



Pine Hill Divinity Hall
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Bermuda-Nova Scotia and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regions
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Pine Hill Divinity Hall continued to be busy over the past year as we supported AST in its efforts to provide the high quality to theological education expected and required by the United Church of Canada. We, like United Churches of Canada all over the country, have been learning to navigate a world in which Covid is now a fact of life. We are truly blessed with a board of vibrant, volunteer lay and clergy members, supported by our executive director. The Board has representation from Bermuda-Nova Scotia, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regions.

Members of the PH Board serve on Finance, Bursary, and Nominating committees. The Executive Board is formed by the Chairs of each committee and may make decisions on behalf of the Board. United Church faculty are represented with great integrity by the Rev. Dr. Andrew O'Neill. United Church student interests are well-represented on the Board by Barbara McNaughton, a third year Summer Distance student, and Julee Pauling, a first year on-campus student. We are grateful for their dedication to this work.

Pine Hill also has responsibility for finding United Church representatives to serve on the AST Board. Mr. Jim Musgrave, K.C., and Mr. Mac McLeod, both from Bermuda-NS, Rev. Kate Jones, (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawn Waters) and the Rev. Kim Waite as a representative from First Dawn Eastern Edge Region currently fill seats alongside Chair, the Rev. Dr. Linda Yates.

The Founding Parties meet twice a year. Representatives 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, and offers partial financial support for the Continuing Education Convenor, James Cheatley. The full-time positions of the UC Formation Director, the Rev'd Dr. Ross Bartlett and Executive Director, Brenda Munro, are fully funded by Pine Hill.

Two students received coverage of their tuition in the inaugural year of AST's Bachelor of Theology degree. Tuition bursaries were provided to 42 students enrolled in the M.Div. Program, in the amount of over \$165,000. One Promise Bursary was awarded to a UCC youth member nominated by their congregation for excellence in leadership. PH reimburses students' portion of Boundaries, Racial Justice and Vocational Assessment workshop fees. Support was provided to two international United Church of Christ students, as well as support for one Candidate's CPE studies.

Pine Hill supports bursaries to AST United Church graduates of AST. Annual Continuing Education Bursaries totaling \$4,500 awarded in 2023-24, shared among three applicants, the Reverends Jeff Chant, Rick Gunn and Donna Tourneau. The 2022-2024 Tri-Annual Pine Hill

Alumni Association Scholarship of \$7,500 to the Rev. Dr. Britt Aerhart completed in March 2024. The 2025-2028 Tri-Annual Scholarship is now available to applicants with an application deadline of February 1, 2025.

PH's 2018 Capital Commitment of \$3,000,000 continues to be used to restore the 1898 Flagship Building on the AST Campus. In the past year, PH contributed more than \$255,000 to achieve a fully accessible entrance to the building.

It was a sad honour to contribute to the Rev. Alison Etter Memorial Scholarship at Atlantic School of Theology this year. Our church has lost a champion in ministry with her passing.

It is my great privilege to continue to serve as chair of Pine Hill, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with everyone who is part of it. They are all tremendously gifted people who exemplify service and generosity, and I am truly blessed to be part of this group. I thank them all for the time and energy they put in so that Pine Hill can continue its mission of supporting students who seek to serve God and all God's children. I look forward to carrying out this work together for another year.

Respectfully submitted,
Louisa Duck
Chair, Pine Hill Divinity Hall