

KNOX COLLEGE, CANADA | AUTUMN 2022

VOCATIONS



*Introducing
Ernest van Eck*

KNOX COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

ALSO: THE POSSIBILITY OF FORGIVENESS; FROM LAWYER TO
MINISTER; & THE 2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

“The parables of Jesus speak about social justice, and they address injustices. So now, in this time and age, we have to be prophetic witnesses. We must educate ministers in such a way that they are willing to be prophets from the pulpit, to openly speak against injustice.”

—Ernest van Eck, Knox College Principal

In June 2022, Dr. Ernest van Eck was appointed principal of Knox College. He began work at Knox in September. Find an introduction to Principal van Eck on pages 8-9. Also, find a brief bio, including his background and publications, at knox.utoronto.ca/dr-ernest-van-eck.

VOCATIONS

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

Please send comments, changes of address, or requests for mailing list removal to us at knox.college@utoronto.ca, 416-978-8738, or:

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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 Andrew Klotz.



ON THE COVER: Knox College Principal Dr. Ernest van Eck (right) with his spouse, the Rev. Maryka Potgieter. Photo by Jason Shum Photography.

IN THIS ISSUE



The possibility of forgiveness

Mike Burns felt called to ministry to help people search for answers to the core questions of life and faith.



From lawyer to minister

After two major life events, Marianne Emig Carr transitioned from legal practice to congregational ministry.



Dr. Ernest van Eck

What moments were formative in Dr. van Eck's life? Get to know our new Principal and his spouse.

10 2021-2022 Year in Review

14 Knox Residence life

16 Principal's Message in translation

17 Knox news and alumni notes

20 Principal's Message



KNOX COLLEGE

The possibility of forgiveness

CORE QUESTIONS IN MINISTRY AND THERAPY

By Mike Burns

“Do you think God will forgive me?” Bob* asked.

It was my first placement for my Master of Pastoral Studies program, and Bob was the first patient I saw on my own at a forensic mental health centre. As we sat together on a bench in a secure courtyard, he had just told me about the murder he had committed.

I graduated from Knox with my Master of Divinity degree in 2011, and since then I have been a congregational minister in Malawi and in southern Ontario. But more recently I had been itching for something new and challenging. I didn't want to leave full time ministry, but I wanted something practical that would enhance it. I returned to Knox for the Master of Pastoral Studies degree, which included three hands-on clinical placement experiences.

I chose the forensic mental health centre for my first placement because it sounded interesting, and it was offering a two-day-per-week option over eight months. The forensic system in Canada serves two purposes. First, for those people who have been found criminally not responsible for the crimes they have committed, it provides a secure hospital setting as they work toward rehabilitation and eventual re-integration into society. Second, for those who have been charged with a crime, it provides court-ordered mental health assessments.

In my first day in my assigned forensic unit by myself as a spiritual care provider, Bob, one of the 16 patients, asked me to talk with him. After just a few minutes of conversation, Bob began to tell me about the murder he had committed. He was not giving me details, but he wanted me to know the circumstances. It was incredibly difficult to listen to.

**pseudonym*

Near the end of his story, Bob broke down and confessed the guilt he carries. “Do you think God will forgive me?” he asked at last. He wasn't seeking forgiveness from the victim's family or his own. He wasn't seeking forgiveness from society or even from me. Bob was just seeking the possibility that God could forgive him.

In that moment, I knew that I had made the right decision to continue my studies at Knox College. Bob had gotten right to the core of the matter, asking one of those big questions of faith and life. Helping people search for these answers is one of the reasons I felt called to ministry – and sadly, in congregational ministry you don't get those questions as frequently or as directly.

My second and third placements were both at a community counselling centre, a non-profit counselling agency whose fees are on a sliding scale. In 2021, 92% of clients paid less than full rate, and the vast majority of my clients paid nothing. For many of my clients, I was the first therapist they had ever seen, and for most I was the most stable presence in their lives during that time.

Doing two back-to-back placements at the centre allowed me to see my more complicated clients over the entire 16 months. One client and I have had more than 60 sessions together. She struggles with Dissociative Identity Disorder, and the stability of working with one therapist for two years has helped her immensely.

During my three placements I worked with people between the ages of 12 and 60. I have worked with people who identify as male, female, or non-binary, and people who identify as straight or as LBGTQI+. They have been white and people of colour, and they have many different types of spirituality. I have also worked with a laundry list of disorders and diagnoses.

But in the end – for me at least – none of them is defined by any of these labels. Each is someone in pain who is trying to understand and lessen their pain. As an ordained Presbyterian minister, I call each a beloved child of God, a neighbour to love, a fellow traveller on this journey of life – and I am called to walk with them.

As a psycho-spiritual therapist, I look for and encourage the divine and the transcendent as part of therapy. Sometimes it is very obvious and the client themselves will point to it – as a positive or a negative:

“I pray all the time and know that God is present,” or “Where was God when I was being abused?” Most times, however, it is not so obvious, and I follow my curiosity when I hear transcendent themes like love/hate, guilt/forgiveness, peace/chaos, etc. My goal is to use all the resources a person brings to help themselves.

My most “successful” session – which lasted only an hour – was with a young woman. During the course of our initial conversation, she self-identified as Indigenous and a member of one of our local First Nations. When I asked about her spirituality, it led to a long talk about her Indigenous beliefs, including how important they were to her in the past and how distant they felt from her at that moment. She was silent for a while. Then she came to the realization that she needed to return to her roots and work with her elders.

She and I scheduled a second session, but I was glad to receive a cancellation and a thank you email. I was grateful that I could help her connect to her own spirituality and remember the strength and comfort it had brought her in the past – and not let my ego get in the way. The best place for her to find her spirituality again was with her family and her elders.

Sometimes the best thing we can do is get out of the way of the sacred. For me a “successful” spiritual intervention occurs when someone feels comfortable enough to talk about their spirituality with me and a willingness to explore it more deeply as a resource of strength, comfort, grace, and healing.

“Do you think God will forgive me?” Bob had asked.

