



QUEEN'S COLLEGE

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Office of the Provost

REPORT TO CONVOCATION 2018

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Friends, I ask you to stand and take a moment of silence to remember our deceased alumni, benefactors and friends. Among the departed this year, we remember the loyal graduate and supporter of Queen's College – Bishop Mark Genge, the faithful friend and benefactor - Rev'd Dr. Randy Daley, and a graduate and supporter – Bishop-elect John Meade.

Please be seated.

Mr. Chancellor - Right Rev'd Dr. Peddle, Madame Chair and Members of Corporation of Queen's College Corporation, Bishop Watton, Archbishop Coffin and, Sister Elizabeth – our Convocation Guest Speaker, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Golfman, Msgr Critch, Dr. Noel, Members of the Clergy, Queen's College Faculty Members and Students, Graduating Class of 2018 and families and guests, and all our friends, I am pleased to report to the assembled Convocation on the activities of Queen's College.

I heard recently that the Anglican bishops of NL decided to take a day golfing. Bishop Percy is a seasoned golfer and made it look so easy ... Golf ... on the ball ... 40 years ago ... Canon Frank Cluett asked to lead a venture to examine reestablishment of faculty of theology at Queen's College ...

At Queen's College, we have over 177 years of offering theological education, pastoral formation, and spiritual development to prepare people for leadership roles in the Church and in the broader community. Over the life of Queen's College, there has been significant shifts and developments in what we do, how we do it and for whom we offer our programs. We are now in age when we appreciate the richness of diversity, the benefit of academic research and theological debate, and the necessity of collaboration. At Queen's College we do our best to prepare women and men to take on ordained and non-ordained ministries and leadership roles in the Church, and to participate in organizations and society with an awareness and appreciation of theology. Our programs provide a solid preparation for the roles our students will take on when they finish at Queen's.

I will present my report by focusing on several major themes.

My first focus is on our Academic Program.

The Curriculum Review we completed in 2017 has allowed us to revise our program to achieve a good mix of required and elective courses across the subject areas needed to have an academic balance and resource efficiency. It allowed us to organize and schedule our courses to create a richer learning experience through class size and diversity among students.

Through the Curriculum Review we responded to the interest of committed and loyal students. We had noticed a pattern that many who registered for a single course were likely to come back for more, we also saw that graduates from the Diploma Program moved on to the Associate, and the Associate graduates moved into a degree program and on from Bachelor to Master degrees. We refreshed our regulations to make the progression clearer and more inviting to everyone and anyone interested in the study of theology at Queen's College.

This past year we put substantial effort into development of courses and programs to be available off-campus. This past year we launched our Diploma in Theology and Ministry Program in Gander, Corner Brook, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, as well as in St. John's. I gratefully acknowledge a grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada to support the initiative to offer the Diploma Program across the province, and likewise I acknowledge a special grant from the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador to support the program for Labrador. And I thank those who have taken leadership to promote and nurture the programs off campus.

The development of our Smart Room has proven to be a good investment. It is making the delivery of on-line courses in real time much more user-friendly for all. Many of our part-time students would not be enrolled, if it were not for this technology.

In the fall, we completed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. We now have an average of 30 students per semester registered in our Bachelor of Theology in Discipleship and Ministry in Cyprus and throughout the Middle East. We are proud of this outreach and support to those who would not otherwise have access to training for ministry. .

We have maintained a focus on Continuing Education for Clergy. We offer monthly sessions and during the Winter Semester we offered two series: *The Creeds* – led by our Dean of Theology: Dr. David Bell, and *Contemplative Leadership* – led by Margaret Benefiel of Shalem Institute in Washington DC.

Another focus of this report is Pastoral Training and Practice. It is essential to our program.

We are aware that our contribution to the Church is to equip women and men for leadership roles that require sensitivity and skills to reflect the message and ministry of Jesus Christ. Good theological education is important, but not enough to ensure the competencies for pastoral ministry. As we now have many who study by distance, our challenge is to ensure students in our programs have opportunity to practice pastoral

skills. We do this by having a practicum component in our Diploma Programs, and by having supervised clinical and pastoral internships.

We have always been blessed with having pastors and professional pastoral workers in health care to provide supervision to our students. We have now taken steps to provide more focused training for clergy and others who will provide guidance and training to students enrolled in our programs off-campus. This past year we had 18 clergy complete a two semester Certificate in Supervision for Ministry. Next year, we will launch a three semester Certificate in Spiritual Direction. This will ensure students have access to competent supervisors for their pastoral practice and spiritual development.

In fall 2017, we had seven students do internships and this semester we have six students doing Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM).

Spiritual Development is also a pillar of our program.

Really, spirituality is the core of our program and it is essential to the joy, resilience and effective ministry of those preparing for pastoral roles in the Church. We endeavor to lead students into practices and routines that will allow them to have a strong prayer life and skills to help others. We require students to have a spiritual director, and we make them accountable to pursue spiritual guidance. We have regular days of awareness, we have monthly sessions on the Ignatian Exercises and Spirituality, led by Fr. Earl Smith, SJ. This year, we introduced contemplative community morning prayer once every week, and we offered a silent retreat at the end of the term for all students in ordination stream. The retreat was directed by Fr. John Courage. Our Chaplain, Fr. Neil Kellett has been a wonderful guide and support for our students and faculty members.

