

KNOX COLLEGE, CANADA | SUMMER 2022

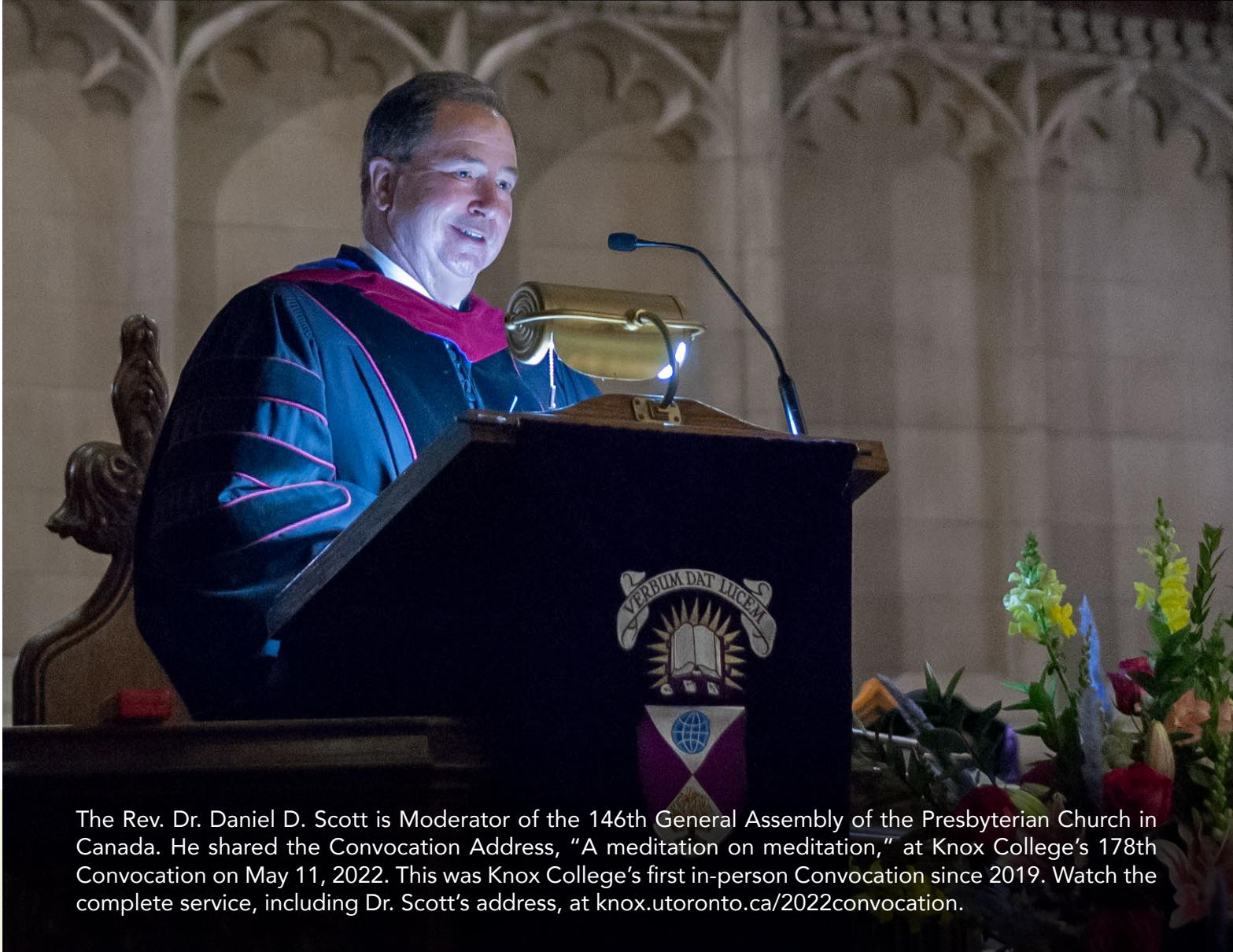
VOCATIONS

CELEBRATING THE
Class of
2022

ALSO: THE REALITY OF SYSTEMIC HARM;
WILLINGNESS TO 'GO DEEP'; & CULTIVATING AWE

“We read God’s Word, ponder it, ‘percolate’ on it, and then we bring it to mind throughout the day as it relates to our life. In other words, we link our lives with God’s words in our time of meditation.”

— Dr. Daniel Scott, from his 2022 Convocation Address, “A meditation on meditation”



The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott is Moderator of the 146th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He shared the Convocation Address, “A meditation on meditation,” at Knox College’s 178th Convocation on May 11, 2022. This was Knox College’s first in-person Convocation since 2019. Watch the complete service, including Dr. Scott’s address, at knox.utoronto.ca/2022convocation.

VOCATIONS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2022

Vocations is published three times per year for graduates, former residents, and other friends of Knox College. We welcome your news and suggestions.

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Knox College is a theological college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, federated with the University of Toronto, and a founding member of the Toronto School of Theology. Knox holds its accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Editor: Stephanie Hanna

Special thanks to Helen Cheung, Wan-Kit Keng, and Nam Soon Song for translating the Principal’s Message.

Page 2 photo by Stephanie Hanna.



ON THE COVER: Eser Kim receives the Doctor of Philosophy degree at Knox College’s 178th Convocation on May 11, 2022. Learn more about Convocation and the Class of 2022 on pages 10-13. Photo by Jason Shum Photography.

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Willingness to ‘go deep’

As a spiritual care practitioner in a hospital, Mark Paci walks with people during their difficult and life-changing moments.



Cultivating awe

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The reality of systemic harm

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KNOX COLLEGE

Willingness to ‘go deep’

SACRED MOMENTS IN SPIRITUAL CARE

By Mark Paci

“I’ve hurt some people in my day,” he told me. “I’m not a nice guy.”

This patient’s physicality was striking. He was a big guy, heavily tattooed, with a long beard, several scars across his chin and jaw, and a menacing yet broken look on his face. He was an intimidating presence.

I had been doing cursory rounds during my residency at a major downtown Toronto hospital, dropping in on a few patients, when I came across this man. I knew that he had been admitted after an attempted suicide via prescription medication and alcohol.

In conversation with him, I learned he was a biker. He confided in me regarding his substance use, and the haunting depression he had been attempting to elude most of his life.

In a short amount of time, he opened up and showed me a very vulnerable side of himself. I think his willingness to be vulnerable surprised both of us.

Why did he open up with me? He did this, I think, because of what I represented. I’m a spiritual care practitioner in a hospital, so to him I represented something other than the material, other than the medical. I wasn’t there to take blood or prescribe medication. I wasn’t there to talk finances and housing or do physiotherapy. I was there to be present, to emotionally “get in the ring” with him, to accompany him for a short period of time.