“God has already forgiven you,” I responded gently. “But we humans are a tougher nut to crack. Do you think you will be able to forgive yourself?” ■

Mike Burns is a 2011 Knox Master of Divinity graduate and a 2022 Knox Master of Pastoral Studies graduate. He is minister at Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa (Glencoe, Ont.), an associate therapist at the Community Counselling Centre of London (Ont.), and chaplain for the Southwest Middlesex (Ont.) Fire Department.

Bob had gotten right to the core of the matter, asking one of those big questions of faith and life. Helping people search for these answers is one of the reasons I felt called to ministry.

Below: Mike Burns in his role as fire chaplain for the Southwest Middlesex (Ont.) Fire Department. Photo provided by the author. Facing page: Photo by Serkan Göktaş from Pexels.



From lawyer to minister

A CAREER TRANSITION IN MIDLIFE

By Marianne Emig Carr

“You’re doing to do WHAT? Why?”

I was asked that question a lot when I left a twenty-year legal career at General Motors to begin the Master of Divinity program at Knox College. And to be honest, there were times when I asked myself the same question.

My journey to becoming a Presbyterian minister didn’t follow what some people might consider the “typical” path (although I learned from many of my classmates at Knox that there is no truly “typical” path). Ever since I was young I had always been involved in church. But going into ministry had never really presented itself as a career option. In fact, after earning my undergraduate degree in political science, going into the legal profession seemed a much more natural route.

I enjoyed my legal studies and legal practice very much; working as in-house counsel at General Motors gave me broad exposure to many areas of legal practice. I remained involved in church as well, especially after the birth of my two children.

When my children were young, the idea of going into ordained ministry first crossed my mind. I didn’t give it too much thought at the time, mainly because I was also enjoying my legal practice at General Motors.

But two major life events brought the idea of going to seminary to the forefront for me. One was my husband Kevin’s death from cancer in 2007. Looking back, I realize how much my church family and those who were praying for us helped sustain our family in this time of grief and loss. The second event, two years after Kevin’s death, was when my legal position at General Motors was eliminated because of a bankruptcy reorganization.

There I was, with a severance package and two young children to support. I started applying for legal jobs, but most of the positions available were for people who were younger and had fewer years of legal experience. Further, the more I looked, the more I realized that I really didn’t want to practice law anymore. God was gently (and maybe not so gently) telling me there were no more excuses – that I had a call on my life to serve God and the church.

I often joke that these two events were a “wake-up” call from God. God had been preparing me for many years, but God was not going to call me to ministry until I was ready to hear the wake-up call! I couldn’t just quit my job at GM (as I had two young children to support), but when I was



One of the key strengths that carried over from legal practice to ministry was use of language. As lawyers, words are the tools we have to convey positions and concepts. At the same time, lawyers are also very aware of how words can be used in less than positive and helpful ways; I know that I, as a lawyer, always chose my words with care to convey messages most effectively.

Additionally, as a lawyer, I was always working with other people, and that helped me strengthen my “people skills” to build consensus and empathy for others. Being in congregational ministry, especially in the Presbyterian tradition, means you need to be able to cooperatively work with sessions, presbyteries, committees, and staff, as well as provide pastoral care to those in need. Contrary to what people may think, the minister is the “teaching elder,” not a “ruling elder.” I’m not the boss!

It’s been a very busy and sometimes challenging eight years since I was first called to First Presbyterian, Brockville. Knox College prepared me for many things, but nothing could have prepared any of us for the challenges of ministry during the pandemic. Of course, there are also the constant changes happening in our congregations, the Church, and in the wider world – changes that require mental and emotional agility, that tap into pastoral skills we didn’t know we had, and that sometimes challenge our own faith and our call to ministry.

But when people ask about whether I regret changing careers, I can honestly say that moving from practicing law to serving “the Law” of God, responding to Christ’s call on my life, has been the most fulfilling and humbling work I have ever done. I am thankful every day that I have the privilege of serving God and serving others. ■

Marianne Emig Carr is a 2013 Knox Master of Divinity graduate. She is minister at First Presbyterian Church in Brockville, Ont.



Above: Marianne Emig Carr leads worship at First Presbyterian Church, Brockville. At left: Marianne Emig Carr. Photos provided by the author. Facing page: Photo by Sora Shimazaki from Pexels.

