



Dear Friends,

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I bring greetings to your region as you gather this fall. I hope your time together is both renewing and Spirit-filled. **My name is Pamela McCarroll, and I am honoured to be serving as Acting Principal of Emmanuel College while Principal HyeRan Kim-Cragg is on a six-month administrative and research leave until January 1, 2026.** It is a joy to share with you some of the exciting updates from Emmanuel this past year.

Historic Enrolment Growth & Enhanced Student Services

This past academic year, we celebrated the largest increase in enrolment in recent decades, culminating in our biggest orientation yet last September. This year we continue to grow and will have over 250 enrolled students marking continued growth and likely the highest enrolment the college has ever seen. To meet the evolving needs of our growing student population, we've expanded our student services through the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) at Victoria University. With the **addition of Sean Martin as Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Wellness**, and existing 10 staff there, students now benefit from an enriched array of services including counselling, international student support, career advising, gender diversity support, and accessibility services.

Faculty Appointments

We are delighted to share that **Prof. Jenny Bright has been appointed as the inaugural Wutai Shan Venerable Dayi Assistant Professor of Buddhist Spiritual Care** as of July 1, 2025. This endowed position represents the largest gift in Emmanuel's history and is a first-of-its-kind faculty appointment in Canada. Also beginning July 1, **Prof. Mona Tokarek LaFosse assumed the newly established joint position of Assistant Professor of New Testament and Sacred Literature Studies**—a collaborative and continuing appointment between Emmanuel and Victoria Colleges.

In addition, we welcomed **Dr. Amy Panton as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology** (part-time) to support our expanded MPS program. We also congratulate **Prof. Nazila Isgandarova on her promotion to Associate Professor** following a successful continuing status review.

In December 2025, we look forward to welcoming **Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne as Assistant Professor of United Church Studies**. Dr. Lansdowne will begin teaching within the MDiv program in January 2026.

Nurturing Ministry Project for the 21st Century: Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow Individual School Phase 1 and 2 Grants

Thanks to the Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow grant, we launched the **"Nurturing Ministry Project" to explore the evolving needs of Christian ministry within the UCC and beyond** in preparation for a grant submission for further funding from the Lilly Foundation. From March to September 2025, our research team has consulted with MDiv students, alumni, regional and national church leaders, and ministry leaders across diverse contexts to gather feedback. Insights are informing how we further integrate the arts and social justice into our MDiv program and shape continuing education to better support alumni and lay leaders. We are delighted to report that EC's project proposal titled **"Nurturing Ministry: Theological Education in Situ"** has been chosen for an over **\$1 million CAD grant** through the Pathways

for Tomorrow individual school grant initiative. We are excited about the ways this grant will support expansions of arts and justice-based experiential learning opportunities in our MDiv and to expand continuing Education opportunities over 5 years.

Reimagining Theological Education Across the UCC: Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow Collaborative Phase 2 Grant Application

Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg and I worked with the heads of UCC schools and the GC ministry office, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, to **craft a robust vision for theological education—one that challenges the narrative of decline and engages congregations and regions**. After months of collaboration, we submitted a substantial grant request to the Lilly Foundation. While we hope for approval, we are confident many aspects of this vision will move forward regardless.

Growing Scholarships & Generous Community Partnerships

We are pleased to report several new and significant scholarships supporting our diverse student body:

- The Ching Kwok Temple Endowed Scholarship for Buddhist Studies was launched in October 2024.
- The Sang Chul Lee Endowed Scholarship supports students focused on Korean peace and Minjung theology.
- A new Music Scholarship endowment benefits Master of Sacred Music students.
- The Lawson Scholarship, established through a generous bequest of Elizabeth Lawson from the United Church of Canada Foundation, supports students engaged in Queer studies.
- The Jaffari Community Scholarship provides \$100,000 over five years to students in Muslim focus of MPS and MTS programs.

Indigenous Healing Garden Project

Construction for the Indigenous Healing Garden is complete and a soft-launch celebration was held in May 2025 during alumni week with a formal celebration to be had in May 2026. The project not only honours Indigenous spirituality and makes commitment to TRC but also enhances accessibility with the installation of a new ramp at the east entrance to the building.