In a sense, spiritual care practitioners represent the transcendent in the hospital. For the biker, I think I represented something – perhaps from his past – that he felt comfortable enough to trust. The opposite can also occur in patients; sometimes the concept of spiritual care can incite anger and frustration. We need to know how to be present for that as well. My job is to sit with the emotion along with the patient.

In mental health, spiritual care is incredibly vital. One of the things I do in an assessment is try and locate the spiritual distress that is present – whether in themes of loss and bereavement, or guilt and shame, or hopelessness and powerlessness.

Spiritual care can look like many different things; it’s not necessarily quantifiable. Spiritual care is sitting with a patient and coloring a mandala. It can be working through a tragic loss, or listening to intense emotional pain, or holding space for a patient to rail against God.

Especially during the pandemic, loneliness and isolation are a double-headed serpent. Fear, the lockdowns, the illness itself have exacerbated the mental health struggles of many patients. Further, many of these people are not only dealing with mental health dilemmas but also with poverty. While the “laptop class” has certainly been affected by COVID, the poor have of course been most affected.

The courses I’m taking at Knox help me re-examine my work and ask different questions. It helps to learn about different psycho-therapeutic modalities, such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy or Family Systems, which I can apply when the time is right. But ultimately the course work at Knox helps me think spiritually and theologically about specific problems I encounter with patients. **The spiritual care practitioner brings the unique perspective of a theological and spiritual vantage point.**

In an acute care setting like a hospital, it’s rare to have more than two visits with a patient. But the nature of the hospital, especially for someone in crisis, creates a sense of urgency – so people are often willing to “go deep” very quickly. Because I know this going into most visits, I welcome wherever the patient is willing to go. I follow their lead and ask open-ended questions.

The work itself is what motivates me and keeps me going. I’m not a particularly gregarious person. I value alone time. But I’m also drawn

to people and ultimately to what is meaningful and purposeful in their lives. It’s a privilege to accompany someone emotionally and spiritually for a short period of time, to be present with people during incredibly

difficult moments, life-changing moments, to be with them in their suffering.

Of course, it can also be taxing and exhausting, which is why maintaining one’s own spiritual/religious practice is essential. **I’m drawn to authentic human connection, as messy as it can be. It’s one place where I find God.**

For me, two moments helped me to discern that I wanted to do spiritual care in a hospital. The first experience came long before I studied theology. Nearly a decade ago, I was a patient in a hospital. It was a challenging period in my life, and my hospitalization was somewhat of a low point. The hospital I was in felt impersonal and emotionally chilly – yet essential for physical healing. It felt spiritually lacking, but I was drawn to the hospital’s tiny chapel, despite not being a practicing Christian at the time.

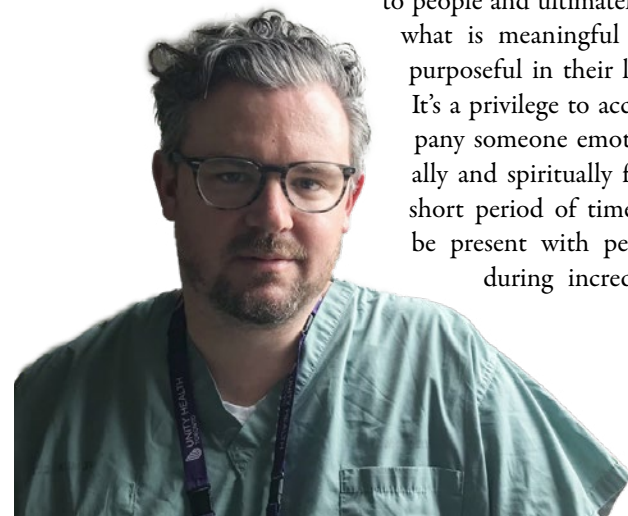
The chapel was very different than the rest of the hospital with its white walls and fluorescent lighting. The chapel was carpeted, and it had wood paneling and warm lighting. There was texture, depth, and warmth in this tiny chapel. The beeps and boops and other typical hospital noises were absent. It was a refuge and oasis, and I spent time sitting in it, as it afforded a peace I was unaccustomed to. It was years before I considered a career in spiritual care in a hospital, but this experience planted a seed.

The other significant experience was during my first Clinical Pastoral Education placement during my MDiv studies. It was my first overnight shift in a hospital, and I was the only spiritual care practitioner on site. I was called to the bedside of a dying man. I was terrified. I felt like I was crawling out of my skin. But the man’s wife of fifty years was at the bedside as well, and something began to happen as I put my attention on the dying man’s wife. It was a sacred moment. Although little was said during that time, **I learned the value of presence.** That moment really opened up the possibility of spiritual care being a vocational calling.

Accompanying patients for a short period – or in some rare cases, for an extended period – as they enter and leave the hospital is now what I do on a daily basis. I never know what happens to the majority of the people I encounter after they leave hospital. Although not all visits are as impactful as the visit I had with the biker, I continue to be surprised and in awe – of the people I encounter, and of the reality of the sacred penetrating the mundane in small but incredible ways. ■

Mark Paci is a Master of Pastoral Studies student at Knox College and works as a spiritual care provider in a hospital.

“It’s a privilege to accompany someone emotionally and spiritually for a short period of time . . . to be with them in their suffering.”



Facing page: Photo from Pixabay.

At left: Mark Paci. Photo provided by the author.

Cultivating awe

THE POWER OF GRATEFUL ATTENTIVENESS

By Fiona van Wissen

Awe
a small word
a rare word
awe
Just say awe
like this
open wide your brown
eyes,
your blue eyes,
your green eyes,
open wide
your heart,
your mind,
your whole being,
and
breathe in awe,
hold awe,
like a newborn,
for a fleeting moment
Seek it,
Savour it,
Share it!

*“Epiphany before dawn,”
a poem by Fiona van Wissen*

Psychologist Dacher Keltner . . . has spent years studying the beneficial effects of awe on our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. “It makes us curious rather than judgmental. It makes us collaborative. It makes us humble, sharing, and altruistic. It quiets the ego so that you’re not thinking about yourself as much.” It also calms the brain’s default mode network and has been shown to reduce inflammation.

— From “Awe might be our most undervalued emotion. Here’s how to help children find it” by Deborah Farmer Kris in *The Washington Post*, November 30, 2021

When did you last write the word awe? I don’t think I ever used the word awe in my writing before coming to Knox. Half a century of speaking and writing words, yet somehow this little word did not enter my vocabulary. I have used the words awful and awesome many times, but the word awe seemed un-touchable and unspeakable. Awe is not a word to be tossed around recklessly. But now I’ve dared to write the word four times already in this paragraph!