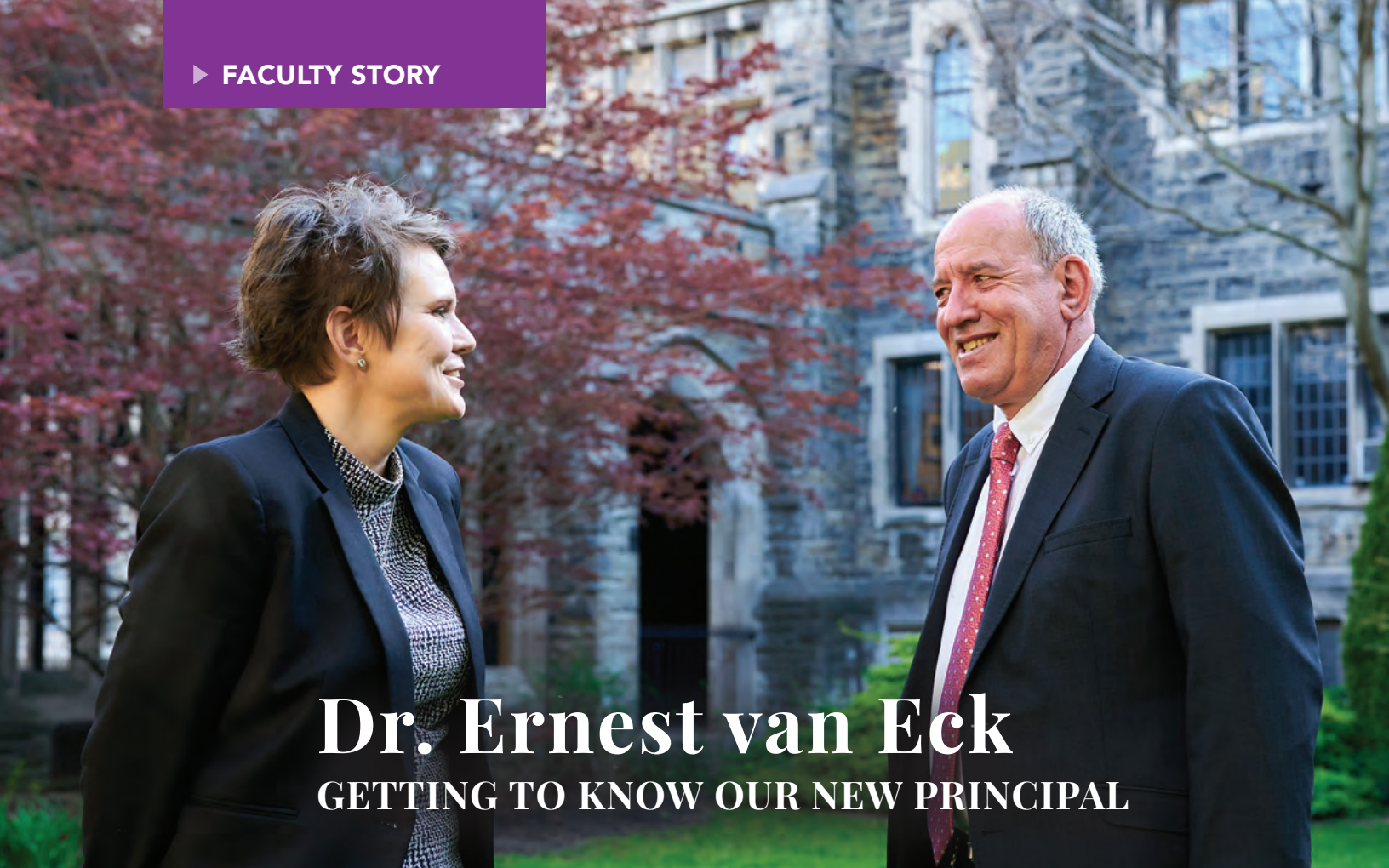
downsized, it gave me additional impetus to explore the possibility of going to seminary.

When I told family and friends that I was planning to make the change from law to ministry, some thought it was crazy. WHY would you give up a well-paid profession to become a minister? WHY would you want to go back to school at this stage in your life? (I was almost 50 when I enrolled at Knox.) But I was surprised by the number of people who thought it was a wonderful idea and that I should “go for it.” I enrolled in the MDiv program at Knox College in the fall of 2010.

Having previously earned two university degrees, I thought seminary would be fairly straightforward. I was quickly disabused of that notion! I hadn’t been to university in twenty years. Taking a fulltime course load, studying subjects like biblical Greek, exegesis, and hermeneutics, and having two children to raise.... Well, there were many times when I wondered if it made more sense to go back to the security of the legal profession. There were many ups and downs. But with the support of my church, my classmates, and the professors and staff at Knox, I made it through seminary, graduated in May 2013, and was called to First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, in October of that year.

Then, as now, what drew me to ministry is the concept of service – serving God and serving others. My time at seminary reinforced my call to congregational ministry. I love ministering in a congregation and the surrounding community, and I find beauty, comfort, and continuity in the rhythms of worship.

Then, as now, what drew me to ministry is the concept of service – serving God and serving others.



Dr. Ernest van Eck

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

IN MAY, VOCATIONS HAD THE PRIVILEGE of sitting with Dr. Ernest van Eck, Knox College's new principal, and his spouse, the Rev. Maryka Potgieter. Following are a few highlights from that wide-ranging and rich conversation.

On being the church

Maryka and I believe deeply that being involved in the church is being involved in the kingdom of God. The building is not the church. The church is wherever we are in society, where we work, where we live, where we are present. If you're a believer, wherever you are, there the church is supposed to be present. For us, who live according to the values of Jesus and ethics that he proclaimed, this is very important. It means that we are inclusive, that we accommodate, that we must be tolerant.

Faith is not only what we believe, it is also how we act. Faith is something that relates to what our hands and feet and mouth do. Faith should be a lived experience. We may say, "I believe in Christ, I believe in the virgin birth, and I believe I'm saved by grace"; but Jesus says those who say "here, here" will not inherit the kingdom of God. They who do the will of God – they are those who will inherit the kingdom.

Inheriting the kingdom doesn't mean it will happen one day in the future. In John, Jesus says you have

inherited it. We must now make something of the kingdom. The kingdom of God should be visible, uplifting the lives of the poor, fighting abuses of power. Social injustice should upset us in a holy way.

The values we find in Jesus's parables are road signs to lead us. In my research, I argue that in the parables we can find something of the teachings of the social prophets of the Old Testament. The parables speak about social justice, and they address injustices. So now, in this time and age, we have to be prophetic witnesses. We must educate ministers in such a way that they are willing to be prophets from the pulpit, to openly speak against injustice.

Formative moments

When I was ordained as a minister in the Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa, it was a time when a certain group in the church was really driving an apartheid agenda.

But my experiences – at university, and earlier when I worked in the mines on university breaks –

"We love being involved in the church and being ministers of Word and Sacrament. We both love people, although I'm more of an extrovert. Maryka is a better minister than I am; she's brilliant when it comes to liturgy and pastoral care. She is a systematic theologian, and I'm a New Testament scholar, so our theological discussions sometimes become heated! We can differ a lot."

had already helped me to realize that apartheid actually was a systemic sin against humanity. Racism had ingrained apartheid in all aspects of social life.

So then, from the start, from the first General Assembly I attended, I spoke vehemently against apartheid. It took twelve years, from 1984 until 1998, for us to dismantle this understanding in the church.


The three years leading up to that 1998 decision were a time of serious turmoil in the church. I was personally accused of being a heretic because of my point of view on apartheid, and I was very much marginalized in the church, almost excommunicated from the believing community. Now 20 years later, people say, "Oh, but you were a prophet!" – but when you do those kind of things, you're not seen as a prophet at the time.

What a wonderful day it was at the General Assembly – I remember it so well! – when the church at last stated that the theological justification for apartheid was not acceptable.

