



# QUEEN'S COLLEGE

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## Office of the Provost

### REPORT TO CONVOCATION 2020 Richard C. Singleton, PhD

Friends, since our last Convocation on April 29, 2019, we have been through a lot. One of my favourite writers, Rabbi Earl Grollman, says “ ... a trauma is an event that shatters the things we take for granted”. Many things we took for granted in 2019 are indeed shattered. Our challenge is to be agents of hope in this time of trauma ... to draw strength and courage from the Paschal Mystery ... embracing the mystery of dying and rising is the character of a Christian. The death of Bishop Geoff Peddle was jolting to many within the Queen's community, within the faith community, and in the broader community. Bishop Geoff was our Chancellor, a graduate, former faculty member and former Provost of Queen's College, and to many ... a colleague, mentor, confidante, and friend. My friends, I ask you to stand or sit and join in a moment of silence to remember Bishop Geoff and all our deceased alumni, benefactors and friends.

Please be seated.

Bishop Watton, Bishop Organ, Archdeacon Rose, Rev'd Giles; Chair and Members of Corporation of Queen's College, Rev. Dr. Canon Cluett, President Timmons, Archbishop Hundt, Pastor Roberts, Rev. Dr. Morgan, Rev. Dr. Bell, Members of the Clergy, Queen's College Faculty Members and Students, Graduating Class of 2020, families and guests of graduates, and all our guests and friends gathered here and viewing our gathering at home ... I am pleased to report to the assembled Convocation on the activities of Queen's College.

The 2019 – 2020 Academic Year was interesting and challenging, to say the least. I will highlight some things, and I note that in the spirit of openness and transparency, my full May and October 2020 reports to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College Corporation are available on-line at our [www.queenscollegenl.ca](http://www.queenscollegenl.ca) website.

The response to the global pandemic and measures within our own province have been a test of our flexibility and resilience. We were gathered in the Common Room for our weekly Community Meal on March 17 ... St. Patrick's Day ... when I received the word that on-campus classes were being suspended and pivoting to on-line delivery. We were well set up for that shift and we did not miss a single class. On Wednesday, we were able to continue with our classes ... as we were already offering all classes both

on campus and in real-time on-line. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, we made all the adjustments necessary to maintain our academic and administrative functions. At Queen's College, our main directives for planning, response and recovery from the global pandemic interruptions come from the Government of Canada, the Government Newfoundland and Labrador, and from Memorial University. And indeed, we must commend the leadership from our governments and the University, and I must applaud the support and diligence from our colleagues within MUN.

But our academic year was more than Covid-19, and more than Snowmageddon. Here are some worthwhile highlights.

- Total enrolment of 333 students; That's amazing growth and interest in theological education and pastoral training.
- 163 individuals completed the Pastoral and Palliative Volunteer Training Certificate program sponsored in collaboration with Eastern Health and the Order of St. Lazarus; It proves the power of collaboration and the potential of volunteers when provided with the training.
- The space refurbishment project was completed; We look forward to an open house ... when covid is banished.
- Convocation, planned for May 14, was postponed and now converted to this on-line event; ... thank you for the flexibility and cooperation.
- Fifty-one students are graduating from their respective programs;
- Our 2020 graduates reflect the Queen's College mission and ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our graduates include lay people, deacons, priests, a bishop, Pentecostal pastors and a SA officer ... sounds like a lead in to a bad joke. We have a married couple graduating. We have representatives of six denominations: Anglican, Moravian, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Salvation Army.
- Student Enrollment by Program
  - Degree Programs 76
  - Associate 30
  - Diploma 48
  - Continuing Studies 16
  - Volunteer Training 163

**Total 333**

Since becoming Provost in 2016, I have emphasized that our programs are built on four pillars. They are: Good Theological Education; Pastoral Training and Practice; Spiritual Development, and a Faith-based Learning Community. I have presented my reports to Corporation and Convocations around these pillars.

Why these pillars? Why these cornerstones for a school of theology and seminary? Because the mandate of the College, as inherited from our founders and those who nurtured Queen's College since it's founding in 1841, is articulated in our Mission Statement as follows

*The task of the College, therefore, is threefold:*

- *to prepare women and men for the ordained ministry within the church;*
- *to provide opportunities to better equip lay people for the exercise of their baptismal ministry;*
- *to encourage and facilitate the integration of knowledge, skills, and experience with personal faith in order to foster a growing spirituality.*

The heart and soul of what we do at Queen's and why we do it is rooted in preparation for leadership by ordained and lay women and men in the Church and in the world. And it is a special type of leadership. Leadership that has four features ...

Being led by Christ;

Leading like Christ;

Leading to Christ; and

Leading with Christ.

Our graduates will impact rural and urban communities across our province and beyond in many different denominations, age groups, and contexts. They will be effective in their ministries to the extent to which they are led by Jesus Christ. **Being led by Jesus** in ministry today, as always, requires not shallow clichés or pious piffle ... but solid theological education that includes the capacity to engage in theological debate and kitchen table conversations about the things that matter in the lives of people and communities ... they can go as broad as global warming, the cost of living, the loss of a loved one, mental health issues, inerrancy of scriptures, loneliness and why bad things happen to good people. To be led by Jesus requires us to know Jesus. The study of scripture and theology are essential to knowing Jesus ... so we can genuinely follow Jesus in a vocation and ministry of leadership.

Being led by Jesus does not draw us away from connection with others, but calls us to deeper engagement with others. **To lead like Jesus** is to exercise compassion, patience, mercy, understanding, charity ... and keep on doing it ... over and over. It is to be inclusive and embracing diversity. Our efforts in pastoral training and practice, and our emphasis on community life are essential to honing and refining leadership characteristics and character. Encouraging and facilitating spiritual direction and mentorship are essential to the training and formation of effective leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Supervision in pastoral placements and internships with seasoned and gifted supervisors ensures the pastoral trainee can take the risk of testing her or his attitudes and actions in contexts where the expectation is to try to be like Christ. At Queen's we not only provide opportunities for our students to have supervision in ministry, but we also have introduced a Certificate Program in Ministry of Supervision to provide ordained and lay supervisors with opportunity to enhance their competencies and confidence to supervise others.

We are on a journey, we are pilgrims ... our purpose and destiny are **to lead to Christ**. That destiny, Christ, is to be discovered and experienced in numerous ways. Theological education, spiritual development, pastoral practice, debate and discussion, contemplation, mediation, worship, acts of kindness and generosity, compassion, inclusion, diversity, time in nature, time in chapel ... and many other personal and communal activities can **lead to Christ**. Sometimes the efforts, the directions, the journey are explicit, and sometimes ... thank God ... they are gentle, uncertain, personal, unique and implicit. Our effort at Queen's College is to equip those **called** to effectively lead others to Christ. Our emphasis on faith development at all ages and stages of life, our emphasis on pastoral practices, our emphasis on liturgical studies and

homiletics, our emphasis on community ministries, like other components of our programs and curriculum are intended to, not collect fans or admirers of the lay or ordained minister or pastoral care provider ... but to **lead to Christ**.

The splendid experience for our students, at least I think it is splendid, is that along with being led by Christ, leading like Christ, and leading to Christ ... we are all called to **lead with Christ**. None of what we do is our own. Neither Queen's College, the Church, or any project or program is an end in itself. The call from the time we were formed in the womb until we go back in some form to Mother Earth, is to build the Kingdom of God ... not our kingdom, nor a denominational kingdom, nor an academic kingdom ... but the Kingdom of God. Our mission, as the missional theologian, Dr. Alan Roxburgh, says, is to join God in establishing the Kingdom of God.

We have developed and offered a series of courses in our Diploma in Missional Leadership Program. Why ... because **leading with God** in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is not rocket science ... rocket science is easy.

This past year we continued to make revisions to the content and delivery of our Vocational Development Seminars. We included off-campus students, such as deacons and lay leaders in Central and Western diocese as well as on-campus students. Experienced clergy were invited to present on topics deemed important for pastoral ministry. The sessions were interesting, informative and appreciated. Also, through our non-credit VDS series *Liturgical Matters*, we have put a refreshed and stronger emphasis on understanding and appreciating the liturgies of the Church.

In the 2019 -2020 Academic year we had great support across the province, as we continued to recruit into our Diploma in Theology and Ministry Program in Gander, Deer Lake, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and St. John's, as well as the Roman Catholic Diploma Program. I gratefully acknowledge a three-year grant we had from the Anglican Foundation of Canada to support the start-up of the Diploma Program at sites across the province, and likewise I acknowledge a special grant from the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador to support the program for Labrador.

Our arrangement with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf continues to allow Queen's to have significant and focused outreach by facilitating theological education and pastoral training as a means to support the Christians who live and work in areas of the Middle East and need and want to participate in the life and ministry of the Church. We have 25 students from the Diocese of Cyprus and Gulf presently registered in our Bachelor of Theology in Discipleship and Ministry Program.