When did awe enter my vocabulary? It began with classes at Knox College. I had wanted to attend Knox since I was a teenager, but it took me over 30 years to get there, when the pandemic forced time and space into my life in new ways. I did not know where my Knox journey it would lead; all I knew was that I was meant to begin.

My first course, Reading the Old Testament, nurtured my love of poetry. In retrospect, I can see that it also offered a subtle sense of awe at the power of certain small words in ancient languages. In response, I delved deeper into exploring poetry as a fluid and ever-changing form of ministry and healing.

But it was in Human Growth and Spiritual Journey where I truly encountered awe. The course was a fascinating and challenging journey from birth to death – during the time I was caring for my mother in her final weeks of life. I read and lived that course with intensity far beyond any other academic experience, and I wrote of my grief as my mother passed on, after five precious days together.

My mother’s long journey with Parkinson’s and dementia had brought us to her final week. She voiced no sounds as she lay peacefully, her long thin fingers grasping a furry white lamb placed in her hands by the wonderful staff at her long-term care home. I imagined my grandparents welcoming my mother home as she passed, just as they had welcomed her into this world almost 90 years ago.

If there is one image I will carry with me from my time at Knox, it is the fingers of a fetus. I watched a required course video that showed the fingers of an embryo developing – and I was simply in awe at the beauty of the tiny hand. As I bade goodbye to my

mother, touching her soft skin with my hand, I could not help but think about how my own fingers had also developed in my mother’s womb.

How can one not feel awe at such a glimpse of our truly creative Creator, who formed each of us so intricately? I look at my own fingers that were once so tiny. The fingers I use to type this article, to hold a paintbrush, and to lift my mug of hibiscus tea. I think of the fingers of the potter who formed my mug and glazed the pale blue flowers. I think of the fingers that picked those hibiscus flowers in Nicaragua, and the hands that dried them, packaged them, and put them on a shelf. I give thanks for each of those hands.

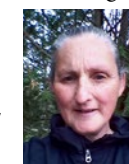
My fingers formed about six weeks after I was conceived. These fingers touched the inside of my mother’s womb, curled around her thumb after I was born, and later held glass bottles of warm milk. My fingers now hold my phone and take a photo of a sunrise on the shore of Lake Ontario as I look eastward to Toronto’s skyline.

As I reflect on how I want to treasure those rare moments of awe in my life and in the lives of others, I realize how important it is to hold those fleeting moments and to share them. To do so, I must first **Seek** out awe. I might catch the sky before dawn or dusk, waiting for the moment the sun rises, colour appears, and the world is transformed. I might watch the moon rise, or listen to the wind, or listen to birdsong with my eyes closed.

Then I want to **Savour** awe and give thanks for each precious experience. Visualizing it, reminding myself of it, or expressing it creatively (in writing, drawing, dance, song, etc.) takes me deeper into the experience. Finally, I try to **Share** it with someone – whether friend, family, or stranger.

I invite you to join in this practice! Breathe in awe. Be ready. Be surprised by awe. Seek it, savour it, share it. May you find moments of awe in this season of glorious garden blooms, crackling campfire flames, and bright shooting stars. ■

Fiona van Wissen studied part-time in Knox’s Certificate in Theological Studies program.



Facing page: Photo by Abhi Nikam from Pexels.

At left: Fiona van Wissen. Photo provided by the author.

The reality of systemic harm

A GLIMPSE OF THE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE

By Antonio Siracusa

Jackie and her common-law partner of twenty years, Willi, live in a dilapidated home with their nine children. They hosted me, a visitor to the community, for the day. When I entered the house, I was shocked to see how bare it was. There was no furniture. Everyone slept together on blankets on the floor at the end of the evening.

But it's not just poverty that Jackie battles every day. Her children all have disabilities that demand her attention on a constant basis – with almost no additional supports. The nine children live with high-functioning autism, ADHD, PTSD, attachment disorder, smearing, intellectual delay, flight risk, hearing loss, global delay, silent seizures, hypertonia, and cerebral palsy.

Jackie's concern for how to feed and care for her family is ever-present. She and Willi access agencies each week that help them with food supplies, and Jackie buys in bulk. Jackie's and Willi's own adult traumas and difficult childhood home lives have modelled poor ways to interact.

I learned that these experiences and living situations are the norm, not the exception, among the Indigenous community I visited in inner-city Winnipeg.

Another day, I picked up a man named Cliff for the afternoon church service. Almost as soon as we said our hellos, to my

surprise, he began to tell me about the challenges he faced growing up in the city. I learned about Cliff growing up homeless, by a single mother, having a criminal record, being a delinquent in school, and having multiple incarcerations.

The trauma is intergenerational, and the community is broken. I thought I had understood the term “systemic harm” before, but that was only with my head. I am now beginning to also understand it with my heart. Systemic harm has deeply affected Indigenous people in Canada, and it is profoundly heartbreaking to see the continuing brokenness of these families today.

Winnipeg is home to the largest Indigenous community in Canada. The amount of hopelessness feels overwhelming. Many in this community live very isolated lives, so being together for church is vital – for maintaining relationships, staying connected to other people of faith, and supporting and praying for each other. Many are related through extended family connections or common home reserves in the North. Gathering together makes life less lonely in the city.

Rev. Margaret Mullin was called to this ministry in 1999. She is both Indigenous and European and has a heart for reconciliation between Indigenous people

and the Church. This worshipping community began with four older people meeting on Sundays to worship together with Margaret in 2000. From there it developed quickly as a program of Winnipeg Inner City Missions. The church was one of four foci, also including community outreach, a first steps to employment project, and a children and youth program.

In 2014 when the congregation was officially established, they needed a name. Margaret says the community decided on “Place of Hope” because church was “a place they felt comfortable in, where they felt they belonged, and where they started growing together.”

Today Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church has about 90 adults and 60 children. During my visit, I learned that everyone in these families – from child to elderly – is intimately acquainted with death and loss. Margaret and social worker Susan Currie, who joined the congregation in 2002, showed me the congregation's Memorial Blanket. On it are written all the names of congregants or family members who have passed away since Place of Hope began.

I heard story after story of lives lost. What was perhaps most heartbreaking was hearing so many stories of those who had consciously broken the pattern, somehow moved out of the poverty due to intergenerational trauma, and acquired the necessary education to move out of the “hood” – only to then succumb to a heart attack, or a freak car accident, a house fire, or a brain tumor. This abruptly ended their lives and retraumatized the community. Just when things seemed to be turning a corner and hope was emerging, these kinds of tragedies would throw the community back into despair.