Perhaps this set the stage for a second deeply meaningful moment, which was similar in many ways. Later in 2013, some university colleagues from a sister church asked me to write something about the seven texts on homosexuality. I had done research

and co-authored an article with a gay pastor, so they asked me for some theological foundation, which they could share at their upcoming General Assembly, for opening up the pulpit for LGBTQIA+ people. My writing became the catalyst for changing the point of view in the largest of the Afrikaans-speaking churches, and also more recently in our Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa.

What a moment of absolute peace and tranquility, the moment when our denomination decided to say we are not going to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation. At that point, I simply started crying. For the first time, finally, those brothers and sisters were also officially welcome in the church. This, like the fight against apartheid, was another important move toward justice. ■

 **Learn about Principal van Eck's research focus: A 'realistic' reading of Jesus' parables. Visit knox.utoronto.ca/parables.**



REV. MARYKA POTGIETER, spouse of Ernest van Eck

I worked as a minister in London, England, and then in two small congregations in South Africa. I prefer to be part of smaller, poorer congregations, as I have most recently. These congregations completely changed my life and ministry. In these contexts, the meaning of life is so much more present. You can truly see the struggle day by day, as people don't have food and don't have technology, things we take for granted. Many are struggling with addictions and

don't have homes. You can see the power of ministry and make a clear difference in people's lives. Those two small congregations are now growing and flourishing. Even after COVID, everyone has come back. It's a privilege to be part of such work.

Now moving to Canada for this new chapter, I'm excited about being part of a new culture, and hopefully contributing to people's lives. You can learn so much from people from different cultures. Ernest and I look forward to spreading the gospel in a different environment, and being part of a new community.

Above: Dr. Ernest van Eck (right) with his spouse, the Rev. Maryka Potgieter. All photos by Jason Shum Photography.

2021-2022 IN REVIEW

THIS AUTUMN, DR. JOHN VISSERS completes his term as Knox College Principal. He joined the Knox Faculty in 2013 and became Principal in 2017. Moving forward, he will continue his work as Professor of Historical Theology at Knox. *Vocations* asked him the following questions about his final year as Principal.



What was difficult?

The continuing pandemic turned into a marathon. We were faced with making changes almost weekly to protect everyone's health and safety, while continuing to deliver our academic programs with excellence. Many of us worked in isolation and felt exhaustion over many months. But the staff, faculty, and students of Knox persevered, in good Reformed fashion.

What was a highlight?

The highlight of the past year was, without a doubt, the onsite Convocation in May 2022, our first since November 2019. Even though we were limited in our capacity so that we could maintain physical distancing, it was a wonderful celebration of academic accomplishment, punctuated with the joy and happiness of being together in person.

What surprised you along the way?

I was surprised – in a good way – by the continuing growth in our enrolment, the growing interest in our programs, and the resilience of the Knox community.

Where did you see God at work?

Mostly, I saw God at work as students and faculty and staff came alongside each other and worked together to fulfill the mission of the College, to pursue their studies, and to worship. We have a great group of people at Knox who want to make a difference in the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ. For that I give thanks daily. ☐

“I started part-time studies at Knox four years ago. I've appreciated the amazing support from staff, professors, and faculty advisors; the richness of multi-ethnic and multi-faith classes; and permission to **ask deep theological questions**. My dream is to work bivocationally in both pastoral ministry and social research around spiritual abuse/harm and the impact of theology on the formation of identity, embodiment, and self-trust.”

—*Jess Dell Andrews (she/her), MTS student*

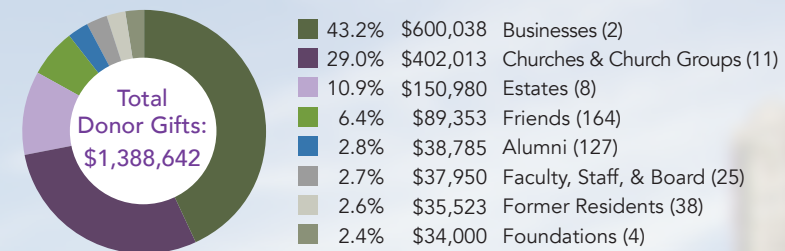
“Knox has been **rewarding and fruitful** for me. I love the small community, and the professors are engaging, thoughtful, kind, and knowledgeable. I am very grateful to be here, learning from them, and getting to know my peers. I feel safe learning and asking questions, and I am getting an education that I know will help my career.”

—*Sharon Benjamins, MPS student*

DONOR GIFTS

Thank you to all of our supporters. In these changing and challenging times, you have been steadfast and faithful in your kindness to our Knox community. Your gifts have enabled our students to embark upon and complete their studies, sending well-trained ministers and counsellors into communities to bring help, hope, and healing. **Thank you.**

—*Sharmilla Reid, Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations*



2021-2022 Financial statements

REVENUE & EXPENSE

As the pandemic wore on throughout 2021-2022, Canadians experienced the effects of inflationary pressures and unstable global markets.

At Knox College, COVID-19 continued to restrict access to our facilities. This limited revenue from filming, photography, and weddings. It also reduced our residence income, as the residence operated at roughly three-quarters capacity. An extended CEWS Grant period provided some revenue to marginally offset these losses.

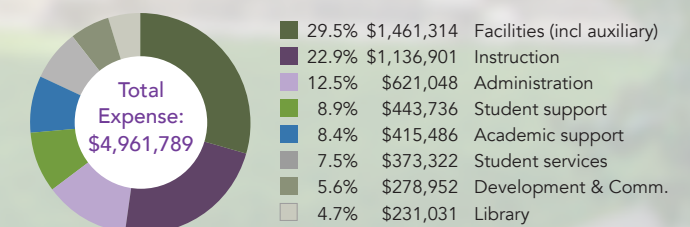
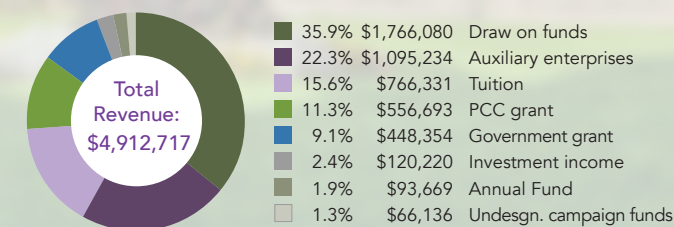
Although student enrolment numbers remained fairly steady compared with last year, in the context of the pandemic, more students are choosing to study part-time, which has reduced our tuition revenue.

