

## **PINE HILL DIVINITY HALL**

Greetings! It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Pine Hill Divinity Hall. Much of this regular report has been transformed to accommodate, as you can imagine, all things COVID 19!

What is not different is that 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 students, clergy, and laypersons with United Church connections at AST. 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 for 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 not only supports current AST students, but the continuing education of clergy and laypersons as well. This is done by providing assistance to attend Continuing Education courses, lecture series, and other initiatives that aim to be of benefit to the wider church. As Chair, I attended the meetings of the Founding parties. In the fall, there was representation from Maritime Conference, Conference President; the Rev'd Catherine Stuart, 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.

Campus Renewal has afforded the movement of Faculty offices from the Residence Building into the Library. Formation Directors' offices moved into the Chapel Apartment. There is still the intention to renovate the 1898 building, making it a teaching centre and focal point of the campus. Like many other things on campus, progress has been stalled due to COVID 19. The administrative office area in the residence building will continue to be converted into Residence Rooms. Tuition support was in excess of \$180,000 for UC students in both lay and ordered streams of ministry. Pine Hill supported 45 Candidates in total, with 33 being MDiv. students in the Distance stream of study. Two persons received a Seeker Bursary. Members and affiliates are encouraged to promote the Seeker Bursary hoping that all who can speak to possible applicants will spread the word of this opportunity to test the waters of AST with a tuition bursary for two credits.

We feel grateful that even before changes due to COVID restrictions, Atlantic School of Theology has excelled in providing distance learning via on-line courses. We were disappointed, of course, that Summer Distance learning was not possible on campus. But felt encouraged when the courses normally provided on campus were able to be offered on-line.

The student representatives were Roxanne Grace Sperry and Emma Seamone. The Board continues to appreciate the essential 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. 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.

Mary Taylor (Capt. Rev'd Dr.)  
Chair, Pine Hill Divinity Hall Board