I am grateful to have met Margaret and Susan through my Knox College “Practicum in Mission Partnership” course, part of my Master of Divinity studies. During those classes, Margaret said, **“We are interested in getting the world to understand what Indigenous people live with here in Canada.”** The Holy Spirit nudged me to respond to that – to learn and to be a witness to it by going to spend a week with the community in Winnipeg.

When I arrived, I met congregants at a Sunday afternoon service. There were large families present, each seated at a table. In the center of each table was a medicine wheel painted yellow, red, black, and white, representing all four nations of people on the earth, and many other things.

Margaret has laboured and continues to work to redeem the Indigenous spiritual and cultural practices. Many in the congregation grew up being told – and then believing – that their heritage was evil. But Margaret tries to help them see the value and deep Christian faith connection with those practices. She hopes to help them honour all parts of themselves – identity, culture, ceremonies, and language – as God created them, and to help them to heal.

Margaret and Susan believe that true help, in the name of Jesus, comes not from a handout approach (simply helping to meet basic needs like food and clothing) but a hand *up* approach. This approach also assists with those basic needs, but it concentrates on the bigger picture, including affordable supportive housing and basic education – leading to work and independence from the system.

My visit with the Place of Hope concluded with another Sunday service. The group honoured Susan with a ceremony and quilt representing her 20 years of service. It took many years for Susan, a social worker, to build this level of trust with the community. People distrust a system like Social Services that has hurt them repeatedly. They are, understandably, unwilling to relive the deep traumas – like child apprehension – that play a strong role in this broken community.

Margaret said that even having lived and worked here for decades, she also didn't often have people open up with her about their Residential School experiences – until the news of the first 215 children's bodies found at a residential school became public. Somehow that being named as a tragedy allowed people to begin to share about their own experiences and the many losses they've faced.

As I saw, the current reality of Indigenous life is shocking and overwhelming. But in the midst of the brokenness, there are a few glimmers of hope. Kids are staying in school, teenagers are graduating, and six adults including Jackie are in academic upgrading so that they can achieve their high school equivalency. Most people have very little, yet they don't hesitate to share what they have. They also pitch in and foster or adopt children in need.

Margaret says that due to the nature of the intergenerational trauma, it will likely take three generations to see a significant impact from her work. It is difficult to break patterns and start new ones. But in time, as more children gain more education, they can begin to break the cycles of poverty and trauma. She has faith that this third generation will begin to find new ways. ■

Antonio Siracusa is a Knox 2021 Master of Pastoral Studies graduate and current Master of Divinity student.

To donate to Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church (Charitable Reg. #755339504RR0001), send eTransfers to Rev. Mullin at revmullin1@gmail.com, including your name and address for a charitable receipt.

“Due to the nature of the intergenerational trauma, it will likely take three generations to see a significant impact from her work.”



© CLIFF BEAR
2017
BEAR, CLIFF

Facing page: Artwork by Cliff Bear, gifted to Antonio Siracusa.

Below: At a ceremony honouring Susan's 20 years of service with Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church: Lorna Meannis (ordained elder), Rev. Margaret Mullin, Susan Currie (parish social worker and ordained elder), Brian Harper Lay (Indigenous minister/ordained elder), Sheila Anderson (maker of Susan's quilt), Antonio Siracusa, and Karen Utech (ordained elder). Photos provided by the author.



KNOX COLLEGE'S 178th Convocation

Knox College conferred degrees, certificates, and diplomas upon twenty-six graduates on May 11, 2022. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a restricted ceremony (by invitation only) was held in the Knox College Chapel, and hundreds of other family members and friends watched via livestream. This was Knox's first in-person Convocation ceremony since 2019.

In his remarks, Principal John Vissers told the graduates, "I want to make it clear, as Principal of Knox College, how proud we are as faculty and staff of all of you and what you have done. Well done. May you all know the blessing of God as you serve in a variety of vocations and ministries in this world that God loves and for which Christ died."

The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott, Moderator of the 146th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, shared the Convocation Address, titled, "A meditation on meditation" (Joshua 1:1-9). He urged the graduates to make this spiritual discipline a part of their lives. "We read God's Word, ponder it, 'percolate' on it, and then we bring it to mind throughout the day as it relates to our life. In other words, we link our lives with God's words in our time of meditation."

Principal Vissers presented the Knox College Gold Medal to Brett Main, the graduating Master of Divinity student with the highest academic standing in the 30-credit program. Jonathon Obara received the Mathewson Memorial Scholarship, the top prize for a student in the 20-credit MTS or MPS programs. *See more graduating student prizes on page 15.*

The May 11, 2022, ceremony acknowledged graduates' accomplishments and officially conferred their degrees according to requirements of the University of Toronto, the Toronto School of Theology, and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.



Watch this year's ceremony at knox.utoronto.ca/2022convocation.

1. Dongwon Jung, MDiv graduate.
2. Prof. Angela Schmidt (right) hoods MPS graduate Bonnie Lam.
3. Knox College 2022 Master of Divinity, Master of Pastoral Studies, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Philosophy graduates who were present for the Convocation ceremony. Five others were granted their degrees *in absentia*.
4. Shawn Stovell (centre), Registrar & Director of Enrolment Management, instructs graduands for the processional.
5. Hannah Smele (right), MPS graduate, with her mother Cornelia Smele. Attendance at Convocation was restricted to one guest per graduand to allow social distancing in the Knox College Chapel.
6. The Rev. George Malcolm and Principal John Vissers. Prof. Brian Irwin (above) presented the degree Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*) to Rev. Malcolm. The Rev. Iona MacLean and the Rev. Dr. Ron Wallace also received the degree Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*). Learn about the three recipients at knox.utoronto.ca/2022hdd.

Find more Convocation photos at facebook.com/KnoxCollege.CA. Photos by Jason Shum Photography.

Celebrating the class of 2022



MASTER OF DIVINITY



With the Diploma of the College
Dongwon Jung
B.A., M.T.S.



With the Diploma of the College
Jonathan Yoonjae Lee
B.Mus., B.Th.



David Robert Parker
B.A., M.Phil.



With the Diploma of the College
Jinhwi Kim
B.Sc.



With the Diploma of the College
Brett Main
B.Ed.



Sang Keun Yoon
B.A., M.A.



With the Diploma of the College
Geumjae Lee
B.Th.

With the Diploma of the College
Byron Nelson Mark Kappes, M.A.
(not pictured)

Christian Youn, B.A. (Hons.)
(not pictured)

CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Sonia Brulé, M.Div.
(not pictured)

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES



Walton Kai Sing Chan
B.Sc., M.B.A.



Jonathon Obara
B.Com.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



Eun-Ju Chung
LL.B., M.Div. (Hons.)



An Sung Kim
B.Sc., M.Div., Th.M., Th.M.



Eser Kim
B.A., M.Div., Th.M.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Awarded November 2021 at the University of St. Michael's College

Moon Jung Choi
B.A., M.A.

Dae Hee Kim
B.A., M.A.

MASTER OF PASTORAL STUDIES



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Chinyelu Nkemakonam Amangbo
B.Pharm., M.A., Ph.D., E.M.B.A.



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Bonnie Gar-Kay Lam
B.Math.



Sileen Bianca Phillips
B.A. (Hons.), B.Th., M.Div., Th.M., M.T.S.



Jun Ho Chang
M.Div., Th.M.



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Susan Puna Mashabane
B.A.



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Hannah Rebecca Smele
B.A. (Hons.), M.Div.



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Sun Young (Sunny) Choi
B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Div.



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Olushuola Jonathan Oludipe
B.Sc.



With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Jay Song
B.A., M.Div.

With Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate
Michael Douglas Burns, B.A., M.Div.
(not pictured)

John David Lindsay, B. Mus., LL.B.
(not pictured)

2022 GRADUATING STUDENT PRIZES

Knox College Gold Medal – *Top prize for MDiv:* Brett Main

The Mathewson Memorial Scholarship – *Top prize for MTS or MPS:* Jonathon Obara

Chris Vais Community Award: Jinhwi Kim

Robert & Elizabeth McKay Memorial Prize (Ewart; Community Life): Eser Kim

Lillian Matthews Prize (Ewart; Christian Education): Jinhwi Kim & Jonathan Yoonjae Lee

Walter W. Bryden Prize (Church History): Brett Main

Walter W. Bryden Prize (Ethics): Dongwon Jung & Christian Youn

Gordon Mortimer Clark Prize (Ethics): Jinhwi Kim & David Parker

Rev. Stanley W. & Eleanor Vance Memorial Prize (Preaching): Brett Main

R. M. Boswell Prize (Preaching): Jinhwi Kim

Rev. Dr. Harry B. Somers Memorial Prize (Old Testament): Brett Main

D. K. Andrews Memorial Prize (Old Testament): Brett Main

New Testament Scholarship: Brett Main

Rev. Wm. James Walker, D.D. Prize (Systematic Theology): Jinhwi Kim

John Robson Award (Urban Ministry), Practical Theology (Inner City Ministry): Jun Ho Chang

Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Ridell, Manchester (Auburn): Dongwon Jung

Find a complete list of 2022 prizes and scholarships at knox.utoronto.ca/2022prizes.

A letter from John Vissers, Knox College Principal

Dear Alumni, Family, and Friends of Knox,

Some of the most important moments of my life and ministry have occurred at Knox College: worshipping in the Chapel, studying in the Caven Library, living in the residence, listening to lectures in the classrooms, and talking with fellow students and faculty in the lounge. I'm sure the same is true for many of you.

While these buildings have significant emotional ties, they also carry some practical challenges. I'm writing today to let you know that Knox College has reached an agreement with the University of Toronto that will unlock the value of our properties and ensure the success of the College in the future.

We have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) in which the University of Toronto will acquire the Knox College properties for \$45 million and lease back to Knox College the academic wing (on King's College Circle) for the continuing operation of a theological school for The Presbyterian Church in Canada, for 40 years. This frees us from the responsibility of owning and operating the whole building and allows us to focus our efforts and resources on our programs and mission.

The unanimous decision of the Knox Board to approve this LOI followed a careful assessment of Knox's mission and the resources required to fulfil that mission in service to the Church. The Strategic Plan, adopted in 2019, calls for Knox "to optimize the use of our current and future facilities to sup-

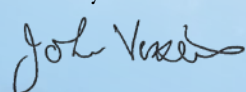
port our mission in theological education." Our properties' deferred maintenance costs have grown beyond our ability to manage in the longer term. After careful consideration we have determined that selling the properties will best position the College for success.

This decision has also been approved by the Assembly Council and the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The LOI provides a solid basis for the continuing and uninterrupted work of Knox College on the University of Toronto campus in partnership with the Toronto School of Theology. It also creates the conditions for a robust and sustainable future.

While I understand how difficult it is for some to see the Knox College building sold, I remind myself that the mission of Knox and the PCC is even more important to sustain. That will be the important result of this change. What's more, we will remain in the space for years to come, as we continue to educate people of faith for ministry and service.

Warmly in faith,



John Vissers
Knox College Principal

KNOX COLLEGE ANNOUNCES Agreement with University of Toronto on Future of Historic Properties

Knox College and the University of Toronto have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) in a key step towards the University of Toronto purchasing the iconic Knox College properties in the heart of the University campus.

Under the terms of the LOI, the University of Toronto will acquire the Knox College properties for \$45 million, and Knox will lease back the academic wing for the continuing operation of Knox College as a theological school for The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) for 40 years.

"This is an important opportunity that unlocks the value of the Knox College properties. It frees the College from the responsibility of owning and operating the whole building and will allow us to focus our efforts and resources on our programs and mission," said Dr. John Vissers, Principal, Knox College.

The LOI provides a solid basis for the continuing ecumenical work of Knox College on the University of Toronto campus in partnership with the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto. Knox College will have ongoing use of the East Wing of the building – the classrooms, offices, chapel, and the library – for up to 40 years, so the school will continue to operate in much the same way as it does today.

"Theological education is at a turning point as we train ministers and lay leaders to respond to the needs of an increasingly secular society," said Dr. Vissers. "Knox College has a bold strategic plan to adapt its programs, with an immediate focus on building church vitality within the PCC, and strengthening spiritual and mental health in the community. The LOI allows us to move forward more quickly with these changes and focus on the future."

"This agreement is truly momentous for the University of Toronto," said Scott Mabury, U of T's vice-president, operations and real estate partnerships. "The Knox College building has been a beloved part of the St. George campus for over a century – with the grandeur of Front Campus owing much to the property.

"The chance to acquire such a historic gem to help meet the future needs of students, faculty and staff – while also being able to continue U of T's longstanding relationship with Knox College – makes this opportunity one the university simply couldn't afford to pass up," Mabury added.

"The Knox College building holds fond and deep memories for many of us in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Around 70% of our ordained ministers today are graduates of Knox," said Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk, PCC. "Although difficult because of the emotional connection, this decision is grounded in ensuring a strong future for theological education, a central part of our mission as a church. It is in the best interests of both the College and the PCC."

