meditation, prayer groups and reflection. We had monthly days of awareness and a year-end retreat. We know spiritual resilience is essential for ministry. Our students gave strong and positive feedback on these experiences.

**Pillar 4. Faith-based learning community** experience provides students with opportunity to test their own thoughts and ideas, challenge each other and integrate the information and insights from their studies. Individuals preparing for ministry need the experience of interacting with others to learn, pray, participate in ministries and socialize. At Queen's College, we are blessed with an active community of students and faculty members. **Chapel activities** are central to our community life at Queen's and key to our students' preparation for ministry. Students, faculty and visitors participate in daily Liturgy of Hours, regular celebrations of Holy

Eucharist, and our Days of Awareness that are enriched by music, singing, homilies, and silence. The revised design of our off-campus programs will put more emphasis on experience of learning community.

Our engagement in faith-based community of learning is not limited to the routines of students and faculty. This year all three Diocesan Bishops were *Bishop in Residence* in the fall and winter semesters. They participated in the life of the college during their visits. We had over 20 clergy visit as presiders and homilists, we had a further 18 visit as presenters in classes and seminars. The visits of bishops, priests, deacons and lay people enriches the seminary experience at Queen's.

**Now**, I want to briefly highlight a few other matters of importance.

Our **Student Association** was very active and strong this year. They had several outreach ministries that focus on the needs of the vulnerable. Our students are connected to the Gathering Place, Single Parents' Association, an orphanage in Tanzania and MUN Student Foodbank. They have had fundraisers and collections of goods to support their outreach ministries.

**Our relationship with Memorial University** is very positive. Queen's is located on campus at MUN. This is an ideal location for our college as it gives our students and faculty members access to the services and infrastructure of MUN. We have nurtured our collaboration with the philosophy depart and religious studies. In the fall of 2017 we look forward to co-sponsored conference ... Ethics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Body Mind and Spirit. This will be a joint venture of Queen's with Philosophy, Religious Studies and the division of Humanities and Ethics in the Medical School.

**Collaboration with other denominations is important to Queen's College.** In the modern context, the opportunity to study with individuals from other faith traditions strengthens the

educational experience. We presently have a strong representation of Pentecostal and Roman Catholic students. About 60 % of our students are Anglican. In April, the United Church of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Conference has advised me they have approved our Diploma in Theology and Ministry Program for training their Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Also, in the Fall 2017, we will again have Salvation Army Officers enrolled in the Master of Theological Studies Program.

**Student Enrollment at Queen's** is strong. This semester we have about 100 registered students. We have a mix of women and men preparing for ordained and non-ordained ministries and leadership in five denominations. We have full-time and part-time students registered in on-line, on-campus and correspondence courses.

I want to take a moment on **financial matters. Queen's College operating revenue** comes from the Diocesan Grants, Student Tuition, Investments and Queen's College Appeal. We occasionally receive other donations such as In Memoriam donations. We appreciate and are thankful for all sources of revenue. The commitment of the dioceses to sustain their contributions to Queen's, along with all their other demands, reflects the commitment to Queen's. The Anglican Joint Investment Committee is to be commended for their diligence and good stewardship of funds entrusted to their management. This year, we had a renewed effort to promote the Queen's College Appeal. The Bishops, parish clergy, our students, faculty members and students worked hard to promote the Appeal. Most of the returns are not yet available. We always appreciate gifts from individuals and families that always seem to come at the right time to allow us to continue to offer a good educational and formation experience to all our students.

The total budget for 2017 is \$350,565.00.

This year, we have made a change to our budget planning process. We will prepare our budget for 2018 in the spring, so it can be presented to the diocesan committees for consideration in their budget planning processes.

We are pleased to now have technology in place to allow students to pay tuition on-line. And just for your information, you can make a donation online at [queenscollegenl.ca](http://queenscollegenl.ca)

**Bursaries** are available to students sponsored by a bishop to prepare for ordination. The Anglican Foundation of Canada and Queen's College Scholarship and Bursary Trust Fund provides bursaries to students who apply. The students are appreciative of the support.

**Now I want to extend a heartfelt thank you** to the numerous people who collaborate, participate and support our work at Queen's. Our students are wonderful individuals who bring joy and excitement to the College and the Church. Our faculty members generously teach, coach, mentor and guide our students in academic, spiritual and pastoral formation. Our Leadership Team, Dr. David Bell our Dean, Fr. Neil Kellett our Chaplain, and Dr. Carmel Doyle our Director of Student Programs enrich Queen's by their presence, example and attention to detail that sustains the 176 year old spirit and character of Queen's College.

**I must confess that I, and all of us at Queen's College continue to be indebted to Ms. Susan Foley** for her dedicated and professional service. Susan has been at Queen's for 31 years. She knows the history and the systems at Queen's like no one else. She is the go-to person for everything and anything that has to do with the administration of Queen's. Susan has trained six provosts in her career ... no mean feat! Susan will retire at the end of 2017. This

petite person of big character has contributed greatly to Queen's College. Her mark will endure for decades to come. Thank you Susan.

I must say a thank you to the Alumni Association for their support and interest in the College. Our former students and graduates show tremendous support for Queen's. Their interest is manifested in many ways, such a regular prayers for the College and students, inquiries about our programs and plans, and the very generous Alumni Scholarships awarded at convocation each year.

I extend thank you to my predecessor provosts at Queen's College, who have been generous in advice when consulted. It is always wise to remember we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. Alex Faseruk reminded me once, that is great metaphor but a messy image when you picture me on Alex, on Bishop Geoff Peddle, on Bill Bellamy on Boyd Morgan cushioned by the now Provost Emeritus, Frank Cluett.

Mr. Chancellor, I want to thank you and all the Corporation members for the support and guidance of Queen's. And I wish special blessings and thanks to you as you approach retirement and the same good wishes to Archdeacon Terry Caines, Canon Paulette Bugden and Ms. Margaret Jenniex as they finish their terms of office after this convocation.

I say a special thank you to the people who inspire and guide me on matters of importance such as the pace of life and how bad my clothes are mismatched, they provide me with generous love, support and unsolicited advice – my wife Donna, my daughter Chloe and my son Chris. Thank you for putting up with me.

**And finally to our graduates: Congratulations and blessings for the future.**