Delay in filling vacant staff and faculty positions reduced our projected expenses somewhat. However, we faced additional costs to repair water leaks and maintain our steam heating system.

We remain deeply grateful to our donors who, especially in the face of economic uncertainty, have continued to support the College's mission to create vibrant communities of God's love and hope.

These 2021-2022 Revenue & Expense statements have been audited by independent auditors and have been approved by the Knox College Board of Governors.

—*Bob Adams, Interim Director of Finance & Administration*



CAVEN LIBRARY remained bustling throughout the pandemic. This year, staff responded to 138 reference questions, including requests for book recommendations, appeals for research help, genealogical assistance, and scan requests.

In 2021-2022,
Caven Library
acquired:

139
e-books

230
print books for
Caven Library

155
print books for the
McKay Educational
Resource Centre

“Prior to my studies at Knox, I was like the person in Matthew 7:26 who built a house on sand. My faith was strong, but not deep. Now having studied at Knox, the sand has turned to rock. **The foundation for my faith is now both deep and sturdy.** My professors and classmates helped me ask questions that I had not ever asked myself before. Looking into these areas and exploring them as a group has changed my relationship with God and with God’s community here on Earth.”
—*Matthew Vizzari, MDiv student*

“I pursued a doctorate in Systematic Theology at Knox to better prepare me to teach and mentor future ministry leaders in the church, as well as to **intentionally investigate some of my burning questions about faith and sanctification.** I chose Knox because of its Reformed foundation as well as its partnership with Toronto School of Theology and the opportunity to take courses from a wide variety of traditions and perspectives. I greatly appreciated the professors who made an effort to get to know me, and to both encourage and challenge me along my academic journey.”
—*Lisa Vander Leek, ThD student*

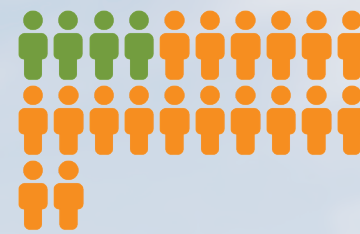
“I am a Knox PhD student studying the Scottish Reformation. Knox has fine faculty and staff members, a good study environment, and invaluable resources for my area of specialization. Knox is like a jewelry studio. I’ve seen many students, including myself, become **refined like shining gems through their theological and ministerial training** at Knox.”
—*Joon Won Kim, PhD student*

“I enrolled in the Master of Divinity program to pursue a vocation in ordained ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. As an academic scholar and university educator, I value excellence in teaching and research. Knox College is highly deserving of its status as a **leader in theological education** in the Reformed tradition. The high-calibre faculty and staff, biblically-sound course curriculum, exceptional learning resources, and engaging student community have convinced me time and time again that I made the right choice in selecting Knox for my theological training.”
—*Christianne Stephens, MDiv student*

“My interest in pursuing a Master of Theological Studies initially stemmed from conversations with spiritual mentors in my life. Knox has provided a **forum to ask tough questions and to dig deeper into faith in the midst of community.** A part-time option allows me to study while working full-time, and it’s always fascinating to make connections between what I’m learning at school and how I’m serving in the world.”
—*Claire Lemiski, MTS student*

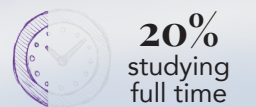
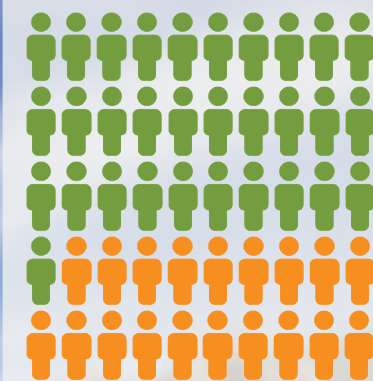
“While volunteering for a local food bank, I was touched by the lack of psychotherapeutic resources available to assist the less fortunate in my community. The MPS program has **helped me get the skills necessary to help people in my community** in an effective way, and to pursue my interests in psychology and theology in more depth. I’ve learned more than I expected to, and I’ve discovered more questions that I need to answer.”
—*David Onuoha, MPS student*

Master of Divinity (MDiv)



22 students, including 13 PCC with the Diploma of the College; 2 Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad; and 1 Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS)



50 students: 1 in Congregational Leadership stream; 1 in Social Services stream; and 48 in Spiritual Care stream (18 pursuing Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy Certificate)

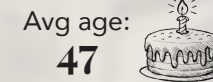
Master of Theological Studies (MTS)



all studying part time



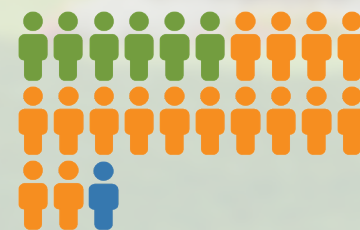
Certificate in Theological Studies (CTS)



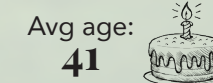
1 student in Theological Foundations stream; 2 students in Presbyterian Leadership stream

2021-2022 student snapshot

Doctor of Philosophy in Theology (PhD)



all studying full time



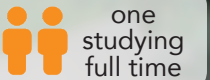
23 students; 22 in conjoint University of Toronto degree program

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

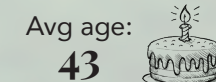


all studying full time

Master of Theology (ThM)



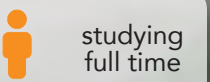
Doctor of Theology (ThD)



all studying full time

Program discontinued; now amalgamated with the PhD

Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MA)



identifies as female identifies as male identifies as other

When a residence becomes a home

THREE DECADES OF SERVING THE RESIDENT COMMUNITY

DANIELA D'ANIELLO HAS MANAGED THE KNOX RESIDENCE FOR NEARLY THIRTY YEARS, helping Knox to become a “home away from home” and acting as “den mother” for thousands of residents over the decades. *Vocations* asked her to share her unique perspective on residence life during the pandemic, as well as on upcoming changes given the sale of the Knox College property. (If you missed the news about the sale of the property, visit knox.utoronto.ca/property.)

