



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Spring 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I bring greetings to your region as you gather this spring. I hope your time together is both renewing and Spirit-filled. **My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg** and I am honoured to serve as Emmanuel's Principal. I look forward to opportunities to meet many of you in person and to share in the exciting updates from Emmanuel.

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 on September 4, 2024. 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 will be 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 will assume 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.

Nurturing Ministry Project for the 21st Century: Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow Grant

Thanks to the Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow grant, we've launched the "Nurturing Ministry Project" to explore the evolving needs of Christian ministry within the UCC and beyond. From March to September 2025, our research team will consult with MDiv students, alumni, and ministry leaders across diverse contexts to gather feedback. Insights will inform how we further integrate the arts and social justice into our MDiv program and shape continuing education to better support alumni and lay leaders.

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 endowed will benefit Master of Sacred Music students.
- The Lawson Scholarship, established through a generous bequest of Elizabeth Lawson from the United Church of Canada Foundation, will support 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 progressing well, with a completion celebration anticipated in May 2025 during alumni week. 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 are entering a season of vibrant celebration:

- 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 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 cohost an International Conference on Trauma-Informed Interreligious Pedagogy with St. Michael's College.
- In March 2025, we welcomed the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America Conference (BSCENA).
- May 12, 2025 will mark the climax of our celebrations with a banquet at Burwash Hall on Alumni day during the convocation week.
- A fundraising concert for the MSMus Music Scholarship will conclude our anniversary events on June 13, 2025, at Trinity St. Paul's United Church.

Financial Support

Emmanuel College offers 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.

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

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. HyeRan Kim-Cragg
Principal and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching