

Pine Hill Divinity Hall

Pine Hill Divinity Hall (PH), The United Church of Canada (UCC) Founding Party of Atlantic School of Theology (AST) supports United Church of Canada members pursuing study and training for ministry through its endowment fund. Specifically, we do this by financially assisting members of UCC preparing for ordered ministry at AST and supporting AST in offering high caliber theological education that meets the standards required by The United Church of Canada.

PH continues to prosper with an active Board of lay and clergy, supported by our executive director. Our Board has representation among Regional Council 15, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and First Dawn Eastern Edge Council.

Members provide representation on Finance, Bursary or Nominating committees. The Chairs of each Committee form PH Executive who may make decisions on behalf of the Board. United Church faculty have been capably represented by the Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine Gillis on the PH Board.

PH is also responsible for finding UC representation on the AST Board. David Griffiths serves as Past President and the Rev. Roger Janes continues to represent First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. Alumnus the Rev. Yvette Swan and Mr. Kevin Latimer continue to serve and new on the AST Board to represent Pine Hill is Mac MacLeod, serving on the AST Audit Committee.

Students on the Board this year were well represented by 2021 graduate Emma Seamone who brought much wisdom regarding the Summer distance program to the PH Board for four years. For the past two years on-campus MDiv. students have been represented by Linton Worrall. Feedback from students is essential to the work of the PH Board.

The Founding Parties meet twice a year with PH hosting the Fall 2020 meeting virtually this year. There is representation from PH, University of King's College, the Anglican Dioceses of NS & PEI and Fredericton, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax & Yarmouth on the board. UCC Executive Minister the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish is present when possible.

Pine Hill supports the part-time position of UC chaplain, the Rev'd Wendy Kean, as well as full-time position of the UC Formation Director, the Rev'd Dr. Ross Bartlett and Executive Director, Brenda Munro.

Due to Covid, all courses have been changed to on-line courses which has been beneficial to students living far from campus. Unfortunately, the Summer Distance program did not allow for on-campus learning and the comradery living in community normally affords. Although, because AST has had a Distance learning program for so long, full on-line teaching was normative to many. Support of 49 students in the M. Div. degree at AST resulted in payments of over \$140,000 in tuition fees 2020-2021. Three Seeker Bursaries were awarded that reimburses two credits to students at AST in degree or diploma program. Two Promise Bursaries were awarded to UC members nominated by their church recognizing excellence in leadership. Support of one United Church of Christ student in Maine, USA continues.

PH continues to partner with AST considering any proposals in which the two can enhance learning opportunities for our students. PH answered the call from AST Student Union to support a Virtual Food

Bank. Students having trouble with grocery expenses during Covid applied through the AST Student Union for this assistance.

PH offers Bursary opportunities to AST UC graduates. The Annual Continuing Education bursary of up to \$4,500 was awarded in February 2021. The Tri-Annual PH Alumni Association Scholarship of \$7,500 was not awarded this year due to lack of applications but will be offered again in February 2022.

PH fully supports the Lecture series offered by AST in 2020-2021 including a 4-part series October on 'Leadership in Challenging Times' and a Nicholson Lectures Webinar series Spring 2021 investigating "*Decolonizing Theology*".

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Taylor, Rev'd Dr. Capt.
Board Chair