Pandemic residence life

The last couple of years we have had a smaller residence community, as most classes were online or a hybrid model. It was challenging to keep up with all of the health mandates and ensure that we were following them. But the residence dons were vigilant! Masks were always worn in the public and common spaces, and on the whole, students were very good at complying with the regulations. Housekeeping also did phenomenal job of cleaning and sanitizing, making sure that everyone was safe.

In the first year, due to lockdown, there wasn't much we could do. Everything was closed (including gyms), so we converted the reading room to wellness/exercise room. We lost the component of dining together, as all food service was required to be takeout and carried back to your room at Knox. We couldn't share meals together in the dining hall, but sometimes

students could come together within the residence. The small group remaining in residence really got to know each other and became close friends. These developed into different relationships than what we typically have when we're at full capacity in the residence.

In the second year of COVID, a few more students returned as the University of Toronto began to have more in-person classes. We continued to abide by the public health protocols, but were glad to be able to hold pub night, tree decorating, and rock climbing events when it was safe. Most restrictions weren't lifted until the end of the term. But we were very fortunate that we never had any major outbreaks at Knox; everyone was very much on top of any potential symptoms. The pandemic really did bring people closer together. This year we are back to having the residence completely full, but we do not know what it will feel like.

During the past two years, the dons conducted regular wellness checks of the residents with friendly visits. They would write personalized cards to each resident and deliver them under the doors, sometimes with a sweet treat. The dons have been an integral part of residence life over the years. They have been my right and left hands. **Together we created a safe, inclusive, and accepting environment**, one that was conducive to study and free from harassment.

Looking back, and looking ahead

Managing the residence has been my passion. It has been a labour of love for almost thirty years. I am certainly sad that we are losing the residence, but it is also an exciting time as Knox embarks on this journey for the future.

The residents have always been like my extended family. I have always called the Knox Residence a big house with a lot of rooms. It is homey, and people see it as a **community where we take care of each other, share meals, and look out for each other**.

It has been an incredible experience and privilege to serve the residence community. I just love coming to work! It has hardly been a “job” dealing with the residents. Nothing makes me happier than when I can help them. This year in particular, now that we are filling the rooms again post-COVID, one person was so thrilled to hear that he had gotten a room: “You've changed my life in an instant!” he said, he was so happy. When you can do that, it gives you such a heartwarming feeling. **Making a difference in people's lives – that is what being human is really about.**

Since the news of the property sale, I have received quite a few emails from people who lived at Knox five, ten, and even 20 years ago. People love to come back and visit and tell stories of their time here. They talk about wishing they could have been here longer. The environment has touched people, and they remember it quite fondly. This is really what residence life should be like.

Someone told me, “You take care of me, like my mom does.” That means so much to me, to have a relationship where residents come down to chat with me. **I love being a part of young people's lives as they are finding their way.** They have touched my life in so many ways. It is certainly a two-way street, helping each other. One thing that is so wonderful about working with young people is that they keep you up-to-date! I am glad we will remain on the property, just on the other side of the building. Residents can still visit me.

I am sad that Knox will no longer operate the residence. I will work with the U of T to make the transition as smooth as possible. This residence is unique, and it is something I care deeply about and will always care about. I will continue to be part of life here. One chapter is closing, and another is opening.

I am humbled by all the kind words I have received from current and past residents. Each resident has enriched my life and I wish them every success wherever life may take them. **I am indebted to the residents for giving me thirty wonderful years doing a job I truly love!** □

Non-Canadian residents' home regions

Total international residents: 34

North America (5) Europe (4) East Asia (15)
South America (1) Middle East (4) South Asia (5)



Canadian residents' home provinces

Total domestic residents: 45



British Columbia (7) Ontario (33)
Alberta (1) Quebec (1)
Manitoba (2) Prince Edward Island (1)

Residents' studies

Anthropology, Applied Science & Engineering, Biology, Chemistry, Cinema, Computer science, Drama, Education, English, Kinesiology, Landscape architecture & design, Latin American & Near/Middle Eastern civilization, Law, Mathematics, Mediaeval studies, Molecular genetics, Pharmacy, Psychology, Statistics, Theology & Christian studies

Daniela D'Aniello with residents at the 2017 Spring Formal. From left: Joel Wiebe, Leticia Ribeiro de Oliveira, Farbod Pakpour, Daniela D'Aniello, Paul Scoufield. Front: Mingeun Kang, Alexandra Ntoulkas. Photo by Stephanie Hanna.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: KOREAN TRANSLATION

가을 학기에 저는 낙스칼리지의 학장으로 왔습니다. 퇴임하는 학장 잔 비서스는 학장 임무 인수가 순조롭게 이루어지도록 했으며, 그는 따라가기 어려운 유산을 남겼습니다. 비서스교수는 세계적 전염병의 어려운 시기에 뛰어나게 낙스칼리지를 이끌었고, 지혜롭게 낙스 빌딩을 매각했습니다. 이 매각으로 낙스는 토론토 대학교 캠퍼스에서 최소 40년 동안 토론토 신학교의 일원으로서 자리를 확보하게 되었습니다.

비서스교수는 낙스를 미래 신나고 유망한 학교로 자리 매김 했습니다. 새로운 학장으로서, 저는 2019년 10월 이사회에서 승인한 우리의 사명, 비전 및 낙스에 대한 5개년 전략에 따라 낙스를 미래로 이끌 것입니다. 낙스는 우리를 행동하도록 초대하는 명확한 비전과 사명이 있습니다: 하나님을 깊이 생각하고, 기독교 신앙에서 진실하게 살며, 변화하는 영적, 사회적 환경에서 용기 있게 이끌며, 결과적으로 하나님의 사랑과 희망으로 정의되는 활기찬 공동체를 건설하도록 사람들을 교육하는 것입니다.

