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Emmanuel College – Principal's Report to United Church of Canada Regional Councils
Fall 2026

Dear friends in the United Church of Canada,

Greetings from Emmanuel College at Victoria University in the University of Toronto. We give thanks for your ongoing partnership in theological education, leadership formation, and the shared work of nurturing ministry across the Church. It is a privilege to share a brief update on the life and work of the College.

Lilly Endowment Grants: Pathways for Tomorrow

Emmanuel College is deeply engaged in the *Pathways for Tomorrow* initiative, supported by the Lilly Endowment. This includes:

- **$1M USD** awarded directly to Emmanuel College
- **$10M USD** awarded to the United Church of Canada (Collaborative Grant)
- **$6.5M USD** awarded to the Toronto School of Theology (Collaborative Grant)

These grants are enabling us to strengthen leadership pathways, expand continuing education, and deepen collaboration with the United Church of Canada.

As part of this work:

- We will be hiring a **Manager for the Emmanuel Professional Advancement and Continuing Training Centre (EMPACT Centre)** this spring. This role will help coordinate Emmanuel's work within the Lilly initiative and support collaboration with United Church partners.
- We are also launching a **pilot Artist-in-Residence program**, supporting creativity, worship life, and experiential learning within theological education.

New Centre for Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counselling

We are pleased to share that Emmanuel College has secured **$750,000 in funding over 10 years** to establish the:

Tung Lin Kok Yuen (TLKY), Canada Society Research and Education Centre for Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counselling

This groundbreaking Centre will:

- Launch a **new academic journal** in Buddhist Spiritual Care and Practical Theology
- Host **academic conferences and scholarly gatherings**
- Offer **psychospiritual continuing education for healthcare professionals**
- Serve and support **Buddhist communities in Canada and beyond**

This initiative reflects Emmanuel's growing leadership in multifaith theological education and its commitment to equipping leaders for diverse spiritual care contexts.

Faculty Updates

We celebrate important milestones among our faculty:

- **Dr. Glenn McCullough – Interim review:** Successfully completed his interim (pre-tenure) review.
- **Dr. Henry Shiu – Tenure and promotion:** Approved for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2026, along with a year of research leave.
- **The Very Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne – New appointment:** We were pleased to welcome Dr. Lansdowne to Emmanuel College on December 1, 2025, following the completion of her term as Moderator of the United Church of Canada. She serves as Assistant Professor of United Church Studies—the first appointment of its kind at Emmanuel—and will serve as the Director of the Master of Divinity program, as of July 1, 2026. We are deeply grateful for the leadership and insight she brings from across the national Church, enriching the formation of our students and strengthening our shared work of preparing future ministry leaders.

Student Admissions

- **Continued growth in applications:** Emmanuel is experiencing another year of strong application growth, with sustained and increasing interest in our multi-faith Master of Psychospiritual Studies program.
- **Steady MDiv enrolment with renewed focus:** Applications to the Master of Divinity program remain steady. Through our participation in the Lilly Endowment *Pathways for Tomorrow* initiative, we are intentionally deepening engagement with United Church communities—supporting vocational discernment and encouraging potential leaders for ministry.
- **Strong doctoral interest:** Emmanuel has received a growing pool of applicants, including 26 PhD applications in the first round, among the highest in recent years.
- **TST-wide doctoral trends:** Across the Toronto School of Theology, there were 54 PhD applications (32 international, 22 domestic).

We continue to discern ways to strengthen financial support for students, ensuring accessibility and competitiveness within the broader University of Toronto context.

Psychospiritual Continuing Education Initiative

Supported by a generous gift from **Ms. and Mr. Price**, Emmanuel has launched a **three-year pilot in Psychospiritual Continuing Education**:

- A dedicated **program director has been hired, Wing Yi Wong**
- Initial instructors include **Prof. Jenny Bright** and **Dr. Agnes Wong (SickKids Hospital)**

This initiative aligns closely with Emmanuel's commitment to equipping leaders for **spiritual care, counselling, and ministry in complex contexts**.

Alumni Update: Centennial 2028

As Emmanuel College prepares for its Centennial in 2028, we are updating our alumni records and reconnecting with graduates across generations. If you are an Emmanuel College alum, please reach out to **emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca** to ensure we have your current contact information and can keep you connected to the celebrations ahead.

We are also delighted to invite alumni to our **annual Alumni Day on May 11, 2026**, a special opportunity to return to Emmanuel, reconnect with the community, and celebrate the life of the College as we begin this journey toward our Centennial. Two of our faculty members, Prof. Natalie Wigg-Stevenson and Prof. Nazila Isgandarova will be workshop leaders for the Day.

Closing

We remain deeply grateful for the United Church of Canada's ongoing partnership in theological education and leadership formation. Your communities continue to shape and send students to Emmanuel, and we are committed to forming leaders who embody deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

With gratitude and every blessing,

HyeRan Kim-Cragg
Principal and Professor of Preaching
Emmanuel College