We have maintained a focus on Continuing Education for Clergy and Pastoral Workers. They are available on-line, and as recordings on our YouTube channel. We have a broad variety of topics. Last year, for example, we offered a session on *Clergy Wellness*, we had two sessions on *Trial Liturgies* offered by our former Provost and Liturgist, the Rev. Dr. Boyd Morgan, and in the spring we had three timely sessions on *Digital Ministry*.

Our Queen's College Student Association takes responsibility in leading community events and activities. They are innovative, creative and efficient to ensure we have a good spirit within the College, worthwhile outreach activities, and projects that are manageable within available resources. By way of example, the Student Association participated in sponsorship of the Vigil for Missing and Murdered Women and Girls of Newfoundland and Labrador, they have cooked meals for families at Ronald MacDonald House, they raised funds for a \$500.00 donation to the Anglican Foundation of Canada, and they collect goods and contribute money to the MUN Student Foodbank.

We have many collaborations within the Church 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 with the RC Archdiocese. We have affiliation agreements with Eastern Health and Western Health that allow us to offer our clinical internships in their hospitals and long term care centres.

Our arrangement with Memorial University is essential for Queen's College. And I must note, that this agreement is not only about real estate. It is also about having access to resources of the University such as the wonderful QE II library and its vast and efficient on-line resources. Dr. Timmons, thank you for your greetings, and please be assured and assure your colleagues of our appreciation of the support and cooperation from Memorial University.

I must take a few moments on finances. The Financial Audit Report for 2019 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 were well within budget in 2019 and we foresee the same for 2020. Our budget for 2020 has been \$581,070.00. As we look ahead, we must anticipate the economic realities for Queen's, our sponsoring diocese, benefactors and all. We will adjust to stay within our means.

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 the Queen's College Appeal. We occasionally receive other donations such as *In Memoriam* donations. We appreciate and are thankful to all donors and benefactors for donations to our operations, as well as bursary and scholarship funds. The commitment of the dioceses to sustain their contributions to Queen's, along with all their other demands, reflects the commitment to Queen's. Our Alumni Association gives great example of financial and prayerful support. They continue to build a scholarship fund and have committed to supporting a project to bring the history of Queen's College up to date. Our biggest thanks must go to the parishioners and people who support Queen's in contributions and prayers ... that has been and will be the life blood of Queen's College ... reflected in this letter shared with me this week by Rev. Irving Letto, archivist for the college and the diocese. It is a letter from Albert Dicks of Little Hr. East, Placenta Bay written on November 27, 1920, in two days it will be 100 years ... (*Read the letters*). Note response from Bishop White on December 04.

As we move toward the future, we will continue to give attention to our membership status and accreditation with Association of Theological Schools. We are presently working on readiness documents for full accreditation with AST.

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, Canon John Courage, our Chaplain, Dr. Carmel Doyle our Director of Student Programs, and the Rev'd Canon Dr. David Bell, our Dean and deacon, enrich Queen's by their presence, example and the attention to detail that sustains the 179 year old spirit and character of Queen's College. A big and special thanks to the lady who brings it all together and holds it all together, our Administrative Assistant ... the person who never gets rattled and has solutions to all our problems ... especially those created by the Provost ... Ms Dana Bishop, thanks for all you do and for the boiled raisin cakes.

Mr. Chancellor, and Mr. Chairman of Corporation, Rev'd Gerald Giles, I want to thank you and all the Corporation members for the support and guidance of Queen's.

I say a special thank you to the people who inspire, guide and support on matters great and small. To my wife Donna, my daughter Chloe and my son Chris, thank you for your love, support and patience.

To our graduates, thank you, congratulations and blessings for the future. To the recipients of our honorary degrees, Ms Susan Foley and Sr. Elizabeth Davis, it is wonderful to be part of this occasion that recognizes the contributions you have both made to the Church, the world and Queen's College.

Finally friends, 50 years ago in August, an event happened ... **No**, something started that continues ... it was the arrival of a young buck from the UK ... hired by our dear friend Rev. Dr. Morley Hodder to teach Religious Studies at MUN. David Bell came and stayed ... he has made his mark in many circles in Newfoundland and Labrador: 42 years professor at MUN, black belt and instructor in Karate, wine taster and sommelier, theologian, author ... over 40 books and hundreds of articles, deacon, chauffeur, academic and spiritual advisor, Canon of Cathedral, Dean of Theology, servant of God, and friend to many. David, from all of us, thank you for coming, thank you for staying, thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do for Queen's College, the Church, and the broader community. David, we are giving you a virtual standing ovation ...and from all of us ... blessings for the years ahead.

**Thank you all!**