Anniversary Celebrations & Events

We had a season of vibrant celebrations:

- In 2025, we celebrate the 10th and 15th anniversaries of our Buddhist and Muslim Foci in the Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) program.
- As part of the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, Emmanuel hosted the Drag and Spirituality Summit (Nov 1–3, 2024) and a book launch on Nov 13, 2024 for *Moments in Time: Sermons from the United Church of Canada 1910–2020*, co-authored by Principal Kim-Cragg and Rev. Dr. Don Schweitzer.
- In January 2025, we cohosted an International Conference on Trauma-Informed Interreligious Pedagogy with St.
- In March 2025, we welcomed the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America Conference (BSCENA).
- May 12, 2025 marked the climax of our celebrations with a banquet at Burwash Hall on Alumni Day during convocation week.
- A fundraising concert for the MSMus Music Scholarship concluded our anniversary events on June 13, 2025, at Trinity St. Paul's United Church.

Financial Support

Emmanuel College continues to offer strong financial support, including **100% tuition for domestic full-time MDiv students in the UCC candidacy pathway** through the John W. Billes Fund. **Incoming domestic full-time students also receive 50% tuition coverage in their first year** through the Entering Theological Education grant. For details on financial aid for all programs, contact Andrew Aitchison at emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca.

Continuing Education Funding Developments

- **Cantonese Christian Continuing Education Program**
A generous donation was received to support the creation of a Cantonese Christian Continuing Education Program
- **Continuing Education for MPS Alumni**
Donors contributed **\$50,000** to fund professional development opportunities for MPS alumni, focusing on spiritually integrated psychotherapy and spiritual care practice.
- **Support for Buddhist Courses**
An additional **\$20,000** donation was made to strengthen Buddhist course offerings within the continuing education portfolio.
- **Partnership: Compassionate Canopy – Practical Buddhist Studies in Canada**
Emmanuel College has partnered with the Buddhist Association of Canada to establish the **Buddhist College of Canada (BCC)**, in collaboration with the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts. This initiative, rooted in a partnership with the temple in Peterborough, represents the first Buddhist institution created through collaboration between a Buddhist organization and a Canadian higher education institution.

Emmanuel is also offering Continuing Education events online through the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts (CRIC). A list of upcoming offerings is found on the [Emmanuel College website](#). For further information about these events please contact Andrew Aitchison: ec.cric@utoronto.ca.

Faculty Accomplishments and Publications

- **Faculty Recognition**
Dr. Michelle Voss received the **McGeachy Prize** to support her research across the United Church of Canada on becoming an intercultural church.
- **Glenn McCullough**, *Jacob Boehme and the Spiritual Roots of Psychotherapy: Dreams, Ecstasy, and Wisdom*, Brill.
- **Nazila Isgandarova**, *Muraqaba: Basics of an Islamic Mindfulness Technique in Spiritually-Integrated Psychotherapy*, Routledge.
- **Michelle Voss**, "Still Becoming an Intercultural Church," *Touchstone* 43.2 (2025): 45-55.
- **Henry Shiu**, *Libeng yue buhuai 禮崩樂不壞 (Music of the Times)*, Chinese University of Hong Kong Press.
- **Swee Hong Lim**, *All Shall Be Well: Songs for the Church*, Hope Publishing, 2024.
- **Pamela McCarroll** (co-editor), *Pastoral Theological and Psychological Reflections on Climate Change*, *Pastoral Psychology* 74.1; *Pastoral Theology and Climate Change*, *Journal of Pastoral Theology*.
- **Thomas Reynolds** (co-editor), *Disrupting Images & Stories of the Church: Honouring Voices with Lived Experience of Disability*, Bloomsbury.
- **Mona Tokarek LaFosse** *Honouring Age: The Social Dynamics of Age Structure in 1 Timothy*, McGill-Queen's University Press.

- **HyeRan Kim-Cragg** and Don Schweitzer, *Moments in Time: Sermons from the United Church of Canada 1910–2020*, United Church Publishing House.

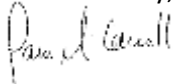
Please follow us on social media: **Facebook:** @EmmanuelCollegeofVic, **Instagram:**

@emmanuelcollegetoronto

YouTube: @EmmanuelCollege1.

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Yours sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll
Acting Principal, Emmanuel College