우리의 비전과 사명을 어떻게 시행해야 할까요? 낙스 칼리지는 무엇보다도 신학대학이므로, 우리의 주된 초점은 실천하는 신학이어야 한다는 것을 의미합니다. 하지만 아무 신학이 아니라, 생명을 주는 신학을 실천함으로써 우리의 사명과 비전을 이행해야 합니다. 이것은 포괄적인 믿음의 공동체를 구상하고, 모두에게 동등한 기회가 주어지는 열린 사회를 옹호하며, 사회 정의를 요구하고, 제도적 부당성을 비판하고, 배척과 차별을 영구화 하는 모든 서술에 대해 반대 목소리를 내고, 사회적 약자들, 배제된 자들, 주변인들의 목소리가 되는 신학을 저는 의미합니다. 이것은 평신도들과 성직자들의 일과 관련이 있다고 생각하는 신학이며, 과거의 신념과 삶의 방식에 붙잡혀 향수를 불러일으키거나 무비판적이지 않고, 규범적인 질문을 다루는 능력을 가지고 있습니다.

우리가 가르치고, 연구하고, 쓰는 글에서 이런 신학을 실천할 때, 또한 우리의 5개년 계획의 초점을 지지할 것입니다: 회중의 활력 있는 기운과 성장을 양육하고, 기독교 신앙 속에서 생각하는 리더십을 제공하며, 사회 속에서 증가하는 요구인 영적, 정신적 건강에 전문가와 교회가 대응할 수 있도록 도울 것입니다. . . .

Find the complete translation online at knox.utoronto.ca/korean. Translation by Nam Soon Song.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: MANDARIN TRANSLATION

本學年開始，我將接任為諾克斯神學院的院長。剛卸任的院長維薩斯教授，平順的把交接工作完成，而他所留下來的成就叫人難以比擬。過去數年學院受疫情所困，維薩斯教授出色地領導本院克服困阻，並滿有智慧地完成售出本院大樓這項目。這項物業轉讓，將容讓本學院在未來四十年，仍舊可以在多倫多大學校園內運作，且繼續作為多倫多神學院聯盟內的一員。

維薩斯教授在任期間，高瞻遠矚，為本院開拓出令人振奮和滿有把握的未來；作為繼任人，我會加以秉持，並且按着二零一九年學院董事會所制定的五年計劃，去履行學院的使命和願景。事實上，諾克斯神學院的使命和願景清晰；具體而言，這所學院的成立：是教導人們在認識上主上更加深睿；在日常生活上，更果敢地活出基督樣式；在不斷兌變的社會和屬靈層面上，壯膽的作領導。若我們全然的作成以上的交託，在上主的愛和對祂的盼望中，我們必能建立一個具活力勁道的信仰群體。

那麼我們該如何加以實踐呢？首先要確立的，本學院是一所神學教育機構；這即是說，我們的重點是把學習上主的學問實踐出來。但這並不表示我們會不加揀擇的選用任何神學，而是只會教導一個令人得生命的神學。對於我而言，神學教育是引領各個信仰群體，推動一個開放社會，讓每個個體擁有公平機會；這個社會要有公義，個體敢於批評制度性的剝削，大膽發聲反對任何人鼓動歧視和常態化地把群體分化；我們也要為社會上被邊緣化的弱勢群體發聲。故此，在把神學實踐出來這認知上，毋論是平信徒或牧職人員，均各師其職，回應這個時代發出的詰問，而非緬懷及毫不批判的眷戀昔日的認知。

我可以說，若我們在教學、研究和著作上，實踐以上所描繪的神學重點，我們便是在執行本院董事會所訂立的五年計劃綱領：培植會眾的活力和成長；在基督信仰這思想系統上，提供睿智具思考的領袖，並且為各專業和眾教會，回應從社會而來，有關靈性及精神健康的各種質詢。 . . .

Find the complete translation online at knox.utoronto.ca/mandarin. Translation by Wan-Kit Keng and Helen Cheung.

Knox Community Kickoff begins 2022-2023 academic year



“Welcome, and welcome back to Knox,” said Christine Mitchell, Knox’s Academic Dean & Professor of Hebrew Bible.

“We are thrilled to be able to welcome everyone to our first in-person Orientation event since 2019. Welcome to our new students, and welcome back to our returning students – some of whom have never been here in person! Like many of you, I, too, am new to Knox. I’m happy to be here, and happy to be able to welcome all of you to theological education at Knox College.”

Left: Principal van Eck cuts a “welcome” cake to share at the first Community Lunch of the semester, September 13. Photo by Sharmilla Reid. Below: Principal Ernest van Eck (far right) teaches the Afrikaans words for “God is so good” to Kickoff attendees. Beside him, Mi-Weon Yang, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care, led participants in singing “God is so good” to bless the lunch meal on Kickoff Day, September 7. Photo by Jennilee Psarologos.

Nearly 70 new and returning students, faculty, and staff gathered for the Knox College Kickoff event on September 7, 2022, a time for the Knox community to get to know one another. Students’ orientation to specific degree programs followed on September 8 and 9, and classes began September 12.

This fall marks the return to some in-person classes at Knox, with all in-person classes happening on Tuesdays. Also on Tuesdays, the community gathers in person for worship and lunch.



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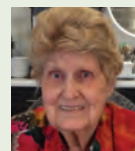
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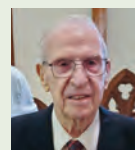
CLASS NOTES

1950s



Marion (Webster) Ballard (E'57, K'65) passed away on September 11, 2022.

Alan M. Beaton (K'59) passed away on May 8, 2022.



Alexander McCombie (K'59) passed away on September 16, 2022.

1960s

John C. Carr (K'62, HDD'17) retired in 2018 and was installed as Faculty Emeritus at St. Stephen's College, Edmonton (Alta.). He served in program development, governance, teaching, and thesis/dissertation guidance for 43 years.

Nita DeVenne (K'63) retired on June 21, 2022.

R. Campbell Taylor (K'65) passed away on June 8, 2022.

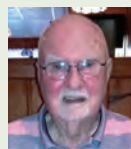


1970s



W. A. (Sandy) Henderson (R'70-79) and a founding member of KNOXFRA passed away on September 14, 2022.

James Beverley Kay (K'77) passed away on July 7, 2022.