The LOI was approved by the Knox College Board of Governors in February, and by the Assembly Council and the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in March, as well as by the Business Board of the University of Toronto. In June, the 147th General Assembly of the PCC affirmed the agreement.

The College and the University are finalizing the Agreement and Purchase of Sale (APS). It is expected that the sale and leaseback arrangement will be completed by autumn this year.

"This is an important opportunity that unlocks the value of the Knox College properties. It frees the College from the responsibility of owning and operating the whole building and will allow us to focus our efforts and resources on our programs and mission."

Find more information about the sale – including a statement from Knox's Board Convener, and a list of FAQs – at knox.utoronto.ca/property.

Jinhwi Kim receives 2022 Chris Vais Community Award

Jinhwi Kim has been chosen as this year's Chris Vais Community Award recipient. Jinhwi, who is completing the Master of Divinity degree at Knox, also served on the Mission & Theology (M&T) Executive Committee for 2020-21 (as the Communications representative) and 2021-22 (as Vice President).

Stuart Macdonald, Knox College's Vice Principal, Academic Dean, and Professor of Church and Society, announced this year's Chris Vais Award recipient on April 5 at the College's final online Community Worship service of the 2021-2022 academic year.

The Chris Vais Community Award is presented to a theological student in his/her graduating year who has contributed to the Knox Community in an exception-

al way by having a pastoral and community-building influence on the College.

Knox's faculty, staff, and students elect each year's recipient.

"During the pandemic, I've really appreciated Jinhwi's contribution to our virtual choir," said Macdonald. "This has been something which has helped connect us, and Jinhwi has been such a crucial part of this." The virtual choir is led by Claire Lemiski, MTS student at Knox.

"Jinhwi has also been involved in the virtual skits created by the Mission & Theology Society at Knox," said Macdonald. "His humour shines through, and he had me smiling in his performances."

The Chris Vais Community Award was established in 2002, in memory of

the Rev. Dr. Chris Vais, by classmates who graduated with him from Knox in 1987. Each year Vais's classmates and friends honour his memory by making a financial donation to this award.

Vais served on the Mission & Theology Society Executive Committee, sang in the Knox College Choir, and participated fully in both resident and academic life. He was known to be generous in spirit, with a deep reservoir of compassion and great gifts of hospitality and welcome.

Ten years after graduating from Knox, in January 1997, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); he died just five years later, at age 39. Before Vais's death, Knox conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, in recognition of his outstanding leadership even at such a young age.

Knox is grateful to the donors who faithfully give each year to make this award possible.



Jinhwi Kim

New Academic Dean Announced

Knox College has appointed Dr. Christine Mitchell as Academic Dean and Professor of Hebrew Bible for a five-year term. She begins July 1, 2022.

Dr. Mitchell is a senior scholar with extensive experience in Canadian theological education. She joins Knox College following nineteen years of teaching and service at St. Andrew's College and the University of Saskatchewan. As a scholar of the ancient world, Dr. Mitchell has published in the areas of the Hebrew Bible, ancient cultures, ancient religions, and ancient texts. In addition, Dr. Mitchell has worked in the areas of curriculum planning and educational assessment, directed graduate theological degree pro-

grams, and currently serves as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. As a theological educator and a lay member of the United Church of Canada, Dr. Mitchell has worked on the churches' response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As Academic Dean at Knox, Dr. Mitchell will direct and oversee the administration of the College's academic programs and student information services, and she will lead the faculty in academic planning, curriculum development, and educational program assessment. We look forward to her service among us.



Christine Mitchell

New Principal Appointed

An announcement from Board Convener Randal Phillips

The Board of Governors is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Ernest van Eck to be the new Principal of Knox College. Dr. van Eck is an ordained minister, an academic administrator, and a teacher and researcher in theology, and we are looking forward to his leadership at Knox.

His appointment follows an extensive search for candidates within The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) and outside it. The selection process was led by a diverse Search Committee with members drawn from our Board of Governors, faculty, staff, students, alumni, the Assembly Council of the PCC, the Toronto School of Theology, and the University of Toronto. At the conclusion of the process, Dr. van Eck was the unanimous choice of our Search Committee and our Board of Governors to be our new principal.

As Dr. John Vissers comes to the end of his term as our principal, he leaves Knox College well-positioned for the future. We have a growing student enrolment and a bold strategic plan for the years ahead. We are confident that Dr. van Eck has the credentials and experience to lead Knox on the next stage of its journey. Here is a summary of his background:

- Dr. van Eck is an **experienced academic administrator**. He currently holds dual roles within the Faculty of Religion at the University of Pretoria as Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies, and Head of Department for New Testament and Related Literature. His Faculty is the largest of its kind in South Africa, with 780 undergraduate and postgraduate students. He has extensive experience in curriculum development, having implemented two major new curricula in the Faculty and a hybrid model of teaching and learning.
- Dr. van Eck has a strong reputation for **leadership in teaching, research, and publications**. He helped steer his Faculty to top-10 rankings in citations per paper, placing it ahead of many well-known institutions around the world. He has supervised or co-supervised almost 100 postgraduate students over the years, and he is highly regarded for his own teaching, research, and publications. His resume includes 50 publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and over 100 co-authored papers, study guides, books, chapters in books, and conference presentations. He has won Lecturer of the Year or Excellence in Teaching Awards in four of the last ten years.

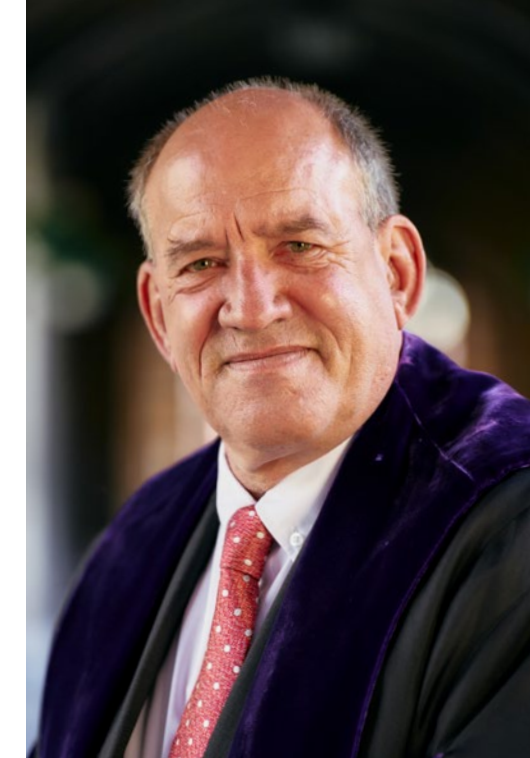
- Dr. van Eck has an **extensive network of relationships** with other theological schools. He has been a guest professor or lecturer at six other universities, including a sabbatical at the University of Toronto in 2014. He has a wide range of research associates in developed countries and the global south (in Ghana, India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe).
- Importantly, Dr. van Eck has maintained a **strong, lifelong connection to the church**. He was the Minister to two congregations for the first 21 years of his career, before becoming more involved in academic life. He continues to serve the church in a number of national committees and as an ordained minister. Dr. van Eck has now applied for admission as an Ordained Minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Dr. van Eck's appointment as principal of Knox was approved by our General Assembly at its meeting in June, and we expect that he will start in the autumn. Dr. Vissers will assist with a smooth transition of the role, before returning to a full-time role in our Faculty as Professor of Historical Theology.