Community

Community life within the college is quite dynamic. We have a wide array of students and faculty members: some are full-time and some are part-time; some are in ordination stream but most preparing for fuller lay ministries. We have Anglican, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, United Church students and a Coptic priest studying with us. We have some who are with us daily, others occasionally, and some who always and only connect on-line. We try to provide the experience of a Christ-centred and Spirit-filled community. We insist on hospitality and respect. We welcome and encourage participation in the chapel, common room, and classrooms. We monitor behaviours and coach students to be self-aware of their habits and practices of engaging with visitors, supporting colleagues, and being present to those with them and not being distracted by their devices. We emphasize respect!

Our community is strengthened by the support of the Bishops and clergy. We are blessed to have frequent visitors and willingness of many clergy to preside and preach at Holy Eucharist on Mondays and Wednesdays. Parish clergy have been very supportive and welcoming in facilitating parish internships and Sunday Parish Placements for our students. We are pleased that our students recognize that they are not an isolated community, but part of a broader and deeper community of faith.

This past year we had over 100 clergy and lay people participate in the education and formation of our students through internships, support teams, parish placements, and

college events. Such participation nurtures appreciation of broad community engagement.

I am proud to note as well, that our students, through the Queen's College Student Association are aware and involved in community activities such as collecting for foodbanks, fundraising for missionary work, cooking at Ronald MacDonald House and participating the in Bringing in the Sheaves project of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland in support of the Diocese of Rokon in South Sudan.

We make efforts to connect with the broader community through a monthly newsletter and occasional updates to students, alumni/ae, parishes, clergy, benefactors and friends. We have worked to enhance our presence through social media.

Collaborations

We have many collaborations within the Church, within the University and beyond. We have strong partners in many undertakings. We continue to sustain and nurture the obvious collaborations with the Anglican Dioceses in NL, as well as the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. We maintain our arrangements with the Pentecostal Assemblies of NL, and we have renewed our contract with the RC Archdiocese and are at preliminary stage with other interested denominational groups.

Our arrangement and affiliation with Memorial University is essential for Queen's College. The current affiliation agreement between Memorial and Queen's was put in place for 25 years in 1994. Over the past two years we have been in discussions regarding renewal of our Agreement. We are now in a position to say we will be renewing our Agreement for another 25 years. Being on campus is important to Queen's College. It provides access to the facilities of the University. The library is an essential resource for the Faculty and students. We appreciate the arrangements with Faculties and Departments of the University to enhance educational opportunities and partnerships.

Before I finish, I must give you some numbers ...

Student Enrollment at Queen's is strong. This past semester we had 162 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.

The Financial Audit Report for 2017 has been received by the Corporation. The Auditors have found all financial matters to be in order and in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. We had a balanced budget in 2017. Our budget for 2018 is \$407,565.00.

While speaking about finances, I must acknowledge that pretty well all **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. Recently, we had a renewed effort to promote the Queen's College Appeal. The Bishops, parish clergy, faculty members and students worked hard to promote the Appeal. 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.

Future

I wish now to take a moment to glimpse to the future. That is a challenging and exciting thing to do in a School of Theology, where our mandate is to prepare people for ministry and leadership. We are well situated to take on somewhat of a prophetic role in the Church and for the Church. It is not enough to react to change, or adjust to change ... we must influence the change. We can do this by ensuring we are nurturing theological thinking and reflection on matters relevant to people's lives. We do it by engaging with others through debate and community initiatives, and we do it by evaluating what we do and how we can improve.

William James, is credited with the very inspiring quote "You sow a thought, you reap an action, you sow an action you reap a habit, you sow a habit you reap a character, you sow a character you reap a destiny." Our role, our prophetic role in the church and in the world must be to ensure we sow thoughts that have the capacity to influence actions. Acts of kindness, acts of service, acts that are good example and that lead to the shape of character for individuals, families, communities and culture that show respect, embrace diversity and support those with needs, especially the need for the experience of the joy of the Gospel. Or we might say we are called to do what the prophet Micah tells us that Lord requires of us, "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Closing

I approached this year with some concern, as I knew we would face the retirement of Ms Susan Foley. The recruitment of Ms Dana Bishop and her transition into the role of Administrative Assistant has gone very well. Dana and Susan worked well together throughout the fall and since the New Year, Dana has done wonderful work and shown she is quite capable, competent and willing to fill this important position and role. She is pleasant to work with and a perfect fit at Queen's College. Indeed, a strong case for female Bishops, interpret that as you wish. Thank you to Dana and Susan.

Also, I wish 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, challenge 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 177 year old spirit and character of Queen's College. I must note for you that Fr. Neil will not be back with us a chaplain next year, though he has open invitation to join us for worship and community activities. Neil, thank you for your support to us all. I am pleased to

announce that Fr. John Courage has agreed to take on the role as Chaplain at Queen's. John, welcome aboard!

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 Archbishop Coffin, who will finally step into his long awaited and well deserved retirement. I thank Rev'd Paulette Bugden and Ms Cynthia Haines Turner who have completed their terms-of-office on the Corporation. Your Grace, Cynthia and Paulette, your contribution and commitment to Queen's is appreciated.

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 advice when sought and when not sought. They are: my wife Donna, my daughter Chloe and my son Chris. Thank you for putting up with me.

And finally to our graduates ... Thank you, congratulations and blessings for the future.

Thank you all!