1980s

George S. Malcolm (K'80, HDD'22) retired on July 1, 2022.

L. Ann Blane (E'81, K'01) retired on September 1, 2022.

Robert Lyle (K'82) retired on September 1, 2022.

D. Laurence DeWolfe (K'83) retired on May 1, 2022.

Sabrina Ingram (K'83) retired on July 1, 2022.

J. Wesley Denyer (K'84) retired on December 31, 2021.

Mark B. Gaskin (K'84) retired on May 1, 2022.

J. Martin R. Kreplin (K'84) retired on June 1, 2022.

Stephen Kendall (K'87) retired on September 1, 2022.

Joanne R. MacOdrum (K'87) retired on May 1, 2022.

Robert J. Murray (K'89) retired on May 1, 2022.

1990s



Timothy Archibald (K'91) was inducted at Oakridge, London (Ont.), on May 19, 2022.

Daniel Cho (K'92) was inducted at Rosedale, Toronto (Ont.) on September 18, 2022.



Victor S. J. Kim (K'93) began as Clerk of Assembly for The Presbyterian Church in Canada on July 1, 2022.

Dawn Griffiths (K'96) retired on July 1, 2022.

Kathryn Strachan (K'97) passed away on July 8, 2022.



2000s



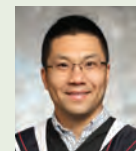
Matthew Ruttan (K'08) launched a podcast version of *The Up Daily Devotional*; more at matthewruttan.com/up.

2010s

Robert Quick (K'11) retired on September 1, 2022.

Kathryn Firth (K'12) retired on June 1, 2022.

Timothy Reddish (K'15) retired on September 1, 2022.



Sanghun Steven Yoon (K'16, '20) was ordained and inducted on Sept. 4, 2022, at Westside, Mississauga (Ont.).

Charmila Ireland (K'17) began as chaplain at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier (Que.) on July 14, 2022.



Julio Miranda (K'17) was ordained and inducted on June 12, 2022, at North Park, Toronto (Ont.).

2020s

Thomas Mason (K'21) was ordained on May 31 and inducted on July 3, 2022, at Elmvale (Ont.) and Knox Flos (Elmvale).



Tina Lin passed away on September 13, 2022. Tina was a faithful leader who was strongly committed to Knox College, the Centre for Asian-Canadian Theology and Ministry, and the Asian-Canadian Church.

K: Knox; E: Ewart; R: Resident

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Welcome to new staff at Knox College

Sanjay Dhadha (above, left) began July 4, 2022, as **Assistant to the Director of Finance and Administration**. Sanjay has a long career in Finance and Accounting as an accountant and an analyst.

Nicole Hulme (above, right) began September 26, 2022, as **Admissions Counsellor & Recruitment Coordinator**. Nicole is an experienced and engaging academic administrator and front-line student services professional.

UPCOMING ONLINE ALUMNI SEMINARS



Spiritual Resilience in Ministry: Wednesday, November 23, 2022, 11:00am ET
Presented by Angela Schmidt, Knox College's Director of Experiential Learning and Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care



Ecumenical Shared Ministry: Thursday, January 26, 2023, 11:00am ET
Presented by Sandra Beardsall, Professor of Church History and Ecumenics at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon



Women, Gender, and Genesis: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, time TBD
Presented by Christine Mitchell, Knox College Academic Dean and Professor of Hebrew Bible

Learn more and register at knox.utoronto.ca/alumni-seminars.

Seminars are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Can't attend at that time? Registrants will receive a recording of the seminar.



Ernest van Eck
Principal of
Knox College

POSITIONED FOR A PROMISING FUTURE: I am blessed

In the fall semester I stepped in as principal of Knox College. The outgoing principal, Prof. John Vissers, has ensured that principal transition is smooth, and he left a legacy that will be difficult to follow. Prof. Vissers has steered Knox College with distinction through the difficult period of the pandemic, and with wisdom he managed the sale of the Knox buildings. This sale has secured a place for Knox on the University of Toronto campus as a member of the Toronto School of Theology for at least the next forty years.

Prof. Vissers has positioned Knox for a promising and exciting future. As new principal, I intend to lead Knox into this future, guided by our mission, vision, and the five-year strategy for Knox approved by the Board in October 2019. Knox has a clear vision and mission that invite us to act: to *educate* people to *think* deeply about

God, *live* authentically in Christian faith, *lead* courageously in shifting spiritual and social landscapes, and as a result, *build* vibrant communities defined by God's love and hope.

How should we enact our vision and mission? Knox College is first and foremost a theological college, meaning that our main focus should be practicing theology. But not just any kind of theology. We should enact our mission and vision by practicing a life-giving theology. To me, this means a theology that envisages inclusive believing communities, advocates an open society with equal opportunities for all, calls for

social justice, criticizes systemic injustices, voices its opposition against all narratives that perpetuate exclusion and discrimination, and becomes the voice of the disadvantaged, excluded, and marginalized. This is a theology that considers laypeople and the clergy relevant for its work, does not nostalgically and uncritically clutch to past convictions and ways of life, and has the ability to address normative questions.

When we practice this kind of theology in what we teach, research, and write, we will also support the foci of our five-year plan: nurturing congregational vitality and growth, providing thought leadership in Christian faith, and helping professionals and churches to respond to the increasing spiritual and mental health needs in the society.

Miroslav Volf, the well-known Protestant theologian from Yale, calls the theology described above “a theology that matters” – that is, a theology that focuses on the “question of true life in the presence of God” and on the “truth and beauty of human existence in a world of justice, peace, and joy.”

I look forward with excitement to enacting Knox's mission and vision through a theology that matters, and I invite all to join me on this road as equals and co-travellers in seeking justice, peace, and joy for all. God has blessed me with a wonderful new road to travel, and God has blessed me even more with an exceptional staff and faculty at Knox.

Carpe diem!

Korean and Mandarin translations of the Principal's Message begin on page 16.

*“A life-giving theology...
envisages inclusive
believing communities...
and becomes the voice of the
disadvantaged, excluded,
and marginalized.”*

➤ To receive *Vocations* electronically instead of in print, contact us at knox.college@utoronto.ca.

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