

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to the Shining Waters Regional Council as you meet this fall. It is my hope and prayer that your meeting goes well and that individually and collectively you experience God's presence and blessing in these unusual times. As the Interim Principal, I write to share news of various aspects of life at Emmanuel College.

This fall term at Emmanuel College begins our second full academic year in the midst of the pandemic. After consultation with students, staff, and faculty last winter, a decision was made that classes this fall would be online and that in the winter we would return to having classes in person. The winter plans, of course, depend upon where things stand with the pandemic. This fall we are gradually resuming some in person elements in the College's life. The Emmanuel Library is now open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with students able to use that facility, albeit in limited numbers. This development marks a significant change in that from the start of the pandemic until now, the Library has been able to offer only curbside pick-up. Both members of last year's entering class, who had never been able to set foot on campus since they began their studies, and this year's entering class had carefully distanced orientation events on the front lawn of Emmanuel in mid-September. Seeing students physically present on campus, rather than only in small squares in Zoom gathering, was wonderful!

The pandemic forced faculty members to adjust quickly to teaching on line. Now beginning their third term of doing so, faculty members generally feel comfortable with that medium. Emmanuel has begun exploring a half-time hybrid MDiv, where a certain number of courses would be taught each year in an online format or in an in-person intensive format. We need to work with the other colleges in the Toronto School of Theology in this endeavour, so implementation will take some time. However, we think that this development, when we can implement it, will increase the accessibility of Emmanuel College for potential students who find the fully residential aspect of our current MDiv a challenge, given the other realities of their lives. We think this increased flexibility will be very good for the United Church if, as we hope, it makes it possible for more persons to prepare for ordained ministry in the denomination.

Emmanuel College will have a visit from an accreditation team from the Association of Theological Schools at the end of September. Emmanuel is an accredited school, but theological schools must undergo re-accreditation every ten years. The significant preparatory work for re-accreditation was completed this past summer under the fine leadership of Nevin Reda. One plus of the re-accreditation process is that the required self-study forces a theological school to do serious self-reflection about all aspects of its life and work. In doing this work at Emmanuel College, we have become aware of areas where we need to make changes. We think these changes will strengthen the College and enhance its work as an educational institution preparing individuals for various forms of ministry and service.

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students. Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel is able to give grants covering 100% of tuition to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the MDiv programme and who are engaged in The United

Church of Canada's candidacy process. The application deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programmes, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison (emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca)

Support for the Annual Fund last year enabled Emmanuel to provide emergency support for students who faced additional financial challenges because of the pandemic. Our international students have been especially affected by the pandemic. We are grateful for the support from communities of faith, alumni/ae, and friends that has enabled the College to assist students particularly impacted by the pandemic.

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events on line. These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and its Contexts. Shortly after I began in mid-August, the Centre hosted a symposium entitled "Re-thinking Preaching," and the intention is to make this symposium an annual event. A list of this fall's offering are found on the Emmanuel College web site at <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/> For further information about these events and about applying, please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

Please follow us on social media:

Facebook: @EmmanuelCollegeofVic
Twitter: @EmmanuelColleg2
Instagram @emmanuelcollegetoronto

The search process for a new Principal has begun. While we are early in that process, the goal is to have the College's new Principal in place for July 1, 2022.

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Dr. John H. Young,
Interim Principal