

Pine Hill Divinity Hall

Greetings! It has been my privilege to serve as Interim Chair of the Board of Pine Hill Divinity Hall since the resignation of Reverend Catherine MacDonald in June of 2018. Reverend MacDonald was elected President of Maritime Conference, a position which requires a great deal of her time. We offer our thanks to Catherine for her work as Chair of the Board and wish her the best as the newly formed regions discern their form.

Pine Hill Divinity Hall, one of three founding parties of the Atlantic School of Theology, endeavours to represent the United Church of Canada's interests in theological education for clergy and lay persons with United Church connections. Over the past year, Pine Hill has worked to understand the implications of the restructuring which is taking place within the United Church. It has been part of our work to remain a calm presence where members of the Board, faculty, staff, and students can share information, concerns and observations as to how the changes in structure resonate in for in each person's case.

Pine Hill Divinity Hall continues in its mission to build the Body of Christ through supporting the education of persons called to ministry. Pine Hill Divinity Hall supports the continuing education of clergy and lay persons through providing assistance for provision or attendance at Continuing Education courses, lecture series and other initiatives which aim to be of benefit to the wider church.

As Chair, I was in attendance at the two meetings of the Founding parties. Pine Hill hosted the first early morning breakfast in the fall with The Anglican Diocese hosting the winter meeting. In the fall there was representation from Maritime Conference, Conference President, the Rev'd Catherine MacDonald; University of King's College; the Anglican Dioceses of NS & PEI, and Fredericton; and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax & Yarmouth. At the winter meeting Maritime Conference representation was replaced by Rev'd Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister for Regions 14, 15, and 16 in the newly structured United Church of Canada.

A highlight of the year was the signing of the Recovenanting document by all three Founding Parties and President of AST Rev'd Neale Bennet. We are thankful for the work of Dr. David Griffiths around the Memorandum of Understanding and in the construction of a document which reflects the spirit of a union meant for the betterment of our place in the universe.

Work continues on the new hospice facility which stands in the place of the two grey houses. Campus Renewal sees the Library undergoing renovations and The Founders were treated to a tour of the construction site during our fall meeting. The 1898 building is still being viewed with an eye to restoration and it becoming a focal point of the campus. The administrative office area in the residence buildings will be repurposed. All in all, this year as Chair has been an extremely positive experience as Pine Hill and the other Founders partner in supporting a "happening place – AST".

Tuition support for the year is in excess of \$186,000 for UC students in both lay and ordered streams of ministry. This ratio of MDiv. summer distance/ on campus students is 29/8. There are 47 students in total with the remainder as Seekers. The Seekers Bursary is being advertised more widely and we are in hopes that all who are in a position to speak to possible candidates will spread the word.

Pine Hill wished Rev'd Dr. Sally Shaw a fond farewell and all the best as she left the position of United Church Formation Director to answer a call to congregational ministry. Pine Hill also carried out the search for a person for a term position while they established the terms of a permanent position. The Board was pleased to have Rev'd Dr. I. Ross Bartlett fill both the term and the succeeding permanent position.

Pine Hill was saddened by the health issues which required Margaret Arklie to be relieved of her duties as Treasurer. It is with great thanks that we welcomed Robert (Bob) Carter back to the Board as Treasurer, *protem*.

The Board also accepted, with regret, the resignation of Martha Martin who has been called to a ministry position in Ontario. We are pleased that a new member to the Board on the Finance Committee, Mr. Mac MacLeod, has agreed to serve on the AST Board in Martha's stead.

A resignation was also accepted from Andrew Scollick for personal reasons. Student Representatives Patrick Woodbeck and Kim Curlett left the Board on the happy occasion of their graduations. The student representatives are now Roxanne Grace Sperry and Emma Seamone. The Board continues to appreciate the input of the students.

The Nominations Chair, Rev'd Catherine Stuart, has been diligent in seeking members for the Board. We have attempted to keep gender, ministry/lay, and regional representation in balance. Finding volunteers to fill positions continues to be a struggle in a world which seems less and less called to volunteerism. We are blessed to have the Board members who are willing to share of their time, skills and efforts in making Pine Hill Board a positive, forward moving organization.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board and I wish to thank Brenda Munro for all she does for Board members, students, staff and faculty as she goes above and beyond her job description.

Blessings in the journey;
Bonnie A Fraser, Rev'd