During his presentation to our Search Committee, Dr. van Eck concluded by saying: "We are living in a moment that demands faithful Christian witness and prophetic leadership in theological education." In these challenging times, this call to action is needed, now more than ever.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. van Eck on his appointment as our Principal and leader for the future, and in thanking Dr. Vissers for his outstanding leadership over the past five years.

Randal Phillips
Convener, Knox College Board of Governors



Above: Dr. Ernest van Eck. Photo by Jason Shum Photography.

"We are living in a moment that demands faithful Christian witness and prophetic leadership in theological education."

Considering theological studies?
Discerning your next steps?

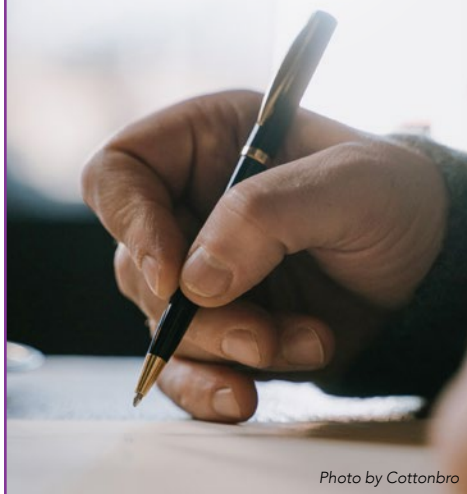


Photo by Cottonbro

For a Fall 2023 cohort start, begin the application process now at knox.utoronto.ca/admissions.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (KOREAN):

희망이 있는 미래를 위한 계획

나 여호와가 말하노라 너희를 향한 나의 생각은 내가 아나니 재앙이 아니라 곧 평안이요 너희 장래에 소망을 주려하는 생각이라. (예29:11)

이번 여름에 저는 나스칼리지의 학장으로 임기를 마치고 전임 역사신학 교수로 복귀합니다. 저의 결정은 세 개의 다른 신학교에서 교무처장과 학장으로 25년 동안 선임 학문적 리더십을 발휘한 후, 제가 사랑하는 것, 즉 신학 연구와 학문, 그리고 가르치는 일로 완전히 돌아가야 한다는 깊은 소명의식에서 나왔습니다.

학장으로로서, 특히 팬데믹을 통해 나스칼리지가 번영하는 미래를 갖게 하려고 노력했습니다. 우리의 전략적 우선순위가 마련되어 있습니다. 우리는 명확한 비전과 사명을 가지고 있습니다. 토론토 대학과 건물 매각에 관한 협정으로 대담한 재정 계획을 마련하고 있습니다. 토론토 연합 신학대학원의 일원으로서 적어도 40년 동안 토론토 대학교 캠퍼스에 나스칼리지의 자리를 확보했습니다.

우리 교수진의 지도력 아래 나스의 탄탄한 학업 프로그램은 번창하는 교회 목사, 영적 돌봄 치료사, 신학교 교수 및 지도자로 예수를 따라가는 자들을 준비시킵니다. 우리는 현장 수업과 원격 온라인 가상 플랫폼을 모두 사용한 신학 교육의 제공을 수용했습니다. 등록자들이 많아 졌습니다.

우리의 계획과 우선순위는 캐나다와 전 세계에 있는 장로교와 더 넓은 기독교 공동체에 대한 깊은 헌신에 의해 이끌어졌습니다. 우리는 진실과 화해 위원회의 보고서에 따른 신학교에 대한 행동 요구를 이행하고, 평등, 다양성 및 포용으로 특징지어지는 신앙과 학문의 상호문화 공동체를 배양하기 위해 계속 노력하고 있습니다. 나스는 하나님이 사랑하시는 세상에서 믿음과 희망의 공동체를 섬기기 위해 부름 받은 그리스도 중심의, 그리스도로 이루어진 신학교로서 나아가는 것입니다.

늦은 여름에 나스 칼리지는 어니스트 반 엑 박사(Rev. Dr. Ernest van Eck)를 새 학장으로 맞이하게 되어 기쁩니다. 반 엑 박사는 경험이 풍부한 학교 행정가이자 남아프리카 공화국의 신약성서의 학문적 리더입니다. 그는 신학교육에 있어 광범위한 글로벌 관계망과 성직자로서 평생에 걸친 교회에 대한 강한 헌신을 가지고 있습니다. 저는 나스에서 그의 리더십을 기대하고 있습니다. . . .

Find the complete translation online at knox.utoronto.ca/korean.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (MANDARIN):

懷著指望籌畫未來

「因為我知道我為你們安排的計劃。我的計劃不是要降禍給你們，而是要賜福給你們，使你們的未來充滿希望。這是耶和華說的。」耶利米書 29:11

這個夏天，本人會卸任諾克斯神學院院長一職，之後會重返全職歷史神學的教學工作。屈指一算，本人已有二十五年之久，從事神學教育院校的高級行政工作，這包括學系部門的主管和院長等崗位；但若說我的熱忱抱負，仍舊是教學和神學研究。

在這任期內，縱然疫情肆虐，我已竭力為本諾克斯神學院的未來，奠定一個面向燦爛未來的定位點。我所訂立的策略性步署，已清晰製定，按部就班的走向我們的願景和目標。就我們的財務穩定這大方向而言，我們跟多倫多大學校方達成協議，出售我們的物業；多倫多大學方面，則承諾未來至少四十年，在校園內劃出地方讓我們繼續辦學，也得以持續成為多倫多神學院同盟的成員學院之一。

在諾克斯神學院眾老師的群策群力和領導下，我們發展出極具效能的課程，這讓有志成為上主僕人的學生們，能夠卓越地成為牧職人員、靈命關顧治療師、神學教研人員和擔當信徒領袖。在疫情這兩年多的影響下，若情況許可，我們維持實體課堂學習；但若情況需要，我們也大幅發展網上授課。今年的新生報讀情況是強勁的。

說到我們的教學計劃和推動課程的緩急次序，加拿大長老教會和普世信仰群體的需求，在在指引著我們前進的每一步。就「真理與和解委員會」對神學院校作出的指引，本神學院會篤定執行，冀能培植出一個尊重個別文化差異的信仰群體；具體而言，我們的學習是體認於彼此的平等，承認多元性和具有包容這些基礎上，這是本神學院的方針。我們是一所以基督為中心，被基督模造的神學教研機構；這世界是蒙上主所鍾愛的，我們回應召喚，去服侍心存盼望的信仰群體。

在此，我要衷心歡迎艾力克安尼斯牧師博士 (Rev. Dr. Ernest van Eck) 在本夏季末履新就任本院新一任院長。艾力克博士來自南非，是一名具有豐富行政經驗的新約學者；隨著他的到任，會把他從前在全球各地，服侍於各大神學教研機構的關係網，一併帶到本學院。艾力克博士是一位全然委身的牧者，我滿懷祈盼他肩起領導學院的職責。 . . .

Find the complete translation online at knox.utoronto.ca/mandarin.

ALUMNI NOTES

CLASS NOTES

1950s

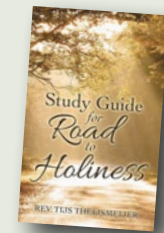
William MacEachern (R'50-57), one of the founders and the second President of the Knox Former Residents' Association (KNOXFRA), passed away on March 24, 2022.



Jean Sonnenfeld (E'56) passed away on June 6, 2020.

1970s

Tijs Theijsmeijer (K'75) has published *Road To Holiness* (2018) and *Study Guide for Road to Holiness* (2021), WestBow Press.



Jim Farrer (K'76) presented "Evangelizing and Discipling the Younger Generations: Jesus' Model Then and Now" at the 2019 Great Commission Research Network Summit. He is the founder of Vital Signs Church Consulting and resides in Jennerstown, Pa.

Barbara Molengraaf (E'79, K'11) retired on January 1, 2022.

1980s

Robert Shaw (K'80) passed away on December 9, 2021.



Donald McCallum (K'81) retired on January 1, 2022.

Harvey Self (K'81) retired on December 1, 2021.

Thomas Cunningham (K'82) retired on April 1, 2022.

K: Knox; E: Ewart; R: Resident



Cheryl Gaver (K'82) passed away on April 21, 2022.

Mark B. Gaskin (K'83) retired on May 1, 2022.

Elaine Nagy (K'84) began as Spiritual Care Educator at St. Joseph's Health Care (Hamilton, Ont.) on November 29, 2021.



1990s

Grace Ji-Sun Kim (E'92, K'95, K'01) has published *Invisible: Theology and the Experience of Asian American Women* (2021) and *Spirit Life* (2022).



Duncan Jeffrey (K'97) retired on March 1, 2022.

Edward W. Musson (K'98) passed away on March 29, 2022.



Cheryl Horne (K'99, '06) passed away on March 25, 2022.



2000s

Sean Foster (K'02) was inducted at St. Andrew's, Port Credit (Ont.), on April 3, 2022.



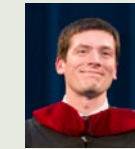
David Kilgour (HDD'06) passed away on April 5, 2022.



Corey Ball (K'08) retired on January 1, 2022.

2010s

Reuben St. Louis (K'13) was inducted at Gale Presbyterian (Elmira, Ont.), on June 6, 2020.



Corrie Stewart (K'15) began as Executive Director of the Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County (N.S.) on May 30, 2022.



YeonJun Kyle Kim (K'18) was ordained at Heavenly Seeds Church (KPCA), Toronto, on March 22, 2022.



Virginia Gabriel (K'19) was ordained as a Vocational Deacon in the Anglican Church of Christ the King (Etobicoke, Ont.) on December 12, 2021.



2020s

(John) David Lindsay (K'22) began as Pastoral Care Provider at Evangel Hall Mission (Toronto, Ont.) in May 2022.



SEND US YOUR NEWS

Have you published a book? Gotten married? Been called to a congregation? Had a baby? Send your news to us at knox.communications@utoronto.ca.



John Vissers
Principal of
Knox College

Planning for a future with hope

This summer, I complete my term as Principal of Knox College and return to a full-time role on Faculty as Professor of Historical Theology. My decision comes after 25 years of senior academic leadership as a dean and principal in three different theological schools, and with a deep sense of call to return fully to something I love: theological research, scholarship, and teaching.

As Principal, I have tried to position Knox College for a flourishing future, especially through the pandemic. Our strategic priorities are in place. We have clear statements of vision and mission. We are enacting a bold financial plan in an agreement with the University of Toronto on the sale of our buildings. We have secured a place for Knox College on the University of Toronto campus as a member of the Toronto School of Theology for at least forty years.

Under the leadership of our Faculty, Knox's robust academic programs prepare followers of Jesus to thrive as congregational ministers, spiritual care therapists, and theological teachers and leaders. We have embraced the delivery of theological education using both onsite classes and remote online virtual platforms. Enrollment is strong.

Our plans and priorities have been guided by a deep commitment to the Presbyterian Church and the wider Christian community, in Canada and globally. We continue to work at implementing the Calls to Action for theological schools in the report of the Truth

and Reconciliation Commission, and at cultivating an intercultural community of faith and learning that is marked by equity, diversity, and inclusion. This is Knox's direction, as a Christ-centered and Christ-shaped seminary, called to serve communities of faith and hope in the world God loves.

I am delighted that in the late summer Knox College will welcome the Rev. Dr. Ernest van Eck as the new Principal. Dr. van Eck is an experienced academic administrator and a leader in New Testament scholarship in South Africa. He brings an extensive network of global relationships in theological education and a strong, lifelong commitment to the church as an ordained minister. I look forward to his leadership at Knox.

In July, we will also welcome Dr. Christine Mitchell as the new Academic Dean at Knox College. I thank Professor Stuart Macdonald for his outstanding leadership in this role as he also returns to full-time teaching on the Knox Faculty. Dr. Mitchell comes to Knox with over twenty years of experience as a theological educator in Canada, and will oversee academic programs, planning, and assessment. She is also a Biblical scholar who will teach courses in Hebrew Bible. Dr. van Eck and Dr. Mitchell will lead Knox into the future.

It's been a wonderful privilege to serve as your principal. Thank you for your support. As with all things, I thank God, "whom to know is life eternal, whom to serve is joy and peace." We make our plans, but God guides our steps. The good news is that we have a future with hope.

Korean and Mandarin translations of the Principal's Message begin on page 18.

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

– Jeremiah 29:11

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