

## ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE

Dear Canadian Shield Regional Council Siblings in Christ,

This update from St. Andrew's College highlights a new initiative amidst developments in our broader world. As we navigate these transformative times, we remain committed to our mission, as we boldly state on our website's main page, of providing *theological education that embodies compassion, hope, & justice!*

### **Historical Context**

St. Andrew's College, established in 1912, is rooted in the prairies. Over the years, we have continually adapted to change, from the impacts of the First World War to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our strategic journey and academic redesign efforts emphasise context-based learning and the integration of academic disciplines, ensuring our programmes remain relevant and impactful.

### **Global Context**

The world is currently undergoing substantial changes, challenging many of the norms we once took for granted. As the College and Church are actively deconstructing our complicity in colonisation, we are witnessing shifts in geopolitical norms that have provided stability since the Second World War. These changes remind us of historical periods when nationalism and populism posed existential threats. Our faith, however, teaches us a different narrative—one of hope and justice.

### **College Initiative**

In response to these changes, St. Andrew's College is leveraging its rich history to shape a better future. On June 19th, we will launch the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre, a new initiative aimed at fostering critical thinking, community engagement, and a commitment to justice.

### **Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre**

The Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre honours Drs. Edmund H. Oliver and Lydia E. Gruchy, two pivotal figures in our college's history. Dr. Oliver, our first Principal, was a progressive leader deeply involved in social reform and community service. He was a staunch advocate and supporter of the union of our founding denominations. Dr. Gruchy, the first woman ordained to the ministry of The United Church of Canada, is a symbol of gender equality and social justice. As our United Church of Canada celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are emboldened by how their legacies have profoundly shaped our institution and continue to inspire our mission.

The Learning Centre will create a student-centred learning environment that encourages exploration in theological studies, social justice, and leadership. It will serve also as a hub for learners, whether faith-based or spiritually curious, to explore ongoing educational opportunities through various pathways in theological studies, social justice and how to offer compassionate leadership in a chaotic world. We believe such pursuits will allow people to develop a deeper understanding of their own spiritual exploration and its application in the modern world.

### **Call to Action**

Friends in Canadian Shield Regional Council, we invite you to join us in this transformative endeavour to support the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre to ensure we continue to be able to

share the Good News in innovative and relevant ways [<https://standrews.ca/donate/donate-now/>]. Your contribution to the Gruchy Fund will help us create a space that honours the legacies of Drs. Oliver and Gruchy and fosters a new generation of leaders committed to justice and community service.

In Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis